



APT/GA-4/MC-11/87

ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

11

REPORTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND THE
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE
ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
25 NOVEMBER - 8 DECEMBER 1987

**REPORTS OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AND THE
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
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REPORT OF THE 4TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. Introduction

1.1 The Fourth Session of the General Assembly of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity was held concurrently with the Eleventh Session of the Management Committee in the Conference Hall of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC), Sydney, Australia, from 25 November to 8 December 1987. The meetings were convened and hosted by the Department of Transport and Communications, Government of Australia, in association with Telecom Australia, OTC and AUSSAT.

1.2 Attendance

The Session was attended by 89 representatives, alternates and advisors of the following members, associate member, affiliate members and eligible non-member:

19 Members: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Burma, People's Republic of China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Republic of Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

1 Associate Member: Hong Kong

8 Affiliate Members: Cable & Wireless (HK) Ltd., Hong Kong, Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co Ltd., Japan, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation, Japan, Globe MacKay Cable & Radio Corporation, Republic of Philippines, Philippine Global Communications Inc., Republic of Philippines, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Republic of Philippines, Korea Telecommunication Authority, Republic of Korea, Data Communication Corporation of Korea, Republic of Korea.

1 Eligible Non-member: Lao People's Democratic Republic.

1.3 Representatives from United Nations Specialized Agencies attended as observers: International Telecommunication Union and World Meteorological Organization.

1.4 Representatives from other organizations also attended as observers: South Pacific Bureau for Economic Cooperation (SPEC), British Telecoms International, Telecoms France International and Telecon OY Finland.

1.5 A list of the participants is shown in Annex I.

1.6 Opening of the Session

1.6.1 The Session was opened by General C.S. Carreon, President of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity. The President expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to the Government of Australia for hosting the General Assembly.

1.6.2 Considering the pioneering role Australia has played in the affairs of the APT, convening this meeting in Australia is most opportune, he said. He extended thanks to the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) for the excellent arrangements made to facilitate the working of the Sessions.

1.6.3 Mr. R.E. Butler, Secretary General of the ITU, said he was delighted to have the opportunity of participating in the Inauguration Ceremony. He paid homage to the

memory of the late Mr.Boonchoo Phienpanij, and recalled the valuable contribution the late Mr.Phienpanij made to the APT. He assured all possible support of the ITU to the APT's activities. He made reference to many of the projects undertaken by the ITU in the region under the UNDP Fourth Cycle Intercountry Programme, and especially on the project "Assistance in Regional Telecommunication Planning" which is hosted and supported by the APT. Recognizing the importance of the report of the Independent Commission for Worldwide Telecommunication Development, Mr.Butler called for the APT's contribution towards the fulfilment of the objectives set by its report "The Missing Link".

1.6.4 The Honourable Senator Gareth Evans Q.C., Minister for Transport and Communications of Australia, in his Inaugural Address extended a warm welcome to all the delegates to Sydney to this General Assembly and the Management Committee. Highlighting that, in time of economic, industrial, manufacturing and export expansion, the Asia Pacific Region is the fastest growing in the world, this region represents a broad range of telecommunication development and regulatory structure.

1.6.5 He said that Australia's continued economic development on the world market place is tied to efficient and modern telecommunication and its commitment to the telecommunication development of her neighbours. Australia, he said, therefore is prepared to share the experience gained in overcoming the huge geographic barriers to serve the vast majority of its population. In conclusion, he said that possibilities exist for significant new improvements and the APT has a leading role to play in fostering such improvements.

1.6.6 The Executive Director in welcoming the delegates said that the APT is honoured by the presence of the Honourable Senator Gareth Evans Q.C., Minister of Transport and Communications, who inspite of his very busy schedule, thought it fitting to devote some of his valuable time to inaugurate the APT's General Assembly. He said that the presence of Mr.R.E.butler, Secretary General of the ITU gave much encouragement to all the participants to make this meeting a very productive and meaningful one. In conclusion, he complimented all those who have contributed to the success of the APT and reiterated his gratitude to all the distinguished delegates.

II. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

(APT/GA-4/2)

2.1 After the meeting of the Heads of Delegations, the outgoing President announced that Mr.George F.Maltby of Australia was unanimously elected President while Mr.Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff of Malaysia and Mr.Alireza Bahrainian of the Islamic Republic of Iran were unanimously elected Vice Presidents of the General Assembly. He said that Mr.Maltby is the Managing Director of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission and has served this organization for no less than 41 years. Mr.Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff is the Director General of Telecommunications, Malaysia, and Mr.Alireza Bahrainian is the Vice Minister for Telecommunication Affairs, Ministry of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2.2 The Executive Director, Mr.Chao Thongma extended his congratulations to the incoming President and 2 Vice Presidents and said that the APT Secretariat is looking forward to their leadership to guide the APT to further success. He then paid tribute to General Carreon, the outgoing President and on behalf of the APT, wished him a very happy retired life.

2.3 After the incoming President and the 2 Vice Presidents took their seats in the

podium, a plaque in appreciation of his services to the Telecommunity was presented by the incoming President to the outgoing President, General Carreon.

2.4 The Executive Director paid tribute also to the outgoing Vice Presidents Mr.Liu Yuan of the People's Republic of China and Mr.R.P.Sharma of Nepal who served the Asia Pacific Telecommunity. In their absence, General Carreon presented the plaques to the representatives of the People's Republic of China and Nepal to be handed over.

2.5 The incoming President, Mr.Maltby, in addressing the Assembly said that Australia regards Telecommunications as an essential element in the development and assured that he would endeavour to serve the Telecommunity in the best manner possible. He thanked all the distinguished delegates for the honour bestowed on Australia and himself by electing him as President of this august Assembly.

2.6 Mr.Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff thanked the distinguished delegates for the honour given to him and his country by electing him as Vice President and for the confidence placed on him.

2.7 Mr.Alireza Bahrainian, on behalf of his Administration and himself, thanked the distinguished delegates for electing him and said that he would do his best to contribute to the activities of the APT.

2.8 The Head of the Japanese Delegation, Mr.Yasuo Otaki, expressed sincere appreciation of the services of General Carreon and congratulated the newly elected President and two Vice Presidents. He commented that Japan would contribute to the role of the APT with substantive and realistic approach.

2.9 The Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China, Mr.Liu Zhongen, extended congratulations to the newly elected President and two Vice Presidents, and said he was confident the activities of the APT would continue to grow under the new leadership. He said People's Republic of China would fully support the APT in its activities.

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1 The President invited comments on the Provisional Agenda. A modification was proposed by the Executive Director to advance Agenda Item No. 12 to the position of Agenda Item No. 4 in the sequence. The Provisional Agenda was adopted without modification, as given below :

1. Opening of the Session
2. Election of the President and two Vice Presidents of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity for the next term
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Consideration of the Report of the Management Committee on the activities of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity during 1985-1987
5. Consideration of the Report on Ratification of the Amendment to Article 11, Para 2(2) of the Constitution adopted by the General Assembly in its 2nd Session
6. Consideration of the General Policies and Principles for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Telecommunity during 1988-1990
7. Consideration of the Report of the Executive Director on Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in its 3rd Session on Strengthening of

- the Budgetary Basis and Effectiveness of the Telecommunity
8. Consideration of the basis for the Annual Budget of the Telecommunity and Determination of Limits of Annual Expenditure until the Fiscal Year 1990
 9. Pledging of contributions by Members, Associate Member and Affiliate Members for the next three year budget of the Telecommunity
 10. Consideration of the status of draft agreements
 - 10.1 Headquarters Agreement with the Host Country
 - 10.2 Agreement with Members and Associate Members
 11. Consideration of items referred to the General Assembly by the Management Committee, if any
 12. Proposed Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly
 13. Any other items proposed by Members, Associate Members and the President, or the Executive Director
 - 13.1 Proposal for the Modification of Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Constitution of the APT submitted by the People's Republic of China
 - 13.2 Macau's Application for APT Membership
 14. Date and Venue of the next ordinary session of the General Assembly
 15. Closing of the Session

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ACTIVITIES OF THE APT DURING 1985-1987

(APT/GA-4/4 and APT/GA-4/4 Addendum 1)

4.1 In presenting the paper to the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Management Committee highlighted the activities of the APT during the period under review, 1985-1987, particularly the following:

- the joining of Indonesia as a Member of the Telecommunity, the elevation of Brunei Darussalam from Associate Member to Member of the Telecommunity, and the joining of Cook Islands as Associate Member of the Telecommunity
- the participation of the APT in the ITU/UNDP Project in the "Assistance in Regional Telecommunication Planning"
- the directive of the Management Committee placed to the APT Secretariat that the budget for work programme for each year should be no less than 50 percent of the total budget
- the findings of seminars and workshops organized by the APT during the period under review
- the growth in the work of the APT Study Groups, and the increased interest by the majority of the members in these aspects of the work. To allow better communication between the Study Groups and the Management Committee, during the period under review and also to report the proceedings

podium, a plaque in appreciation of his services to the Telecommunity was presented by the incoming President to the outgoing President, General Carreon.

