

## Enhancing Cooperation and Working Together for a Promising Future of ICT Development in Asia–Pacific Region

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**Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon!

Three years ago, we gathered in Shanghai for TELMIN 5, and today, I'm very pleased to come to the historical city of Lima and attend TELMIN 6. First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the delegation of China, to extend our appreciation to the Peruvian government, your Excellency, Minister Rivera, and the Secretariat for the warm hospitality and arrangement.

Asia Pacific rim is one of the most dynamic regions with the fastest economic and ICT development in the

world. As far as mobile communications is concerned, at the end of 2004, the number of global mobile users reached 1.7 billion, of which 667 million were in Asia, accounting for 39% of the world's total. Therefore, it is of great significance for us to gather here to discuss issues of ICT development in the Asia Pacific region, enhance mutual understanding and seek consensus so as to foster regional economic and trade cooperation as well as balanced and coordinated social and economic development.

The World Summit on Information Society held in 2003 has not only presented us a blueprint for development, but also identified challenging targets that require our concerted efforts. As we are all aware, ICTs have greatly promoted social productivity, improved people's quality of life, and fundamentally changed the way in which people work and live. Therefore, developing ICT industry and promoting ICT initiatives have become a strategic choice for all our economies in the region to promote economic and social development, and improve people's quality of life.

China has attached great importance to the develop-

ment of information industry and achieved significant progress by implementing a leapfrog strategy of driving forward industrialization through informatization and promoting informatization through industrialization. So far, the total number of telephone users in China has reached 670 million, with a penetration rate of 24.9% and 25.9% respectively for fixed and mobile users. China has a total of 94 million Internet users, of which 28.33 million are broadband users. In spite of the large size of telephone users, the penetration level in China remains low as compared with developed economies, given the size of its 1.3 billion populations. This promises a great potential for further market growth in China. At the same time, information technologies have been widely used in the social and economic fields, and applications such as e-government, e-commerce and e-education are under vigorous development. The information industry in China, with an added value accounting for 7.2% of the GDP, has become an essential, pivotal and pioneering industry of the economy and is playing an increasingly important role in promoting a balanced and coordinated social and economic development.

Meanwhile, we are fully aware that we still have arduous tasks ahead of us in terms of improving the overall level of ICT development and facilitating a balanced development among different regions and between urban and rural areas. In this regard, the Chinese government is now actively committed to building a well-off society in an all-around way, and to realize this objective, the government strives to promote economic growth in a people-centered, coordinated and sustainable way and has implemented a number of major strategic initiatives, including developing the western part of China in a big way and revitalizing the old industrial base of northeastern China. To support these initiatives, the Ministry of Information Industry of China is in the process of formulating the "11<sup>th</sup> Five-year Plan", whose focus would be to ensure that the ICT industry enjoys a sustained, fast, coordinated and healthy growth with a view to promote informatization of the economy and society and to satisfy the increasing social demand for information technologies, networks and services coverage.

The rapid growth of information technology and services has brought to us not only precious opportunities but new challenges as well. Therefore, it is important for us to work together to embrace the opportunities and respond to the challenges so that we will be able to maximize the enormous potentials of information technologies and to work towards an Asia Pacific information society. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some observations:

## **I. PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURES TO ACHIEVE COMMON DEVELOPMENT**

As we know, it is hard to progress without a well-established infrastructure. We are now in the active process of establishing universal service fund and encouraging business sectors to develop and apply technologies that are suited to the rural conditions to advance rural communications development. In this respect, we have set a target of providing telephone access to 95% of administrative villages by the end of this year. We think it is important to strengthen exchanges and cooperation amongst economies in the areas of development policies, models, application of new technologies and human capacity building, so that we will be able to complement each other and work together to reduce the digital divide. In the meantime, we call for developed economies to make continued efforts through financial, technical and human resource support to help developing economies to improve their level of universal access and benefit fully from the process of global informatization.

## **II. CREATING A FAVORABLE POLICY AND MARKET ENVIRONMENT TO FACILITATE FAIR AND EFFECTIVE COMPETITION**

Creating a fair, equitable and orderly market environment is critical to a sustained development of information and communications. We believe that in order to create a favorable environment in which

regulators, business sectors and consumers could all act in accordance with the law, it is important that the principles of openness, transparency and maximization of social benefits are observed, and both the legal means and market mechanisms are fully employed. As we are different in terms of both the development levels and environment, we believe that it is necessary to strengthen exchanges of views and sharing of experiences in relation to development strategies and policies, while giving due respect to the specific situation and conditions of each economy,

### **III. PROMOTING TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION, AND FACILITATING USE AND APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The constantly evolving information technologies and services have provided us with new ways and means to addressing jointly the issue of digital divide. China gives high priority to the development and innovation of new technologies, and guided by both technology development and market trend, is promoting the development of the next generation networks (NGN) and the third generation (3G) mobile networks in a proactive and practical manner, so as to explore new services and gain a new momentum for economic growth. The increasing convergence of technologies and services has exerted profound impact on the way that we develop and regulate the ICT industry and requires us to enhance exchanges in the policy and regulation fields, so that we will be able to make full use of ICT potentials to promote a balanced and coordinated social and economic development and to enjoy the benefits arising from new technologies and services.

### **IV. STRENGTHENING NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY AND PROMOTING INFORMATION NETWORK DEVELOPMENT**

The rapid growth and extensive use of Internet have

greatly contributed to social and economic development and Internet is becoming an important means to improve work efficiency and quality of life. However, we are also aware that harmful contents such as pornography, violence, virus and spam, which are becoming increasingly rampant on the Internet, are directly threatening the safe and effective operation of information network infrastructure and are affecting the healthy development of the information industry. We are now speeding up the process of formulating laws on network and information security, improving emergency response mechanisms, promoting industry self-discipline, and are working to promote network order and civilization. In the meantime, we also attach great importance to the build-up of information network infrastructure and promotion of E-applications, such as E-government and E-Commerce. With our Law on Electronic Signature already in place, we believe it will help to ensure safe online transactions and to promote the development of network-based economy. As Internet is an open platform, network security has thus become an issue that we are all confronted with and requires our common efforts to deal with. Therefore, we should strengthen our communication, coordination and cooperation in this field and work together to build a safe and clean network environment and to promote the healthy growth of Internet.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman, it is encouraging to note that APEC TEL has been actively and effectively contributing to the ICT development of this region and to the exchanges and cooperation among APEC economies. We are confident that the Lima Declaration and Program of Action, which we are going to adopt at this meeting, will help us to respond to the challenges facing the region in a more active way and will be conducive to the further development of ICT of all economies. We are willing to work along with other APEC member economies to contribute our continued efforts to the advancement and prosperity of information and communications in this region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.