



Secretary General

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Mr. Yoichi Maeda, Chairman of the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP),  
Ms. Li Haihua and Dr. Hyoung Jun Kim, Vice-Chairmen of ASTAP,  
Representatives of Standardization Development Organizations (SDOs),  
Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the 29th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-29) here in Bangkok, Thailand.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to ASTAP Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Office Bearers, and all experts from APT members for your dedication and support towards ASTAP activities.

At this ASTAP-29, we have around 135 registered participants from 19 APT Members, 13 Affiliate Members and other organizations. We have also received 70 input contributions. ASTAP has produced several important Reports and Guideline with the assistance of technical experts from APT members. I would like to sincerely thank all APT members for their valuable contributions as well as for providing technical expertise and support to ASTAP and its activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASTAP is unique regional platform that promotes exchange of information, dissemination of new technologies, new market innovation and solutions to address global challenges. ASTAP also plays a key role in coordinating and consolidating regional views and interest particularly on standardization related issues.

To cope with the fast moving convergence of ICT and telecommunications particularly in Standardization, technologies from different industries should be brought together for development of common standards. Successful standards allow a large number of industries to interoperate and innovate. This could increase productivity and innovative efficiency, expand production market, increase wide range of users' choice and lower production costs.

Currently, 11 Expert Groups under 3 Working Groups of ASTAP are working on several key issues such as IoT and Smart Cities, Green ICT, Future Transport Network Technologies,

Interoperability, Disaster Risk Management Relief System, Multimedia Applications, Information Security, among others. There are 22 ongoing Work Plans and I would like to urge APT members to contribute your expertise and provide support for completion of these works.

At this ASTAP-29, there will be Standardization Workshop where senior executives from seven standardization bodies will share their experience, activities, and challenges being faced. Among these are Mr. Yoichi Maeda Chairman of ASTAP, and Dr. Kohei Satoh, Chairman of APT Wireless Group (AWG). This workshop will be very informative and useful especially for developing countries that have yet to establish committee for ICT standards. I believe that we will also gain valuable advice on future role and activities of ASTAP.

Distinguished participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to inform you that in November this year, the 14th Session of General Assembly of the APT will be held in Bangkok. The General Assembly will consider and adopt the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020. The Plan will be a guideline for all APT Work Programmes including ASTAP. The new Strategic Plan will be presented in the next meeting.

Before I conclude, I would like to extend my sincere thanks once again to ASTAP Office Bearers and all participants for making effort to be here and to contribute to this meeting. I assure you that the APT Secretariat will do our best to provide necessary support to all participants.

I wish you all fruitful deliberations and hope you enjoy your stay in this vibrant city of Bangkok.

Thank you.