2.4 The Executive Director paid tribute also to the outgoing Vice Presidents Mr. Liu Yuan of the People's Republic of China and Mr. R.P. Sharma of Nepal who served the Asia Pacific Telecommunity. In their absence, General Carreon presented the plaques to the representatives of the People's Republic of China and Nepal to be handed over.

2.5 The incoming President, Mr. Maltby, in addressing the Assembly said that Australia regards Telecommunications as an essential element in the development and assured that he would endeavour to serve the Telecommunity in the best manner possible. He thanked all the distinguished delegates for the honour bestowed on Australia and himself by electing him as President of this august Assembly.

2.6 Mr. Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff thanked the distinguished delegates for the honour given to him and his country by electing him as Vice President and for the confidence placed on him.

2.7 Mr. Alireza Bahrainian, on behalf of his Administration and himself, thanked the distinguished delegates for electing him and said that he would do his best to contribute to the activities of the APT.

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(APT/GA-4/4 and APT/GA-4/4 Addendum 1)

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- the participation of the APT in the ITU/UNDP Project in the "Assistance in Regional Telecommunication Planning"
- the directive of the Management Committee placed to the APT Secretariat that the budget for work programme for each year should be no less than 50 percent of the total budget
- the findings of seminars and workshops organized by the APT during the period under review
- the growth in the work of the APT Study Groups, and the increased interest by the majority of the members in these aspects of the work. To allow better communication between the Study Groups and the Management Committee, during the period under review and also to report the proceedings

of the Study Groups meetings and provide clarifications raised if any, it was also decided that the Chairman of the Study Groups would participate in the meeting of the Management Committee at the APT's expense.

4.2 The Chairman said that with the above comments, he would recommend to the General Assembly, that the Report of the Management Committee for the General Assembly on Activities of the APT during 1985 to 1987 as shown in Documents APT/GA-4/4 and its Addendum be noted and adopted by the General Assembly.

4.3 There being no discussion from the floor, the President moved that the paper be adopted as recommended by the Chairman of the Management Committee.

V. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON RATIFICATION OF THE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 11 PARA 2(a) OF THE CONSTITUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS 2ND SESSION

(APT/GA-4/5)

5.1 The Executive Director presented the document APT/GA-4/5 and said that the amendment to Article 11, Para 2(a) of the Constitution adopted by the General Assembly in its 2nd Session was ratified by two thirds of Members as at 3rd December 1984 and therefore had entered into force on 2 January 1985.

5.2 The General Assembly took note of the paper.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE GENERAL POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TELECOMMUNITY DURING 1988-1990

(APT/GA-4/6 and APT/GA-4/6 Addendum 1)

6.1 In presenting the paper to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval, the Chairman of the Management Committee informed that the document APT/GA-4/6 had been considered in detail by the Working Group on Work Programme.

6.2 This document outlines the general policies and principles guiding the overall plan of action to be followed by the APT during the next 3 years to achieve its objectives in terms of Article 2 of the Constitution.

6.3 The Working Group had suggested a few amendments given in Addendum 1.

The Chairman recommended that the General Assembly approve the adoption of the General Policies and Principles for the Fulfilment of the Objectives of the Telecommunity during 1988 to 1990, as it appears in Document APT/GA-6/6 and its Addendum.

6.4 There being no other discussion on the matter, the President directed that the paper be adopted. The document containing the General Policies and Principles is attached as Annex 3.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS 3RD SESSION ON STRENGTHENING OF THE BUDGETARY BASIS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE TELECOMMUNITY

(APT/GA-4/7)

7.1 The General Assembly in its 3rd Session had adopted the Report of the Executive Director on Resolutions on Strengthening the Budgetary Basis and Effectiveness of the Telecommunity. As such, no report was presented in this session. This aspect is adequately covered in the Report of the Management Committee for the General Assembly on Activities of the APT during 1985-1987.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF THE BASIS FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE TELECOMMUNITY AND DETERMINATION OF LIMITS OF ANNUAL EXPENDITURE UNTIL THE FISCAL YEAR 1990

(APT/GA-4/8 and APT/GA-4/8 Rev 2)

8.1 In introducing the paper to the General Assembly, the Chairman of the Management Committee explained that the Constitution of the APT requires the General Assembly to establish the basis of annual budget of the Telecommunity and to determine the limits of annual expenditure until the next ordinary session of the General Assembly.

8.2 He then highlighted two points in the paper APT/GA-4/8 Rev2:

- (1) that the Management Committee had considered and approved the guideline that the unit cost should not be increased by more than 10 percent for each year and further limited to the amount indicated
- (2) that in setting the limits of expenditure for the next three years, the General Assembly agrees that any ordinary or extra budgetary contribution which is not known by APT at this meeting of the General Assembly (not including those who were absent) which shall increase the limits of expenditure can be used by the APT only for the Work Programme. This had been done also in the previous session of the General Assembly.

8.3 There were discussions on the paper, the main issues of which were:

- whether the indicative budgets for 1989 and 1990 already accommodated the amount of US\$28,000 each year for the recruitment of an engineering staff for the ITU/UNDP Project, in the event that the 12th Session of the Management Committee approves such an expenditure. It was confirmed that the indicative budgets included such a provision.
- that the Management Committee issues guidelines to the APT for the use of extra-budgetary contribution received beside the pledged contributions, since there could be situations that the extra-budgetary contribution could be in kind such as office equipment, in which case, they could not be strictly used for the Work Programme alone.

- that, in order to remain within the limits of expenditure set by the General Assembly, some items of extra-budgetary contributions could be categorised as inputs to the Work Programme, such as the hosting of meetings or seminars by member administrations.

8.4 Discussions concluded on the observation that the provision in question applied only to the exceeding of limits of expenditures set by the General Assembly at each of its sessions. The provision would allow the APT to accept any contribution, besides the pledged contribution, although such contributions should be used only for its Work Programme.

8.5 The President moved that the paper be approved and instructed that the provision on the exceeding of the limits of expenditure be included in the record of proceedings for this agenda item.

IX. PLEDGING OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND AFFILIATE MEMBERS FOR THE THREE YEAR BUDGET OF THE TELECOMMUNITY

(APT/GA-4/9)

9.1 At the invitation of the President of the General Assembly, the Executive Director of the APT presented the paper No. APT/GA-4/9 on the Pledging of Contributions by the membership for the next three years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

9.2 After the presentation, the President requested the membership to declare their pledged voluntary contributions, at the unit cost of US\$4450, US\$4890 and US\$5370 for the three years 1988, 1989 and 1990 respectively, in accordance with Paragraph 8.2 (1) of this Report.

9.3 The membership then confirmed their pledged contributions, with reservations, as they appear in Annex 4.

X. CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF THE HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH HOST COUNTRY

(APT/GA-4/10.1)

10.1 In presenting the paper for the consideration of the General Assembly, the Executive Director explained that the text of the Headquarters Agreement with the Royal Government of Thailand remained unchanged since it was last submitted to the 3rd Session of the General Assembly. There had been no progress in the matter.

10.2 However, the Executive Director would require the endorsement of the General Assembly on the draft text as reproduced in Document APT/GA-4/10.1, to negotiate and finalize the Headquarters Agreement with the Royal Government of Thailand.

10.3 There being no discussion on the matter, the President moved that the draft text be noted, and that the Executive Director of the APT proceed to finalize the Host Agreement.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF THE STATUS OF AGREEMENT WITH MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(APT/GA-4/10.2)

11.1 In presenting the document APT/GA-4/10.2, on the Status of Agreement with Members and Associate Members, the Executive Director explained that the paper showed that several members have yet to accord to the APT, Privileges and Immunities of the UN Convention of 1946.

11.2 At this point, he would appeal to these members, through the General Assembly, to expedite the matter.

11.3 There being no other discussion, the President requested that the Administrations concerned take note, and endeavour to expedite the finalization of the agreements.

XII. PROPOSED REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(APT/GA-4/12)

12.1 Mr.J.R.R.Cook, Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Group presented the Report of the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Proposed Revision of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly.

12.2 After some discussion, the General Assembly agreed to adopt the proposed amendments as shown below:

PREAMBLE

1 The present rules of procedure of the General Assembly adopted in pursuance of Article 8 of the Constitution of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity shall enter into force on 2 December 1987.

Rule 1

1 The Executive Director shall at least three months before the commencement of an ordinary session notify the Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members of the opening date of the session and of the provisional agenda.

CHAPTER V

QUORUM

Rule 25

Two thirds of the member countries represented in the General Assembly shall constitute a quorum.

12.3 As for the suggestion by the Secretariat to modify the Constitution on the Quorum from two-thirds majority to one half or simple majority, the Group is of the view that this could be considered at a later meeting along with the suggestion to change the quorum for the Management Committee.

XIII. ANY OTHER ITEMS PROPOSED BY MEMBERS, ASSOCIATE MEMBERS, THE PRESIDENT OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(a) Proposal for the Modification of Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Constitution of the APT submitted by the People's Republic of China

(APT/GA-4/13.1)

13.1 The Executive Director presented a proposal for the Modification of Articles 8, 9 and 10 of the Constitution of the APT, submitted by the People's Republic of China for the consideration and approval of the General Assembly.

13.2 Following comments from a number of delegates, the President suggested that an Ad Hoc Working Group be formed to examine the modifications and arrive at a procedure to enable the General Assembly to reach an acceptable conclusion on the proposal.

13.3 The Ad Hoc Working Group was chaired by the Vice President, Mr. Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff, and attended by representatives of Australia, People's Republic of China, Japan, Philippines, Mr. M. Safavi, Chairman of the Management Committee, and Vice Chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. R. Shareef.

13.4 In his report to the General Assembly, Mr. Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff said the Ad Hoc Working Group had recognized the principle, aim and objectives of the modifications, and that the task assigned had been to draft a consensus opinion, rather than to amend the Articles of the Constitution. The consensus opinion was then submitted to the General Assembly.

13.5 The President requested the General Assembly to examine and comment on the consensus opinion submitted by the Ad Hoc Working Group.

13.6 There was discussion on the wording of the text, during which the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group, Mr. Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff, informed that the words "cooperation", "understanding", "impartiality" were used to stress their significance and importance, and not to imply the lack of them in the APT.

13.7 The delegate of Maldives, Mr. R. Shareef, acknowledged the fact that in the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group arriving at the consensus, the friendship and understanding has already demonstrated that the Telecommunity in itself is a consensus body.

13.8 The President recommended that the General Assembly approve the consensus opinion, and that it be incorporated in the minutes. There being no objection, the consensus opinion, as follows, was approved:

While recognizing the need for the efficient management of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, and in order to preserve the spirit of cooperation amongst the Members of the APT, and to enable more member countries to have the opportunity to participate in the management of APT affairs, it would be desirable that the following principles be taken into consideration during the elections for the various positions:

- The principle of cooperation and understanding
- The principle of impartiality
- The principle of equitable representation amongst the membership of the

13.9 The President thanked Mr. Haji Mohamed Ali bin Yusoff of Malaysia and the Members of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the work done for this agenda item.

(b) Macau's Application for APT Membership

(APT/GA-4/13.2)

13.10 The Executive Director in presenting the Document GA-4/13.2 stated that the contents therein are only for the information for members to take note of. The President endorsed this view, indicating that the contents are self explanatory.

**XIV. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

(APT/GA-4/14)

14.1 The representative of the People's Republic of China formally invited the General Assembly to convene its 5th Ordinary Session, concurrently with the 14th Session of the Management Committee in the People's Republic of China in November 1990, with the exact date and venue to be decided in due course of time.

14.2 On behalf of the General Assembly, in accepting the invitation, the President thanked the People's Republic of China for its gesture of hospitality.

XV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15.1 The President of the General Assembly placed the report drafted by the Drafting Committee chaired by Mr. F.Q. Dumlao of the Republic of Philippines before the house for consideration and adoption. With a minor amendment proposed by the delegate of Australia, the Report was adopted.

15.2 On a suggestion made by the delegate of Nepal, it was decided that the Address of the Honourable Prime Minister of Australia be attached as an annexure to this report.

15.3 Under any other matters, the delegate of Japan made some observations with particular reference to the proposal for the amendment of the Constitution. He said his delegation very much valued the tradition of the spirit of cooperation rather than recourse to two-thirds majority vote. On impartiality, he praised the excellent leadership of Mr. Safavi, former Chairman of the Management Committee and commented that the interest of the Administration to which an officer belongs should not be reflected in the service in an international organization once selected. He said that the loss of the post of Deputy Executive Director might lead the persuasiveness of his delegation into difficulties on his part in Japan.

15.4 Further, he expressed his apprehensiveness towards the strange atmosphere arisen during the meeting and stressed that deliberations should be more directed towards substantive matters on telecommunications. While stressing the maintenance of modesty although Japan is the largest contributor, he said that Japan was committed to the spirit of cooperation and to the development of telecommunication in the region and the world. In conclusion, words of appreciation went to the President and Vice Presidents for the excellent guidance of the General Assembly.

15.5 The President thanked Japan for the very positive and cooperative assertion made.

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ADDRESS OF GENERAL CEFERINO S. CARREON, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY AT THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA ON 25 NOVEMBER 1987

His Excellency, Senator The Honourable Gareth Evans, The Minister for Transport and Communications of Australia,
Mr Richard Butler, the Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union,
The Executive Director of the APT,
The Representatives of the Member and Associate Member Countries of the APT,
The Affiliate Members,
The Representatives of the Specialized Agencies and other Organizations, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I welcome you all to this Fourth General Assembly. May I specially mention the Representatives of Indonesia which joined the Telecommunity in 1985; The Representatives of Brunei Darussalam which became a full member in 1986, after joining the APT as an Associate Member for several years. May I also mention here the presence of the representatives of the eligible non-member, the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

At the outset, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, may I express our deep appreciation and thanks to the Government of Australia for hosting this Fourth General Assembly and Eleventh Meeting of the Management Committee in this beautiful country. It is of record that Australia has been at the forefront of the APT since its organization and has contributed heavily to the support of the Budget and Work Programmes. This hosting is another manifestation of Australia's continuing support for our organization. May I also thank the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) for graciously providing us a very nice and modern conference hall and the support that will be provided until the termination of the conference.

It is our conviction that the APT as a regional telecommunication organization under the umbrella of the ITU has a vital role to play in the development of telecommunications in the region. I hope all the members will fully support and will extend all possible assistance within their means to strengthen the activities of this organization. The problem of development of telecommunications in the Asia Pacific Region is vast and complex. A great deal of work is required to be done and resources available to the APT are limited. I would therefore appeal to all our members to consider increasing their extra budgetary contributions.

As you are aware of, APT has now completed 8 years of its existence. I would like to put in the APT record our most grateful thanks to the Royal Thai Government for providing the APT since last year a new site and a Headquarters building to which in 1988, will be added a new conference room. This host contribution will certainly consolidate the APT working facilities and promote its good image among the regional organizations in Asia and the Pacific. However, we have to think ahead for the future of APT by streamlining its policies and giving direction to the actions to be taken under a period of rapid technological innovation. As a matter of fact, the Budget and the Work Programme are the two main tasks which should be considered to fulfill the objectives of the Telecommunity in the coming years. I am sure that our spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding will guide this meeting and particularly, the Management Committee Meeting to a harmonious and fruitful conclusion.

Address to the 4th General Assembly, 11th Management Committee Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, by the Minister for Transport and Communications, Senator Gareth Evans QC, Sydney, 25 November 1987.

