



**ITU/NBTC Regional Forum and Training Workshop on
Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
&
ITU/ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics
Portals**

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Welcome Remarks

By

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Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

I am very pleased to be here today to welcome you to Bangkok and to the ITU/NBTC Regional Forum and Training Workshop on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators: Measuring the Information Society; as well as the ITU/ASEAN Meeting on Establishing National ICT Statistics Portals. And I wish to thank the ITU and the NBTC for organising these important meetings.

Telecommunication and ICT statistics are very important subject matters and imperative for measuring the level of national ICT development in ICT and also its impact of on social and economic development especially the digital divide. Comparable statistics are also essential for benchmarking telecommunication/ICT developments among countries worldwide.

Recognising the need of these statistics, the Government of Thailand, the Ministry of ICT in particular hosted the 10th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting on 25-27 September 2012. That meeting attracted around 300 participants from 70 Member States, 14 public and private organisations (including academia) and 13 regional and international organisations. The high level of interest in that forum in 2012 proved that information

sharing on ICT statistics at the international level is necessary to improve the work of national agencies.

Today, I learned that over 100 participants comprising more than 50 participants from overseas including country delegates and speakers have attended this Forum. This proves again that countries have recognised the need of the telecommunication and ICT statistics and a fact that capacity building is still much required by people and organisations concerned.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Ministry of ICT Thailand is the Thai Member Administration for the ITU and it has a mandate to coordinate and to collect data and information from various agencies and authorities in Thailand. The National Statistics Office or NSO which is an auspices of the Ministry is the key agency responsible for the coordination and production of national statistics including telecommunications and ICTs.

Thailand has a National Statistical System Master Plan, which was endorsed in 2010 through a cabinet resolution. The Master Plan recognizes that developing ICT statistics needs strong political backing and hence NSO is mandated to coordinate national statistics for different sectors, including ICT statistics. Each sector has a

committee which is led by the respective Ministry and chaired by the Permanent Secretary.

Furthermore the country also adopts an ICT statistics development plan which defines the statistics needed for policy-making and identifies who are responsible for collecting those statistics. In this regard, it is important that each organization takes on that responsibility, and be convinced that ICT data collection is an important task that should be done.

Ladies and gentlemen,

While the availability of comparable telecommunication/ICT statistics has considerably improved over the past years, major data gaps still remain in many countries. Apart from that, new indicators have also been adopted such as broadcasting and digital native indicators. Therefore, this Forum organized by the ITU and the NBTC is an important event which will build our capacity for producing high-quality data based on internationally agreed standards and methodologies.

I am glad that ASEAN Member Countries led by the Philippines are working in close collaboration towards establishing national statistics portals which will be very useful for measuring and

benchmarking our national and regional ICT development. I am also pleased to see other sub-region particularly the Pacific region embarking on the Pacific ICT Benchmarking initiative which is supported by the ITU. In this regard, I would like to assure you that Thailand as a member of the ASEAN and part of the Asia-Pacific region will support these ongoing efforts and welcome a proposal to strengthen and enhance cooperation between countries in the region.

Distinguished delegates,

In conclusion, I wish you all the fruitful meetings and enjoyable time in Bangkok; and I will look forward to seeing you again soon.

Thank you.