



**WELCOME ADDRESS  
BY  
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**

Mr. Sharvada Sharma, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communication of Fiji

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chairman of the Management Committee of the APT,

Ms. Caroline Greenway and Mr. Sang-hun Lee, Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee of the APT,

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you and warm greetings from the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity!

It is a great pleasure and a privilege for me to welcome you all to the 40th Session of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity here in the beautiful Denarau Island of Fiji.

On behalf of all delegations and the APT Secretariat, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our host, the Ministry of Communications of Fiji, for the kind offer to host this important meeting of the APT. We are truly impressed by the outstanding arrangement and warm hospitality extended to all of us. Let me also express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Sharvada Sharma for being here with us to inaugurate the opening of this meeting.

Distinguished Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2016 has been another remarkable year of the APT. Out of 31 Work Programmes approved by the last session of the Management Committee, we have successfully implemented 29 Work Programmes. There are also 22 training courses under Capacity Building Programme.

I would like to highlight some of these achievements, which are included in the detailed Reports of the APT to be presented later:

- The Strategic Plan of the APT for 2015 – 2017 has been successfully implemented by various activities under this year's Work Programmes;
- APT Work Programme continued to produce outputs which are beneficial to all memberships, which includes 21 APT Common Proposals, 2 draft APT Recommendations, 13 new or revised APT Reports, 19 Liaison Statements sent out to ITU Study Groups or other APT Work Programmes, etc.;
- The APT has been successful in the preparatory works for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly. The preparatory processes for World Radiocommunication

Conference in 2019 and World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 have been started and the relevant preparatory works are on the right track;

- The presence of High-level government officials and industry have been promoted through various Roundtable discussions, Head of Regulators' Roundtable discussion, etc.;
- APT has been successful to re-establish the networks to collaborate with various UN Organizations, intergovernmental organizations, International development banks, industry associations, etc.; and
- Extra Budgetary Contributions from donor countries have been efficiently utilized for successful implementation of various activities. The APT has also been able to embark on a new working area through conducting research on cross border personal data issue;

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all APT members for the active participation in the APT Work Programmes. This includes increasing number of representatives, competent candidates for chairmanships and other office bearers, written contributions to the meetings as well as productive and extensive discussions and engagement in the work of APT.

In addition, the success throughout the year has been possible because of the continuous support from APT members in forms of generous Extra Budgetary Contributions and hosting of many events. Therefore, I am deeply grateful for all APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members and partner organizations and International Organizations for their contributions and dedication.

Distinguished delegates,

Though APT has achieved a lot through tremendous support of all members, many challenges issues including the disparity between advanced and least developed countries, last mile connectivity of remote areas and advent of emerging new technologies and services, are still waiting for us to tackle down.

As all countries are aware, the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 approved in 2015 by the United Nation are currently underway for implementation by all Member Administrations and all stakeholders acting in collaborative partnership. A total of 17 goals with 169 targets cover a broad range of sustainable development issues.

As an inter-governmental organization, APT is obliged to assist our members to implement these set of goals with other peer international stakeholders. It has been emphasized that ICTs will clearly be crucial in achieving these SDGs. This is because ICTs integrate and accelerate all three pillars of sustainable development – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability – as well as provide an innovative and effective means of implementation in today's inter-connected world.

These issues should be addressed explicitly in the new Strategic Plan of the APT for the year 2018-2020. APT would then be able to assist member countries to achieve these goals and targets.

To date, APT has provided various platforms to all stakeholders including member countries and industry to work together. This function of the APT has been emphasized by the Strategic Plan of APT for 2015-2017 in promoting dialogue between industry, regulators and policy makers.

I believe the dialogue of the stakeholders should be promoted further taking into account the increasing complexity of the policy and regulatory landscape brought by emerging technologies and services. There is a great need for the APT to provide policy and regulatory guidance to Member Administrations to help them to respond to modern and complex challenges in practical manner.

Distinguished Representatives,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Year 2017 will be a momentous year since APT ought to shape our brighter future through Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018 – 2020. Therefore, I look forward to your intuitive guidance in preparing this new Strategic Plan, organizing the Work Programme for the year 2017 and allocating necessary budget and resources.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere thanks once again to Mr. Sharvada Sharma, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications of Fiji for taking your valuable time to be with us here today, and to our host, Ministry of Communication, Government of Fiji.

I wish you successful deliberations in this session of the Management Committee.

Thank you.

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