

## New Year's Message



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**W**ishing everyone a Happy New Year!

In 2025, Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan was held from April 13 to October 13 welcoming more than 29 million people before coming to a successful close. We respect the efforts of the sponsoring companies that helped make the Expo a success. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) also held a special exhibition marking its 160th anniversary from May 13 to 18 during the Expo. Looking around the world, the order following the Second World War is now being challenged as we enter a period of great upheaval. Although there are movements toward peace in relation to the conflict in the Middle East and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the situation is still unpredictable. In Japan as well, we must navigate the difficult course of diplomacy and defense. The importance of economic security is being discussed and the strategic use of international standards is becoming increasingly important.

Looking back at our ITU-related meetings in 2025, the 49th meeting of ITU-R Working Party 5D was held from June 24 to July 3 at Kobe Fashion Mart on Kobe Rokko Island. Featuring 338 participants attending in person from 59 national regulatory authorities and 81 sector members (606 meeting registrants in total), discussions were held on a variety of topics toward IMT2030. The ITU-AJ served as secretariat of this meeting supporting reception activities and excursions to the Osaka Expo.

In relation to ICT, ITU-AJ served as secretariat managing the Japan Pavilion at the Mobile World Congress held in Barcelona, Spain from March 3 to 6, 2025 (MWC-25). Here, we supported exhibits from Japanese companies planning to expand overseas with a focus on small- and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups. The exhibitors of the Japan Pavilion promoted technologies to overseas companies, engaged in business negotiations, etc.

Additionally, at the Universal Postal Congress (UPC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in September, we provided on-site secretariat support for the Japanese delegation. At this meeting, Japan's Masahiko Metoki was reelected as Director General of the UPU and Japan was elected as a member country of the Council of Administration and Postal Operations Council.

As for events within the ITU-AJ, we held our "World Telecommunication and Information Society Day" ceremony at the Keio Plaza Hotel on May 16. At the ceremony, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Award was presented to Hitoshi Yoshino (Softbank), who served as chairman of ITU-R SG5 WP5A for 23 years from 2002 and contributed to standardization efforts at ITU-R and elsewhere. A Special Achievement Award was also given to Yuko Harayama (Secretary General of NICT GPAI Tokyo Expert Support Center) for her efforts in leading discussions on AI at academic societies and fostering exchanges and cooperation among industry, academia, and government at discussion forums. She also gave the Anniversary Lecture at this ceremony. In addition, 12 persons received Accomplishment Awards and 14 persons and one

team received Encouragement Awards. Congratulations to all award winners!

Furthermore, as the secretariat for Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) training on network planning to eliminate the digital divide, we received ten trainees from nine countries from December 2 to 9 in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

As for ITU-related meetings in 2026, the APT Conference Preparatory Group for the World Radiocommunication Conference (APG 27-3) will be held in Sapporo in July, and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-26) will be held in Doha, Qatar in November. Based on our experience to date, the ITU-AJ aims to participate actively in ITU and APT meetings and events in collaboration with concerned parties.

This year too, the ITU-AJ will continue to publish the online monthly "ITU Journal" and the English quarterly "New Breeze," hold research seminars with experts as invited speakers, and hold liaison meetings to share information on ITU gatherings with a cross-section of people involved in ITU work. The ITU Association of Japan is committed to becoming a nexus for collaboration and exchanges among the Japanese government, our supporting members, and ITU/APT.

As our New Year's greetings, we sincerely pray for your good health and success in the coming year.

### WP5D meeting



### MWC-25 Japan Pavilion

