



**Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia**

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## **Asia Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Strengthening Regional Collaboration towards Broadband Economy**

Speech by **H.E. Chin Bun Sean**  
Secretary of State

Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia

Thank you, Excellency Chairman

- Excellency **Mr. Tifatul Sembiring**, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia
- Excellency Dr. Hamadoun I. Toure, Secretary General of ITU
- Excellency Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General of APT
- Honorable Ministers
- Distinguished Delegates
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honor for me to be here, on behalf of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the Cambodian Delegation, to express my sincere thanks to the host country, The Republic of Indonesia, and the APT for their excellent arrangements and warmest hospitality extended to us at this 30<sup>th</sup> **Asia Pacific Ministerial Meeting on this beautiful Island of Bali.**

A special congratulation is extended to the APT on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Some of us in this room cannot wait to congratulate the APT again on its golden anniversary.

In the situation of economic malaise we are presently experiencing, it is of great importance that the cooperation and collaboration of the APT member countries be strengthened. I am pleased to acknowledge that the traditionally cooperative actions taken in the past have given the chances for all APT member countries to harness

all forces and knowledge in crafting the APT ICT Action Plan in order to encourage its members to move towards broadband in the environment of converged technology in the region. This new technology will offer better services at affordable prices and will generate economic developments which will in turn reduce poverty in APT member countries. A lot of progress has been made in this area. However, there is some more work needed to be done over the next few years. We want to create implementable plans to bring ICT development to the next level. More importantly, the Plan of Action aims at creating more collaboration among APT member countries and makes us more attractive to investors. At the same time, the Plan will also address the ICT needs of the society and bring about tangible benefits to the people of the Asia Pacific region. During the span of 30 years since its inception, APT member countries have not progressed at the same speed. Some members have lagged behind. To grow economically as a block, the ICT divide has to be bridged. More advanced countries should assist the less advanced ones in terms of technology transfers and human resource developments. In these challenging times, there are no easy decisions to be made. Together our inputs and decisions will have a significant impact on the ICT development of the Asia Pacific region. We need to continue to work hand in hand to move forward so that we can grow together in harmony.

I am sure that the honorable presence of your Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates from different countries in this room will enable us to achieve successful results to the timely theme of this meeting:

## **Strengthening Regional Collaboration towards Broadband Economy**

From social networks to mobile technology, the private sector has clearly driven the expansion of innovative ICT products. Telecommunication companies have become media houses. Computers have become phones and video players. Mobile technologies have reduced the entry barriers to accessing ICT, and made innovative developments possible. Mobile communication helps humanity to meet numerous challenges such as promoting

economic activities, increasing agricultural production, connecting families separated by disasters, helping emergency relief workers, empowering health workers in rural areas, and changing the way grass-root groups organize and monitor local elections. The World Bank studies and many other studies show that the multiplier effect of ICT, on average, is bigger than which of other sectors. This means that investments in ICT will yield higher returns than in other sectors of the economy.

In order to harness these new technologies and to serve our people properly in the field of ICT, we have to establish the Broadband technologies and policies that are consistent throughout APT member countries. We need to take urgent actions collectively to bridge the ICT divide. Otherwise, the situation might become dramatically worse.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Cambodia wants to make access to information as a basic right to all Cambodians living in cities as well as in rural areas.

To conclude, on behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the APT Secretary General and to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm welcome, heartfelt hospitality and excellent arrangements. This meeting will certainly be a memorable one. Let us keep our good work in the spirit of cooperation and partnership.

I would like to wish Excellency Ministers, APT Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen a pleasant stay in this beautiful Island of Bali and also wish you all good health and great successes in your important mission to serve your beloved countries.

Thank you for your attention.