



WELCOME REMARKS

By

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DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (BDT) INTERNATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

AT THE

**REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC FOR
WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-14)**

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA, 30 APRIL 2013

- H.E. Mr. So Khun, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of the Royal Government of Cambodia
- Excellences Secretaries of State MPTC
- EXcellences Unders
- Excellences Ministers and other high dignitaries here present
- Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General, ITU
- H.E.Mr. Chakrya Moa Chairman of TRC

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to add my voice to that of Dr. Hamadoun Touré Secretary General of ITU, that you will hear after me, in expressing my deep appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, for hosting this Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Asia and the Pacific, and for the warm welcome and the excellent facilities.

I would also like to welcome all the delegates to this Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting. This is the second RPM of the 6 that will be held this year. We recently had a very successful RPM for the CIS region. A copy of the report is submitted to you as an information document.

The RPM marks an important milestone in our preparations for the next World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), which is to be held from 31st March to 11th April 2014 in Sharm El-Cheikh, in Egypt.

Yesterday, we had a very exciting Regional Development Forum whose outcomes are presented to this RPM. But I am sure that beyond the report which is a summary, the experience and knowledge sharing during the RDF will inspire the deliberations of this RPM.

Distinguished representatives of Member State and Sector Members,

The Regional Preparatory meeting gives me the opportunity and the pleasure to report to you on the implementation of the Hyderabad Action Plan over the past two years. The detailed report is contained in document 2 that will be presented to you later today. However let me mention few points.

When I took office in 2011, I made it very clear that the implementation of the Regional Initiatives is at the top of my priority. I double the seed money allocated to the Regional Initiatives from the regular budget and put a lot of emphasis on resources mobilization.

I am happy to report that as of today, the BDT has 72 on-going projects valued at \$75 million US Dollars. The overall implementation of the Operational Plan was 96.5% in 2011 and 97.5% in 2012.

I took steps to strengthen the ITU Regional presence by harmonizing the staff structure of the field offices with the support of the Secretary General and other elected officials. As a result the Jakarta office has now one more professional staff. The Regional Offices have got more delegation of power and we will continue to be empowered. The connectivity of the field offices has been improved. Let me take this opportunity to thank The Government of Thailand who has provided new premises to the Regional Office in Bangkok and the Government of Indonesia who is hosting an area office.

I initiated brain storm meetings and innovation challenges. The report of these brain storming are submitted to you for information in documents INF4 and INF5 and I invite you to read them as we prepare for the next cycle of development.

I took step to make BDT Result-Based Management compliant like the other sectors starting 2011. The report in document No 2 is presented in the Result-based management format..

I gave bold instruction to the Regional Directors to cooperate very closely with the Regional Organization to avoid duplications and waste of scare resources.

We are working to create more synergy between ITU-D Study Groups and the programmes in order to cross fertilize the expertise of BDT with that of our membership.

As part of capacity building for our members and to promote exchange of information and best practices, we have been releasing more authoritative publications that are available on our website. The last report focusses on Regulation and consumer protection in a converging environment. Other reports include a series of country case studies some of which concerning Asia Pacific region are displayed in front of the conference room.

We have also worked hard to attract new and keep existing ITU-D Sector Members. Currently, there are 367 Sector Members actively participating in the work of the ITU-D, with 73 new companies that joined in 2012.

At this point, let me thank all the Member States from this region, and also our Sector Members for helping us to successfully implement our activities and projects.

It is perhaps befitting for me to share with you other new features that I recently introduced to ensure even better delivery to the Membership. In keeping with my firm belief in **continuous innovation for better quality**, I conceived and launched three key initiatives:

First, the **m-Powering Development** that aims at capitalizing on the fast-growing mobile subscriptions for sustainable development through the delivery of health services, education, banking and other businesses.

Second, the **Smart Sustainable Development (SSDM)** which seeks to link ICT for sustainable development and ICT for disaster management.

And third, the **ITU-Academy** that aims at creating a global platform for exchange of training materials and training opportunities.

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Building on all these successes, **our common successes and I would like to humbly give all the credit to you**, I am pleased to remind you of the upcoming Connect Asia-Pacific Summit. It will be held this year on 18th November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. I would like to thank the Government of Thailand who kindly offered to host this great event.

The Summit will be followed by the ITU Telecom World 2013 from 19th to 22nd November. We are looking forward to welcoming you and development partners at this Summit. While we are here, we have planned to hold the first kick-off meeting for the Connect on 2 May 2013 here at the same venue. I look forward to your presence at that meeting.

Distinguished representatives of the Member State and Sector Members,

I have shared with you some of the issues that I considered important to bring to your attention in my opening remarks. However, you will have a detailed account of the work undertaken by the BDT since 2011 in the documents to be presented to you later on.

Let me now thank all those who submitted written contributions to this RPM. They are very rich in content. Let us all actively participate in discussions during the entire RPM. This will help us identify priority areas, develop linkages between topics, study group questions and regional initiatives to be considered by the upcoming WTDC-14.

In concluding, I would like to reassure you that I am committed to continue innovating, building partnerships, and implementing activities and projects in favor of all the Member States and particularly those of this region.

My ultimate goal is to lead a BDT that serves you each day better than the day before, using the ICT principles I for Inclusion, C for Cooperation/Consultation and T for Transparency.

I thank you.