



Secretary General

**WELCOME ADDRESS**

Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Deputy Chief Executive, Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore,  
Distinguished Senior Officials,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the Senior Officials Meeting for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (SOM 2019) here in Singapore.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and all of us here, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Singapore, in particular, Ministry of Communication and Information (MCI) and the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) for kindly hosting the Senior Officials Meeting for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 and the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, which will commence tomorrow.

This is the first time for the APT that the Senior Official Meeting is organized prior to the Ministerial Meeting in order to finalise all preparations for the Ministerial Meeting would like to report that there are 132 registered delegates from 30 Members and 3 Associate Members for the meeting today.

As a practice of the previous preparatory meetings for the Ministerial Meetings, the chairman of the preparatory meeting had been nominated by the host country. Hence, I would like to inform this meeting that for this Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 or the specific title as the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting on “Co-creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific”, the host country has nominated Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Deputy Chief Executive, IMDA as the Chairman of this Senior Official Meeting for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For the initial preparation for the Ministerial Meeting, the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-42) held last year in Mongolia approved the establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (CGMM) with the Terms of Reference of the group to develop and review the draft Ministerial Statement, draft Press Release of the Ministerial Meeting as well as the provisional agenda and tentative programme of the Ministerial Meeting to be submitted to the Senior Officials Meeting of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019.

As specified in the Terms of Reference, the CGMM should work through correspondence means as much as possible and there are also physical meetings of CGMM.

MC-42 also approved Mr. Charles Chew from IMDA as the Chairman of the CGMM and that APT Member Administrations to nominate expert/ representative to be the member of the CGMM.

The CGMM met twice this year at the APT Headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand. The first meeting (CGMM-1) was from 15 to 17 January and the second meeting of (CGMM-2) from 15 to 18 April. I would like to take this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to Mr. Charles Chew, Director of International Affairs of IMDA as Chairman of the CGMM. His excellent leadership and tireless efforts had enabled us to reach a consensus among participants on the Draft Statement.

I would also like to sincerely thank his IMDA colleagues for the tremendous contributions and arrangements that made both meetings a success. Moreover, I would like to thank all the members of CGMM who had shown active participation during those two meetings as well as in the email group discussions. All the collective efforts of the CGMM members have led to productive outcomes, which include the draft Ministerial Statement, draft Press Release, provisional agenda of Senior Officials Meeting, and tentative programme of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019.

Today, this Senior Officials Meeting will finalise the outcome documents of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, which will start tomorrow, as well as finalise the Programme and other issues related to the Ministerial Meeting. I hope to get your full cooperation in having a consensus on the draft outputs of Ministerial Meeting. And I would like to assure you all of the full support of the APT Secretariat for the meeting.

Distinguished Senior Officials,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to once again express my sincere gratitude to the host, MCI and IMDA for the excellent arrangements and facilities as well as the warm hospitality extended to all of us.

And I would like to sincerely thank Mr. Leong Keng Thai, for presiding over the meeting as well as for accepting to be the Chairman of this Senior Officials Meeting today.

I wish you all fruitful discussion and successful deliberations.

Thank you.