



## **ABA attends inaugural meeting of the regulatory roundtable**

TOKYO: The ABA attended the inaugural meeting of the Regulatory Round Table for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo on 6 June 1997.

Hosted by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the meeting was attended by broadcast regulators from Australia, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman, said that he was encouraged by the strong show of support for a regulatory round table for Asia and the Pacific when the concept was discussed at the exploratory meeting, convened by the ABA in Singapore in June 1996.

'The round table is a valuable forum for the sharing of information and knowledge among participants,' he said. 'With the globalisation of

broadcasting and communications, there is real scope for participants to benefit from the exchange of ideas and discussion of issues which transcend geographical boundaries.'

The inaugural meeting discussed issues relating to broadcasting in the twenty-first century: transborder satellite broadcasts, cable television, Internet content regulation, anti-siphoning, standards for pay TV and free-to-air services, and the role of regulatory authorities.

Two working parties were established: one to develop frameworks and models for transborder satellite broadcasting, and the other to experiment and set up an on-line regulatory round table network. The ABA is represented on both working parties and will convene the latter.

The participants also visited NHK Science and Technical Research Laboratories, NTT Multimedia Centre and Fuji Television Network Inc., on 5 June. The visits provided the participants with an insight into communications in the future.

Some of the projects viewed were high definition television, mobile reception of digital terrestrial television broadcasting, mobile phone technology, electronic shopping/banking, and fibre optic transmission.

'These projects obviously give us all a taste of things to come,' Mr Webb said. 'They emphasise to us the need to continue to share our experiences and to exchange information at a global level.'

Other roundtable participants shared his view.

The 1998 meeting of the Regulatory Roundtable will be held in Korea.



Top: Participants in the 1997 Regulatory Round Table for Asia and the Pacific

Bottom: Mr Peter Webb (left), ABA Chairman and Mr Jai Naidoo, South African Minister for Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting



## **Visit by the Minister for Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting of the Republic of South Africa**

SYDNEY: The ABA was pleased to host a meeting with Mr Jai Naidoo, South African Minister for Post, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, on 2 June. Mr Naidoo was accompanied by Mr Connie Molusi, Ministerial Press Secretary, and Mr Eugene Grobler, Counsellor for the South African High Commission. Also present were Mr Tony Branigan, Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations (FACTS) and Ms Victoria Rubensohn, Omni Media.

Mr Naidoo was keen to learn about broadcasting regulation in Australia as the South