



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

His Excellency Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia,
Dr. Ky Leng, Chairman of APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF),
Ms. Tepua Hunter, Vice-Chairman of ADF,
Excellencies, Distinguished guests and delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning to you all and welcome to the 16th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-16) in Phnom Penh, the vibrant capital city of Cambodia.

It is my great pleasure to be back here again after my last visit in 2016 for the 7th APT Cybersecurity Forum.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all participants, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to His Excellency Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia for presiding over this opening ceremony of ADF-16.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia for hosting this ADF-16 and for the excellent preparation and hospitality.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan, and the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), Government of the Republic of Korea for continuously funding APT projects under their Extra Budgetary Contribution and for providing support to project proponents to present their achievements at this ADF.

Distinguished delegates,

From the first Forum in 2004 until present, the APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF) has been a part of the APT's continuous efforts in assisting APT members in bridging the digital divide and providing opportunity to identify the specific issues that hinder development of the telecommunication networks in rural areas and to discuss the appropriate use of new technologies available for rural telecom development. It is also a platform to address ICT development issues and share information and experience of best practices as well as trend of services and technologies for bridging digital gap.

In addition, the ADF also links to the achievements of the projects funded by the Extra-Budgetary Contribution from Japan and Republic of Korea. The results of the implementation of those projects would also be reported in the ADF allotted sessions for sharing the fruitful results and research findings under the close co-operation of the project proponents in the APT Member states from the various fields of telecommunication and ICT development with Japanese and Korean Experts.

The programme of the ADF for this year will continue its focus within the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 especially on the Connectivity and Innovation Pillars. It will discuss such topics as Broadband Connectivity and its Persisting Challenges; Initiatives for Enhancing Last Mile Connectivity; Best Practices on Connectivity; Ecosystem for Spurring Innovation; Internet of Things (IoT) and its applications, and Best Practices on Innovation.

The programme will also include the presentation and discussion on the achievement of APT projects funded by the Extra Budgetary Contributions, from Japan and the Republic of Korea. Those projects features the rural telecommunication and ICT application in rural area, initiatives from APT Members in the form of pilot projects to safeguard themselves from cyber-attacks, examples of disaster warning and management project in disaster-prone Member countries as well as ICT projects that aim to provide new values and benefits in the fields of service or industries such as tourism, healthcare, etc.

For this year, the Forum includes group discussion among participants to identify problems/issues to be tackled including the idea for possible solutions for the APT pilot projects or international collaborative research. It is necessary to gather the views on the challenges and modality to enhance the programmes. I would like to encourage your participation and contribution so that we could identify possible way forward for the ADF.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to mention that this year the APT celebrates the 40th Anniversary of its establishment. All work programmes of the APT in this year including this ADF-16 join the celebration.

The Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, which was held from 25 to 26 June 2019 in Singapore, was the highlight of the celebration. Ministers from APT Member Countries and Associate Members gathered in Singapore and adopted the Singapore Statement on Co-creating Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific.

The Singapore Statement provides strategic guidance and the pathways to the development of telecommunication/ICT in the Asia-Pacific region for the next five years. The preparation of the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 will take the Singapore Statement as the basis for developing the details of the plan.

For this ADF-16, it is also an opportunity to recap and follow up the Singapore Statement in order to implement those visions of the Ministers relevant to the scope of the ADF.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Tram Iv Tek for kindly participating in the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in June.

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my heartfelt gratefulness to H.E. Minister Tram Iv Tek for being with us today, and to our host, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia, for the excellent preparations and the warm hospitality. My thanks also go to those staff of MPTC involved in organizing the forum, to all moderators and speakers who have accepted to contribute to this ADF and to all participants. Your contribution and support are essential to the success of this forum.

I wish you all a fruitful discussion and successful forum.

Thank you very much.