



**Ms. Areewan Haorangsi**  
**Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity**

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Mr. Charles Chew, Director (International), Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA),

Dr. Bohyun Seo, Vice-Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014,

Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director of International Telecommunication Union (ITU),  
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific,

Distinguished Delegates and Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

I am very pleased to welcome you all to the 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (APT WTDC-17 in Singapore). The meeting is hosted by Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA).

I would like take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our host, IDA, for their generous and continuous support to the APT. Please join me in thanking the IDA, which has made excellent preparations for organizing this event.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

APT preparatory activities to the ITU conferences are recognised as an important regional coordination effort and among these is the preparation for the World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs). With its 38 Member countries, the APT's contribution to the conferences can make significant impact.

The meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the World Telecommunication Development Conference provides platform for collaboration and coordination of issues that are significant to the APT members and delivers well-coordinated proposals to the conferences to facilitate and simplify the work of the conferences. APT members could discuss and align their views and thoughts so that coordinated outputs are generated from the meetings. The APT common proposals so developed are the results of excellent spirit of cooperation and fruitful negotiations that goes along within the preparatory meetings.

Looking back to the previous period of the preparation for WTDC-14, I am pleased to share that the APT preparations for the WTDC-14 were well received with good results on the proposals made by the APT Member Administrations. The APT submitted a total of 17 proposals to the WTDC-14 on behalf of its Members and all the APT Common Proposals were accepted by the Conference.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Chakrya Mao, Chairman of APT Preparatory Group for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014, Ms Nur Sulyna Abdulla and Dr. Bohyun Seo, two Vice-Chairmen of the Group. I would also like to extend my special thanks to all Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of three Working Groups who had actively contributed to the preparation works of the Group during the last cycle.

Today we are starting the new cycle of the preparation for the WTDC-17, which is just the next year. One of the main tasks of this 1st meeting is to establish the structure, working methods and work plan of the preparatory group and to nominate the leadership including Chairman and Vice Chairmen and other office bearers of the Group, which will lead us to the successful outcome in the journey of preparatory process.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me share one of the achievements in building a consensus among APT Members which happened at the 1st APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-19 held in the previous week in Chengdu, People's Republic of China. The meeting was challenged to resolve the issue of the election of the new Chairman whose two candidates were well qualified. Not only most of the APT members but also those outside of the region expected to take a vote to elect the Chairman.

I must say that "voting" is relatively easy and well prepared beforehand by the Secretariat. However, as the situation might polarize our membership and hamper the solidarity of the APT, I together with other Secretariat staff took serious series of negotiations with the Administrations who put their candidacies to find a compromised solution between the parties. Finally, with the spirit of cooperation, we could find a win-win solution which was satisfied not only by the Administrations who put their candidacies but also by all APT members at the meeting although it took almost 2 full days. I do wish this consensus approach would serve as a future reference to resolve any contentious issue among our memberships.

As always, our success has been the results of excellent spirit of cooperation and fruitful negotiations that go along within the preparatory meetings. I hope the same level of cooperation, active participation and high spirit for consolidation will continue in this preparatory cycle to lead us towards a successful participation of our region in WTDC-17.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, may I once again thank Singaporean Administration, IDA, for hosting this important event? My special thanks to all the officials and staff who are involved in preparing for this event.

Lastly, my thanks go to you all, the distinguished delegates and all participants, for attending this 1st Meeting of APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17.

I wish you for a very fruitful meeting.

Thank you.