



Secretary General

### **WELCOME ADDRESS**

Senator the Honorable Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications, Minister for the Arts,  
Australian Government,

Mr. Mike Mrdak, Secretary, Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian  
Government,

Dr. Kyu Jin Wee, Chairman, APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-19 (APG-19),

Mr. Neil Meaney and Mr. Xiaoyang Gao, Vice-Chairmen, APG-19,

Mr. Mario Maniewicz, Deputy Director, Radiocommunication Bureau, International  
Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Mr. Kavouss Arasteh, Special Senior Adviser to the APG,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning.

I am very pleased to welcome you all to the 3rd Meeting of the APT Conference Preparatory  
Group for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (APG19-3) in this beautiful city of  
Perth, Australia.

First of all, on behalf of the APT and all delegates of this meeting, I would like to express my  
sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Department of Communications and the Arts,  
Australian Government for hosting this meeting.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Senator the Honorable Mitch Fifield,  
Minister for Communications and Minister for the Arts, Australian Government for taking time  
to deliver his address in pre-recorded video. I am thankful to Mr. Mike Mrdak, Secretary,  
Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government for his gracious presence  
at this opening ceremony to inaugurate the meeting.

I am also grateful for the excellent arrangements done by Australian Media and  
Communication Authority (ACMA) and the warm hospitality extended to us all. My sincere  
thanks also go to all sponsors who are providing various supports.

I would also like to thank all participants for your presence in such a large number. We have  
nearly 400 registered participants at this meeting. This is an indicator of your great enthusiasm  
for APG work and for your strong support to the APT activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to inform you of an important APT event that took place last year. The 14th Session of the General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (GA-14) was held in Bangkok, Thailand in November. GA-14 adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 which emphasizes five Strategic Pillars and identifies a number of strategic actions to be implemented.

The General Assembly also re-elected me the Secretary General of APT for the second term. I am greatly honoured and humbled that APT Members have put the trust in me. I still remember my first day that I had taken office as the Secretary General of APT on 9 February 2015. It was the first day of APG15-4, which was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Surprisingly, this APG19-3 is my first APT work programme after taking office as Secretary General for the second term starting from 9 February 2018. I would like to assure you that I shall do my best as Secretary General of the APT to uphold the interest of APT Members in the international arena.

Distinguished Delegates,

APT has been playing a key role for the success of the Asia-Pacific region at major ITU Conferences, particularly for World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC). Our telecommunity has always been working harmoniously as a close family, showing mutual respect and accommodation in all our activities. This enthusiasm and cooperation of APT members has made APG one of the most important activities of the APT, not only for a large number of participants but also a strong desire of APT members to contribute and to bring their expertise in the work in a coordinated manner.

We are now at middle stage of our preparation for WRC-19. APT Members need to develop their preliminary views on WRC-19 Agenda Items and submit to APG-19 in order to facilitate the development of regional views. Since APG19-2 in Bali, Indonesia, APT Members have started to develop their preliminary views on WRC-19 Agenda Items. Therefore, the meeting was able to have APT Preliminary Views on WRC-19 Agenda Items based on the input contributions and intensive discussion.

At this APG19-3, the process of updating the preliminary views will continue through intensive discussion at various levels of meetings. I have noted that a substantial number of contributions have been submitted for this meeting. It is a good sign for our preparatory work.

As you are aware, in order to assist APT Members to develop human resource capacity for APG/ WRC preparation, APT Secretariat had organized a Training Workshop for International Conferences for APG/WRC last week at this venue. 35 trainees attended the training workshop which provided in-depth lectures regarding WRC and the process of preparation followed by training exercise. The training workshop was considered successful and I hope to see more contributions from APT Member at the next meeting of APG-19.

Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

WRC-19 will be challenging and it will require significant coordination in our region. However, as a region, APT Members have always shown solidarity and cooperation. I am confident that APG will work through our established principles of working through cooperation. APT secretariat will do our best to facilitate the work of APG.

Before I conclude, may I once again express my sincere thanks to the Australian Government for the gracious hosting of this meeting. I wish you all a very successful meeting.

Thank you.