

# SINGAPORE DECLARATION

## Singapore, 15 November 2013

### Connecting Communities, Co-Creating Possibilities

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We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT), gathered in Singapore on the occasion of the Thirteenth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (13<sup>th</sup> TELMIN) on 14 and 15 November 2013:

**RECALLING** the commitment of the ASEAN Leaders at the twenty-second ASEAN Summit in Brunei in April 2013 to intensify efforts to realise an ASEAN Community that is politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible in order to take advantage of current and future opportunities, and effectively respond to regional and international challenges;

**RECOGNISING** the pivotal role that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) plays in socio-economic development and transformation, digital inclusion and regional integration;

**DESIRING** to harness ICT as an enabler to connect and integrate communities within and outside ASEAN and to leverage the limitless opportunities presented by ICT to innovate and transform the lives of people;

**REAFFIRMING** the commitment towards the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM2015) to create an empowering and transformational ICT for an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** the importance of and significant benefits arising from regional spectrum harmonisation and the availability of the digital dividend spectrum for mobile broadband services when ASEAN achieves analogue TV switch-off by 2020;

**NOTING** the agreement reached by some ASEAN Member States<sup>1</sup> to harmonise the use of 700 MHz digital dividend spectrum, based on the Asia Pacific Telecommunity ("APT") 700 MHz band plan for mobile broadband services ;

**ENCOURAGED** by the progress and achievements made in the implementation of the AIM2015 by the ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) and ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council (ATRC) and their excellent cooperation and collaboration with Dialogue Partners;

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<sup>1</sup> The ASEAN Member States referred to here are Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

**WELCOMING** the mid-term review of the AIM2015 and its findings to refine and improve the impact and effectiveness of the initiatives;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the need to work on a post-2015 ICT vision for ASEAN;

**HEREBY AGREED TO:**

1. Intensify cooperation to implement and complete all initiatives under six strategic thrusts of the AIM2015 in order to contribute to the establishment of the ASEAN Community by 2015 and support the recommendations of the mid-term review of the AIM2015 to be implemented effectively.
2. Support innovation and infrastructure development in ASEAN to make ICT an engine of growth in the region including through the continued formulation of enabling policies and regional cooperation, and information exchange and best practice sharing such as the ASEAN CIO (Chief Information Officers) Forum and ASEAN ICT Awards.
3. Intensify cooperation for greater harmonisation of the digital dividend spectrum within ASEAN, including the APT 700 MHz band plan for the deployment of mobile broadband services.
4. Encourage the development of affordable and universal broadband access to empower ASEAN citizens and bridge digital divide, including the continued development of e-services for effective delivery of public services and appropriate policies and programmes at the national level to implement the recommendations of the ASEAN Broadband Corridor.
5. Promote cooperation to reduce international mobile roaming charges on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit to the extent that is consistent with the national laws, policies and regulations of ASEAN Member States.
6. Emphasise the continual development of human capital to create a competent ICT workforce in ASEAN through the continued development of ASEAN ICT skills standards and scholarship programmes and information exchange.
7. Strengthen digital inclusion efforts to increase ICT adoption and literacy particularly among the elderly and persons with disability, and enable ASEAN citizens to have equal opportunity to take part in the development process such as through the rollout of national broadband networks, improvements to national Universal Service Obligations (USOs) and collaboration with relevant sectors such as the education industry.
8. Build confidence and trust in network and information security infrastructures in order to further promote trade and investments, including through the

activities of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC) and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in ASEAN.

9. Collaborate to increase awareness on the importance of submarine cables to regional and global connectivity, and intensify regional cooperation to protect submarine cables from man-made and natural disasters.
10. Enhance cooperation with Dialogue Partners and international governmental organisations, and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach, where appropriate, in the development of ICT policies and programmes in order to bring full benefits to all stakeholders.
11. Prioritise the development of a new post-2015 ICT masterplan for ASEAN to ensure continuity and provide a stable, conducive environment for businesses and communities to flourish.

**ADOPTED** this Declaration at the 13<sup>th</sup> TELMIN in Singapore on 15 November 2013.