



Secretary General

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

Mr. Patchara Anuntasilpa, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Kingdom of Thailand,

Mr. Penh Sokharath, Chairman of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Dr. Maria Myutel, Mr. Alireza Darvish, Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity,

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives of APT members, and International or Regional Organizations,

Good morning,

It is both an honour and a privilege to address you today as we convene for this pivotal session of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. On behalf of the APT community, I extend my deepest appreciation to the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of the Kingdom of Thailand for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements. We are truly grateful for the generous support extended to us in hosting this meeting.

This meeting convenes at a significant juncture for APT. As we navigate the second year of the APT Strategic Plan 2024–2026, we have witnessed substantial progress and a deepening of momentum across our shared priorities

A defining milestone this year was the APT Ministerial Meeting, convened in May in Tokyo, Japan. Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to key strategic pillars, including:

- Digital Connectivity
- Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Trust and Safety
- Digital Inclusion and Capacity Building
- Sustainability
- Partnership and Collaboration

The Ministerial Statement adopted in Tokyo provides renewed political guidance for our future endeavors and reinforces APT's standing as a leading regional platform for digital cooperation.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to report that participation in APT activities remained robust throughout 2025, with a total of 3,468 participants, 2,340 in-person and 1,128 virtual, demonstrating the continued relevance and reach of our programmes. Furthermore, we observed encouraging progress in gender inclusion across our Work Programmes, reinforcing our commitment to a diverse and representative digital community in the Asia-Pacific region.

This year, the APT served as a vital platform to unify regional voices for the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25) in Baku, Azerbaijan. With the strong support and active coordination of our Members, the APT's footprint in the WTDC-25 was significantly expanded. The 30 APT Common Proposals (ACPs) developed for WTDC-25 represent one of the strongest demonstrations of regional unity in recent years.

The exemplary teamwork demonstrated by the APT membership has ensured that our community remains well-connected to international processes and is well-positioned to respond to emerging digital challenges.

Beyond the ACPs, the APT reaffirmed its role as a highly effective regional ICT organization, producing one draft APT Recommendation, 34 APT Reports, and one draft Guideline. We remain committed to delivering meaningful outcomes through our various activities in the coming years.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all APT Members for your unwavering support and valued contributions throughout 2025. Your insights have been instrumental in advancing the objectives of the Telecommunity. Through our collective efforts, we continue to build a more connected, inclusive, and sustainable digital ecosystem in the Asia-Pacific.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

As we look ahead, we must also recognize the persistent and emerging challenges shaping the ICT landscape.

Cybersecurity threats continue to escalate in scale, sophistication, and frequency, placing increasing pressure on all economies to safeguard critical infrastructure. Concurrently, coverage and usage gaps, particularly in unserved and underserved communities, remain a central obstacle to achieving inclusive digital transformation.

Furthermore, issues relating to digital ethics, privacy, and the responsible deployment of frontier technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence and blockchain, require our careful and coordinated attention.

We are witnessing the accelerating convergence of digital technologies with traditional sectors. The expansion of 5G and future 6G networks, the evolution of smart cities, and the reliance on data-driven systems are fundamentally transforming our societies. In parallel, rapid advancement in ICTs, including LEO satellite systems, presents new opportunities for extended connectivity, yet introduces technical and regulatory considerations that must be addressed collectively.

These developments underscore the imperative for deeper regional cooperation to ensure that technological progress brings equitable and secure benefits to all.

To meet these evolving challenges, we must continue working collaboratively and with shared purpose. In this context, allow me to highlight several key areas of focus for 2026:

- Implementation of Strategic and Political Mandates
- ICT as the Cross-Cutting SDG Enabler
- Reinforcing Core Technical Excellence
- Forward-Looking Policy and Capacity Building

In closing, I express my heartfelt thanks once again to the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society of the Kingdom of Thailand and to all of you for your active participation. The success of our efforts depends on your expertise, cooperation, and dedication.

I look forward to our productive discussions over the coming days. Together, let us collectively shape a more connected, secure, and inclusive digital future for the Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you.