

## SIEM REAP DECLARATION

Cambodia, 1 December 2017

### *ICT Connectedness and Readiness: Towards a Digitally Integrated Community*

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We, the ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology (IT), gathered in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on the occasion of the Seventeenth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (17<sup>th</sup> TELMIN) on 30 November and 1 December 2017:

**Reaffirming** the aims and purposes of ASEAN as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, in particular, to accelerate the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavours in the spirit of equality and partnerships in order to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of South-East Asian Nations;

**Recalling** the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which calls for a peaceful, stable and resilient community with enhanced capacity to respond effectively to challenges and an outward-looking region within a global community of nations, while maintaining ASEAN centrality;

**Guided by** the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in November 2015, which aims to achieve the vision of an ASEAN Economy Community that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more, resilient, inclusive, people-oriented, and people-centred community, integrated with the global economy;

**Inspired by** the ASEAN Leaders' recognition at the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in April 2017 in Manila, Philippines on TELMIN's efforts in advancing ASEAN's vision of establishing an innovative and inclusive community whereby the stakeholders will be able to fully capitalize on the technological advancement to further improve their well-being;

**Emphasising** the importance of harnessing ICT as a basis of progress and unity in line with the visions of the ASEAN Economic Community, the ASEAN Political-Security Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community;

**Recalling further** the adoption of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 (MPAC 2025) in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 6 September 2016, including digital innovation as one of the five strategic areas, that will promote competitiveness, inclusiveness, and a greater sense of Community;

**Re-emphasising** the focus of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020) to enable an economy-wide transformation that supports all sectors of the economy by adopting and embedding ICT and fostering-growth and innovation;

**Building on** the Brunei Darussalam Declaration, adopted by the 16<sup>th</sup> TELMIN in November 2016 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, which aims to realise a Connected Innovative ASEAN Community by encouraging creativity and innovation through ICT to provide greater opportunities to realise the transformative effects on ASEAN's economy and strengthening ICT cooperation among ASEAN Member States;

**Convinced** that the AIM2020 will steer ASEAN towards a more digitally enabled economy that promotes innovation, enhances digital connectivity, facilitates e-commerce transactions and enables cross-border data flows to benefit businesses and citizens in ASEAN;

**Cognisant** of the rapid development and challenges in the evolving ICT environment, and the promise of significant socio-economic benefits to ASEAN Member States;

**Desiring** to realise a digitally integrated ASEAN community by improving connectivity, enabling innovation and developing talents;

**HEREBY AGREE TO:**

1. Promote ICT connectivity and readiness in ASEAN through the development of infrastructure, innovative services, and digital skills, so as to advance into the new digital economy and transition into a digitally integrated community;
2. Forge closer cooperation among ASEAN Member States to promote regional connectivity (direct connectivity and Internet exchange points) and link landlocked developing countries to the regional and global opportunities via access to the international fibre optic network including submarine cables in the region;
3. Further enhance access to high-performing telecommunications networks, new interactive services and mobile applications to provide enhanced quality of experience for businesses and citizens in ASEAN;
4. Promote transparent and affordable international mobile roaming services in ASEAN to enhance regional integration and benefit the ASEAN community;
5. Continue to promote the use of ICT to grow, develop and modernise Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in ASEAN by fostering enabling environment and policies, increasing innovation capacities, developing digital skills and facilitating access to finance and new markets;
6. Nurture creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in ASEAN by building a vibrant and interconnected start-up ecosystem, providing mentorship and guidance, access to online markets and accelerating technology commercialisation;
7. Support the development of talents through facilitating a maker culture where new and emerging technologies can positively contribute to the advancement of ICT development in ASEAN;

8. Enhance human capital development and promote the use of ICT and new media as tools for education and capacity building;
9. Ensure digital and social inclusion among young people by promoting universal, equitable and affordable access to ICT;
10. Enhance digital data management capabilities of businesses in the region, engender trust in businesses' data management practices, foster an environment that encourages data innovation and facilitate flow of information and data for the development of Digital Economy through an ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance;
11. Strengthen information security preparedness in ASEAN by developing a coordinated approach to cybersecurity cooperation, enhancing cyber incident response capabilities, building critical information infrastructure resilience and facilitating regional cyber incident emergency response collaboration between ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs);
12. Continue working together to identify the opportunities, challenges and best practices towards Over-the-Top (OTT) Services through regional dialogue;
13. Promote ICT in the ASEAN Single Market through harmonising radio spectrum regulations, notably, in accelerating the Analogue Switch Off (ASO) and digital migration in the 700 MHz band, in line with the target set by ASEAN to achieve ASO by 2020, as well as other frequency bands recently identified by the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC);
14. Encourage ASEAN Member States to share best practices and approaches to implementing Mobile Number Portability (MNP) so as to establish ASEAN as an attractive investment destination for ICT;
15. Intensify efforts in the implementation of the AIM2020 by focusing on the marginalised, underserved and vulnerable communities, and undertaking mid-term review to take stock of the progress and identify areas for improvement;
16. Enhance cooperation with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, International Telecommunications Union (ITU), International Organisations and stakeholders in the implementation of innovative ICT programmes in support of the AIM2020;

**Adopted** this Declaration at the 17<sup>th</sup> TELMIN in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 1 December 2017.