



Secretary General

WELCOME REMARKS

Mr. Kinley T Wangchuk, Director General, Ministry of Information and Communications,
Kingdom of Bhutan

Mr. Chenchu Dorji, Director General, Bhutan Infocomm and Media Authority (BICMA)

Mr. Sanjeev Banzal, Chairman, South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC)
Working Group on Spectrum

Distinguished Experts and Speakers

Distinguished Participants from SATRC Countries,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) Workshop on Spectrum held in this beautiful valley of Paro, Kingdom of Bhutan. This Workshop was hosted by Bhutan Infocomm and Media Authority (BICMA).

We are honoured to have Mr. Kinley T Wangchuk, Director General, Ministry of Information and Communications, Bhutan gracing this opening ceremony. On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all participants here, I would like to convey our deep appreciation to you for your presence.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to BICMA for hosting this important workshop and for providing the excellent facilities as well as the Bhutanese hospitality to all participants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

SATRC has been an important sub-regional programme of the APT, serving as platform for regulators in South Asia to discuss, network and cooperate on important telecommunications and ICT related issues as well as to learn from each other the best practices. The discussions and decisions made by SATRC have made significant impacts on the telecommunication/ICT industry in the South-Asian countries which cover a large percentage of the population of the Asia-Pacific region.

The South Asian region has seen very rapid development of telecommunication network and services. Broadband access to communications and especially access using mobile devices have increased manyfold and changed the business scenario of the telecom industry. Meanwhile, there have been a lot of constraints to fulfil the demand for limited resources like spectrum in providing broadband communication. Governments therefore need to carefully consider the radio spectrum

issues for broadband mobile communication as spectrum has now become a crucial issue for harmonization and regional coordination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may recall, the 15th SATRC Meeting held in Paro in 2014 adopted the Action Plan Phase V for the duration from 2015 to 2016. Two Working Groups were established to discuss the issues.

The SATRC Working Group on Spectrum had been assigned with a number of important work items for the implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase V. Those are:

- Spectrum Requirement Estimation for IMT Systems in SATRC Countries
- Spectrum re-farming in SATRC countries
- Non-Ionizing Radiation Safety in the Frequency Bands used for Mobile Phones
- Increasing Role of Network Sharing for SATRC Countries: From Passive Infrastructure Sharing to Mobile Virtual Network Operation

All these work items have practical relevance and are very much useful for this region. They are also well reflected in the programme of this SATRC Workshop on Spectrum. It is noted that there are a good number of eminent speakers from the industry sector at this workshop. The important information from their presentations would assist the development of the outcomes by the Working Group on Spectrum.

This 3-day workshop from today until Thursday is under the capacity building initiatives of SATRC. I hope the information and valuable discussion that would take place here would assist SATRC members to form their policies on the work item areas. However, the success will depend definitely on the commitment and interest received by the members.

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I conclude, may I once again thank our host BICMA for the excellent arrangement for this workshop.

I wish you all a successful workshop and a nice stay in Paro.

Thank you.