

**The 19th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology
Ministers Meeting and Related Meetings**
Vientiane, Lao PDR, 25 October 2019

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The 19th ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) was held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on 24 and 25 October 2019. H.E. Dr. Thansamay Kommasith, Minister of Post and Telecommunications of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, chaired the Meeting, and H.E. Gobind Singh Deo, Minister of Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia was the Vice-Chair. The Ministers also held consultations with their counterparts from the People's Republic of China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.

SMART CONNECTIVITY FOR ASEAN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

2. The Ministers agreed to rename the ASEAN ICT ministerial and senior officials' bodies to the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) and the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM), respectively, to reflect the role of ICT as an enabler of digital transformation for other sectors. The Ministers also adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the ADGMIN and approved the TOR of the ADGSOM. The Ministers recognised the need for greater cross-pillar coordination, and engagement with the private sector and industry players in recognition of their role as key drivers of the digital economy.

3. The Ministers commended the senior officials and regulators in charge of telecommunications and information technology in the region for the good progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020), and agreed to further intensify cooperation to complete the AIM2020, in order to propel ASEAN towards a digitally-enabled economy that is secure, sustainable, and transformative; and an innovative, inclusive and integrated ASEAN Community.

4. The Ministers were pleased with the progress in the development of the ASEAN Cross-Border Data Flow Mechanism and the ASEAN Data Classification Framework, and the inaugural meetings of the ASEAN Digital Innovation Forum and ASEAN Data Protection and Privacy Forum, as the key initiatives under the ASEAN Framework on Digital Data Governance which is aimed at strengthening the data ecosystem, achieving legal and regulatory alignment of data regulations and governance frameworks; and fostering data-driven innovation across ASEAN Member States to boost the growth of digital economy in the region.

5. The Ministers adopted the ASEAN Guidelines for Strengthening Resilience and Repair of Submarine Cables which aimed to provide guidance to relevant parties and facilitate the process for applying for the necessary permits from the various ASEAN Member States, with a view to expediting repairs of submarine cables by minimising permit requirements and cost, and benefitting businesses and consumers in the region.

6. The Ministers recognised the continued efforts in bridging the digital divide in ASEAN and adopted *the ASEAN Framework for the Next Generation Universal Service Obligation (USO 2.0)* which set out recommended approaches for policymakers to align USO policies and programmes that focus on both the supply-side connectivity and demand-sides solutions.

7. The Ministers also reaffirmed the importance of promoting regional cybersecurity collaborations and enhancing coordination among ASEAN Member States on cybersecurity policy development and capacity building. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the recommendations for establishing the ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to facilitate capacity enhancement, real-time coordination and threat information sharing amongst national CERTs in ASEAN and with ASEAN Dialogue Partners. The Ministers looked forward to Singapore's paper on the implementation plan for the establishment of the ASEAN CERT.

8. In following the ASEAN Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity in 2018 and in response to the proposal of the 4th ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity on the 2nd October 2019 to enhance cross-sectoral coordination on cybersecurity in ASEAN, the ICT Ministers agreed to establish the Coordinating Committee on Cybersecurity which shall comprise of representatives from relevant sectoral bodies to strengthen coordination efforts on cybersecurity policy in ASEAN while preserving exclusive work domains on cybersecurity of the relevant sectoral bodies.

9. The Ministers welcomed the progress in the development of ASEAN Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) Protection Framework which promotes best-practices in CII protection with recommendations for protecting Critical information infrastructures from disruptions that have potential cross border impacts.

10. The Ministers welcomed the recommendations to establish a best-practices guide in developing sustainable e-service delivery platforms and e-government applications in ASEAN, which include greater participation by private sector, developing secure and interoperable platforms, exchanging best-practices, and adopting national e-government strategy in ASEAN Member States.

11. The Ministers welcomed the recommendations of the 1st ASEAN Conference on 5G which outline the key areas for regional collaboration, including 5G infrastructure, frequencies, use cases and security.

12. The Ministers adopted the Vientiane Declaration on Smart Connectivity for ASEAN Digital Transformation to advance ASEAN's desire to strengthen digital connectivity and accessibility, so as to pave the way for a thriving digital economy and society in the region.

ICT COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

13. The Ministers looked forward to further deepening the cooperation with Dialogue Partners in enhancing ICT policies, developing human resources, exploring emerging technologies for adoption, and improving the capacity to address cybersecurity risks in the implementation of AIM2020.

14. The Ministers acknowledged the positive results from ASEAN-China ICT-related cooperation activities supported by China in 2019, including exchange and collaboration in such areas as big data, cyber security industry, emergency communication technologies and applications for disaster prevention, and smart city. The Ministers welcomed the 2020 China-ASEAN Year of Cooperation on Digital Economy and endorsed the China-ASEAN ICT Work Plan for 2020, including efforts to organize the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2020 China-ASEAN Year of Cooperation on Digital Economy as well as high-level fora; organize seminars and trainings focusing on digital economy development and 5G, interconnectivity, cyber security and ICT in poverty alleviation; carry out joint research in the field of digital economy as well as exchange and cooperation related to digital economy industry development and standardization; establish industry cooperation platform.

15. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to Japan for its assistance in various areas of cooperation in 2019, including the Information Security Workshop for ISPs, the Workshop on Smart City, and the various cybersecurity training programmes delivered at the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre in Bangkok. The Ministers endorsed the 2020 ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan which supports the implementation of the AIM2020 initiatives relevant to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by digitalisation.

16. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to the Republic of Korea for its support on various cooperation activities including global consulting projects and Information Access Centers, which facilitate digital innovation and strengthen ASEAN-Korea smart connectivity, ICT capacity and cybersecurity. The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the 2020 ASEAN-Korea ICT Work Plan. The Ministers expressed their commitment to promoting cooperation to foster ASEAN-Korea digital ecosystem, to maximise the benefits and development of emerging technologies, such as 5G and artificial intelligence, and ultimately facilitate the efficient implementation and achievement of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) and the global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

17. The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the 2020 ASEAN-EU ICT Work Plan during the 12th TELSOM+EU meeting to advance the cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including the on-going development of an ASEAN digital economy and society benchmarking index under the Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Instrument (E-READI) Facility.

18. The Ministers welcomed the United States' assistance in the successful conclusion of the 2019 ASEAN-U.S. ICT Work Plan conducted under the auspices of the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, including the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Digital Economy Series, USAID's efforts on Next-Generation Universal Service towards Ubiquitous Broadband Ecosystems (USO 2.0), USAID IGNITE, training initiatives like the ASEAN International Visitors' Leadership Program (IVLP), U.S. Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI), the inaugural ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue and the Workshop on Digital Trade. The Ministers also welcomed joint activities with the US-ASEAN Business Council, including the ASEAN-US Digital Policy Consultative Forum and the ATRC Stakeholders' Consultative Dialogue. Recalling the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation adopted at the 6th ASEAN-U.S. Summit in November 2018, which reaffirmed our shared vision of "a peaceful, secure, and resilient regional cyberspace". The Ministers welcomed the endorsement of the 2020 ASEAN-US

ICT Work Plan during the 5th TELSOM+US meeting with planned cooperation in the areas of digital economy, network security, technological innovation and growth-focused economic policies.

19. The Ministers acknowledged India for successful commissioning of Centres of Excellence in Software Development and Training (CESDT) in Cambodia and Lao PDR and similar ongoing activities in Vietnam and Myanmar in addition to its assistance in the development of ICT human resources, through various knowledge sharing and capacity building programs in ICTs. The Ministers endorsed the 2020 ASEAN-India ICT Work Plan to further the cooperation which supports the AIM2020 initiatives including the establishment of connectivity of NKN (National Knowledge Network) with ASEAN Countries and capacity building and knowledge sharing in the areas of Internet of Things (IoT) & 5G, ICT in Disaster Management, Creating smart societies through ICT, Cyber Forensics, Next Generation Transmission Technologies, Future Trends in Mobile Communication, Advanced Satellite Communication and Regulatory and Policy issues.

20. The Ministers expressed their appreciation to ITU for its sustained support in advancing the development of the ICT sector in ASEAN, specifically in the areas of Child Online Protection, *Next Generation Universal Service Obligation (USO 2.0)* and Cybersecurity, including direct assistance extended in numerous areas to individual ASEAN Member States. The Ministers further noted on the jointly developed frameworks namely *the ITU-ASEAN Framework for Next Generation Universal Service Obligation (USO 2.0)* and *the ITU-ASEAN Child Online Protection Framework: Partnering with Industry*, which had been endorsed at the 9th TELSOM+ITU meeting on 23 October 2019 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

21. The Ministers reiterated ASEAN's commitment to pursue policy and regulatory dialogue with its Dialogue Partners and ITU, as well as with the private sector in the effort to develop ecosystems that are conducive to the growth of digitally-enabled economy and society in line with the goals of the ASEAN Community.

NEXT MEETING

22. The Ministers agreed to convene at the 1st ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and its Meetings with Dialogue Partners and ITU in Malaysia in 2020.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

23. The Ministers expressed appreciation to the Government and the People of Lao People's Democratic Republic for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 19th TELMIN and Related Meetings.



LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **H.E. Dato Abdul Mutalib Yusof**, Minister of Transport and Infocommunications of Brunei Darussalam;
2. **H.E. Tram Iv Tek**, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia;
3. **H.E. Johnny G. Plate**, Minister of Communications and Informatics of Indonesia;
4. **H.E. Dr. Thansamay Kommasith**, Minister of Post and Telecommunications of Lao PDR;
5. **H.E. Gobind Singh Deo**, Minister of Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia;
6. **H.E. Thant Sin Maung**, Union Minister of Transport and Communications of Myanmar;
7. **H.E. Eliseo M. Rio, JR.**, Undersecretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines;
8. **H.E. S. Iswaran**, Minister for Communications and Information of Singapore;
9. **H.E. Newin Chochaiyathip**, Vice Minister of Digital Economy and Society of Thailand;
10. **H.E. Nguyen Thanh Hung**, Vice Minister of Information and Communications of Viet Nam;
11. **H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary General of ASEAN;
12. **H.E. Miao Wei**, Minister of Industry and Information Technology of People's Republic of China;
13. **H.E. Yoshida Makiko**, Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan;
14. **H.E. Dr. Choi, Kiyoung**, Minister for ICT Policy, Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning of the Republic of Korea;