ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (AMMSTI) Statement on Artificial Intelligence (AI)
7 June 2024

1. The Meeting **RECOGNISES** the significant transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a key driver of technological advancement and innovation and **ASCERTAIN** the need for concerted action and collaboration to harness the benefits of AI while proactively addressing its multifaceted social, economic, and ethical implications.

2. The Meeting **NOTES** that AI is projected to significantly impact the ASEAN economy, potentially resulting in a 10 to 18% GDP uplift, valued at approximately USD1 trillion by the year 2030[1].

3. The Meeting **NOTES** the official launch of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) which was officially launched at the 23rd ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council in September 2023, highlighting AI as one of the key areas to be discussed under the emerging topics provision.

4. The Meeting **COMMENDS** the launch of the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics, which is used as a foundational document to guide the effective governance of AI in the region and balancing the economic benefits of the rapidly advancing AI technology and its associated risks. This Guide, which includes use cases for trustworthy AI, will serve as a practical and actionable tool to facilitate the design, development, and responsible deployment of AI technologies in the region.

5. The Meeting **NOTES** the establishment of a Working Group under ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM) on AI Governance, aimed at addressing pertinent issues concerning AI governance, including the governance of generative AI, and fostering safe, responsible and ethical use of AI.

6. The Meeting **WELCOMES** the Launch of ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (COSTI) Tracks on AI (ACT on AI) for 2024-2025, aimed at expanding regional capacity development initiatives on AI and **NOTES** the Discussion Paper on the Responsible Development and Use of Generative AI in ASEAN, which will

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[1] https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/ASEAN-for-Business-Bulletin-March-2024.pdf

complement and enhance the ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics. The Discussion Paper identifies critical policy, legal and regulatory gaps in Generative AI development and implementation, in addition to offering governance and policy recommendations for their solution.

7. The Meeting **REITERATES** the significance of promoting a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration among ASEAN Member States to responsibly harness the potential of emerging technologies, including AI, in tackling common challenges and opportunities in areas such as healthcare, education, information, agriculture, manufacturing and environmental sustainability.

8. The Meeting **RECOGNISES** the potential of leveraging AI technologies to foster inclusive and equitable economic growth, improved access to education, healthcare, and essential services, and mitigate socio-economic disparities within our societies, with a commitment to ensuring the equitable distribution of AI benefits across all segments of society.

9. The Meeting **EMPHASISES** the importance of investing in education, training, continuous public engagement, and capacity-building initiatives to equip our workforce with the necessary skills and knowledge to harness the potential of AI technologies.

10. The Meeting **COMMITS** to sharing best practices and resources to support lifelong learning and skills development on AI. The Meeting also **NOTES** that Public-Private Partnerships play a pivotal role in upskilling and reskilling our workforce by facilitating the development of tailored training programs that meet the industry needs and bridge skill gaps.

11. The Meeting **UNDERSCORES** the importance of investing in AI infrastructure, encompassing data centres, computing resources, and connectivity, to bolster the advancement and deployment of responsible AI applications and services throughout ASEAN. The Meeting **ENCOURAGES** collaborative efforts towards the establishment of regional AI infrastructure initiatives and platforms to facilitate knowledge exchange, data sharing, technology transfer and collaboration among researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. The Meeting **RECOGNISES** that cooperation on the development and utilisation of Large Language Models (LLMs) can greatly expedite AI innovation that resonates with local languages and cultures.

12. The Meeting **EMPHASISES** the critical need of robust data governance frameworks and mechanisms to safeguard data privacy, security, and integrity, while also fostering data sharing, interoperability, and innovation in AI applications. Additionally, the

Meeting **COMMITS** to collaborating on the development of standards and protocols for data governance and protection.

13. The Meeting **ADVOCATES** for the continuous monitoring and proactive management of potential drawbacks, ethical use and risks associated with the rapid implementation of AI technologies in the ASEAN region.

14. The Meeting **PLEDGES** to uphold ethical principles and values in the development and deployment of AI systems, ensuring transparency, fairness, inclusivity, accountability, and respect for human dignity and rights.

15. The Meeting **ENCOURAGES** collaboration across the ASEAN region for the ease of Research and Development (R&D) of emerging AI technologies beneficial to all ASEAN countries.

16. The Meeting **COMMITS** to fostering collaboration and partnerships among ASEAN Member States, as well as with Dialogue Partners, Development Partners, regional and international organisations, academia, industry and community to share knowledge, expertise, and resources and to promote collaborative research and innovation in AI and related fields, with a view to advance our economies and societies in an inclusive, responsible and sustainable way.

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