

New Year Greeting



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Happy New Year!

As some of you may know, I took over from Toru Fukuoka as president of the ITU-AJ last December. I'm looking forward to working with you all during my term of office.

This is the first New Year of the Reiwa era, and there are a lot of exciting developments on the way. In the spring, commercial 5G services using the long-awaited next-generation communication standard will be launched in Japan, opening up a new era of high-speed, large-capacity, low-latency, multi-connection communication. This is expected to bring about a significant leap forward towards the advent of Society 5.0 (the "super-smart" society).

In addition, the world's eyes will be focused on Tokyo during the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in the summer. This will give us the opportunity to show off Japanese technology and culture to visitors from all over the world.

As these major technological innovations and social events take place, the ITU-AJ will continue to keep abreast of global trends.

From October to November last year, the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) was held in Egypt, where revisions were made to the Radio Regulations (RR), including the definitions of international procedures relating to frequency usage, technical standards for radio facilities, and radio station operation methods. Our association supported the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC-19 (APG19-5), which was held in Tokyo, and provided the Japanese secretariat with on-site assistance in Egypt.

In September, the ITU Telecom World 2019 conference was held in Hungary. Five companies participated in the Japanese pavilion, and six companies took part in the panel lunch. Each of these companies reported that this opportunity to demonstrate their technologies and services enabled them to forge ties with senior officials around the world and with companies in other countries.

On May 17, we held a ceremony to celebrate the 51st World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. At this event, Yasuhiko Ito (formerly of KDDI), who was for many years an active player in international standardization at the ITU-R, received an MIC Minister's Award. Also, Masako Wakamiya received an ITU-AJ Special Achievement Award in recognition of her mastery of ICT technologies such as PCs and programming, and her efforts to develop the use of this technology by the elderly.

A total of 14 people received ITU-AJ Accomplishment Awards and 22 groups received ITU-AJ Encouragement Awards. My warmest congratulations go out to all of them.

Our training initiatives for telecommunication personnel in developing Asian countries (JICA and APT training programs) and performative seminars using hands-on training to improve international negotiation skills were also well received.

In November this year, the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-20) will be held in India to approve research topics for the next study session, appoint chairpersons and vice chairpersons for each SG, and to approve ITU Recommendations. Also, the ITU Telecom World 2020 conference will be held in Vietnam. I am looking forward to the program of events we have scheduled for this year, and to hearing your requests and comments.

This year, we will continue to carry out various activities aimed at bridging between the Japanese government, our supporting members and the ITU.

I wish you every success in your endeavors this year.

■ WRC-19 Closing Plenary