Australia's Role in the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be with you today and to welcome you to Sydney to this Fourth Session of the General Assembly and the Eleventh Session of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.

In terms of economic, industrial, manufacturing and export expansion, the Asia-Pacific region is the fastest growing in the world: it is becoming an increasingly important centre for world manufacturing and trade, and is expected to account for more than 25% of global GNP by the end of the century.

The countries in the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity are representative of a broad range of telecommunications development and regulatory structures. Many are still developing their telecommunications services and are keenly pursuing appropriate infrastructure. In various parts of the region, industrialised and information-affluent countries are also concerned about communication problems in those developing countries. New communications techniques are emerging which could provide effective tools to contribute to social and economic development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Since the Second World War, the telecommunications business has in the Asia-Pacific region as everywhere else - undergone constant and major changes in every respect. But the pace of change has greatly accelerated in the recent past, and we are experiencing - here as elsewhere - exciting opportunities and sometimes daunting challenges.

Recent advances in computer technology, digitalisation and interconnectivity are bringing far-reaching changes to our telecommunications networks. As the convergence of communications and computers increases, these industries are opening up to competition, and countries find their economic health determined by their investments in innovative communication technology.

Your presence here demonstrates that you have placed great importance on the development of high quality domestic and international telecommunications. But despite the activity throughout the region, one cannot help but be struck by the fact that the vast majority of the world's population which happens to be in the Asia-Pacific region - well over a billion people - still do not have ready access to a telephone. This is clearly unsatisfactory given that the presence of an efficient telecommunications infrastructure is vital to the economic and social progress of any nation. It is the establishment of that infrastructure that presents very real challenges to so many countries in the region, be their populations concentrated or thinly dispersed.

Telecommunications engineers and planners have to rise to the challenge afforded by such rapid development. Your focus is the Asia-Pacific region, but it also embraces much broader national and international challenges.

Those challenges, include coming to terms with the optimum use of satellites and optical fibre cable, value added networks and rural and remote telephone service, ISDN and private networks; and devising appropriate regulatory frameworks to protect the national and international public interest.

The corporate sector increasingly relies on immediate access to information, and there has been an explosion in demand for dependable telecommunications services to meet these requirements. It is no surprise, therefore, that telecommunications has become what someone recently described as "everybody's growth business." As a result we have seen not only the globalisation of whole industries, but - "a blurring of products,

services and geography"

Flowing from these influences, and coupled with the deregulation of telecommunications in some countries, we have seen the emergence of a number of telecommunications organisations who regard themselves as transnational corporations. This influence of globalisation is most evident in areas such as banking, brokerage, investment, airlines, and tourism. The prospect of competition is also having an influence on the traditional carriers. Users in the region will have a choice of international facilities when the Pacific basin cables have been completed. There are also proposals for private satellite systems. Whether they will be realised remains to be seen.

Many countries in the region, including Australia, have and are reviewing the legal status, role and organisation of their national telecommunications administrations to ensure that they are best placed to meet the challenges ahead.

So far as a regulatory framework for international telecommunications is concerned, the International Telecommunications Union has chosen to focus its attention on this issue by calling a World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference, or WATTC. It will take place in Melbourne in December 1988, and Australia is honoured in its Bicentennial year to be able to host and chair such a prestigious world event.

Some representatives of developing countries in the region may not be so concerned about the pressures for liberalisation of competition and deregulation of telecommunications that are evident in some developed countries. Your concern is perhaps more likely to be with getting good, basic telecommunications facilities in place.

The opportunity afforded by new technologies means that it might be worth considering "leap-frogging" the older terrestrial network solutions.

There is another dimension to the physical development of telecommunications systems, and it is one that is often overlooked in the rush to plan new facilities. It is the major problem of how to find the necessary skilled personnel. Proper planning of telecommunications in the new environment requires new skills for which many countries may have had little preparation. Transfer and exchange of experiences are becoming more and more important to improve the human resource base upon which countries rely for the development and management of telecommunications facilities.

Part of the affinity which Australia has for the problems faced by many countries in the region in developing their communications stems from the fact that Australians have experienced many of the same problems. We know the difficulties in meeting modern standards in far flung outposts.

Much of Australia's communications development has been necessary in support of our rural industries. Fortunately there is now a world-wide understanding that high standards of communications must precede, rather than follow, the development of industry if such development is to be successful.

Australia's continued economic development in the world market place is unquestionably tied to efficient modern telecommunications. We are fortunate in having a world class telecommunications network at the leading edge of technology. More than 90% of Australian households will have access to a telephone by the early 1990s.

Telecom's Rural and Remote Area Program and the advent of AUSSAT, Australia's domestic satellite system, is having a major social impact on outback areas.

The Digital Radio Concentrator System (DRCS) has been specifically designed by Telecom to meet the communication requirements of the sparsely settled areas of Australia.

Through AUSSAT, Australia has pioneered the national application of homestead and community satellite broadcasting, and the next generation of satellites, to be launched in the early 1990s, will see the introduction of mobile satellite communications.

I should also point to Australia's strengths in the field of optical fibre cables and digital microwave transmission. Earlier this month, I commissioned the \$40m state-of-the-art optical fibre link between Melbourne-Canberra-Sydney - a visionary project that marks the first stage of an 'optical highway' around the nation. Australia also has by far the world's longest digital microwave route, stretching 6800km around the coast from Townsville to Perth.

If I can be forgiven for beating Australia's domestic drum just one more time, we are also an acknowledged world leader in the application of Electronic Funds Transfer Point of Sale ("EFTPOS") technologies, and have experienced considerable success in selling EFTPOS technology overseas.

Australia has always played an active part in the development of international communications - doubtless prompted by our isolation for so long as an island continent in the Southern Hemisphere. OTC has played an important role in organisations such as INTELSAT and INMARSAT and is also involved in most submarine cables in the Asia-Pacific region. Demand for international communications services is growing rapidly and the high capacity PacRim cables will help to satisfy this demand well into the next century.

We have recently announced the selection of a preferred tenderer for the \$160 million TASMAN 2 submarine optical fibre cable system, which will link Australia and New Zealand with 2200km of cable in 1991. The TASMAN 2 project is just the first step in the Pacific Ocean optical fibre cable network - this century's most significant linking up of our region to the world - which will ultimately connect Australia and New Zealand with North America, via Hawaii and Asia, via Guam.

While at present 60% of Australia's traffic is carried by satellite and 40% by submarine cable, the ratio will change with the completion of the planned systems to 40% satellite and 60% cable.

Telecom and OTC have a proud history of providing expert advice to the developing world through programs initiated by the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank and other aid agencies.

The Australian Government recently authorised the establishment of subsidiary companies by Telecom and OTC to operate in other countries. This will enable the skills and experience in technological development, establishment and efficient management of our networks to be applied to the particular needs and problems of countries in the region.

Telecom Australia International, for example, has already made Australian expertise, advice and assistance available to countries such as the People's Republic of China, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and New Zealand.

OTC has excellent product development, marketing and management skills and one of the most advanced international networks in the world. It is well placed to offer assistance to our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Government itself works through such organisations as the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation towards promoting telecommunications development in the region. Our initiatives resulted in the establishment of the South Pacific Telecommunications Development Program, to which we are now a major contributor.

The interdependence of our communications policies poses special challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. The **APT** provides a forum to address many of the complex issues confronting telecommunications facilities planners, to share ideas, explore goals and establish priorities. Priorities and particularly important in this business because ill-conceived projects and the wrong determination of priorities can be very expensive indeed.

Fundamental to international communications between nations are the structures and arrangements to develop these capabilities within nations. It is in the development of balanced approaches to national and international telecommunications in each country that I think the APT has a key role to perform - as catalyst, as forum, and as supplier of technical and management advice.

To achieve this requires co-ordination, collaboration and commitment. Co-ordination stemming from regional planning efforts complementary to the ITU's work; collaboration between those countries with larger telecommunications resources and those with few; and bilateral and multilateral commitment on the part of Governments of the region to support national projects and to encourage the participation of carriers and private enterprise.

I note with appreciation that the ITU has convened an "Asia and Pacific Telecommunications Conference" in New Delhi in February 1988. This will provide an important opportunity for Asia Pacific countries to review current trends in telecommunications and develop appropriate strategies for future developments.

