



Secretary General

**WELCOME REMARKS
BY
MS. AREEWAN HAORANGSI
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**

Mr. Chinbat Baatarjav, Chairman of Communication and Information Technology Authority,
Government of Mongolia,
Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chairman of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific
Telecommunity,
Mr. Sang-hun Lee and Mr. Charles Chew, Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee of
the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,
Distinguished Representatives of APT Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all!

It is truly a great pleasure and a privilege for me to welcome you to the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity here in this city of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

On behalf of the APT and all delegations here, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to our host, Communication and Information Technology Authority of the Government of Mongolia, for the excellent arrangements for the meeting and warm hospitality extended to all of us.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Chinbat Baatarjav, Chairman of Communication and Information Technology Authority, for taking time from his busy schedule to grace this event.

I would also like to sincerely thank all distinguished representatives for being present in this MC-42.

Distinguished representatives,

The year 2018 as the first year of implementing Strategic Plan for 2018 – 2020 has been marking another remarkable year of APT. A number of development and enhancement have been made in various areas of works, but I would like to provide you the outstanding achievements in some of the Work Programmes.

First of all, I would like to highlight the achievements in Capacity Building programme. This year, APT has been organizing 32 training courses including 11 Local Training courses in APT member countries. The number of training courses have been increased and this attributes to the explosion of number of trainees, which would reach 834 trainees. The trainees have been drastically increased from 262 in 2015 to 360 in 2016 and to 576 in 2017. With such impressive growth, APT will further endeavor to provide inclusive training courses to the APT members while ensuring high quality of the courses.

This year, APT has also launched a scholarship programme to APT members. APT has been able to mobilize the resources of Republic of Korea to provide scholarship for a Master or Doctor's degree in Gyoungsang University, Republic of Korea. The selection is now under progress and once the final selection is made, the scholarship programmes will provide all relevant costs to obtain the degree including tuition fee, living cost, air ticket, etc. APT will try to expand the scope of the programme to cover larger number of students in the future.

This year, APT has successfully coordinated our divergent views to prepare for the upcoming Plenipotentiary Conferences of ITU (PP-18). A series of preparatory meetings were organized in Hanoi, Viet Nam; in Melbourne, Australia; and in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 99 Input contributions from Members were made for the deliberation of the meetings, which enabled APT to produce 25 Preliminary APT Common Proposals as consolidated views from the Asia-Pacific region.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my profound appreciation to the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the APT Preparatory Group for PP-18 for the efficient management of the process and to all other office bearers, in particular, Working Group Chairmen, for their dedications which were instrumental to the success of the preparation.

However, the task has not yet been finished and the journey will end up in Dubai in a couple of weeks. I do wish our members could spare their enthusiasm to enjoy the successful outcomes of APT PP-18, and all the best to achieve the outcomes in APT Common Proposals as well as elections for those who bears the candidatures for the election.

APT has started to organize a new platform "Symposium" from this year and it has turned out to be a successful initiative. This year, APT organized Symposium on Spectrum Management and Symposium on Cybersecurity.

The Symposium on Spectrum Management attended by 128 participants representing Member Administrations and various industry stakeholders who provided positive feedback on APT's initiative to address the needs in policies and regulations aspects of spectrum.

For the Symposium on Cybersecurity, it covered not only the issue of security but also the issue of personal data protection, which invited various stakeholders from other non-ICT sector and international and regional organizations. APT will continue to organize the Symposium to address the needs of APT members in the coming years.

All of these successes in this year cannot be made without the valuable contributions and active participation from our members and stakeholders. As Secretary General of APT, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to APT members for the active participation and engagement by submitting contributions as well as by hosting the APT events.

Without this enthusiasm towards APT, the joy we are having together cannot be made. I wish to thank the Administrations that have extended the kind financial contributions to assist the implementation of APT Work Programmes, such as the Government of Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and SATRC Members.

Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Although there are a number of achievements to implement the Strategic Plan for 2018-2020, there are still a number of rooms to be filled up. In addition, challenges to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 still require further commitments.

APT will continue to assist our members to implement the Strategic Plan and to address these challenges. The increasing complexity of ICT which has been an enabler of non-ICT sector's development will multiply uncertainty to properly address the needs of APT members. However, I firmly believe that APT can manage this once the enthusiasm of APT members and partner organizations remain with APT in our efforts to assist the neighbor countries in needs.

Among these challenges, disaster management would be one of priority issues that could be more focused in 2019. Natural disasters have hit APT Member Administrations, including Indonesia, Japan and other Pacific countries this year. My deepest condolences go to victims and their family members of those Administrations.

As specified in the Strategic Plan for 2018-2020, APT will address challenges related to disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation by assisting our members to set up national emergency telecommunication/ICT strategies and by establishing ICT-based solutions to assist with disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response. In this context, APT plans to organize a Symposium on Disaster Management in the first half of 2019.

Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again our host, the Communication and Information Technology Authority, Government of Mongolia for the excellent facilities and wonderful arrangement for MC-42 as well as the Seminar of APT activities which was concluded yesterday.

With these few words, let me once again thank our Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members as well as other partner organizations for their affectionate support and continuous contributions extended to APT.

I wish you all a successful deliberation at this MC and a pleasant stay in Ulaanbaatar.

Thank you.