Role of the AIM 2020 and Final Review

The Final Review of the AIM 2020 offers the following conclusions:

1. **Coverage:** The AIM 2020 had a broad coverage that is appropriate to its role as a master strategy document for ASEAN ICT development.

2. **Impact:** The AIM 2020 provided a large number of action points that reflect its broad coverage and provide an appropriate set of research and policy development activities to support ASEAN's ICT development.

3. **Related to other Sectors:** The AIM 2020 was well integrated with a set of related ASEAN research and policy development documents.

4. **Challenges:** The structures and arrangements for Masterplan governance and action project execution appear to be somewhat opaque. It was difficult to determine what organisations and/or individuals were responsible for particular action items. It might be beneficial to publish details of parties responsible for various activities and provide contact details as part of the AIM 2020 published outputs. Along with the item below – ‘Communicating Vision’ – this would encourage greater awareness and distribution AIM 2020 outcomes. It would also make future review processes easier to execute and more effective.

5. **Communicating Vision:** There appears to be fewer publications and identifiable outcomes resulting from the Masterplan action items than might be expected. For the majority of action items, no publications were identified. This could be due to the low numbers of respondents to some of the particular action points in the survey – there may be publications that were not identified by the survey. The Mid-term Review and this Final Review both adopted an internal perspective which entailed seeking input on AIM 2020 outcomes from the individuals and organisations that were responsible for executing the various action items. There would likely be benefit in communicating more clearly and more widely the outcomes of Masterplan action items. Key businesses, industry representative bodies and consumer representative organisations with particular interest in ICT could be made more aware of Masterplan outcomes and be asked to provide input on what activities are the most beneficial and effective.

6. **Digital Divide Remains:** Across ASEAN there remains a significant digital divide which means that a proportion of the population in AMS do not have access to broadband services and are unable to participate fully in the digital economy and society as highlighted in Table 25. This remains a challenge that should unite the region.

Credit note: Final review AIM2020 has been noted by the 1st ADGMIN and related meeting on 21-22 Jan 2021. We appreciate effort from AMS and dialogue partners for their contribution on the implementation of AIM2020.
The AIM 2020 was the second ICT Masterplan following the AIM 2015 which identified six strategic thrusts, covering thematic areas similar to those addressed in the 2010 plan.

The vision statement for the AIM 2020 was: “propelling ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable, and transformative; and to enable an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community.”

A total of 28 action points were identified under 16 key initiatives.

A significant number of the projects resulted in published frameworks, outcomes and generated a series of meetings and discussions between ASEAN regulators and policymakers that resulted in significant agreement being reached between AMS.

**ASEAN Frameworks Approved by ADGMIN (previously TELMIN) during AIM2020:**
- ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance
- ASEAN Framework on International Mobile Roaming
- ASEAN Guidelines for Strengthening Resilience and Repair of Submarine Cables
- ASEAN Framework on Personal Data Protection
- ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy
- ASEAN Framework for the Next Generation
- Universal Service Obligation (USO 2.0)

The ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM 2020) articulated ASEAN’s ICT development plans for the period from 2016 to 2020. It was structured on a hierarchy of five key outcomes and eight strategic thrusts that sought to propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable, and transformative, while also enabling an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community.

The essence of AIM 2020 was to set a roadmap and develop new knowledge, formulate new policy and regulatory outcomes, and undertake activities designed to facilitate ICT development in the region. ICT is an ongoing, changing field and hence development is enormous. Development tasks include encompassing spectrum management and harmonisation, developing standards on privacy and data security, dealing with complex regulatory issues given the competition between traditional telecommunications operators and new digital platforms, raising digital literacy and access, and developing a highly skilled ICT workforce while addressing the challenge of the digital divide.