

MACTAN CEBU DECLARATION

Connected ASEAN: Enabling Aspirations

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology, on the occasion of the Twelfth ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (12th TELMIN) held in Mactan, Cebu, the Philippines, on 15 and 16 November 2012:

RECALLING the strong commitment of ASEAN Leaders in the 2007 Cebu Declaration to accelerate the establishment of an ASEAN Community by 2015, in which the Leaders agreed to hasten the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by 2015 and to transform ASEAN into a region with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour and freer flow of capital;

CONSIDERING that the ICT sector is an enabler for ASEAN's social and economic integration;

RECOGNISING that the ASEAN ICT Masterplan (AIM) 2015, with its strategic thrusts, will serve as catalyst for achieving ASEAN goals and aspirations of economic integration;

AFFIRMING that with rapid ICT development, it is important to develop e-government to provide efficient, effective and equitable public services.

NOTING that high cost of ICT services hinder accessing by many people in ASEAN Member States (AMS) to benefits from the technological advancement;

WELCOMING ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC) initiatives to (1) review the Universal Service Obligation (USO) policy for ASEAN to set minimum standards for USO in the region to include broadband access; (2) conduct an in-depth Study on Harmonisation of Interconnection, Licensing, Competition and USO; and (3) promote regional collaboration on the frequency band for digital divide; and

RESPONDING to increased frequency of information and network security activities by strengthening both international and regional collaboration to enhance security of the ASEAN information infrastructure for sustainable economic and social development;

Hereby agree to implement the following in line with AIM 2015 strategic thrusts:

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

1. Work towards a conducive, safe, secured and trusted environment and harmonised ICT rules and regulations that will promote trade, investment and entrepreneurship within and among AMS;
2. Promote and share Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) models and practices within and among AMS to be utilised in the implementation of ASEAN ICT projects and to strongly encourage the participation of the private sector in building a more conducive business environment;

PEOPLE ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

3. Further develop policy frameworks that promote widespread use of mobile broadband and facilitate the growth of affordable ICT services within and among AMS;
4. Encourage AMS to develop, promote and share best practices and experiences resulting in a non-discriminatory, transparent and reasonable environment to promote universal access (ACCESS: A-Affordable, C-Consistent, C-Countrywide, E-Efficient, S-Safe, and S-Secured) to both fixed and mobile broadband;
5. Collaborate to develop network infrastructures, content applications and online services for affordable ICT services that can be adapted for local use;
6. Develop common e-transaction framework to increase trust and confidence for businesses and people of the AMS;
7. Cooperate and participate in the building and promotion of a safe, secure and trusted online environment to enhance cyber security and counteract online threats within and among AMS;

INNOVATION

8. Provide incentives to acknowledge, recognise and reward ICT R&D efforts that promote and encourage creativity and innovation in government, businesses, citizens and other institutions;
9. Further promote the effective and efficient management of spectrum to enable innovative use of this limited resource and mitigate frequency interference;
10. Encourage the ICT industry in AMS to adopt best practices towards supporting green growth and mitigate effects of climate change by addressing the increasing industry carbon footprint and employing safer disposal methods for ICT equipment and devices.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

11. Work towards the implementation of the ASEAN Broadband Corridor by 2015 and continue to develop programmes that improve access to high-speed broadband networks and services in ASEAN;
12. Facilitate the presence of a robust and resilient information infrastructure within the ASEAN region through the development and implementation of National Frameworks on Submarine Cable Connectivity Protection and Risk Mitigation to support trade, facilitate investment, enlarge markets and accelerate the regional integration process;
13. Continue to study the feasibility of establishing an ASEAN Internet Exchange Network to facilitate peering amongst ASEAN Internet access providers so as to improve latency and speed as well as lower interconnectivity costs;
14. Further enhance policy framework development, cooperation, and sharing of best practices on the protection of data and information infrastructures to safeguard the networks among AMS;

15. Further leverage on ICT to develop disaster risk reduction and management programmes such as environment warning sensor networks to mitigate effects of natural disasters, including disaster prevention and early warning, relief and rescue, reconstruction efforts as well as sharing best practices among AMS in disaster recovery plans.
16. Continue the collaborative activities among ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) such as the ASEAN CERTS Incident Drills (ACID), so as to enhance incident investigation and coordination amongst CERTs in support of the ASEAN Network Security Action Council (ANSAC) activities;
17. Urge AMS to strengthen the cooperation on spectrum management, especially in frequency planning in order to optimise the use of spectrum in the region towards reducing costs of services and equipment as well as cross-border interference.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

18. Support the creation of an ASEAN ICT Scholarship Program to attract and support individuals in ASEAN with strong aptitude for ICT;
19. Affirm the importance of ICT skill standards within and among AMS to further develop a competitive ASEAN ICT workforce and experts through skills upgrading, so as to ensure marketability of ICT experts within and among AMS;

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

20. Encourage the establishment of strong and clear policies and programmes to accelerate the achievement of universal access to broadband within and among the AMS;
21. Improve access of broadband (fixed/mobile) Internet in rural and remote areas and develop clear policies on how to provide affordable ICT access and services;
22. Continue to promote Broadband connectivity to rural areas through new emerging technologies.
23. Urge the adoption of ICT in primary school curricula to encourage creativity, and support continuous collaboration between the ICT and Education sectors to promote the use of ICT creatively, effectively, and positively within and beyond the school environment;
24. Further encourage AMS to initiate programs and strategies to ensure every child and those with special needs in the region, including in rural, underserved and unserved areas, have access to broadband Internet; and
25. Maintain the support for continuous development and advances in ICT through the concerted efforts of all stakeholders in acquiring full benefits of technology for economic and social development so as to enable ASEAN aspirations through ICT.
26. **ADOPTED** this Declaration at the 12th ASEAN TELMIN in Mactan, Cebu, the Philippines, on 16 November 2012.