

Closing remarks on behalf of ITU

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ITU Regional Development Forum, Hanoi 15-17 September 2008

- It has been a pleasure to be with you in beautiful and historic city of Hanoi this week for this ITU Regional Development Forum on Bridging the Standardization Gap.
- I would like to take this opportunity to offer my most sincere thanks, on behalf of ITU and all the delegates present, to the government of Hanoi, and in particular the Ministry of Information and Communications, particularly H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Vice Minister, Dr. Phan Tam, and Ms. Tran Thanh Ha, as well as many other officials from the MIC. We are all immensely grateful for your generous offer to host this meeting and your excellent conduct of the meeting itself. Everything has gone smoothly thanks to your efficient planning and organisation. *Can on!*
- I would like to thank my colleagues in the Radio, Telecommunication Standardization and Development Sectors and Bureaux, and the ITU Regional Office. I am also delighted that we have been able to count upon the full support of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. Many thanks to Mr. Yamada for being with us during the Forum.
- We must also not forget our very generous sponsors such as CISCO, VIETTEL, VNPT, and EVN Telekom, who support the refreshments and lunches, as well as speakers and chairpersons in the Forum.
- The fact that we had almost 200 delegates to this meeting shows the extent of interest in standardization in this region. I am pleased that this interest was also evident in the other four Regional Forums we have held this year and I am sure this bodes well for the WTSA in Johannesburg.

- I am sure you will agree with me that the presentations have been very informative. By listening to the presentations, discussing with colleagues from other countries, and by sharing our experiences, we are going a long way towards bridging the gap, and I hope to continue these events next year.
- I hope the Forum has given you a good basis for the discussions in the APT Preparatory Meeting for WTSA-08, which will start after the lunch break and I look forward to contributing to your discussions.
- I have long been a supporter for regional preparations, having proposed the first ITU Resolution on the subject in 1997, and I am very pleased to have been the first CEPT representative to participate in an APT meeting, many years ago! All the regions have very different characteristics. None are as geographically big as yours with an incredibly diverse membership covering tremendous distances. I have always been impressed by the speed of work and solidarity which you achieve in this region. Your contribution to the work of ITU-T is the most significant and the success of WTSA-08 will depend very much on your deliberations.
- I will depend very much on your support and the support of the other regional groups to make sure we have the most successful WTSA yet.

Thank you all for your participation.