



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 1

Opening Remarks

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: TEL Chair



**58th Telecommunications and Information
Working Group Meeting
Taipei, Chinese Taipei
1-5 October 2018**

APEC TEL 58
Opening Remarks by TELWG Chair,
Dr. Morris Lin

(Plenary 1, 1 October 2018, Taipei)

[Opening]

Your Excellency, Chairperson Ting-I Chan, my dear colleagues, Vice Chair, Dr. Nam, Conveners, Heads of all delegations, Program Director, Guests and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, --- good morning. (早安!)

I am very excited to welcome you all here in my hometown, Taipei. Since last year, Chinese Taipei has dedicated much hard work to this event, so I'm confident that TEL58 will not only produce fruitful outcomes, but also provide all participants with a nice stay here. Therefore, on behalf of TELWG, I would like to express our highest gratitude to Chinese Taipei for their efforts and excellent arrangement.

I would also like to express our special thanks to Chairperson Chan for fully supporting this event and being here with us today. Your insightful speech will inspire our following discussions during this week. Now, please also allow me to make some remarks.

[The big changes in eight years]

Ladies and gentlemen, ICT nowadays is reshaping the world much faster than ever before. I recall when Chinese Taipei hosted TEL41 in 2010. At that time, the key ICT issues were broadband, E-commerce, 4G, Digital TV and PKI. Now, the new focuses are IoT, AI, digital economy, 5G, 8K TV, Blockchain. I have also witnessed remarkable progress in Chinese Taipei. For example, in 2010, digital cable TV was still in an infant stage with less than 8% penetration; now it is fully digitized with virtually all full HD transmission. Another example is, 4G LTE service was not launched until 2014, but this year in July, the 4G broadband subscriptions reached more than 25 million, or 108% penetration. In only eight years, we have seen the popularity of new paradigms of services and next-generation technologies. Our lives have also been greatly changed.

[Principles for TEL's deliberation]

Therefore, as the key platform that aims to bring the benefits of ICT to all people in the APEC region and avoid potential pitfalls, we need to improve the way we function, in order to catch up with the fast-changing world.

But how??

Now, I would like to suggest three principles for our deliberation. Number 1: Be open and forward-looking to any new beneficial technologies or services, so we can timely adapt regulatory and enabling environments to grasp the new opportunities. Number 2: Be agile and responsive to all threats caused by new technologies or the environment, so we can timely react to the needs from the people. Number 3: Be inclusive and attentive to all of the people, so everyone can equally enjoy the benefit of ICT development.

[Current ICT challenges and related efforts at TEL 58]

Bearing these three principles in mind, ladies and gentlemen, please also allow me to highlight three most crucial challenges we are facing now, and how we will address them at TEL 58.

The first challenge is: “How to promote regulatory and enabling environments for new ICT?” We see more and more technologies creating new paradigms in business or society. However, it is often criticized that policies and regulations lag behind innovations and even become obstacles to new technologies.

Therefore, we need to take all-round actions to this challenge together. That is why, at TEL 58, four workshops are scheduled to work toward this end. First, Thailand will gather experts from public and private sectors to discuss social network governance. Second, Chinese Taipei will hold an Industry Roundtable to share best practices on promoting sustainability of smart cities and improving the quality of urban life through ICT. Third, Singapore organizes a workshop to discuss digital economy strategies and how to effectively measure progress of the strategies. Finally, Japan arranges to exchange views on the potential of emerging technologies for digital government.

The second challenge is “How to promote digital inclusion in such a diverse APEC region?” We all agree that digital development transforms our daily lives, changes how we work, and creates new opportunities. However, the benefits are not evenly enjoyed in our society. Now about half of the world’s population is still offline. Most of them belong to vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, remote communities and low-income households. Therefore, significant digital divides in terms of geography, age, gender, income level and others need to be addressed.

Therefore, we need to make our efforts to increase digital inclusion. That is why Chinese Taipei arranges two roundtables at TEL58. The first one aims to explore measures to empower citizens to reap the benefits of digital economy by ensuring their access, abilities, and skills. The second Roundtable is expected to take forward our work on bridging the digital divide by exchanging information on broadband.

The last challenge is: “How to use ICT to mitigate natural disaster risk?” We all know that our region, located in the Pacific Ring of Fire, is highly vulnerable and exposed to natural disasters. And now we experience disasters with higher frequency and intensity, which usually pose serious damage to the people. For example, last year, serious earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods struck many APEC economies. This year, more serious disasters happened again.

In the face of extreme weather events and frequent earthquakes, it is crucial to raise our preparedness and to reduce damage. I believe TEL can greatly contribute through the application of ICT in detection, early warning, and damage reduction. At TEL 58, Russia will hold a workshop to discuss how to apply IoT to earthquakes and waterfloods monitoring system. Building on that, we could capture ICT potential to reduce possible damage of property and casualties.

[Expected key outcomes]

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe the activities I just mentioned will be very beneficial. Moreover, as always, at TEL 58, DSG, LSG, SPSG, and CA&MRA TF will have regular group meetings to address the crucial challenges.

And, as you may know, the Strategic Action Plan 2016-2020 is our key guidance, and so far we have contributed 48 projects, so we should be very proud of our hard work. However, to keep up with the latest ICT advancement and APEC priorities, we are conducting a mid-term review to reprioritize our undertakings and essential tasks after 2018. Many thanks to your inputs since TEL 57, we will be able to finalize the review at TEL 58.

In addition, responding to APEC's key priority on promoting digital economy, we hope to finalize the 'APEC Framework for Securing the Digital Economy' to ensure a reliable and secure environment for digital economy development in the APEC region. Apart from the Framework, we will also discuss how we can substantially contribute to APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap.

Last but not least, it is very crucial that we confirm the hosts and arrangements for future meetings, to ensure our work will continue smoothly.

[Expectation and Closing]

My dear colleagues, in order to deliver maximum value to the APEC region, I urge you to continue to actively participate in TEL's activities, enhance project effectiveness, and contribute to APEC-wide initiatives. I also encourage you to collaborate with other fora to create synergy and productive results. I believe those collective efforts can build a more efficient and influential TELWG, to ensure all people in our region benefit from ICT development.

In closing, I wish all of us a very successful and enjoyable TEL58. Thank you for your attention.