

Welcome and Opening

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Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the ICF Congress in Rome.

It is my pleasure to open the Congress with so many participants, and I would like to extend a particular welcome to all the new members who have joined the ICF in the past 12 months.

The first Congress was held back in 1991 in Hawaii, and today we start the 17th Annual Congress of our Federation. During the ICF Congress, you can meet top executives of cable manufacturers from all around the world, and exchange opinions on important challenges which our industry is facing today. You can also enjoy a wealth of valuable input from renowned international experts. The ICF Congress is the only indispensable opportunity for such purposes, and this is why we have so many people attending each year.

The sessions today and tomorrow are the highlight of the ICF Congress. The session topics have been carefully selected and reviewed, and they all have profound impacts on the cable industry. We have invited guest speakers, who are experienced and highly recognized in each field, and I am convinced that you will find valuable information and new perspectives to address a variety of issues.

On behalf of the ICF, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the guest speakers, and please also join me in thanking the ICF Standing Commission Members and the Secretariat, who have spent a lot of time and effort to organize the sessions.

Now, Mr. Peter Ford, the floor is yours.