

**10<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT  
Indicators Meeting (WTIM-12)  
Bangkok, Thailand, 25-27 September 2012**



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***Contribution to WTIM-12 session***

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**Opening Address**

**By**

**H.E. Group Captain Anudith Nakornthap**

**Minister of Information and Communication Technology  
Thailand**

**At**

**10<sup>th</sup> World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting**

**25 - 27 September 2012**

**Centara Grand and Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World  
Bangkok, Thailand**

**Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director of  
Telecommunication Development Bureau of  
ITU,**

**Mrs. Jirawan Boonperm, Permanent Secretary of  
Ministry of Information and Communication  
Technology of Thailand and Chairperson of  
this meeting,**

**Dr. Eun-Ju Kim, ITU Regional Director for Asia  
and the Pacific,**

**Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Chief of Project Support  
and Knowledge Management Department of  
ITU**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honour for me to welcome all of you to the Tenth World Telecommunication and ICT Indicators Meeting and to give an opening address for this meeting.

/At the outset...

At the outset, I would like to express, on behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, our profound appreciation to ITU for trusting in Thailand's potential and accepting our offer to host this year's WTIM. Our sincere thanks also go to the various partner organizations, distinguished experts on telecom and ICT indicators and all the speakers for their valuable collaboration and support to make this significant forum possible.

This meeting provides a unique platform for bringing together ICT ministries, telecom regulators, national statistical agencies and related international organizations to discuss telecom and ICT statistics and share effective practices and ways to address challenges in the production and application of data and statistics specific to the telecom and ICT sector.

It gives me great pleasure to see that this meeting attracts a large number of participants from a hundred of ITU Member States, international organizations and local participants from public, private, and academic sectors. The high level of interest for this forum proves that information sharing at the international level is needed in order to improve the work of national agencies pertaining to telecom and ICT statistics and indicators.

/Distinguished...

## **Distinguished delegates,**

As a telecom and ICT policy-making body, the Ministry of ICT of Thailand realizes the importance of indicators and statistical data as useful tools to benchmark and assess the use of ICT for country development in different aspects, be it economy, trade and commerce, education, public services and so on. Thailand is currently pursuing the goal of becoming an inclusive information society under the initiative called ‘Smart Thailand’ led by Ministry of ICT. The objective is to bridge the existing digital divide and to promote the use of ICT as an engine for social and economic development.

The implementation of this ambitious project reminds us of how important the evidence-based ICT policy making is. In order to achieve nation-wide development, we must have reliable and comprehensive data and indicators that accurately reflect the current landscape of ICT development and particularly its outreach to different population sections.

We found that traditional practices in collecting data can no longer respond effectively to the present need of policy makers for data and indicators related to ICT development at the individual level that take into

/account...

account aspects of geography, age, gender, income and more. And missing data on the application of ICT in sectors such as education, business, government, or health makes it difficult for the government to identify the contribution of ICT in these sectors as well as the appropriate way forward if we wish to make progress.

While I was preparing myself for this meeting, I took an overview of the meeting documents available on the ITU website and found that ICT policy makers in many countries are facing just the same difficulties as Thailand. Then I did some research out of curiosity on the work of ITU in the field of data and statistics and found this interesting information on the “Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development” which brings together a dozen of international organizations to collaborate towards internationally comparable and reliable ICT statistics. I find the work of this Partnership provides a very useful and practical guidance for statistical agencies especially the core lists of ICT indicators that they develop and maintain.

I therefore encourage the Partnership to continue this coordinated international efforts for the sake of all stakeholders in this sector. I would also like to recommend that statistical agencies base their data collection programmes on these comprehensive core lists of ICT indicators.

/Distinguished...

**Distinguished delegates,**

I have to say that this meeting is a very promising one. On one hand, we have a meeting agenda and presentators. You may see from the agenda that ITU has taken care to include ongoing and emerging issues that have increasing impact on telecom and ICT development. In addition, this Year's WTIM will feature the "High-level Panel on National Coordination of ICT Statistics". And on the other hand, we have this gathering of international delegates involved in the production, dissemination, analysis, and application of telecom and ICT indicators from concerned agencies. I am confident that this combination will foster substantive exchange of information and views over the next three days. I also look forward to the outcomes of the meeting that will serve as guidance for our future work in this area.

**Dear Delegates,**

Let me close my address by thanking all of you in advance for your active contribution to the success of this year's WTIM. Last but not least, as the host of this meeting, I take this opportunity to wish all of you an enjoyable stay in Bangkok and hope that you will be impressed by the Thai culture and warm hospitality of the local people.

Thank you.

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