The 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings
Bangkok, Thailand, 16 - 17 January 2025

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The 5th ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting (ADGMIN) was held in Bangkok, Thailand on **16 - 17 January 2025**. His Excellency Mr. Prasert Jantararuangtong, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, chaired the Meeting with His Excellency Mr. Nguyen Manh Hung, Minister of Information and Communications of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, as the Vice-Chair.

Secure, Innovative, Inclusive: Shaping ASEAN's Digital Future

2. The Meeting acknowledged the significant progress made in achieving the eight desirable outcomes under the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM 2025) while all remaining Enabling Actions (EAs) and on-going projects are expected to be completed by the end of 2025. It emphasized the importance of delivering successful outcomes, in particular trusted digital services, undergirded by robust efforts to enhance cybersecurity and the prevention of consumer harm, strengthening e-government service, empowering our communities, and increasing capability for business and our peoples with digital skills and talent.

3. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts of the ASEAN Working Group on Anti-Online Scams (WG-AS) as a collaborative platform to combat online scams across digital and telecommunications channels. The Meeting welcomed the Report of the Online Scams Activities in ASEAN (2023–2024), which aims to consolidate all information sharing, enhance gap analysis and promote cross-sector collaboration in addressing online scams throughout the region. Additionally, the Meeting also welcomed the ASEAN Recommendations on Anti-Online Scams as a guiding framework for ASEAN Member States when implementing national and regional efforts to combat online scams.

4. The Meeting also welcomed the progress made towards the operationalisation of the ASEAN Regional CERT, following the inaugural ASEAN Regional CERT Taskforce meeting held in Singapore on 16 August 2024 under Malaysia's Coordinatorship. The ASEAN Regional CERT serves to strengthen regional cyber resilience through timely information exchanges and the sharing of best practices among ASEAN Member States on cyber threats and attacks. It will serve as a dedicated platform for in-person activities, including cyber exercises and CERT-to-CERT capacity building programs, to promote cohesive collaboration across ASEAN.

5. The Meeting acknowledged the endorsement of the ASEAN Checklist for the Implementation of the Norms of Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace at the 5th Cyber-CC and noted that such a Checklist can be a useful reference for States to take practical steps towards implementing the voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in line with national priorities and capacities.

6. The Meeting noted the ongoing negotiation progress of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) to create value and build on existing agreements and to accelerate ASEAN's digital transformation and improve cooperation in anti-online scams and cybersecurity for a more inclusive and secure digital economy.

7. The Meeting acknowledged the efforts of the Working Group on Digital Data Governance (WG-DDG) in advancing the adoption and interoperability of ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses (MCCs), including through initiatives like the Joint Mapping Guide with the Ibero-American Data Protection Network. It also welcomed the Operational Framework for Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP), encouraging ASEAN Member States to adopt these certifications to build trust, facilitate cross-border data flows, and strengthen the region's digital services market. The meeting also welcomed the ASEAN Guide on Data Anonymisation, as a practical tool to promote responsible and innovative data use across the region.

8. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on AI Governance (WG-AI) to oversee ASEAN's initiatives on artificial intelligence (AI), recognizing its transformative potential across sectors. It acknowledged the central coordination and advisory role of ADGSOM and WG-AI in advancing AI governance. The Meeting also welcomed the Expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics – Generative AI, which builds on the 2024 Guide with policy recommendations to address Generative AI concerns while fostering innovation. The meeting further invited other sectoral bodies to explore AI applications in their fields and collaborate with ADGSOM on AI-related matters.

9. The Meeting acknowledged the completion of the project Digital Identification in ASEAN - Baseline Study on How ASEAN Leverages the Digitisation of ID, which aims to promote the development and implementation of robust digital identification systems across ASEAN Member States. The report has identified the gaps and challenges and offers recommendations on how ASEAN can use digital ID systems to accomplish these goals while maintaining security, privacy, and inclusivity. The initiative on ASEAN digital identification will serve as the key implementing measure for the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement.

10. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Submarine Cables (WG-SC) as a platform to facilitate the expeditious repair, maintenance, removal, and protection of submarine cables. The Meeting noted the WG-SC's ongoing work to enhance the ASEAN Guidelines for Strengthening the Resilience and Repair of Submarine Cables (2019).

