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Ministry of Information & Communications
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu: Bhutan



**Congratulatory message on the Occasion of Silver Jubilee of the South Asian
Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC), 14-16th November 2022, Tehran,
Iran**

Delivered by: Dasho Phuntsho Tobgay, Hon'ble Secretary for the Ministry of Information and Communications and Chair, Board to the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, Bhutan

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan, I have the honor to extend our warmest greetings and facilitation to the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran, the Communication Regulatory Authority of Iran, and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) for hosting and organizing the 23rd South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council Meeting in Tehran, Iran.

The South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC), since its inception in 1997, played a very critical role in enabling meaningful discussion among the Member states to share and discuss our experience as the regulators in the midst of rapidly changing ICT and Telecommunication sector dynamics. Our association with the SATRC goes a very long way as we have been a member of the SATRC since 1998, and it has helped our regulator implement some meaningful interventions in the ICT/Telecom sector.

As we celebrate the silver jubilee of SATRC, I would like to congratulate the Secretary General of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, present and past, on your continued effort to bring to the forefront a platform where our regional telecommunication and ICT regulators could come together and exchange views. On this special occasion, I would like to express our gratitude to the APT and the SATRC on supporting the efforts of the Royal Government and that of the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority to enhance the regulatory capabilities of Bhutan, through sharing of knowledge on emerging technologies in the telecommunication ICT sectors as well as by organizing various workshops, seminars and training which has led to necessary transfer of knowledge to deal with the emerging challenges in our sector. The Ministry of Information and Communications remains highly appreciative of this effort of yours. In Bhutan, the Ministry and the Authority work hand in hand as a team to ensure that the sector is driven in the right direction, and the Ministry will continue to do our best to ensure that the Authority is provided with all the policy backing to create a fair regulatory environment.

As I convey my facilitation to this gathering, I fondly remember when Bhutan had the opportunity to host the SATRC workshop on spectrum in 2016 to discuss and agree on the implementation plan for the SATRC Action plan phase V. I felt that the workshop has enabled us to discuss our common position and issues related to spectrum usage for mobile broadband, spectrum reframing, non-ionizing radiation safety in the frequency bands used for mobile phones, and spectrum sharing. Likewise, we also had the opportunity to host the 15th SATRC in 2014, which in itself had led to greater awareness on the ICT/Telecom regulatory requirements amongst the leadership of Bhutan.



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As all of you meet for the 23rd SATRC meeting in Tehran, I feel that it is an opportune time for all of us to reflect on our roles. With the rapid development in the ICT/Telecommunication sector, our role as the regulator has now become more critical than ever. With the emergence of Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, metaverse, among others, the need to facilitate as well as regulate these technologies for the socio-economic development of the country now needs our strategic interventions. As our world now becomes more interconnected and interdependent, we can work as a team to tackle all these emerging technologies. Most importantly, as the role of the SATRC becomes more important and complex, Bhutan would like to assure of our continued support to the SARTC. The Ministry of Information and Communications of Bhutan remains committed to support all the work done by BICMA and through them by the SARTC.

Lastly, let me once again congratulate the SARTC on your silver jubilee and the APT for creating this great platform.

Thank you and Tashi Delek!

Phuntsho Tobgay

Secretary

Ministry of Information and Communications

Chair, Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, Board