

**Good morning ladies and gentlemen.**

**I would like begin by welcoming all of you on behalf of the Radiocommunication Bureau. Over the past 30 years, satellite operators have made it possible to deliver video, data, and voice communications to geographically dispersed populations which are those most frequently lacking in terrestrial links. Increasing demand for more applications and the speed of operation of the Internet is driving new developments in next generation satellite systems. Although it is necessary to overcome certain limitations such as long propagation delay, high error rates and link asymmetry, it is clear that satellite networks will have a significant role in meeting this demand.**

**The inherent properties of satellite communications, that is their wide-coverage, broadcast mode of operation and multicasting, are capable of providing high-speed Internet connection and multimedia long-distance transmissions. This is a new topic to which the satellite-communication industry is paying close attention.**

**There is a growing need for satellite links to carry IP (Internet Protocol) traffic. Recently more and more enterprises are using Internet via satellite to provide satellite-based Internet access to the ISP (Internet service provider), for in-building corporate intranets and to the home.**

**A number of ITU-R Study Groups have started studying IP over satellite and multimedia over satellites. Study Group 4 has a study Question on error performance required for satellite systems that form part or all of an Internet protocol based network. Study Group 4 has drafted a work plan for development of a new Recommendation on IP over satellite. Study Group 8 has study Questions on Internet protocol applications over mobile systems and technical and operational characteristics for packet network transmission in MSS. A draft new Recommendation on basic reference models and performance parameters of IP packet**

**network transmission in the mobile-satellite service has already been prepared in Study Group 8. In summary, therefore, it is expected that a series of new Recommendations will result from this work in the near future.**

**Current ITU-R studies focus also on architectures to support IP**  
**The ITU-R studies on the topic of IP over satellite are closely related to ITU-T studies concerning quite a few subjects being addressed in ITU-T Study Groups including Study Groups 2, 12, 13, 15 and 17. The subjects include interoperability of satellite and terrestrial networks, IP delay classes, methods to enhance TCP/IP performance over satellite links, and the relationship between physical layer and IP parameters for satellite IP based networks. Liaison with the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) and other bodies is also an important aspect of their work.**

**We hope that this workshop will not only serve to review the current status of the use of satellite systems for IP-based and multimedia networks and services, but also help facilitate the development of the necessary international standards.**

**I wish all the best for a successful workshop. Unfortunately, I shall not be able to be with you since this week I also have on a meeting of the Radio Regulations Board and as executive secretary to the Board, I must be there on a full time basis.**