

## A Message for the New Year



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**H**appy New Year!  
Last year was the 150th anniversary of the signing of the International Telegraph Convention that laid the foundations of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It was also a very fruitful year for the ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ).

The ITU's 150th anniversary was celebrated at a variety of commemorative events in Japan and in other countries. These included the ITU-AJ's World Telecommunication and Information Society Day gathering on 15th May, at which the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications presented Professor Toshio Obi of Waseda University with the MIC Minister's Award in recognition of his contributions to ITU activities for over 30 years, and we also received a video message of congratulations from ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao.

At an anniversary ceremony held at the ITU headquarters in Geneva, Professor Ken Sakamura of Tokyo University was among the recipients of the ITU150 Award. Other recipients included Bill Gates.

Last year, the ITU-AJ was also able to participate in the administration of important international meetings related to wireless communications and the like.

The first of these was the AWG (APT Wireless Group) international conference, which was held in Kyoto in March.

This event was attended by approximately 220 people from organizations related to radio communication in 25 countries and regions in the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), who participated enthusiastically in the discussions. We also held a Workshop on Next-Generation Mobile Communication Systems in order to cultivate a common understanding in the Asia-Pacific region regarding the introduction of fifth-generation mobile communication systems.

The second event was the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) held in Geneva in November.

The purpose of this conference was to revise the Radio Regulations governing the usage of the radio-frequency spectrum

internationally, the operation procedures for radio stations, technical standards and so on. Additional spectrum allocations to fourth-generation mobile communication were also discussed, and as a new agenda item for the forthcoming WRC-19, it was resolved that frequency-related matters would be studied with a view to using them in fifth-generation mobile communication systems.

At the end of November Hiroshima hosted the third event which was the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS). WTIS is a meeting to discuss information and communications technology (ICT) statistics and indicators, and last year was the first time in Japan for it to be held as one of the events to commemorate the ITU's 150th anniversary.

Being able to contribute to these important meetings as part of the secretariat has been a truly gratifying experience for me.

Furthermore, ITU Telecom World has been held somewhere other than Geneva since 2012, and each time ITU-AJ has supported the local secretariat and published preliminary reports. Last year's event, in Budapest, also featured a Japan Pavilion, where we held presentations and other events that attracted a great deal of attention from leading figures of all nationalities.

This year's Telecom World is due to be held in Bangkok, and I have already heard from Japanese corporations and other organizations that plan to exhibit there. The ASTAP (Asia-Pacific Telecommunity Standardization Program) conference and WTSA (World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly) will also take place this year.

This year, the ITU-AJ will continue to contribute to the elevation of Japan's profile by playing an active role in ITU and APT activities and conferences, and will continue to perform work in the public interest such as the commendation program and the publication of research. I would therefore like to ask once again for the continued guidance and cooperation of everyone in the member companies.

I hope that 2016 turns out to be a successful and prosperous year for you all.