



ITU-BTRC Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable

"New Regulatory Frontiers to support Digital Economy"

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OPENING ADDRESS

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H.E. Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology;

Mr. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Secretary of Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology;

Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Bangladesh;

Ms. Areewan Haorangsri, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Telecommunity;

Chairmen, Board Members, Heads of Regulatory Authorities and Senior Policy Makers from the Asia-Pacific Region;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to be with you here in Dhaka, Bangladesh today at the Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable jointly organized by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Bangladesh (BTRC) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with support from the Department of Communications and the Arts, Government of Australia. At this esteemed Roundtable, we are greatly honored by the presence of high level regulatory and policy decision makers from 21 countries from the Asia-Pacific region. I thank you all for your personal presence despite your very busy schedule.

On behalf of ITU, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology, Bangladesh and Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Chairman, Bangladesh

Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), for hosting this very important Roundtable and for the kind hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

Let me first congratulate you for successful launch of the first Bangabandhu Satellite in May this year which represents an opportunity to provide advanced communications and broadcasting access including; high speed Internet, direct-to-home broadcast satellite services and corporate communications for the citizens of Bangladesh, and the region in a cost-effective manner!

I also wish to commend initiative of Bangladesh to have carried out the first trial run of 5G technology in Dhaka 10 days ago, showcasing download speeds of up to 4.17Gbps by equipment vendor Huawei and local cellco Robi Axiata, in cooperation with the Ministry of Posts, Telecoms & Information Technology. The demonstration aimed to show how a 5G ecosystem can be cultivated in the 'Digital Bangladesh'.

Let me also add our gratitude to the previous hosts of Asia-Pacific Regional Regulators' Roundtables for their commitment and excellence, for building energetic blocks on each annual Roundtable which is now in its eighth year. Congratulations to you all on this notable milestone. Special mentions also go to ACMA Australia for hosting the Roundtable in 2011 and 2014, TRAI India in 2012 and 2017, KCC R.O. Korea in 2013, MCMC Malaysia 2015 and PTA Pakistan in 2016 and of course we do not forget regulators who have consistently contributed in these Roundtables.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Digitization is increasingly and fundamentally changing societies and economies and disrupting many sectors in what has been termed the 4th Industrial Revolution. Meanwhile, ICT regulation has evolved globally over the past ten years and has experienced steady transformation. As regulators, there is an urgent need to keep pace with advances in technology, address the new regulatory frontiers and create the foundation upon which digital transformation can achieve its full potential. Being prepared for digital transformation and emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), Machine to Machine communications (M2M) and 5G is fundamental and to harness the benefits of new technologies there is a need to have flexible and innovative policy and regulatory approaches that can support and incentivize digital transformation.

This Regulators' Roundtable for Asia-Pacific 2018 is of particular importance after GSR-2018 held last month in Geneva, Switzerland, where I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Chairman BTRC and many of you present in this room, which had the following key outcomes:

- Fostering the potential of emerging technologies for digital transformation
- Business and investment models to support digital transformation
- Policy and regulatory approaches for continued innovation and progress

In line with the outcomes of GSR-18 New Regulatory Frontiers to Achieve Digital Transformation, our actions need to go beyond the ICT sector to take into account the ICT ecosystem. A new ecosystem where ICTs are about streamlining Government processes, bringing education and health to the people in need in order to create national cohesion, inclusiveness and economic growth. We need to have open and frank conversations and collaboration across the sectors on the huge opportunities of ICT sector in the digital economy and how we should work together to tap into them for business and development.

Thus, I am very pleased that the Asia-Pacific Region took as its own initiative to organize this annual Roundtable to provide telecommunication/ICT regulators in the region with a platform that fosters dynamic and strategic discussions, as well as sharing of information, relevant experiences and practices and to conclusively debate on possible solutions and opportunities for potential collaboration to address emerging regulatory issues and challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very delighted to share three innovative aspects that we embraced in this years' Roundtable:

- The first one is to have a special session on "Protecting privacy, ensuring trust and security of consumers while promoting innovation and growth in digital era: Industry-Regulator Dialogue". This interactive debate will see panelists share their views to enhance consumer trust including secured and trusted data flows, data ownership and control, the role of social media, data security and privacy, and how horizontal regulation can empower consumers. (e.g., securing e - commerce/ financial transactions, digital identity). I am very pleased the representatives from private sector and social media will be present to share their views in this session!
- The second special aspect that we have introduced this year, considering the role played by the industry in driving the innovation and making investment in infrastructure, is to have "Industry Roundtable: Partnership for Digital Economy Growth" arranged to bring together regulators and senior industry executives to promote constructive dialogue around issues that are of critical important to the digital economy and telecommunications. In this Industry Roundtable, Regulators will present the progress of their national digitalization plans, and the expectations that they have of industry in supporting the delivery and realization of these plans.
- The third aspect is to organize the Regulator's Roundtable along with the APT Policy and Regulatory Forum, emphasizing our close collaboration with the APT and leveraging the presence of high level officials to smoothly participate in the PRF! I thank Ms. Areewan Haorangsri, Secretary General for this unique collaboration!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Asia-Pacific Regulators' Roundtable, I believe, truly supports policy makers and regulators to take measures and respond effectively to the new challenges brought about by the digital society which in turn promotes that people in the region benefit from the

opportunities brought about by the digital economy in an informed, responsive and safe manner.

I believe that there is no other industry which calls upon its regulators to balance economic productivity against social and cultural imperatives as much as the ICT sector. For digital opportunities to fully materialize in today's increasingly complex environment, an adaptive, consultative and innovative approach to regulation is more than ever required. But what kind of regulation is therefore needed to close the digital gap?

The theme of this Roundtable, "New Regulatory Frontiers to support Digital Economy" provides telecommunication/ICT regulators in the region with a platform a platform that fosters dynamic and strategic discussions, as well as sharing of information, relevant experiences and practices and to conclusively debate on possible solutions and opportunities for potential collaboration to address emerging regulatory issues and challenges.

We must recognize that we are at a turning point of Digital Transformation and all stakeholders, governments, regulators, ICT service providers, academia, research community, consumers and civil society need to change the way they interact with each other in order to create this new enabling ecosystem.

I am certain that the next two days will have exciting networking activities as well as discussions and debate on current and emerging ICT policy and regulatory topics, issues and challenges. Moreover, I am positive that all these will result in productive and concrete outcomes.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Aware of the importance of this Roundtable to regulators in our region, let me assure you of ITU's full support in continuing to organize this kind of platform for policy and regulatory networking and knowledge exchange. The feedback and recommendations coming out of this Roundtable are very important inputs to ITU for our future planning. As much as possible, let us keep the discussions of the Roundtable in an open and frank manner to achieve maximum outcomes.

Finally, I wish us all an engaging and productive discourse and a successful Roundtable! Thank you for your attention.