



**WELCOME ADDRESS**

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

Mr. Hoi Chi Leong, Director, Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT), Macao, China.

Distinguished Guests, Speakers and Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 12th Asia-Pacific Telecommunication and ICT Development Forum (ADF-12) here in Macao, China.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the host, Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT) of Macao, for once again hosting this important Forum with the excellent arrangement. I am very much appreciative of the continuous support and assistance that Macao has provided to the APT every year. Please join me in thanking our gracious host, DSRT.

I would also like to thank the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan, for the generous support in funding many of the fellowships and for the continuous funding of the two important APT Projects, which are called J2 Project and J3 Project since 2003.

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

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the first ADF meeting after I have taken office as the new Secretary General of the APT since 9th February this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank APT Members for electing me as Secretary General of the APT and placing the trust in me.

I would like to emphasize my intention and commitment to make the APT, a community which is accountable and approachable for all by ensuring transparent governance and work efficiency while mobilizing resources and motivating people inside and outside the organization.

I believe that through our extended promotion and partnership and especially our engagement with all relevant stakeholders, the APT will gain more visibility and recognition in the area of ICT/ Telecommunications. I wish to gain your full cooperation to fulfill my objectives and goals as Secretary General of the APT.

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Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunication and ICT Development Forum or the so-called ADF is one of the key activities of the APT to address telecommunications and ICT development issues for developing countries. It is the platform where policy makers, regulators and other relevant officials discuss and share information on the best practices and experiences on ICT Development issues.

This is the first ADF meeting since the APT held the Ministerial Meeting in Brunei Darussalam last September. One important element of the discussions will be the outcomes of the Ministerial Meeting and how the members of APT can work together to achieve the vision of “Building a Smart Digital Economy through ICT” as agreed by the Ministers.

Another important part of the ADF is also linked to the achievements of ICT projects funded by the Extra-Budgetary Contribution. Examples are the HRD Programme for Exchange of ICT Researchers and Engineers and the ICT Development Programme for Supporting ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas. These programmes which are known as J2 and J3 programmes, are very well recognized. I am very pleased to see that many of these projects have become good success stories in the region.

I am glad to inform you that starting this year, the APT will have another programme called EBC-K Project funded by the government of Republic of Korea to facilitate ICT Application in the Asia-Pacific. We had issued invitation for proposals and received a lot of interest from our Members.

I strongly believe that through this kind of practical activity, the APT can closely assist our Members in achieving concrete outcomes and have real impact to the development of the telecommunication / ICT sector in the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the rapid development of ICT in Asia-Pacific, there are still gaps in the ICT accessibility and affordability in developing countries especially in LDCs and SIDS. To deal with these challenges, efforts have been made in order to facilitate investment for the establishment of sustainable ICT infrastructure in unprofitable areas. Different investment models such as Public-Private-Partnership, Government-led initiatives, Projects funded by donors, Infrastructure Sharing model are suitable for different environments. Moreover, other crucial factors of the project lie in funding and efficient project management.

At this ADF, we are pleased to have experts from the World Bank and United Nations Office of Project Services (UNPOS) who kindly agree to share information on the available funding scheme and the ICT infrastructure project management. I very much hope that you can find these presentations useful and could make use of the opportunity to network and discuss with the experts for further collaborations.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Agenda for ADF this year includes topics of concern for developing countries allowing Members to share best practices and experiences in ICT development as part of the APT’s efforts in assisting our members for a sustainable development through ICT.

Regarding the conducting of the Forum, unfortunately, Mr. Mohamed Giashuddin Ahmed from Bangladesh, the Chairman of the ADF and Mr. Takamichi Kajiwara from Japan, the Vice-Chairman of the ADF are unable to be with us here. Therefore, there will be an election of office bearers to conduct the meeting right after the opening session. I hereby request your full support in nominating Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the ADF to perform these important duties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Government has key roles in driving the ICT development, adopting ICT to improve efficiencies in providing public services to citizens, lowering the cost of network access, providing incentives to private sectors to develop innovative applications, facilitating and nurturing new ICT entrepreneur and start-ups, to name a few. These are some of the factors contributing to the sustainable growth of ICT and its ecosystem.

It is important that the ICT services should be accessible to everyone at affordable cost on equitable basis. The potential of digital economy should be fully exploited to realise the transformational impact of digital technologies on the economy and societal well-being of our people. Let us work together to fulfil this goal.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, allow me once again to express my sincere gratitude to our host, the Bureau of Telecommunications Regulation (DSRT) of Macao, China for the excellent arrangement.

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

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and successful meeting.

Thank you.