

Welcoming remark by Heung Youl Youm, Chairman of ITU-T SG17

Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, Ladies and gentlemen,

I sincerely thank Dr. Chae-Sub Lee, TSB Director in ITU, Ms Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO for giving us their opening remarks. In addition, I thank Mr Noah Luo, SG16 chairman and Mr Nasser Saleh Al Marzouqi, SG20 chairman who will also give us welcoming remarks following me.

It is a pleasure for me to give welcoming remark to this 2nd ITU/WHO workshop on DCC.

ITU-T SG17 is responsible for building security and confidence in the use of ICTs by providing a set of high quality technical standards in the area of security and data protection.

As we have all experienced, the COVID-19 pandemic that broke last year has significantly affected daily normal life in most countries of the world. And like this workshop, international meetings have turned to being completely virtual.

An important step toward a return to normal life is to use of the digital vaccination certificate that indicates who has completed the vaccination, or what the PCR test results are, or whether they have recovered from the COVID-19 infection.

WHO recently published the Digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates: vaccination status: technical specifications and implementation guidance, 27 August 2021.

We are also seeing the launch of vaccination certificate-based services in many countries and regions. For example, EU has started a COVID-19 certificate-based service in the EU since this early July. In addition, some countries require vaccination certificates for cross-border travel, indicating that vaccination has been completed.

At the first joint ITU/WHO workshop on digital vaccination certificate held August of this year, WHO was requested to submit their vaccination certificate specification to the ITU-T for study groups to develop it as an ITU-T standard, and the relevant ITU-T study groups were recommended to start standardization work as soon as possible.

This discussion was continued at the TSAG meeting held last month, and as a result of the discussion, it agreed to establish a joint coordination activity on digital covid-19 certificate (JCA-DCC).

We are aware that vaccination certificates issued in different countries are not interoperable across countries. In addition, it is desired that a vaccination certificate based on decentralized identity technology using distributed ledger technology that can guarantee users complete control of their identity information should be developed.

The steering committee of this 2nd workshop decided to focus on addressing two issues as gaps that were identified in the 1st workshop and the TSAG discussion.

They are (1) establishing a trust network to ensure interoperability between vaccination certificates issued in various countries and (2) addressing identity binding issue where the vaccination certificate is bound with the identity of the data subject. The latter includes two types of identity binding: early identity binding and late identity binding.

In addition, we will discuss the future standardization direction of this work in study groups within ITU-T and how to effectively operate JCA-DCC, which was recently established by TSAG.

I would like to remind you that this DCC related activities are closely related to the UN Sustainability Goal 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING.

I hope that this workshop will serve as an opportunity to present a clear direction for the ITU to pursue in cooperation with WHO and other related SDOs in the future.

Finally, I thank the 26 Workshop Steering Committee members including TSB event team including Dr Gifty Amoah from the TSB Event Team and Mrs Xioya Yang, SG17 counselor for their excellent support to this workshop.

I thank the session modulators, speaker, and panelists for participating in the workshop in advance.

I also thank all of our participants online from all over the world, and we hope you will find the workshop insightful and useful.

This concludes my opening remarks.

Thank you very much.