



Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity

### **WELCOME ADDRESS**

Dr. Kohei Satoh, Chairman of APT Wireless Group,

Ms. Zhu Keer and Mr. Le Van Tuan, Vice-Chairmen of APT Wireless Group,

Chairmen of Working Groups, Sub-Working Groups and Task Groups

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to all of you.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this 21st Meeting of the APT Wireless Group (AWG-21) here in Bangkok, Thailand.

It is heartwarming to see a good number of participants at this meeting. We have around 240 registered delegates coming from 24 Member countries, 1 Associate Member and 31 Affiliate members along with other participants. We have also received a considerable number of contributions for this meeting. I would like to sincerely thank all APT members, for making their time for this meeting as well as for their contributions. This really shows the importance and enthusiasm of the members to AWG.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to recall that last year, AWG-20 decided to increase the tenure of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of AWG from two years to three years and proposed such decision to the 40th Session of the Management Committee of APT (MC-40) for approval. MC-40 held in November last year in Fiji approved such decision. The increase of the tenure is important for AWG as it ensures the availability of the senior experts in the management of a dynamic work programme like AWG while providing opportunities for young experts to take the leadership challenge in the future. MC-40 also advised other technical work programmes of APT, such as ASTAP, to consider such action as well.

I would also like to recall the adoption of two new draft APT Recommendations by AWG-19 and AWG-20 which were subsequently approved by MC-40. It has been a long time since last APT Recommendation adopted by AWG was approved by the Management Committee in 2007. Therefore, I would like to encourage AWG to develop more such high-level outputs like APT Recommendations.

In addition, AWG needs to develop a mechanism to follow up the status of the implementation of APT Recommendations by APT members. It will then be proved as beneficial for the region. I would also like to request the members to implement the Recommendations and update APT Secretariat on the status of the implementation.

Distinguished Participants,

I would take this opportunity to inform you that the APT Frequency Information System (AFIS) has now been ready for use. AWG initiated the work of AFIS several years ago. After considerable efforts and assistance from the European Communication Office of CEPT, APT Secretariat has completed the task. The AFIS system will be of particular help to the members whose telecommunications development has not yet been at an advanced stage. It offers a fast track to a computerized national spectrum management system. In due course, it could provide a solid basis for a complimentary system designed to provide more details as national spectrum management needs have increased.

A number of APT Members already expressed their interest to the APT Secretariat to implement AFIS. APT has also planned to assist our Members by providing training for using AFIS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, the 14th Session of the General Assembly of APT (GA-14) will be held in the fourth quarter. GA-14 will decide and adopt the new Strategic Plan of the APT for the period, 2018-2020.

The Management Committee last year established a Correspondence Group to develop a draft of new Strategic Plan considering the inputs from all stakeholders of APT. The Correspondence Group has developed a template for the draft Strategic Plan. I recalled that last year AWG-20 suggested the text to be included in the draft Strategic Plan. In this connection, I would suggest AWG to look further into the template and provide more inputs.

I believe the period 2018-2020 would be a very dynamic time for AWG as the deployment of many new emerging radiocommunication innovations like 5G, IoT, ITS, WPT, Wi-Fi, FWS will be even more accelerated. Meanwhile, the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 will also be held during this period and will bring more works for AWG. The new Strategic Plan should sufficiently incorporate those emerging innovations to maximize the benefits for the members and the economic prospect of the region.

For this AWG-21, there are a very good number of contributions from the members on various work activities of AWG such as proposals to develop harmonized band plan for certain frequency bands for IMT services and PPDR; proposals on fixed wireless systems, wireless power transmission, intelligent transport system, railway radiocommunication system, and others. Such number of contributions truly shows your confidence and commitment towards AWG and APT as a whole.

Looking at the workplan of AWG, I understand that AWG-21 will work to develop two draft new APT Recommendations as well as nine new APT Reports. This will be a good achievement if those outcomes could be discussed and approved at this meeting. I hope AWG-21 would be able to finalize all these issues.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, for this AWG-21, we have been supported by a number of sponsorships. I would like to extend my special thanks to the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of Thailand, Huawei Technologies, SIGFOX Singapore and SES World Skies for their support for luncheon, and coffee breaks. I would also like to extend my grateful thank to GSMA for the support of Internet for this meeting.

Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The achievement of AWG has always been possible by the effort, dedication, expertise and commitment to AWG works of all of you. I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your continuous support. I would also like to thank the Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and all office bearers for the hard work and contributions. I would like to request you all to continue your excellent efforts to maintain AWG in its recognized position in the region. APT Secretariat will provide full assistance and support for your work.

I wish you all a successful meeting and happy stay in Bangkok.

Thank you.