

## **Bangkok Statement**

### **Transforming ASEAN: Moving Towards Smart Communities**

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT), gathered in Bangkok on the occasion of the Fourteenth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (14<sup>th</sup> TELMIN) on 22 and 23 January 2015:

**Reaffirming** the aims and purposes of ASEAN as set forth in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, in particular to promote regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in the spirit of equality and partnership, and thereby contribute towards peace, progress and prosperity in the region;

**Guided** by the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), comprising three Blueprints for the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan II (2009-2015), adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Hua Hin, Cha-Am, Thailand;

**Recalling** the commitment of the ASEAN Leaders at the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Myanmar in May 2014 to strengthen the ASEAN unity in order to maintain and promote peace, stability and prosperity in the region;

**Realising** the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015 by strengthening our cooperation and increasing efforts toward the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM 2015) and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity to enable ICT to be a driver of ASEAN's competitiveness, economic dynamism and Community building.

**Recalling Further** the adoption of ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM 2015) at the 10<sup>th</sup> TELMIN to create an empowering and transformational ICT for an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN Community;

**Recognising** the commitment to intensify cooperation to implement all action lines under the six strategic thrusts of the AIM 2015 towards ASEAN integration, enhancing the quality of life of peoples of ASEAN, recognition for ASEAN as a global ICT hub and making ICT an engine for growth of ASEAN;

**Welcoming** the good progress and achievements in implementing the strategic thrusts and initiatives under AIM 2015;

#### **Hereby agreed to:**

1. Intensify the implementation of on-going and new initiatives or projects under the AIM 2015 to ensure the timely implementation and the accomplishment of the AIM 2015 by the end of the plan period;

2. Encourage ASEAN Member States to leverage on smart ICT applications across all sectors to further bring the benefits of ICT to communities;
3. Further encourage ASEAN Member States to develop both intra-state and inter-state e-services as the way forward in enhancing affordable and seamless services for ASEAN peoples and businesses;
4. Promote collaboration for greater harmonisation of digital dividend spectrum such as the Asia Pacific Telecommunity 700 MHz band plan and spectrum for public protection and disaster relief communication; as well as encourage ASEAN Member States to study the possible use of 800 MHz, 900 MHz and 1800 MHz for wireless broadband/IMT, in line with the trend in the world;
5. Intensify co-ordination activities in preparatory works for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015, including but not limited to, joint contributions of ASEAN Member States to relevant ITU and APT meetings;
6. Further promote cooperation for more efficient use of spectrum through innovative approaches including the possible use of dynamic spectrum allocation in expanding mobile and wireless broadband services and rural broadband connectivity;
7. Encourage working together towards the reduction of international mobile roaming charges and the improvement of Quality of Service, for the benefit of ASEAN peoples to the extent that is consistent with the national laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States;
8. Encourage ASEAN Member States to advocate Internet Service providers to connect with one another to facilitate internet traffic within ASEAN and further reduce latency and improve speed; and to strengthen the protection and resilience of submarine cable systems;
9. Promote the continued development of affordable and universal broadband access to support economic growth and bridge the digital divide, including through the continued implementation of the recommendations of the ASEAN Broadband Corridor.
10. Further encourage electronic transactions within ASEAN by promoting a framework for enhancing the security of electronic transactions in order to further increase consumer trust and confidence;
11. Continue to promote creativity and innovation in ICT for the benefit of governments, businesses and individuals through the ASEAN ICT Awards - and continue to establish networks of Centre of Excellence in ASEAN to promote research and development for information and communication technology in this region;
12. Encourage the active participation from ASEAN private sectors to support the implementation of ICT development in the region and further promote the

networking among the CIOs in ASEAN, through the establishment of ASEAN CIO Association;

13. Further promote joint efforts in the area of cybersecurity among relevant agencies as well as raise the awareness of online users to utilise social media in a proper manner through distribution of best practices and information sharing;
14. Work towards the development of a common framework for information security, and promote the regional network and information security through the activities of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC);
15. Continue to develop ICT professionals in ASEAN by strengthening ICT skills standard and encouraging ICT competency upgrade;
16. Collaborate with relevant sectoral bodies to better leverage ICT for socio-economic development through various activities of ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Dialogue Partners;
17. Ensure the timely formulation of the new post-2015 ASEAN ICT Masterplan;
18. Work towards the second contribution to the ASEAN ICT Fund by 2017 to maintain the continuity of ASEAN ICT activities.

Adopted this Statement at the 14<sup>th</sup> TELMIN in Bangkok on 22 January 2015.