

Speech by François Rancy, Director of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau

29 August 2011, Busan, Korea

FIFTH MEETING OF THE APT PREPARATORY GROUP (APG) FOR WRC-12 PREPARATION

Excellency, Standing Commission of KCC, Dr KIM Choong-Seek, Mr Deputy Secretary General of the APT, Mr Kraisor PORN SUTEE, Mr Chairman of the APG, Mr Alan JAMIESON, Mr Vice-Chairmen of the APG, Distinguished delegates,

It is an honor for me to be with you this week to attend the work of the last APG meeting in preparation for WRC-12. It is also a pleasure since I enjoyed coming to APG regularly between 1995 and 2002, and the last APG meeting I had attended was also in Pusan, for the preparation of WRC-03.

As we all know, ICTs are changing the World. In particular, radiocommunications are changing the way we are living and the way our societies organize themselves, thanks to mobile telephony, mobile internet access, satellite television and satellite radionavigation, which are able to connect virtually everybody in the World, to provide instant access to information and to deliver a wealth of new important applications combining these elements with positioning data.

The first pillar that supports the development of radiocommunications in the world is timely and responsive international spectrum regulations. Achieving this requires extensive international cooperation, so that regional, or preferably worldwide, spectrum harmonization, takes place and can bring the benefits of economies of scale and international roaming, in a way that encourages new technologies without threatening past investments in radiocommunications networks.

Achieving this is the role of the ITU and, in this Region, of the APT. I have witnessed, over the last 16 years, the increasing activity deployed by Asian countries in this domain, in particular in the preparation of WRCs and in the harmonization of frequency usage, in parallel with the increasing role taken by your industry and with the development of the Region as a whole.

WRC-12 will be an important conference in many ways, because it will address key issues in relation to broadband access, climate change, safety of life and equitable access to spectrum/orbit resources.

This APG meeting is the last one of the Asia Pacific Region for the preparation of this conference. It will enable to finalize the Asia Pacific Common Proposals for WRC-12, hence to present a common vision of this Region on the way it wants to organize spectrum/Orbit usage to satisfy its radiocommunications requirements in the coming years. This is why it is an important meeting.

In the last 20 years, regional groups have taken a prominent role in the preparation and in the development of WRCs. This evolution has enabled to go from nearly 200 to only six main actors to unfold a negotiation which started nearly four years ago, immediately after WRC-07. This evolution

represents a considerable gain of time and efficiency in adjusting the international spectrum/orbit regulations to the rapid pace with which technology and spectrum requirements in radiocommunications change.

Thanks to this approach, WRC-12 will be able to focus mainly on reconciling the proposals of regional groups. A last important landmark in this conference preparation will be the third ITU information meeting, which will take place in Geneva on 7 and 8 November 2011. I have the pleasure to invite you to participate to this meeting, where the proposals of regional groups will be presented and where it will therefore be possible to measure the remaining work to be carried out on these proposals towards a global consensus.

Your work this week is essential to the success of the Conference. I would actually say that the success of WRC-12 depends, to a large extent, on the results of your meeting. I therefore wish you full success for this meeting. You can be assured that, with my colleagues of the ITU, we'll do everything we can to facilitate your work.

François Rancy

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