Australia's commitment to the telecommunications development of her neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region is a reflection of our belief in the importance of telecommunications in the development of nations.

We do not offer a panacea, but the experience we have gained in overcoming huge geographic barriers and in bringing a variety of modern telecommunications services to the vast majority of our population is available for all to share.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for delegates to compare the development of each of our countries' telecommunications services; to translate co-operatively developed priorities into realistic work programs relevant to individual national telecommunications development agendas. It is important for the APT to push forward with active study activities, to promote seminars, and take advantage of its particular status in the region in contributing to the development of telecommunications in developed and developing countries alike.

While the challenges are great, there are possibilities for significant new improvements, and the APT has a leading role to play as telecommunications becomes even more linked to our futures.

I am sure that the proceedings of your General Assembly and Management Committee will be an important step along the path to national and regional co-operation, and wish you an enjoyable and productive stay in Australia.

ASIA—PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

Fourth Session of the General Assembly, and
Eleventh Session of the Management Committee

R.E. Butler, Secretary-General

International Telecommunication Union

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Executive Director,
Distinguished Visitors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It was in November 1984 that I had the honour of addressing the joint session of the APT General Assembly and its Management Committee in Seoul. I am delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the inauguration of this session of the APT General Assembly and its Management Committee, here in Sydney which, as you are well aware, has been the venue for many international events in recent years.

Allow me, Mr. Chairman, first to pay homage to the memory of the late Mr. Boonchoo Phienpanij, whose sudden and premature demise was a blow to us all. As I look back at the progress the APT has made in establishing itself as a regional telecommunication organization in terms of Article 32 of the International Telecommunication Convention, I recall with great satisfaction the valuable contribution Mr. Phienpanij made in setting the directions for the Community's programme during its early formative years. His untimely death is a grievous loss not only to the APT, but also to the entire telecommunication community of the Region.

The APT is indeed fortunate in having found a worthy replacement for Mr. Phienpanij in the person of Mr. Chao Thongma, who has since assumed the executive responsibilities of the organization with a great deal of courage and devotion. I should like to take this opportunity to assure him of the same support and cooperation from the Union which was always extended to Mr. Phienpanij. The ITU indeed looks forward to further strengthening our collaborative endeavours in optimizing the telecommunication network planning activities in the region.

The APT has organized practical work programmes. This has included valuable regional meetings and seminars which served to provide a regional forum for preparatory consultations and discussions relating to important issues on HFBC and WATTC conferences. In the ITU we have been pleased to contribute also to some of these events. Let me assure you that the Union will continue to provide all possible support within its resources to the Community's programme and activities as in the past.

The ITU's technical cooperation activities in Asia-Pacific have been continually evolving to respond to the changing needs of the countries. During 1986-1987 the ITU served the countries through some 35 field projects designed to meet the individual needs of the countries.

At the intercountry level assistance was hitherto directed to maintenance of telecommunication networks, development of rural telecommunication in the Least Developed Countries and training in computer applications for the Asean Countries. In the South Pacific, the ITU endeavoured to promote the development of telecommunication

networks and training. These were undertaken within the framework of the UNDP intercountry programme for the Third cycle, which has just ended.

Let me now update you on the progress on the commencement of the new regional projects included in the UNDP Fourth Cycle Intercountry Programme which began this year. The resources earmarked by the programme for the 1987-1991 period will enable the ITU to make some response to the changing needs of the countries with our partner the UNDP.

In the South Pacific, the support to development of telecommunications and training will be continued, but the orientation of the projects will be modified to include a number of new dimensions. Both of these projects will be based on a networking arrangement and enable the ITU to attract significant inputs from sources other than the UNDP.

With a view to contribute to the objectives of the Transport and Communication Decade for Asia and the Pacific, 1985-1994, the ITU will undertake projects on Computer Aided Network Planning and Development of Maritime Radiocommunications Services (DEVMARAD). Both of these projects will be located in Bangkok and the former, began operations a few months ago.

The project on Network Planning will provide assistance to countries in promoting the development and optimization of an intercountry telecommunication network and aims at the establishment of a telecommunication and socio-economic database in the region as the basic tool for promoting telecommunication network planning activities on a rational and scientific basis. The project, it is foreseen, will facilitate the setting up of the necessary institutional arrangements within the APT that will enable it to function as the focal point for all kinds of telecommunication planning activities in the Region. On completion of the project, the APT will be called upon to assume responsibility for the collection, storage and dissemination of data on a continuing basis. Improved network planning should ultimately lead to free flow of traffic throughout the regional network and bring better returns to the countries on their investment through optimal utilization of the circuit capacities. Hence, project is hosted by the APT which cooperation we appreciate very much.

The DEVMARAD project, to be hosted by the Communication Authority of Thailand, aims at improving maritime radiocommunication services in the participating countries, thus assuring improved safety of lives and ships-at-sea and proper development of shipping in the region. The project, in particular, will facilitate upgrading and increase in the number of rescue centres, modernize and further develop coast stations, improve cooperation between maritime and national telecommunication authorities, assist in planning and introduction of new communication services and improve staff training in the countries of the Region. The ITU plans to launch the project in early 1988.

During the Fourth cycle, a significant part of UNDP/ITU assistance will also be directed towards Software Development and Computer Applications Training, and Networking of Test and Development Centres. Both these projects are expected to begin in 1988, the former being hosted by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications in Beijing. The project aims at strengthening the collective capability of the telecommunication administrations in the Region to institute systematic computerization of management and operation of telecommunication services, thus ensuring their effective and consistent growth on a continuing basis. It will evolve and run training courses in the use of computers both in technical and commercial applications in telecommunications with particular emphasis on outside plant information management, computer-aided network planning, project management with microcomputers, stores inventory and

control with microprocessors, and in developing new office automation applications and maintaining the existing ones. It will also evolve a methodology for computer application development and apply this methodology to computer software packages in spectrum management, financial management, outside plant management and management information facility. I have no doubt that the project will be of great benefit to the countries in establishing and enhancing computerized data processing facilities.

The Test and Development Centres project, on the other hand, envisages networking of T & D Centres in the region. It will be hosted by the Republic of Korea and assist in the formulation of common standards and test procedures. It will also promote investigation in problems caused by environmental factors, develop value added technology in term of techniques and products and assist in the introduction of new technologies and new systems.

An important event, since the last meeting of your Assembly, was the release, in January 1985, of the Missing Link report of the Independent Commission for World-Wide Telecommunication Development, established in accordance with the decision of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, Nairobi, 1982. As you know, the report has been debated intensively in many fora around the world, with its conclusions and recommendations widely endorsed.

The report focused attention, perhaps as never before, on the serious and unacceptable imbalance in the distribution of telecommunications world-wide, as also the urgent need to redress this situation. It identified telecommunications as an essential complement to other sectors and an integral part of the totality of development, deserving a higher priority for investments in the developing countries than hitherto. The Independent Commission set an overriding objective: **"by the early part of the next century, virtually the whole of mankind should be brought within easy reach of a telephone and, in due course, the other services telecommunications can provide"**.

The recommendations of the Independent Commission constitute a comprehensive programme encompassing a range of actions. They call for joint efforts by industrialized and developing countries and the mutuality of interests which should motivate all such efforts. The recommendations were addressed to Member States of the ITU, all the interested international and regional organizations and several other interested bodies. The particular recommendations requiring regional level, cooperative actions within the mandate of the APT, need your earnest consideration. I have no doubt that these would be taken into account in the formulation of the APT's work programme.

I look forward to the APT's contribution towards the fulfilment of the objective set by the Independent Commission. As always, the Union is ready to cooperate.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me thank you once again for the invitation to be with you today and to share with you some aspects of the ITU's international cooperation efforts. The ITU looks forward to continued fruitful cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TELECOMMUNITY DURING 1988—1990

1. Background

1.1 The General Assembly in its first session held in May 1979 had given guidelines and identified the initial year by year approach to the work programme in the formative years of the Telecommunity.

1.2 The second session of the General Assembly held in November 1981 issued guidelines to the Management Committee for establishing long term work programme within the framework of the general policies and principles for fulfilling the objectives of the Telecommunity. The Management Committee in its 5th session held concurrently with the 2nd session of the General Assembly in November 1981 had approved a 5-year work programme for 1982-1986 subject to review and subsequent approval by the Management Committee every year.

1.3 The General Assembly at its third session held concurrently with the 8th session of the Management Committee in November 1984 at Seoul, Republic of Korea noted with much satisfaction that the APT had successfully implemented various work programmes and activities during the years 1982-1984. At this Assembly it was realized that APT has established itself as the regional telecommunication organization and the main professional resource within the region. Thus, APT's capacity to play a leading role in telecommunication affairs peculiar to the region should be duly reflected in the programmes of work during the coming years.

2. The General Assembly considers the 'Recommendations' of the Independent Commission for Worldwide Telecommunications Development (Missing Link) be given serious consideration in the planning of work programmes by the APT. In view of the fact that majority of the member Administrations are developing countries and further that even basic telephone facilities are not available to a large proportion of the population in these countries, the APT considers it proper to give priority to the development of telecommunications in the rural areas.

2.1 It is gratifying to note that one of the immediate steps recommended by the Commission, viz: the setting up of the Centre for Telecommunication Development has been established and had commenced its activities. The General Assembly recognizes the importance in coordinating APT activities with those of this Centre to derive the optimum benefits in minimising the severe imbalance in the distribution of telecommunication services in the countries of the Asia Pacific region.

2.2 The General Assembly endorses the views expressed and recommendations adopted by this Independent Commission and would appeal to member Governments of developing countries to make appropriate provision for telecommunications in all projects for economic or social advance and at the same time appeal to member Governments of industrialized countries to review their financing instruments and institutions to ensure that they can meet the financing requirements of extending telecommunication networks in developing member countries.

3. The General Assembly is pleased to note that the APT's involvement in the Transport and Communications Decade for the Asia and Pacific of the ESCAP has already borne results. This was evidenced by the UNDP's approval to the funding of the project on "Assistance in Regional Telecommunications Planning" out of the Special Programme Resources as an input to the said Transport and Communications Decade. The

ITU project will set up a centre for regional telecommunications planning within the APT. The immediate objective of the project is to establish a database of telecommunications and socio-economic data needed for telecommunication planning activities. The ITU has already selected the Project Coordinator and the Experts who are due to take up their assignments in September. As the host Institution, the APT has finalised arrangements to provide the necessary furnished office space and will be providing the required support staff when needed.

3.1 In the light of this long awaited development, the APT should continue to participate actively in all activities and programmes of the "Decade" related to telecommunications, in close coordination with ITU and ESCAP.

4. The General Assembly is aware of the existence of sub-regional and other organizations such as SPEC, ASEAN, SAARC and the Commonwealth which have specialized committees engaged in coordination and cooperation in activities related to telecommunications, and therefore recognizes the need to cooperate with these organizations as far as possible for the mutual benefits. To achieve these objectives, APT shall initiate channels of communication with the apex bodies of these organizations.

5. Balanced Development of Inter and Intra Regional Telecommunications Network

5.1 The APT activities should continue to cover entire networks composed of all media such as terrestrial links, submarine cables and satellite links.

5.2 The APT should render assistance in the evaluation of existing networks with a view to obtain the optimum use of these networks and where necessary to coordinate development work with rehabilitation work.

5.3 The General Assembly was gratified to note that the APT conducted a Seminar in 1986 to promote contributions from member Administrations to the Preparatory Committee of the World Administrative Telegraph & Telephone Conference in drafting new Regulations governing International Telecommunication services. The CCITT Preparatory Committee noted with satisfaction that APT was closely following CCITT's work and decided that the APT's proposals would be taken into consideration. In a similar manner the APT conducted a workshop to assist member Administrations in the filling of the TAS Group Questionnaire and as a direct result of the APT's proposals, the deadline for receiving the Questionnaires have been extended by 2 months by the CCITT.

5.4 The APT should continue to follow CCI's work closely in future and organize Workshops/Seminars to coordinate such work on the direction of the Management Committee.

5.5 Considering the rapid advances that are taking place in submarine, terrestrial links and satellite links, the APT shall extend all possible assistance to the member Administrations in preparing up-to-date and suitable plans. The data needed for proper forecasting will be readily available with the APT once the project on "Assistance in Regional Telecommunications Planning" becomes fully operational.

5.6 The APT should closely monitor the digitalization of the international telecommunication network and coordinate in the introduction of CCITT No. 7 common channel signalling to ensure compatibility.

5.7 The APT shall further study the possibility to develop the use of satellite communications, keeping in close relation with the INTELSAT. The study shall also

cover the future development of structuring regional satellite communication networks.

5.8 Realizing the increasing demand for maritime mobile services, the APT shall coordinate in making studies and recommendations to establish or upgrade maritime telecommunications in the region. In this regard to take into account the important role played by the INMARSAT System and thus coordinate activities with I.M.O. Further, the introduction of aeronautical mobile satellite services alongwith maritime satellite service will be timely.

5.9 Considering the merit of a standardized Data Communications System for the Asia Pacific region, the APT shall coordinate in the establishment of a development strategy for the regional data communication network. Such coordination will substantially facilitate the introduction of regional ISDN and packet switching in the future.

5.10 The APT shall undertake a study on the use of optical fibre cable systems in the light of vast strides being made in this technology, with a view to keep the APT members abreast with the development in planning, operations and maintenance of such systems.

6. Development of National Network and Services

6.1 National Telecommunication has long been identified as a key factor in economic, commercial and social development and as such has been raised to a standard in the industrialized world that it is being taken for granted. In contrast however, the situation in the developing world is far from adequate. Although the Asia Pacific region constitutes 55% of the world's population, it has only 17% of the world's telephones. The imbalance is further highlighted by the fact that 81% of the telephones of the region are in only 3 countries constituting only 7% of the region's population. These figures speak for the massive tasks that lay ahead for the Administrations to work towards easing this grave imbalance.

6.2 Taking the above into consideration the General Assembly resolves that APT in taking note of this factual situation shall render all possible assistance for the balanced expansion of national telecommunications networks and for the improvement of the quality of service. APT shall, as far as possible, liaise with the ITU's Centre for Telecommunications Development in respect of development policy, development service and operations support.

6.3 All possible assistance must be provided to developing countries to expand and improve the telecommunications services in the rural areas, as emphasized by the "Arusha Declaration" adopted by the first World Telecommunication Development Conference. To achieve this objective, APT shall :

- (a) conduct Seminars/Workshops to assist Administrations to plan out the strategy,
- (b) provide expertise to undertake studies and make appropriate proposals,
- (c) develop models for pilot projects using digital technology.

6.4 The APT shall continue to promote regional cooperation for standardization of systems for use in rural networks in view of the similarities in basic needs and traffic patterns in rural areas. Such standardization may result in significant cost reduction.

6.5 The APT shall continue its efforts to make existing networks in developing countries more effective by enhancing the quality of service. This will also help improve the efficiency of international service by raising the presently low maturity rates in developing countries. This is to be achieved by providing expertise and training.

6.6 Realizing the vital role played by external plant in providing satisfactory telephone service, the rehabilitation of external plant to be given due prominence.

6.7 Recognizing the technical and economic advantages of the multi-access radio systems in the provision of telephone services speedily to remote rural areas, APT shall provide opportunities for exchange of information among Administrations covering both analog and digital versions including problems involved in installation and operation.

6.8 The General Assembly is aware that satellite communications offer much potential to reach isolated and rural areas which characterize much of the developing member countries. The APT shall study existing Rural Satellite Programmes to ascertain the availability of low cost designs of small, solar powered earth stations for rural use and disseminate such information among member Administrations in need.

6.9 Recognizing the need for the emerging new services, especially the non-voice services, the APT shall provide expertise and training for the planning, development and maintenance of such services.

6.10 In view of the ever increasing application of digital technology and the economic benefits that can be derived from an Integrated Digital Network (IDN), APT shall continue its efforts on promoting digitalisation of national networks to achieve the immediate objective of meeting the basic telephone needs keeping in mind the prospect of introducing ISDN in future.

6.11 Considering the constraints of establishing software verification facilities for digital exchanges with every Administration, the APT shall cooperate in exploring possibilities of pooling available resources in the region (such as common software centres) and promote the experiences and know-how in this regard.

