

NAY PYI TAW STATEMENT ON “ICT: ENGINE FOR GROWTH IN ASEAN”

Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology, at the eleventh ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (the 11th TELMIN) in Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

GUIDED by the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community, the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, and the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015; which chart out clear directions and practical means to integrate our peoples, cultures and individual economies;

EMPHASISING the importance of ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 which aims to provide common approaches toward ICT development in ASEAN until 2015, embodying measures to realise ASEAN Leaders' goal of establishing an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015, and TELMIN's aim for the region to become a global ICT hub and to propel ASEAN towards an inclusive, vibrant and integrated region;

RECOGNISING the capability of broadband networks and innovative services to increase the national ICT competitiveness, reduce the digital divide, and provide digital opportunities in both urban and rural areas amongst ASEAN Member States;

ENCOURAGED by global achievements in reducing the digital divide marked especially by the phenomenal growth rates in the mobile sector and the remarkable increase in Internet penetration;

WITNESSING the sustainable growth in ICT services and uptake worldwide, especially in the mobile telecommunication and broadband Internet markets, despite the economic downturn as a result of the 2008 financial crisis;

NOTING on the other hand, the increasing frequency of cyber incidents, requiring ASEAN Member States to strengthen international and regional collaboration urgently to maintain the security of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure for economic and societal development;

DESIRING to ensure networks across ASEAN are at a satisfactory level of preparedness and resiliency against both natural and man-made disasters;

RECOGNISING the existing disparities of ICT development and digital opportunities across ASEAN Member States as well as between urban and rural areas within each Member State;

ACKNOWLEDGING that rapid growth in some areas of the ICT sector and high speed connectivity are not sufficiently pervasive to bring digital opportunities to all;

ACKNOWLEDGING further that high-speed Internet access and newer technologies accessible to and affordable by all are also of great importance for making ICT an empowering and transformational tool;

EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE in the progress and achievements made during the last ten years of ASEAN cooperation in the ICT sector through the activities of the ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials (TELSOM) and the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC);

DESIRING for ICT to empower and transform the lives of our peoples and our economies, and to promote ASEAN integration at all levels;

HEREBY AGREE TO:

Jointly undertake initiatives that will make ASEAN realise the vision enshrined in the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015;

Introduce enabling policy frameworks that will increase broadband penetration across ASEAN, promote accessibility and affordability of ICT applications and services through such initiatives as connectivity to schools, advocating early ICT education;

Further cooperate in the development of an enabling environment and flexible policies to create an ASEAN Broadband Corridor that offers seamless broadband quality in the region and addresses the disparity in broadband development, taking into consideration existing connectivity within the region, and the promotion of industry participation;

Study measures to ensure seamless use of broadband across ASEAN through suitable technology solutions and enabling policy frameworks that will support affordable broadband access in the rural and less developed areas in ASEAN;

Encourage and create conditions to enhance cooperation that will increase integrity and reliability of telecommunications networks; improve security and resilience of ICT infrastructure, reduce latency and enhance speed of networks within and across ASEAN Member States, and reduce intra-ASEAN roaming charges;

Leverage on the progress of broadband infrastructure in ASEAN by promoting collaboration in digital content development and multimedia services;

Advance regional collaboration in spectrum management, cyber-security, emergency communications and ICT human resource development;

Continue to collaborate in raising awareness on cyber security, data security, Internet ethics, cyber-wellness, child online protection and prevention of human trafficking by online means through exchange of best practices and sharing of experience and resources;

Engage all interested parties including Dialogue Partners, multi-national corporations, international organisations, local industries, academia and relevant institutions in developing a framework for information security for ASEAN; and

Support through concerted efforts the adoption of ICT-based solutions and the recognition of common ICT skills in all sectors of the economy and all segments of society in order for **ICT to be an Engine for Growth in ASEAN**.

ADOPTED at the Eleventh ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (11th TELMIN) on 9 December 2011 in Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.