ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY
The 25th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-25)
02 – 06 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

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Ms Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

WELCOME REMARKS

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Mr. Yoichi Maeda, Chairman of APT Standardization Program (ASTAP)

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this 25th APT Standardization Program Forum here in Bangkok, Thailand. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all APT members for extending their support and cooperation for the APT.

This is the first ASTAP 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 introduce myself. I am Areewan Haorangsi. I have been elected Secretary General by the 13th Session of the General Assembly of the APT which was held in November 2014 in Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

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 get your full cooperation to fulfill my objectives and goals as Secretary General of the APT.

Let me also introduce to you the new Deputy Secretary General of the APT, Mr. Masanori Kondo from Japan. Together, we will try to uphold the value of this organization by fulfilling the commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2014 was a special year for the APT. Two high level events took place to set the guidance and direction for APT as an inter-governmental organization.

The first event was the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting on "Building Smart Digital Economy through ICT" which was held from 10 to 11 September 2014 in Brunei Darussalam. Total 27 Ministers, Vice Ministers and Deputy Ministers from APT Members gathered together to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the APT and set a high level guidelines and

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commitments for the APT. The Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting adopted the Brunei Darussalam Statement to emphasize to work collectively with all stakeholders within the ICT sector including cross-sector engagement to implement six key priority areas in order to build a smart digital economy in the Asia-Pacific region.

The second important event of 2014 was the 13th Session of the General Assembly of the APT. The General Assembly adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for the Period 2015-2017. The Strategic Plan followed the six key priority areas of the Brunei Darussalam Statement and identified eight main work items for the APT Work Programme for the year 2015-2017, one of which is Standardization.

Through the APT Work Programmes for the year 2015-2017, the APT will provide necessary assistance, arrange discussions at forums on specific issues identified in the Brunei Darussalam Statement, promote dialogue between industry, regulators and policy makers, facilitate investment in broadband infrastructure, build capacity of human resources and strengthen regional cooperation and coordination.

Distinguished Delegates,

As you may be aware, at the ASTAP-24 last year, ASTAP was restructured to a more efficient hierarchical three level structure. Working Methods of ASTAP was also revised adopting the new structure. I am pleased to inform you that the 38th Session of the APT Management Committee Being held in November last year in Myanmar had approved the new structure and the Working Methods of ASTAP.

I would like to stress that it is necessary for any organization to review its structure and functions in order to cope with the changing environment and to meet the needs of stake holders. ASTAP is no exception. I sincerely hope that ASTAP will further enhance its activities, produce useful outcomes and meet the needs of APT members in the new structure. I would like to thank all of you to give your full attention and support to restructure ASTAP with a view of making ASTAP an efficient work programme.

This 25th ASTAP Forum would be the first meeting of ASTAP in the new structure. A lot of works are needed to be done by the ASTAP meeting. You are all aware that by ASTAP-24, the term of the ASTAP Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen was completed and ASTAP-24 elected Mr. Yoichi Maeda as the Chairman of ASTAP. All of you know Mr. Maeda very well. He is a long time expert in the area of Standardization area and he is the chairman of ITU-T Review Committee. In that sense, I am happy that ASTAP has got a competent Chairman to lead for the next few years. Yet we have to elect the Vice-chairmen of ASTAP at this meeting. I hope the new leadership will lead ASTAP to fulfill its objectives. At the same time, we need to confirm the leadership of various working groups and expert groups who will do the real works.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the last few years, ASTAP activities have been increased significantly. Regularly, ASTAP is having annual events like ASTAP Industry Workshop and Conformance and Interoperability Events. In this ASTAP-25, we will have one day Industry Workshop focusing on two important topics of "Cybersecurity" and "Smart Cities and Smart Energy Management". Both topics are important and part of the Strategic Plan of APT for 2015 – 2017. Very eminent experts have been invited as speakers for the workshop. I would like to sincerely thank Ms. Fukahori and Ms. Naganuma, the two coordinators of the Industry Workshop.

Finally, 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 good deliberations and look forward to having a very successful ASTAP Forum here in Bangkok.

Thank you.

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