6.12 The General Assembly is also aware of the difficulties faced by Administrations in the maintenance of hardware in digital exchanges which require sophisticated instrumentation and high skills. The APT shall promote and explore the possibilities of pooling available repair facilities in the region.

6.13 Realizing that efficiency and effectiveness in management are vital for providing a satisfactory telecommunication service, APT shall give high priority to the provision of expertise and training in the different fields of management. In this regard emphasis must be laid to disseminate know-how on the new concept of Computerized Operations Support Systems to follow the recent trend of most Administrations to run enterprises on commercial lines to improve efficiency and accountability.

7. Technological Development

7.1 The General Assembly recognizes the tremendous advances continuously being made in the field of telecommunications and their impact on development and expansion of telecommunication networks in the member Administrations. The APT activities shall be so organized as to provide the opportunities for these Administrations to take full advantage of the merits of advances in technology in achieving their objectives.

7.2 For this purpose, APT shall collect and disseminate information on recent technological trends in telecommunication development on specific requests and organize Seminars/Workshops to provide the forums for giving the opportunities for the membership to obtain the current information of the available technologies and to discuss the applicability of the different kinds of technology to suit the environment.

7.3 While it is recognized that the costs of providing services have reduced with technological innovation and the application of emerging new services in public and

commercial activity is increasing, stress is to be laid on the preparation of the base for their introduction, which includes the preparation of the environment, proper training of personnel and the establishment of a good O & M system. The fields that need consideration are :-

- (a) Network Digitalization and the problems involved in smooth implementation.
- (b) Optical Fibre Cable Communication with emphasis on repeater-less junction working.
- (c) Multi-access systems for remote rural areas.
- (d) Maritime telecommunications.
- (e) Compatibility of inter-regional signalling systems with special emphasis on CCITT No. 7 signalling.
- (f) Satellite Communication in the Ku and Ka bands and TDMA/DSI working.
- (g) Planning and introduction of Cellular Mobile Radio systems.
- (h) Introduction of new terminal facilities such as facsimile - their benefits and problems involved.
- (i) Data communications and packet switching on public data network. Local Area and Wide Area Networks including Value Added Networks.
- (j) Preparation for the introduction of ISDN services.

8. Management

8.1 The General Assembly recognizes the importance of effective management in running a telecommunication organization to obtain the optimum performance. It also notes the recent trend towards de-regulation and privatization. This period can thus be reckoned as a transition period where significant changes are taking place in the structure of some Administrations in this region. The APT shall keep track of such trends in the region and collect as much information as possible and disseminate among requesting members.

8.2 The APT shall also organize forums to discuss the many different aspects of management and training to develop the calibre and skill of management personnel.

8.3 Considering the realization even in developing countries for the enterprises to make a reasonable return on investment or at least to be self-financing, the APT shall get involved in the work of the CCITT Tariff Group for Asia & Oceania (TAS) to ensure that future Recommendations properly look after interests of the region. The APT shall also organise forums to discuss the introduction/expansion of Automatic Message Accounting systems alongwith computerized billing and accounting.

9. Study Groups

9.1 The General Assembly noted that the Study Groups activities have gradually grown since its inception in 1981 and as evidenced by the issue of a set of "Guidelines and Techno-economic Consideration for the Introduction of New Services" at the successful conclusion of a study reveals that APT Study Groups are beginning to be more effective. It is hoped that the question on "Protection of Telecommunication Lines" can be satisfactorily concluded and an "Interference Manual" be issued in the coming years.

9.2 The General Assembly also notes that as a result of studies undertaken on the Question on "Maintenance and Operation Philosophy of Digital and Transmission System", Mr. T. Fujikura has prepared a detailed document entitled "Philosophy of Digital Network Operation and Maintenance". This document has already been circulated among Study Group members and will be circulated among all APT members shortly.

9.3 The General Assembly is gratified to note the increasing concern and interest shown by member Administrations in the activities of the Study Groups. A new structure with a 9 study group framework has now been adopted which can be considered a milestone in the evolution of the APT Study Groups activities.

10. Mechanism and Modalities for Cooperation

10.1 The success of achieving telecommunication development in the region much depends on the collective self reliance, mutual assistance and cooperation among countries of the region. In this regard our region is fortunate to have developed and newly developed countries as members who have the capability to provide financial assistance and expertise to cater to the region's needs and sustain a reasonable rate of growth.

10.2 The following mechanisms and instruments of assistance should be fully explored and utilized in implementation of various inter country programmes which aim at the development of national capability and collective self reliance.

- Optimum utilization of national expertise available within the region, promoting TCDC.
- Sharing of training facilities as far as possible.
- Results of R & D on appropriate fields by member Administrations be made available to APT for dissemination to requesting member Administrations.

10.3 Explore possibility of setting up regional institutional mechanism involving countries, aid-giving agencies, concerned regional and international organizations to utilize scarce resources to the best advantage.

10.4 UNDP has a vital role in the development of national capability including intercountry projects. Allocation of higher priorities and more funds for this region including support through regional organizations will be of great benefit.

10.5 The APT shall make further efforts in view of resolution adopted by the General Assembly for closer cooperation with UNDP with a view to obtain resources as was obtained for the 'Database' project.

10.6 The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other regional financing institutions should also be approached to pay more attention to and provide resources for development of the telecommunication sector, especially for integrated rural development.

10.7 It should be fully recognized that all the programmes and activities including the resources of the APT are part of a cooperative movement within the region. The General Assembly hopes that the voluntary contributions by members, associate members and affiliate members would continue to increase in the future.

10.8 Recognizing the important role played by private entities such as carriers and manufacturers as partners in the development of telecommunications in the region, APT shall promote their involvement in its activities to accelerate regional development.

10.9 Realizing the need for better coordination to facilitate development activities in the region, and also the need for tapping greater resources to this end, APT shall work as a catalyst in securing bilateral and multi-lateral aid for the developing member countries to ensure timely implementation of development projects.

10.10 Considering the importance of its role in the Asia Pacific region, the APT should continue to make efforts to attract eligible non-member countries to join in the near future. This will strengthen the regional cooperation among all countries in the Asia Pacific region to pave the way for a better life to all the peoples of the region.

NUMBER OF UNITS OF CONTRIBUTIONS PLEDGED DURING
THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR
THE YEARS 1988, 1989 & 1990 AND VALUE OF A UNIT FOR 1988

NAME OF ADMINISTRATION	PLEDGED		PLEDGED EXTRA BUDGETARY	TOTAL CONTRI- BUTION
	UNITS @4450	VALUE		
Members				
Australia	20	89000	26700	115700
Bangladesh	2	8900	0	8900
Brunei Darussalam	2	8900	0	8900
Burma	1	4450	0	4450
P R China	10	44500	22250	66750
* India	4	17800	17800	35600
Indonesia	2	8900	0	8900
I R Iran	1	4450	0	4450
Japan	40	178000	0	178000
Malaysia	4	17800	0	17800
Maldives	.5	2225	0	2225
Nepal	.5	2225	0	2225
* Pakistan	2	8900	0	8900
Philippines	2	8900	0	8900
Rep of Korea	10	44500	0	44500
Singapore	2	8900	0	8900
Sri Lanka	1	4450	0	4450
* Thailand	4	17800	0	17800
Vietnam	1	4450	0	4450
Associate Member				
Hong Kong	4	17800	0	17800
Affiliate Members				
C&W (HKG) Ltd	2	8900	0	8900
HK TEL Co	1	4450	0	4450
KDD Japan	10	44500	0	44500
NTT Japan	10	44500	0	44500
Eastern Telecom	.5	2225	0	2225
Globe Mackay	.5	2225	0	2225
Philcomsat	.5	2225	0	2225
Phil Global Comms	.5	2225	0	2225
PLDT	.5	2225	0	2225
KTA	2	8900	0	8900
Data Comms Corp	.5	2225	0	2225
TOTAL	141	627450	66750	694200

(equivalent to
15 units)

Note * Subject to ratification by the government



PRIME MINISTER

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY SYDNEY, 25 NOVEMBER 1987

Gareth Evans

Mr. George Maltby, President of the A.P.T.

Delegates

It's a pleasure to welcome to Sydney and to Australia the delegates to the fourth General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. I congratulate you on your choice of Australia as venue for your meeting — it's good to know that Australia is increasingly being recognised not only as an exciting tourist destination but also as an efficient and friendly host for conferences such as yours.

Indeed Australia is increasingly in the spotlight of attention from the world's telecommunications industry. Next year, in our bicentennial year, Melbourne will host the World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference, convened by the International Telecommunications Union.

The significance of this event can be gauged not only from the rarity with which the ITU calls such world conferences — the last was in Geneva in 1973.

The Melbourne conference will be significant as well because of the issue it will address. Policy makers from nearly every nation will assemble to discuss the watershed issue of the future regulatory framework for international telecommunications.

Establishing the right level and degree of regulation for an industry is a difficult and sensitive task in any case.

It hardly needs stating in this audience that the question of regulation of an industry as subject to rapid technological change as yours, presents real difficulties.

Let me give you a stark measure of the technological change in the communication industry.

I mentioned that next year is the bicentenary of the European settlement of Australia. The little colony of convicts and soldiers and administrators which arrived in 1788 on the shores near where we now meet was as isolated from the rest of the world as it was possible to be.

Robert Hughes, in his recent book **The Fatal Shore**, recounts that by June 1790, the colonists had gone nearly three years without news of the outside world.

When the ship **The Lady Juliana** arrived in Sydney in that month, it had been at sea for 11 months.

Even so, its newspapers and letters bore stunning news: the illness of the King, the first inauguration of George Washington and the outbreak of the French Revolution.

By today's standards it was all old news. But then again we lost our capacity for being surprised by new communications technology when Neil Armstrong's foot was placed in the dust on the surface of the moon — and we all saw it happen on TV 1.3 seconds later.

Today we are seeing a continuing surge in the development of new communications technologies.

Technological developments and the convergence of the telecommunications and information industries have placed you at the centre of some of the most exciting challenges facing both industry and governments as we move towards the twenty-first century.

Telecommunication is well past the stage of being regarded as essentially a social service. It is now, and will be increasingly in the future, a potent source of competitive advantage for commercial enterprises and for nations that are prepared to respond flexibly to emerging commercial opportunities.

Satellites, optical fibre cables, and the digitalisation of voice, data and image transmission — these are the technologies which are at the heart of modern telecommunications.

To use an anatomical analogy, if trade is the life blood of modern societies, then telecommunications is the nervous system linking together the disparate parts of the world economy.

The benefits are sometimes not undiluted. Stock trading, thanks to the new technology, can now take place twenty four hours a day by shifting the market with the sun from Europe to North America to the Western Pacific rim and back to Europe. This has created a world market, operating in real time, which is susceptible to the instantaneous responses which we saw all too dramatically in action last month.

In short, your industry's growth prospects are seemingly boundless. New needs and new markets are continually being discovered and new communications products developed.

Indeed we are perhaps reaching the stage where the capacities of engineers and scientists to produce new communications technologies will exceed the capacities of consumers to use them.

It is not hard to imagine business uses for the proposed new Integrated Services Digital Network — the next stage of development which will make it possible to connect facsimile machines, personal computers, phones and telexes to the digital network.

But are we sure that homes need this new facility? You will probably know that the initials of the new network — ISDN — have been appropriated by some cynics to form the less than flattering tag: Innovations Subscribers Don't Need.

Presumably we will see the answer to that eventually in the sales figures.

This rapid pace of technological change presents the Asia Pacific Telecommunity with its own challenges.

The regulatory norms which prevailed when the Asia Pacific Telecommunity was formed are in danger of becoming outmoded, or even rendered obsolete, by the changing communications systems.

And as a representative body of the Asia Pacific region, you must also grapple with the

great disparities in technological sophistication that still exist within our global village.

It was reported recently that metropolitan New York has more telephones than black Africa; that in India more than one million people are on the waiting list for a telephone; that the developing countries have a smaller share of the world's telephones than they do of the world's incomes.

Most developing countries at present have a high degree of technical dependence on foreign sources of communications equipment, as well as for systems definition and planning.

Developing countries cannot afford to remain in isolation and lose out on the benefits that sophisticated integrated communications networks will bring. But equally they face the challenge of developing the capacity to control adequately the flow and application of new technology.

Within this framework of change, let me review two specific areas in which Australia has a particular concern.

First, we are alarmed at the threat posed by the rising tide of protectionism to the rules and practices of free trade on which the world's post-war prosperity has been built. This certainly affects us as an efficient agricultural producer. But the trade in services — including telecommunications services — are not immune from the threat.

It is clear that without the development of global markets for services such as telecommunications and data services, without the rapid growth of international financial and insurance services, without rapid and flexible global transport, the total world market for goods would be very much smaller, and we would all be the poorer.

Over the last decade, world trade in services has grown at an average annual rate of nearly 16 per cent.

An area of trade in services that is growing particularly rapidly is satellite services. International satellite telecommunication traffic in the ASEAN group has been projected by INTELSAT to grow to over 11,000 voice circuits by 1995, equivalent to the current use by the United States of the INTELSAT system.

However the services sector is bound, world-wide, in a web of regulations and restrictions which closely control the entry into, and investment in, the services sector. This web even controls in some cases the physical delivery of services.

Moreover, major exporters have demonstrated willingness to protect their service markets by bilateral agreements which by their nature are discriminatory. Clearly, it is in the interests of all nations, developed and developing alike, to ensure that the most efficient and cheapest services are available to all.

Australia welcomes the historic declaration at Punta del Este that services were to be brought within the multilateral framework for the first time. In a speech I made to GATT last month at its headquarters in Geneva I put forward a set of objectives which should guide the current round of negotiations.

The OECD is also examining trade in services, and Australia has been an active participant. We have a strong interest in these developments because of the opportunities they afford us to diversify further our economy and, in particular, our export sector.

This leads me to the second point which I want briefly to address: Australia's response to the challenge of the new telecommunications.

Australia has had, of course, its own unique problems to solve in the telecommunications area.

Being a large country with a small population, with remote communities as well as highly developed and sophisticated industrial and commercial sectors to be served, we have confronted big and complex challenges.

In solving those problems we have in some cases incorporated Australian developed technology. For example, Telecom's Digital Radio Concentrator System, through relay towers, provides automatic telephone services to the more isolated areas at reasonable cost.

We have manufacturing facilities provided by the major corporations of Japan, North America and Europe and, I am pleased to say, increasingly from Australian firms.

We have recognised the advantages of moving to a digital telecommunications system and of establishing optical fibre cable systems as one of the most economical, reliable and flexible means of enhancing our network.

Optical fibre cables are planned to cross the Australian continent from east to west and from north to south.

With the recent launch of the AUSSAT 3 satellite Australia has substantially increased its domestic satellite capacity. This will help meet the solid growth in demand for satellite services in Australia.

Such developments will make the Australian telecommunications network one of the most advanced in the world.

And we are taking the next step. Local telecommunications manufacturing experience has encouraged Australian firms to tender in the competitive international market. Already Australian tenders have been offered for major optical fibre contracts in India and Thailand.

This process is crucial to Australia's long term development.

Australia is undergoing a vital process of structural change. The rest of the world has severely marked down our natural resource-based export products. Sustaining our standard of living means developing and expanding our manufactured and services exports.

The task is to guide our manufacturing and services industries to be internationally competitive and export oriented. Australian telecommunications manufacturers maintain substantial interests in the region and we are looking to establish greater links with South East Asian economies.

In recognition of this export potential, my Government has announced an information industry strategy that aims to link companies in Australia to world markets, encourage new product development and ensure the supply of skilled workers. We will review the regulatory environment and establish an Industries Information Board to implement the strategy.

We are confident that this communications export strategy will increase exports from their present level of \$60 million a year to \$600 million a year by the middle of the next decade.

Along with many other countries we are also reviewing the regulatory framework in which our telecommunications industry operates, with the objectives of bringing it up to date and of promoting efficiency.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past eight years the Asia Pacific Telecommunity has been actively involved in bringing together, and making available, telecommunications specialists from within the Asia Pacific region.

The organisation by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity of seminars and workshops, visits and advice by experts and fellowships for training of personnel, provide practical co-operative assistance to the region. I am pleased that the telecommunications organisations within Australia have played their part in this process, including through traineeships, and management studies.

Let me close then by wishing you every success in your discussions and in your work in your own countries at the conclusion of this meeting.