



Secretary General

### WELCOME ADDRESS

Your Excellency, Mr. Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia, Honourable Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU),

Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Chairman of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (APT PP-18),

Mr. Alireza Davishi, Mr. Hisazumi Shirae and Mr. Guolei Cai, Vice-Chairmen of APT PP-18, Distinguished representatives from Regional Telecommunications Organizations,

Distinguished delegates and guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Fourth Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (APT PP18-4) here in this vibrant city of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

First of all, on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all delegates here, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia, for graciously agreeing to preside over this opening ceremony. It is a great honour for us that Your Excellency has taken time from your busy schedule to be with us today.

I would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to the people of Malaysia for their celebration with utmost pride and joy on the occasion of the 61st Merdeka day to come at the end of this week.

My sincere thanks and appreciation also goes to the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) for the excellent arrangements in hosting this meeting in spite of this important period of your country.

I would also like to sincerely thank Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of ITU who came all the way from Buenos Aires, Argentina. I greatly appreciate your time and efforts to be with us at this final APT preparatory meeting. It is truly great pleasure and joy to welcome you.

I would also like to welcome colleagues from Arab Group, CEPT, CITELECOM and RCC.

Excellency,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

ITU PP-18 is extremely important to the APT Members including developing and least developed countries. It is important that the outcomes of the Conference meet the requirements, needs, and expectations of the member countries.

This APT PP18-4 is the last meeting of APT to prepare for ITU PP-18 which is only nine (9) weeks away from now. It is our last chance in the preparatory process toward PP-18 to finalize the discussion on different issues and develop proposals to the Conference. Our objective is to concentrate on important issues for the region and prepare well-coordinated proposals with as many signatory countries as possible.

At the Third Meeting of APT PP-18 held from 18-21 June in Melbourne, the meeting received a suggestion from the PP-18 Chairman-designate, H.E. Mr. Majed Al Mesmar, that APT should arrange a session at this preparatory meeting to provide an opportunity for representatives from other regions to discuss their proposals. That would help us to arrive at the PP-18 with several issues had been resolved. We did not need to wait until PP-18 to raise the issue and start all discussion in Dubai.

Following the suggestion, APT organized the Informal Inter-Regional Exchange of View for ITU PP-18 yesterday, and it was my pleasure to welcome our colleagues and friends from Arab Group, CITEL, CEPT, and RCC for their active participation and contributions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the previous meeting in Melbourne, the meeting targeted to finalize the Preliminary APT Common Proposal (PACP) as much as possible rather than to conclude everything at this final meeting. The meeting had achieved in approving fourteen (14) PACPs which would be reaffirmed at this meeting. Four of the contributions were carried forward even though we could not finalize them, but they are in good shape. This has been made possible in the spirit of compromise and collaboration among the Members and the devotion of office bearers of the Preparatory Group. Therefore, I would like to extend my appreciation to all parties involved.

At this last preparatory meeting for PP-18, a number of new contributions from APT Members had been received. I hope that with the same spirit as for the previous meeting, the meeting will be able to finalize Preliminary APT Common Proposals to be further submitted to the Member Administrations for their endorsement as APT Common Proposals.

In addition to the discussion on Preliminary APT Common Proposals, the meeting will need to decide the candidates from Asia-Pacific for office bearers of PP-18 as well as tellers of PP-18. We also need to decide the coordination arrangements during the Conference as well as the leading and assisting countries for the APT Common Proposals to PP-18.

However, our preparatory work will not finish by this fourth Preparatory Meeting. We will have important role to play from now until PP-18 where we will try to settle those issues until the Conference. We need your full cooperation in nominating leading and assisting countries and their focal points in this regard, and I hope that everything will be settled before the meeting concludes so that we will communicate to other regions for any coordination issues for each particular proposal that may arise.

I am truly confident that this APT PP18-4 here in Kuala Lumpur will accomplish another successful preparatory process toward ITU PP-18, similarly to what APT Members had achieved here last year for the preparation toward WTDC-17.

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

You may have seen in the programme that there will be three special sessions for candidates for ITU elected officials. This was a request from Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the ITU, to allow the candidates for ITU Elected Officials to attend this meeting. This will be a good opportunity for APT Members to have no chance to meet with those candidates to listen to their visions for the position from those candidates. There are quite a number of candidates for ITU elected officials indicating the intention to participate in this meeting. Therefore, we have arranged three special sessions, two on the first day and one on the last day, in order to allow equal and impartial opportunities for all candidates for the same position to present their visions at the same session. I hope the Member Administrations will benefit from these special sessions.

Before concluding, may I once again extend my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency Mr. Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia, for being with us today. My special thanks go to the officials and staff of the Ministry of Communications 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 PP-18 and all participants from the Asia-Pacific region and other international and regional telecommunications organizations for attending this important meeting.

I assure you that APT Secretariat will try our best to provide support to the meeting.

I wish you all a very productive and fruitful meeting.

Thank you.