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DURING THE 2009 ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM FOR THE
ASIA PACIFIC REGION ON
NGN AND BROADBAND: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

YOGYAKARTA, INDONESIA, 27 JULI 2009

H.E Sri Sultan HB X, Governor of Yogyakarta

Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, Head of ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Office

Ms. Aurora Rubio, Senior Adviser for Asia and Pacific, ITU Area Office, Jakarta

Distinguished speakers and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh

It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to the Regional Development Forum for the Asia Pacific Region taking the theme of NGN and Broadband, Opportunities and Challenges. This forum will commence today, 27 July 2009 and will end on Wednesday, 31 July 2009 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

On behalf of the government of Indonesia – as your host -I would like to extend our deepest gratitude and warm welcome to participants from overseas who have travelled to this forum. Without your participation the forum would not have taken place. I also express my sincere gratitude to the International Telecommunication Union, the Bureau for Telecommunication Development (BDT) in particular, for its apt response in facing the era of the growing trends of convergence with Next Generation Networks and Broadband technology as its major consequences and inseparable issues.

I hope you all would agree with the notion that we need to have an aligned ideas, comprehension and understanding on the issue of NGN and Broadband that have become the new paradigm in telecommunication world. And I hope this forum would serve well as a unifying factor that helps all Member States to reach an acceptable standard in conformity with international and local regulations.

The forum will give us chances not only to discuss, exchange views and share knowledge as well as experience on the many important issues that arise from the current and rapid development of ICT and telecommunication environment, but also to strengthen the good cooperation among ITU Member States.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are all aware, in the era of increased convergence, the full evolution will be through the Next Generation Networks, which allow a greater integration of services on a single telecommunication network environment.

It is a common vision that the network of the future is founded on the development of a converged all-IP communication and service infrastructure that will gradually replace the current Internet, mobile, fixed and broadcasting networks. This Next Generation Networks infrastructures must support not only convergence but also interoperability of heterogenous mobile and broadband network technologies in order to support seamless services that are accessible everywhere.

The most underlying concept of NGN is that NGN provides the technical underpinning of convergence, representing a single transport platform on which the carriage of previously distinct service types such as video, voice and data converges together with new and emerging services and applications.

Thus, while we are talking about NGN, we will inevitably realize that broadband network is an urgent prerequisite in modern communication services. Actually, from the economical point of view utilising a single network for multiple services is an advantage.

However, the implementation of NGN and Broadband networks entails serious consideration about the opportunity and the challenges, taking into

account all aspects mainly seen from the regulatory and commercial points of view.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is the fact that connecting people and enabling communications is an important step in transforming a country, especially for developing countries. In this perspective, one of the challenges is that NGN should provide broadband connectivity and communications to the most remote and rural areas, aiming at lessening the digital divide and promoting rural-urban integration and rural development through the use of ICT.

In many countries, including Indonesia, rural areas hold significant role in determining the whole nation's development. For that reason, many of our national programs in the field of Information and Communications Technologies have been prioritized to accelerate the development process of marginalized rural communities.

In line with this challenge, we must also consider that broadband should provide service to potential customers in areas of low population density, such as those in rural areas and underserved communities. This service must, of course, be affordable.

Notwithstanding the many challenges a country may face in the inevitable trends of NGN and Broadband, would you all agree with me if I put forward that the solution mainly lies in the hands of the regulators and policy makers.

It is essential that we formulate the most appropriate and suitable regulatory framework as well as adjust the current regulations to facilitate the growing needs and urges of NGN and Broadband.

The policy makers must ensure that the set of regulatory frameworks influencing all sectors complement each other and provide legal certainty. The purpose is to respond to rapid technological changes in a way that encourages competition and investment, as well as unites the internal market and benefits users.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While the ideas of convergence and migration to NGNs have become the matters of urgent drives, I must also propose that the developing countries may face additional challenges. A real challenge that has to be overcome as soon as possible is the need to establish a basic high capacity national backbone network, as an urgent requirement for a smooth introduction of NGNs as well as broadband access.

It is hoped that the high capacity national backbone network also assists in lessening the requirements for valuable frequency spectrum and enhancing the efforts of narrowing the gap between developed and developing countries; including between urban and rural areas.

To fulfil the need of high capacity backbone networks for the implementation of NGNs, Indonesia has designed a project called *Palapa Ring* Project to connect all the provinces and districts in Indonesia.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The essence of having profound knowledge and mastery about Information and Communication Technologies is that we can make use of it to enforce the more efficient management of a country and in the end would stimulate the improvement of national economy.

We may put high expectations on NGN and Broadband technologies deployment that they would become a powerful means for generating new opportunities in enhancing the living conditions of rural communities, providing access to new and innovative work

opportunities, and thereby eradicate rural poverty. It would further narrow the digital gap of inequality of information compared to those in the urban areas, and at the same time it is expected to reduce the unwanted environmental degradation.

I hope we could achieve a common understanding, on principles and conformity through this workshop which is dedicated to explore the best initiatives related to NGN and Broadband technologies for the sake of overall national and global development.

Last but not of least importance, representing Indonesia as a fellow ITU member state and developing country, I hope I may call for all delegates gathered in this forum to bring in any solution for all challenges that may arise from the age of NGN and Broadband. I am certain that this forum will be most beneficial for developing countries in terms of beating the challenges and turning them into an even opportunity for all countries.

Once again, on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, I would like to thank the ITU and other institutions, companies and organizations for facilitating the regional development forum. I wish you all a memorable stay in Yogyakarta, you are also most welcome to visit other interesting cities in Indonesia, and I wish every success in your deliberations in this workshop.

With The Blessings of God The Almighty, I now declare this Regional Development Forum for the Asia Pacific Region on NGN and Broadband, Challenges and Opportunities officially open.

Thank you.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakatuh