ASEAN Member States (AMS) are leveraging on information and communications technology (ICT) to support the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). In line with this, promoting the movement of ICT human capital within the region through the establishment of mutual recognition agreement (MRA) for ICT skill certification is an integral component of human capital development under the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2015.

To realise the said MRA, ASEAN conducted a mapping of ICT skill certifications across AMS into an ICT skill competency level and certification common reference. Five skill areas were covered in the first phase of the competency level reference development conducted in 2013, namely, (1) software development, (2) ICT project management, (3) enterprise architecture design, (4) network and system administration, and (5) information system and network security. Two skill areas were added in the second phase conducted in 2014, namely, cloud computing and mobile computing.

The ICT skill definition and certification common reference facilitates the employment of ICT certified labour from any AMS throughout the region. An employer hoping to recruit an ICT professional from any AMS can specify the job’s qualification criteria in terms of the skill competency common reference, and applicants with their own national certifications can be rated based on the common reference.