



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Mr. Mike Mrdak, Secretary, Department of Communications and the Arts, Australia,
Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018,
Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU),
Mr. Alireza Darvishi, Mr. Guolei Cai, and Mr. Hisazumi Shirae, Vice-Chairmen of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018,
Distinguished Delegates and Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all and welcome to the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (APT PP18-3) here in this beautiful city of Melbourne, Australia.

First of all, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all delegates at this meeting, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Senator the Honorable Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications, Australia for his video message, which will be shown soon for this meeting.

I would also like to express my grateful appreciation to Mr. Mike Mrdak, Secretary of the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government, who is here with us to inaugurate this meeting.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our host, the Department of Communications and the Arts, Australian Government for the excellent arrangements in hosting this meeting and for the warm hospitality extended to us all.

I would like to thank Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General of ITU who came all the way from Geneva to represent the Secretary-General of ITU.

I would like to welcome PP-18 Chairman-designate, H.E. Mr Majed Al Mesmar from the United Arab Emirates to this meeting. It is indeed an honour for us here.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Early this year, the 2nd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-18 was hosted by Viet Nam. Based on the Members' contributions, the meeting identified a number of candidates for preliminary APT Common Proposals. In addition, the meeting also contemplated and

identified five key takeaways, including Resource (Finance & Human) Management and coordination across sectors; Merging High Level Events; draft ITU Strategic Plan for 2020-2023; Long Term Priorities and Agenda of ITU (beyond 2023), and Effective decision making mechanisms.

Preceding the 2nd Meeting of the Group, the Workshop on APT Preparation for PP-18 was held with the support from ITU for speakers and from Australian Government for the sponsorship. The workshop facilitated the understanding of PP-related issues to APT Members, thus contributed greatly to the success of the 2nd Meeting of the Group. Taking this opportunity, I would like to extend my sincere thanks once again to ITU and Australian Government for making it happen.

For this third Meeting, 36 contributions from APT Members have been received. I am pleased to note that a number of Members' contributions put forward to this meeting are to follow up those takeaways from the Second Meeting. I hope all of these contributions could be adopted as Preliminary APT Common Proposals. I am aware that it would not be easy to get all through. However, in the spirit of compromise and collaboration among Members, I do believe that APT Members could do. I expect a number of drafting groups would be formed during the course of this 4-day meeting and I truly look forward to observing enthusiasm of all delegates, not only to achieve your given mission but also to listen and accommodate different views from colleagues and friend delegations. This is truly the *Telecommunity* and this is why we are coming down to Melbourne, Australia.

The pathway toward to Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 is getting shorter. APT has only two meetings left including this meeting. Hence, we need to speed up and hold hands together until we reach to our destination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome our colleagues and friends from other regions: Arab Group, CITELE and RCC. It is important to learn from each other on the preparations of the regions and to build constructive relationship continuously.

In conclusion, may I once again extend my sincere gratitude to Senator the Honourable Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications, Australia for his video message even though he cannot be with us here. My special thanks go to Mr. Mike Mrdak, Secretary, Department of Communications and the Arts, and his staff for the excellent preparation. I also thank the presence and support of ITU at this meeting.

I wish you all very successful meeting.

Thank you.