



Secretary General

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Honorable Dato' Jailani Johari, Deputy Minister of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia,  
Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17,  
Mr. Kishore Babu Vice-Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17,  
Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for the Asia and the Pacific,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (APT WTDC17-4) here in this vibrant city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all delegates here, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia (KKMM) and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) for the excellent arrangements in hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us all.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Honorable Dato' Jailani Johari, Deputy Minister of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia for accepting to preside over the opening ceremony of this meeting. It is a great honour for us all.

Distinguished Delegates,

This is the last meeting of APT to prepare for the WTDC-17. We are all aware of the way coming over here in Kuala Lumpur and in the way to Buenos Aires. The journey has been possible due to the Members and the devotion of office bears of the Preparatory Group. I am confident that this Group is accomplishing another successful preparatory process towards an ITU Conference with the enthusiastic participation and contributions. Therefore, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all parties involved.

Asia-Pacific region is the vast region that is composed of different circumstances and needs. These has attributed to the complication of our preparatory process in terms of priority setting and coordinating divergent issues among ourselves. However, I am truly proud of our achievements that we have set up until now.

At the 3rd preparatory meeting held in Bangkok, in June, we had discussed and agreed on certain candidates for Preliminary APT Common Proposals to be discussed further here.

For this meeting, I am very pleased to note that there are quite a number of contributions from APT Members. I hope this meeting will be able to finalize Preliminary APT Common Proposals to be further submitted to Member Administration for approval as APT Common Proposals.

Apart from discussing Preliminary APT Common Proposals, this meeting will need to approve the candidates from our region for office bearers of WTDC-17 as well as the nomination from the region for the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen positions of the ITU-D Study Groups and TDAG. In addition, this meeting will also decide the coordination arrangements during the Conference in Buenos Aires. One of the important issues will be the leading countries for the APT Common Proposals to WTDC-17. We need to identify the one who will introduce the proposals and lead them through the Conference. We will also discuss the schedule of the APT coordination meetings at the Conference.

I sincerely hope all delegates will give your support and cooperation to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the Chairmen of the Working Groups for a very fruitful discussion and positive conclusions of this meeting.

I would like to emphasize that the APT Preparatory Meetings are platforms for APT memberships to prepare for International Conferences and Assemblies. They are driven by our members and the issues and proposals discussed are based on the contributions from the Members. These APT platforms are successful to increase our regional voices at international fora where members' need exist, and this direction has been captured in the current draft of Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018 – 2020.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before concluding, may I once again extend my sincere gratitude to Honorable Dato' Jailani Johari, Deputy Minister of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia for being with us today. My special thanks go to the officials and staff of the Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia, and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission for the excellent facilities and preparation.

Last but not least, I sincerely thank you all, the distinguished delegates, office bearers of APT WTDC-17 in particular Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of the Group who makes himself available even through the remote participation. The same appreciation goes to all participants from Asia-Pacific region, other international and regional organizations for attending this important meeting.

I wish you all very successful deliberations.

Thank you.