

Joint Media Statement of the 12th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting and its Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners

Cebu, the Philippines, 16 November 2012

1. The 12th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) was held in Cebu, the Philippines, on 15 – 16 November 2012. H.E. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines chaired the Meeting. H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore was the Vice-Chairman. On this occasion, the ASEAN Ministers also had separate dialogues with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

2. H.E. Jejomar C. Binay, Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines officiated the 12th ASEAN Telecommunication and IT Minister's Meeting (TELMIN-12) and its related meetings with Dialogue Partners.

3. In his speech, Vice President Jejomar C. Binay highlighted the belief of ASEAN reflected in the theme of the 12th TELMIN Meeting: "We are stronger when we are connected". By sharing best practices in telecommunications and digital infrastructure development, we not only intensify our respective communication industries, but more importantly strengthen our foothold as the world's center of information technology and business processing. The Vice President mentioned that ASEAN success in the ICT-related industry finds root in the increased investor confidence in the skill and quality of our workforce, and in the renewed optimism in government and institutions. ASEAN recognised that a larger and more connected ICT industry means more efficient services, which in turn, ensure satisfaction, encourage greater interest, and thus ultimately lead to business expansion and investments. More importantly, it also means empowering people: giving them the chance to speak out their minds and to contribute to social discourse and development, and by so doing, help find answers to the problems they are facing. At the end of the day, the work carried out by ASEAN in ICT is all about building capacities, bridging gaps, and ensuring that everyone has an equal access to information and opportunities.

CONNECTED ASEAN – ENABLING ASPIRATIONS

4. The Ministers commended the senior officials and regulators in charge of telecommunications and IT in the region for the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015 (AIM 2015). The Ministers were of the view that the first two years in the implementation of the AIM 2015 laid a strong foundation for achieving specific ICT targets towards creating an inclusive, vibrant and integrated ASEAN Community.

5. The Ministers noted that even during economic uncertainty, many ASEAN Member States have continued to invest in ICT with attention to fundamental matters such as education, innovative research and development, regulatory regime and IT industry policy, etc. These efforts have strengthened many ASEAN Member States national ICT competitiveness.

6. The Ministers adopted the Mactan Cebu Declaration, entitled “Connected ASEAN – Enabling Aspirations”, to reiterate ASEAN’s commitments to promote ICT-driven economic transformation through people engagement and empowerment, innovation, infrastructure development, human capital development, and bridging the Digital Divide. It maps out the priority actions in the implementation of the AIM 2015, acknowledging that ICT is an enabler for ASEAN economic and social development and integration.

7. The Ministers recognised the importance of information security in the broadband network and agreed to strengthen ASEAN cooperation in this field. The Ministers believed that users’ confidence in the security of new technologies and services developed for broadband network should be enhanced so that the latter can be harnessed to the fullest to create a trustworthy environment for ASEAN information society.

8. The Ministers commended the success of the first ASEAN ICT Awards which was held on 15 November 2012. They welcomed the recommendations of the study of the ASEAN Broadband Corridor and agreed to give positive consideration to implement them. They also welcomed the recommendation to strengthen Universal Service Obligation policy to facilitate the provision of broadband to every school and the completion of the first ASEAN Chief Information Officer Forum, ASEAN Cyberkids Camp 2012, Public-Private Partnership Models for ICT Project and ASEAN-EU Workshop on International Mobile Roaming Charges. The Ministers urged the officials to continue the good progress to contribute to the development and integration of the ASEAN Community.

9. The Ministers expressed their interest and welcomed the idea of conducting a mid-term review of the initiatives, actions and programmes of the AIM 2015. They acknowledged the value in taking stock of completed, on-going and planned AIM 2015 projects, as well as the significance in highlighting success stories to encourage AMS to persist in our ICT development efforts.

ICT COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

10. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the European Union, and International Telecommunications Union (ITU) for the successful implementation of their respective annual ICT work plans and joint activities with ASEAN in 2012 - 2013.

11. In light of the fact that the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and the People’s Republic of China on ICT Cooperation has expired in October 2012 and considering that the ICT environment has undergone significant changes since

2003, the Ministers of ASEAN and China agreed to amend the Memorandum of Understanding and complete the amendment in 2013;

12. The Ministers of ASEAN and China noted that the Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development signed in 2007 has expired. In order to provide guidance for future exchanges and cooperation, the Ministers of ASEAN and China agreed to adopt the Plan of Action to Deepen the China-ASEAN ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development (2012-2016).