11. The Meeting commends the progress of 5G deployment in each AMS and welcomes regional efforts toward mobile roaming tariff reduction, spectrum management and coordination, exploring the feasibility of establishing an ASEAN internet exchange network, and studying low-carbon emissions in telecommunications infrastructure. The Meeting also welcomes APT and Russia as new dialogue partners for the ATRC, alongside existing partners such as China and Japan. The Meeting underscores the importance of strengthening ATRC collaboration on SIM card control and implementing additional measures to more effectively prevent cross-border scams.

12. The Meeting noted the project implementation of the Advanced Spectrum Monitoring Guidance on Mobile Broadband Technology for ASEAN Member States (Mon MBT) that is supported by the ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund. The project successfully gathers AMS views and recommendations to support the effectiveness and efficiency, quality, and harmonization of spectrum usage. Further, the Meeting also noted the progressive steps taken to implement A Framework for a Center of Excellence for Rural Digital ASEAN (CERDAS).

13. The Meeting looked forward to the Final Review of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, which will highlight significant outcomes and key achievements as well as the development of the New ASEAN Digital Masterplan, aimed at advancing continuous digital transformation, accelerating ongoing digitalization efforts to meet future demands, and providing strategic direction for all ASEAN Member States.

14. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the Bangkok Digital Declaration, recognizing the critical importance of cybersecurity, innovation, and inclusivity in building a resilient and prosperous digital future for ASEAN. It also emphasized the need to shape the new ASEAN Digital Masterplan, using it as a framework for engaging with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners and international organizations on digital cooperation initiatives.

DIGITAL COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

15. The Meeting looked forward to deepening cooperation with Dialogue and Development Partners to strengthen partnerships that leverage expertise and

resources in advancing ASEAN's digital agenda and promoting ASEAN's digital standards and best practices on the global stage.

16. The Meeting acknowledged the adoption of the ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Facilitating Cooperation in Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Ecosystem at the 27th ASEAN-China Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, aimed at strengthening cooperation in technological innovation and industry development in the digital economy between ASEAN and China. The Meeting expressed appreciation to China for the progress made on the Action Plan for Implementing the ASEAN-China Partnership on Digital Economy Cooperation (2021-2025) and the 2024 ASEAN-China Digital Work Plan. Additionally, the Meeting endorsed the ASEAN-China 2025 Digital Work Plan, including exchange and cooperation in digital and ICT infrastructure, submarine cable protection, cloud computing, AI, cyber and data security, and the development of the China-ASEAN Action Plan on the Cooperation in Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Ecosystem (2026-2030), and a Joint Guide on the Mapping of the ASEAN MCCs and China's Standard Contractual Clauses for Cross Border Data Flows in 2025.

17. The Meeting expressed appreciation to Japan for the progress made on the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan for 2024, which covers the following areas: (i) digital connectivity and infrastructure; (ii) digital transformation such as Open RAN; (iii) resilience, reliability and security such as capacity building activities through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC) and cooperation for the ASEAN Regional Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT); (iv) digital policies, regulations and standards such as AI governance; and (v) cooperation and coordination through active participation in ASEAN-related meetings, the ASEAN-Japan ICT Cooperation Fund and the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF). The Meeting also welcomed the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan for 2025, which focuses on: (i) AI policies; (ii) Digital infrastructure; (iii) cybersecurity; and (iv) other areas of interest for ASEAN such as data governance/Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT).

18. The meeting commended the Republic of Korea (ROK) for its commitment to advancing digital cooperation with ASEAN, and acknowledged the progress of the ASEAN-ROK Digital Work Plan 2024, focusing on the implementation of the ASEAN Cyber Shield Project, which contributes to promoting cybersecurity resilience across the ASEAN, and the approval of the Korea-ASEAN Digital Innovation Flagship (KADIF) Projects. The meeting expressed its expectation for the ROK-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2025, which includes implementation of the ROK-ASEAN Digital Academy for cultivating a new generation of digital professionals in the region as part of KADIF projects. The Meeting reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the ASEAN-ROK digital partnership through

mutual respect, trust, and benefit, based on the principles of the ASEAN-ROK comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

19. The Meeting acknowledged the adoption of the ASEAN–India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit on 10 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, aimed at strengthening cooperation on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), Financial Technology, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing, and Sustainable Financing and Investment. The Meeting also noted the progress made in implementing the cooperation activities in the ASEAN-India 2024 Digital Work Plan through capacity-building programs and the successful conclusion of the inaugural ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue which was held on 16 October 2024 in Singapore. Additionally, the Meeting welcomed the ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan for 2025, which includes the themes: (i) ICT training programs; (ii) ICT capacity-building programs; and (iii) the India-ASEAN Regulators' Conference. The Meeting also welcomed operationalization of a special 'ASEAN-India Fund for Digital Future'.

