

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM DECLARATION

Bandar Seri Begawan, 26 November 2016

Connected Innovative Community

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT), gathered in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on the occasion of the Sixteenth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (16th TELMIN) on 25 and 26 November 2016:

Reaffirming the aims and purposes of ASEAN as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, in particular, to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnerships in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of South-East Asian Nations;

Recalling the ASEAN Vision 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015, which calls for an outward looking ASEAN Community, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership for dynamic development and in a community of caring societies;

Guided by the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which aims to achieve the vision of a highly integrated and cohesive economy; competitive, innovative and dynamic ASEAN; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation;

Inspired by the ASEAN Leaders' recognition at the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits held in September 2016 in Vientiane, Lao PDR that the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020) will propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy, which is secure, sustainable, and transformative; and to enable an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community;

Emphasising the importance of harnessing ICT as a basis of progress and unity in line with the visions of ASEAN Economic Community, ASEAN Political-Security Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

Recalling further the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 6 September 2016, including digital innovation as one of the five strategic areas, that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community;

Aware of the importance of promoting ICT creativity and innovation within ASEAN as a main driver to develop competitive advantage and promote economic progress, and thereby

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Welcoming the adoption of the ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights Strategic Action Plan 2016-2025 (AIPSAP) which, among others, facilitates ASEAN collaboration in ICT creativity and innovations;

Welcoming the successful completion of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan (AIM 2015) and its contribution to the community in empowering transformational ICT for an inclusive vibrant and integrated ASEAN.

Re-emphasising the focus of the AIM2020 to enable an economy-wide transformation that supports all sectors of the economy by adopting and embedding ICT and fostering-growth and innovation;

Convinced that the AIM2020 will steer ASEAN towards a more dynamic and creative innovation in an interconnected and interoperable digital economy by utilising ICT to further support and drive the ASEAN Economic Community;

Cognisant of the rapid development and challenges in the evolving ICT environment , and the promise of significant socio-economic benefits to ASEAN Member States;

Desiring to realise a Connected Innovative ASEAN Community by encouraging creativity and innovation through ICT to provide greater opportunities to realise the transformative effects on ASEAN's economy and strengthening ICT cooperation among ASEAN Member States;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. Provide leadership to drive the progress of the AIM2020 initiatives to enhance connectivity and innovation in ASEAN through the development of knowledge and digital skill sets as well as greater access to ICT infrastructures, services, applications and technologies so as to improve ASEAN peoples' quality of life towards socio-economic growth and development;
2. Support the development of future broadband infrastructure networks to facilitate new technologies and ideas, accelerate the implementation of the next-generation ICT to realise the vision of inter-connected Smart Cities and raise awareness on the importance and impact of Internet of Things (IoT) and IPv6 implementation for electronic government services;
3. Further enhance connectivity between ASEAN Member States to support regional integration and trade, and intensify efforts to ensure the resilience of international connectivity including submarine cable systems;
4. Strengthen ASEAN's cybersecurity with the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy that will guide regional cooperation, as well as with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and other organisations on cybersecurity;

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5. Continue working together to enhance access to ICT and bridge the digital divide in ASEAN to support innovation in underserved and underprivileged communities;
6. Promote the realisation of the benefits of affordable access to international mobile roaming services within a connected ASEAN community through the development of an ASEAN International Mobile Roaming Framework;
7. Continue to provide leadership in innovation and creativity to support a resilient ICT ecosystem and sustainable economic development through the promotion of Smart Cities and Green ICT policies with the deployment of next-generation ICT;
8. Further strengthen harmonisation of ICT standards and regulatory approaches, especially for new emerging services and technologies toward deepening regional integration;
9. Enhance the protection of personal data in ASEAN and promote cooperation between ASEAN Member States through the endorsement of ASEAN Framework on Personal Data Protection;
10. Endorse the 2017 Work Plan which contains projects and initiatives on priority Strategic Thrusts of the AIM2020 for 2017;
11. Ensure efficient and effective processes and key performance indicators (KPIs) within the existing institutional mechanism to execute and track programmes, projects and initiatives to meet the AIM2020's goals and targets;
12. Continue to work closely with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Organisations and stakeholders in the implementation of innovative ICT programmes in support of the AIM2020;

Adopted this Declaration at the 16th TELMIN in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on 26 November 2016.