13. The ASEAN Ministers expressed the appreciation on the series of cooperation activities organised by China in the areas of broadband communications, ICT for small and medium-sized enterprises, distance education for rural areas, cloud computing and wireless broadband; and welcomed the initiatives proposed by China in the use of ICT to upgrade traditional industries and establish e-government.

14. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for her assistance in a number of areas of cooperation including information security, human resource development, improvement of ASEAN ICT infrastructure, and utilisation and development of ICT applications under the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan for 2011-2012. The ASEAN Ministers also expressed their sincere thanks to Japan for her 5th contribution to the ASEAN-Japan ICT Cooperation Fund.

15. The Ministers of ASEAN and Japan recognised that the “ASEAN-Japan Collaboration Framework on Information Security” is progressing well and agreed to deepen and widen cooperation on information security through joint activities. Both sides also agreed to enhance the information security cooperation to a higher level and agreed to hold the “Japan-ASEAN Ministerial Policy Meeting on Cyber Security Cooperation” in Japan in September 2013 as a part of joint activities.

16. The Ministers also welcomed Japan’s proposal to expand the current cooperation to implement ASEAN Smart Network concept which will help to the realisation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity.

17. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Korea for the support and assistance in expanding digital opportunity in the ASEAN through policy consultation on the field of cyber security and spectrum management, human resources development by ICT training program and workshop, and technical assistance of ICT certification system and ICT standardization.

18. The Ministers welcomed Korea’s cooperation plan on the Korea-ASEAN ICT Partnership Project as a new collaborative strategy focusing on priority areas such as ICT infrastructure, new technology, capacity building and ICT knowledge sharing, and cooperation with international organisations, in connection with three pillars of AIM 2015.

19. The Ministers noted that the “Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (READI)” Facility is well on track to intensify interaction between EU and ASEAN on ICT, amongst others, implementing priority projects of the AIM 2015 and supporting

ASEAN in the development of transparent and coherent and harmonised ICT regulatory frameworks, in particular on spectrum management, broadband development, and reducing international roaming charges.

20. The Ministers welcomed the signing of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Cooperation on Information and Communication Technology Development in ASEAN Countries between ASEAN and ITU” to strengthen cooperation in the areas of ICT development and to assist ASEAN in the implementation of measures as set out in AIM 2015. The Ministers noted the joint initiative between ASEAN and ITU on cyber-security for CLMV in collaboration with TELSOM as well as the initiatives with individual ASEAN Member States over the years.

21. The Ministers emphasised that ASEAN is not only open to policy and regulatory dialogue but also for greater interaction with dialogue and development partners and the industry towards increasing commercial activities and investments. The Ministers also called for greater private sector participation to jointly develop competitive edge through quality infrastructure and skill-based workforce which will contribute to the efficient delivery of public services and realisation of the ASEAN Community by 2015. In this regard, the Ministers thanked the Philippines, in collaboration with UNCTAD, for successfully organising the Workshop on e-Commerce Law Harmonisation on 9 - 10 November 2012 in Cebu, the Philippines.

NEXT MEETING

22. The Ministers agreed to convene the 13th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings with Dialogue Partners in Singapore in 2013.

23. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines for their warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 12th TELMIN and its Meetings with Dialogue Partners.



LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **H.E. Pehin Dato Abdullah Bakar**, Minister of Communications of Brunei Darussalam;
2. **H.E. Chin Bunsean**, Secretary of State of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia;
3. **Dr. Basuki Yusuf Iskandar**, Secretary General, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Indonesia, representing Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia;
4. **H.E. Hiem Phommachanh**, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Lao PDR;
5. **H.E. Datuk Joseph Salang**, Deputy Minister of Information, Communications and Culture of Malaysia;
6. **H.E. U Thein Tun**, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Myanmar;
7. **H.E. Mario G. Montejo**, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology of the Philippines;
8. **H.E. Dr. Yaacob Ibrahim**, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore;
9. **H.E. Group Captain Anudith Nakornthap**, Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Thailand;
10. **H.E. Dr. Tran Duc Lai**, Deputy Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam;
11. **H.E. YANG Xueshan**, Vice Minister of Industry and Information Technology of China;
12. **H.E. Dr. Kenzo FUJISUE**, State Secretary for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan;
13. **H.E. Dae Hee KIM**, Commissioner of the Korea Communications Commission of the Republic of Korea;
14. **H.E. LIM Hong Hin**, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN.