



Secretary General

WELCOME ADDRESS

Before we begin our meeting, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the recent tragic news. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Dr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, and the Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, lost their lives in a helicopter crash. As the telecommunity of this region, their loss is deeply felt.

In honor of their memory, I ask that we stand and observe a minute of silence.

Dr. Hyoung Jun Kim, Chair of APT Standardization Program (ASTAP)
Mr. Xiaoyu You and Dr. Hideyuki Iwata, Vice-Chairs of ASTAP
Distinguished Delegates,

Good morning. I am pleased to welcome you all to the 36th APT Standardization Program Forum (ASTAP-36) in Bangkok, Thailand.

In November 2023, the General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (GA-16) adopted the Strategic Plan for 2024-2026. This plan aims to develop telecommunication/ICT in the region to support digital transformation and create a connected, inclusive, safe, and sustainable environment. To achieve these goals, it is crucial that ASTAP develops effective Work Plans that align with this strategic vision.

In our fast-paced digital world, telecommunication services and standards are essential for smooth operation and interconnection. Telecom standards enable interoperability, foster innovation, enhance network security, facilitate global communication, and boost service efficiency. Maintaining high standards ensures the reliability and efficiency of telecommunication services, which are the backbone of our digital economy and society.

Distinguished delegates,

For the past 25 years, the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) has been key in strengthening collaboration and harmonizing ICT standardization in the Asia-Pacific region. However, as technology rapidly evolves, it is imperative for ASTAP to adapt. Recognizing this need, ASTAP-35 established a Task Force to study ASTAP's future direction. While initial findings and recommendations have been submitted to ASTAP-36, implementing these improvements will be a long-term process that requires the full support of APT members and regional experts.

As we look ahead to our future, the APT community is celebrating its 45th Anniversary. This milestone is an opportunity for all APT Work Programmes, including ASTAP, to reflect on our

achievements and plan for the future. APT has launched a 45th-anniversary webpage to mark this occasion, showcasing our history and featuring congratulatory messages from members and partners. I encourage you to visit the anniversary webpage to learn more about our journey and celebrate our collective success.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chair, Vice-Chairs, office bearers, Industry Workshop committee members, speakers, experts, and participants for their valuable contributions and support towards ASTAP activities. Your dedication is vital to our continued success.

I wish you all a successful meeting and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.