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**WELCOME ADDRESS**

**Ms. Areewan Haorangi**  
**Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**

Distinguished Guests, Speakers and Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 6th APT Cybersecurity Forum here in Bangkok, Thailand.

This year's Forum is hosted by the APT with support from the Department of Communications, Government of Australia, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan.

I would like to sincerely thank both the Department of Communications, Government of Australia, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, in May, the 5th APT Cybersecurity Forum was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The Meeting discussed the possible initiatives to be an input to the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting to be held later in the same year and a document on Cybersecurity Initiatives for Ministerial Meeting was submitted.

In September last year, the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting was held in Brunei Darussalam and the Meeting adopted the Brunei Darussalam Statement of the Asia-Pacific Ministers on Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT. In the Statement, "Trust and Confidence in ICT" was identified as one of the six key priority areas to build a smart digital economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The importance of the trust and confidence in ICT was reaffirmed in the APT Strategic Plan 2015-2017, which was adopted by the APT General Assembly held in Yangon, Myanmar last November. Cybersecurity is one of the work items under this Strategic Plan and several strategic actions under cybersecurity were identified.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Needless to reveal nowadays how important the issue of cybersecurity is. That is why the APT has been organizing the cybersecurity forum for five consecutive years since 2010. Cybersecurity Forum plays an important role in the work of the APT in facilitating information sharing and encouraging cooperation between governments in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen trust and confidence in ICT.

Now in its sixth year, the programme of the Forum focus on topics that are essential and urgent issues for cybersecurity in our region and that are identified as strategic actions in the APT Strategic Plan for 2015-2017.

This year's forum has a full programme of events, including a site visit to ThaiCERT on Thursday afternoon, which is kindly hosted by the Electronic Transactions Development Agency or ETDA, a public organization under the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand. ETDA will also be hosting this evening's Welcome Dinner and I would like to take this opportunity to thank ETDA for their very generous support.

My thanks also go to all speakers who kindly accepted to contribute to this forum.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to emphasize that the information sharing in this Forum will be of benefit to your administrations and countries. Please share what you have gained from this Forum with your colleagues back at your home administration.

On behalf of the APT Secretariat, I assure you that we will do our best to provide support to all of you that require assistance during the meeting. Please do not hesitate to ask us for any assistance that you may need.

I hope you will enjoy your stay in Bangkok.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and successful Forum.

Thank you.