20. The Meeting acknowledged the adoption of the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Promoting Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence at the 12th ASEAN-United States Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 11 October 2024, which aims to share a mutual interest in unlocking the significant potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) while also mitigating its risks. The Meeting welcomed the progress of the ASEAN-U.S. Work Plan 2023-2025, which includes the ASEAN-U.S. 2024 Digital Work Plan priorities, such as: (i) artificial intelligence (AI); (ii) cybersecurity; (iii) undersea cables; (iv) cloud computing; (v) combatting online scams; and (vi) supporting the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) negotiations. The Meeting noted that the ASEAN-U.S. 2025 Digital Work Plan priorities would be a continuation of the 2024 priorities.

21. The Meeting expressed appreciation and welcomed Russia as ADGSOM Dialogue Partner, building on existing cooperation frameworks, and seizing the opportunities brought by the digital transformation. The Meeting noted the role of digital technologies in shaping economic and social development in ASEAN and Russia, emphasized the potential of collaborative action, and stressed the common challenges, such as digital divide. The Meeting has identified the priority collaboration areas with Russia, based on themes of ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 and Comprehensive Plan of Action to Implement ASEAN-Russia Strategic Partnership (2021-2025). The Meeting further noted the ASEAN-Russia Digital Work Plan, which includes areas of cooperation such as: (i) broadband infrastructure; (ii) e-government; and (iii) emerging technologies and digital skills.

22. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the EU for its continued support under the ASEAN-EU 2024 Digital Work Plan, which includes the development of the ASEAN Digital Index (ADIX) based on work and experiences of the EU's Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI). The ADIX is strengthening the evidence base for digital economy policy through internationally comparable indicators, helping ASEAN achieve its aspirations for the next chapter in digital development. The Meeting also welcomed the ASEAN-EU 2025 Digital Work Plan for the development of the ADIX, supported by the EU-funded Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI), which is in the process of finalizing the indicator set and coordinating data collection with ASEAN Member States.

23. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the ITU for its committed support towards advancing the development of the digital sector in ASEAN, particularly in the context of ASEAN-ITU Priority Cooperation Areas (2024-2026) to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and the ITU, and encourages AMS to take the opportunity of ITU resources and technical assistance to accelerate digital transformation in the region. In this regard, the Meeting endorsed the ASEAN Digital Government Technical Framework, as well as the direct assistance planned and in progress to individual AMS. The Meeting also extended its deep appreciation on the occasion of ITU's 160th anniversary in 2025 reflecting its remarkable journey since 1865.

24. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the APT for its committed support towards ASEAN through collaborative activities, particularly training courses and a web dialogue. The Meeting noted with appreciation the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2024-2026, which includes five strategic pillars that align with the development of ASEAN Digital sector. The Meeting welcomed opportunities for further cooperation with the APT in areas of common interest to promote the advancement of the digital economy, such as Cybersecurity Workforce Development, Submarine cable protection, and Training on Satellite licensing. Further, the Meeting endorsed the ASEAN-APT Digital Work Plan for 2025 and welcomed the invitation to the APT Ministerial Meeting to be held on 30-31 May 2025 in Japan.

25. The Meeting reiterated ASEAN's commitment to pursuing policy and regulatory dialogue with all Dialogue and Development Partners. It also called for greater participation from the private sector to support a secure, innovative, and inclusive approach to shaping ASEAN's digital future.

NEXT MEETING

26. The Meeting agreed to convene the 6th ADGMIN and Related Meetings in Viet Nam in 2026.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

27. The Meeting expressed appreciation to Thailand for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangement made for the 5th ADGMIN and Related Meetings.