

New Year's Message



Tetsuo Yamakawa
President
The ITU Association of Japan

The very best wishes to all in this New Year!
2022 was a year of great change, beginning with Russia's invasion of Ukraine in early spring. In Ukraine the fighting continues and there is no resolution in sight, but the dispute must be stopped, the damaged towns and infrastructure must be restored, and people's lives must be returned to normal. There is also strong desire to employ our collective wisdom to find peaceful solutions to the energy problems, the disorder in logistics, the rising commodity prices and other difficulties that this invasion has caused around the world, and to restore safety and orderly daily life and economic activity for all.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues with varying conditions in each country so we will need to keep monitoring these trends, but we expect new developments in the coming year and have high hopes for a good and prosperous year.

Meetings and events in the past year with our related organizations, the ITU and APT, included the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) held in Geneva in March, the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) held in Kigali, Rwanda in June, and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22) held in Bucharest, Romania in September and October.

One particularly notable event at PP-22 was that NTT's Dr. Seizo ONOE was elected as the Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. We heartily celebrate this event and hope the best for his efforts in his various activities at the ITU. Japan was also elected as a Council Member State in the same conference. The ITU-AJ also supported work at the on-site offices for PP-22. At the WTSA in March, candidates from Japan were selected for two ITU-T TSAG/SG chairperson positions and seven vice-chairperson positions, and at WTDC in June, candidates from Japan were selected for two ITU-D SG vice-chairperson positions. We wish them every success in their efforts.

On May 17, the ITU-AJ also held our annual "Celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day" (WTISD) at the Keio Plaza Hotel, also streaming it on line. At the ceremony, Dr. Kohei SATOH (NICT) received the MIC Minister's Award for his activities in international standardization at the ITU and APT over many years. Dr. Chieko ASAKAWA (IBM Fellow, IBM Corp.; Chief Executive Director of the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Miraikan); IBM Distinguished Service Professor, Carnegie Mellon University) also received an ITU-AJ Special Achievement award, and delivered the Anniversary Keynote Presentation. Eleven Accomplishment Awards and 18 Encouragement Awards were also conferred. We offer sincere congratulations to all

recipients!

This year in the telecommunications field, we expect commercial 5G services to become widely established and to advance. Through 5G and other ICT technologies, we hope to find solutions to social issues and to make a leap toward Society 5.0.

In November, the ITU will hold a Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) and the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) in Dubai, UAE. We will prepare for these conferences, using our past experience and collaborating with those who are involved in ITU and APT meetings and events.

Within ITU-AJ, we plan to continue operation of our Japan Platform for Driving Digital Development (JPD3), which began in 2020. In February and March, we will also support the Japan booth exhibit at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2023 in Barcelona, which is a new initiative for us. Through these efforts we plan to help with expansion of Japanese ICT enterprises globally.

I would like to offer our gratitude to all who have supported the ITU-AJ, and we will continue and increase our efforts to be a bridge between the Japanese government, our supporting members, and the ITU into the future.

I also wish you all a heartfelt Happy New Year and wish all health and vitality in the year ahead.

■ Dr. Seizo ONOE elected as director of the TSB



■ Guests and Award-winners at the WTISD celebration

