

New Year Greeting



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Happy New Year!

As you may already know, ITU-D (ITU Telecommunication Development Sector) celebrated its 25th anniversary last year, and its general assembly was held at the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As the strategic plan for the next period of ITU-D (2018–2021), it was declared that efforts should be made to expand and increase the use of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, applications and services in order to attain the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations and ITU.

The Plenipotentiary Conference is the most important event in the ITU calendar, and will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates this year. At this event, Japan will stand for re-election to the council, and will propose the appointment of Dr. Akira Hashimoto as a member of the Radio Regulations Board (RRB). As in previous years, ITU-AJ intends to work hard at gathering information for the Plenipotentiary Conference and other important gatherings, supporting Japanese delegates, and promoting their selection as supporting members.

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) held its general assembly last autumn. At this event, Ms. Areewan Haorangsi (Thailand) was re-elected as Secretary General, and Mr. Masanori Kondo of Japan

was re-elected as Deputy Secretary General. I hardly need to point out that the development of the Asia-Pacific region will lead the world economy as a whole, and the role of APT will become even greater in the future.

In December last year, a training program called “Development of Practical Problem-solving Skills: Network Construction or E-application in Regional Community to Bridge the Digital Divide” proposed to the APT by ITU-AJ was adopted as part of the APT-sponsored capacity building program for training in member countries. Through activities such as these, the ITU-AJ is continuing to support the efforts of the APT together with the Japanese government and supporting members.

We have also introduced new technologies in the *ITU Journal* and the English-language *New Breeze* magazine, including various examples of ICT utilization and 5G mobile communications.

This year we intend to continue providing information on interesting fields including the use of ICT in artificial intelligence (AI), environmental and medical applications. We would be delighted to hear your suggestions for new projects.

I hope 2018 will be your most successful and fruitful year yet.

At the WTDC-17 conference

