



Secretary General

**WELCOME REMARKS
BY
MR. MASANORI KONDO
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**

Mr. Mano Verabathran, Deputy Secretary General (Telecommunications Infrastructure),
Ministry of Communications, Malaysia,

Dr. Ahmad Sharafat, Chairman of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific
Telecommunity,

Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupaha, Dr. Naranmandakh Tumen-Ulzii, Vice-Chairmen of the
Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives of APT Members and Associate Members,

Distinguished Representatives of APT Affiliate Members, International or Regional
Organizations,

Good morning. It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today as we convene for this important meeting of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. On behalf of the APT and our entire community, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Communication of Malaysia, for their generous hospitality in hosting this event, in this beautiful city, Kuala Lumpur.

As we embark on our discussions today, I am reminded that our work here has far-reaching implications for the future of APT activities and its Strategic Plan. This meeting represents not only a moment to reflect on the progress we have made but also a critical juncture at which we must chart the course for the future of APT and the ICT landscape in the Asia-Pacific.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Representatives,

This year, 2024, marks a pivotal milestone for the APT. It is not only the 45th anniversary year, which we are celebrating throughout this year, it is also the first year of our current Strategic Plan, a comprehensive roadmap that will guide our collective efforts for the next three years. The strategic plan is not just a document, but a reflection of the collective aspirations and needs of our members in this dynamic and rapidly evolving region. The five key pillars, namely

- Digital Connectivity
- Digital Transformation

- Trust and Safety
- Digital Inclusion
- Sustainability

guide our collective vision for the future and will shape the activities of APT. It is through your continued support and active participation that we can transform these ambitious goals into tangible outcomes for the region.

This year, APT has achieved significant progress, delivering a range of important outcomes, including a draft APT Recommendation, 26 APT reports and guidelines, and 45 APT Common Proposals. Notably, the Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF) published the "APT Guideline on Good Practices for Public Consultation"—a groundbreaking milestone in the history of the PRF. Additionally, the APT WTSA Preparatory Meeting produced 45 APT Common Proposals, many of which were successfully adopted by the WTSA-24 in India. I would like to extend my congratulations to all APT members for their dedicated efforts and successful outcomes at WTSA-24. This year also saw the launch of the preparatory process for the WTDC, marking an important step as we continue to strengthen our engagement with the global ICT community.

The APT Secretariat has worked diligently to respond effectively to the evolving needs of our members through our Capacity Building programs, offering a variety of initiatives such as training courses, expert missions, the APT Young Professionals and Students Program, and other activities. We have expanded our collaboration with partner organizations, embracing greater diversity, and reinforcing our commitment to advancing ICT capacity. To ensure these programs are responsive to the needs of our members, we have conducted a series of surveys to collect necessary information. I want to emphasize the importance of your feedback to improve these activities continuously. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all APT members for their unwavering support and valuable contributions to the work of the APT throughout 2024. Your participation in our initiatives, your insights, and your commitment to collaboration have been essential in advancing the objectives of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. It is through our collective efforts that we continue to drive positive change in the ICT sector and build a more connected, inclusive, and sustainable future for the Asia-Pacific region.

Distinguished participants,

As we look forward, we must also acknowledge the new challenges that lie ahead in the ICT landscape. The rapid pace of technological advancements brings both opportunities and challenges. Cyber threats are evolving, and the pressure to safeguard digital systems and data is ever-growing. The digital divide remains a significant challenge, especially in unserved or underserved community. In addition, issues around digital ethics, privacy, and the responsible use of emerging technologies such as AI are becoming increasingly important and require our attention.

To address these challenges, we must continue to work together with a shared goal. The Asia-Pacific region is diverse, with varying socio-economic situations. Yet, our strength lies in our ability to come together, to share knowledge and experiences, and to consolidate a direction for collective efforts. The spirit of cooperation that has always defined the APT will be more critical than ever as we move forward.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks once again to the Ministry of Communication of Malaysia for hosting this significant event, and to all of you for your active participation and ongoing commitment to the work of the APT. The success of our collective efforts depends on each of you.

I look forward to engaging in fruitful discussions over the coming days. Together, we can continue to lead the Asia-Pacific region toward a brighter, more connected, and inclusive digital future.

Thank you.