



VIENTIANE DECLARATION ON PROMOTING THE REALISATION OF BROADBAND ACROSS ASEAN



The ASEAN Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology, gathering at their 9th Meeting on 15 – 16 October 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR:

INSPIRED by the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter which establishes a legal and institutional framework for ASEAN in pursuing the vision of realising the ASEAN Community as a concert of Southeast Asian nations, outward-looking, living in peace, stability and prosperity, bonded together in partnership in a just, democratic, and harmonious environment, dynamic development and ever-closer economic integration and in a community of caring societies, conscious of its ties of history, aware of its shared cultural heritage and bound by a common regional integrity;

GUIDED by the Roadmap for the ASEAN Community (2009-2015), comprising three Blueprints for the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan II (2009-2015), adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at their 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Hua Hin, Cha-Am, Thailand;

GUIDED further particularly by the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint which sets out the targets and timelines to accelerate the regional economic integration and to narrow down the development gaps in moving forward the community-building process in a more balanced, inclusive and sustainable manner for the realisation of a people-oriented ASEAN Community;

WELCOMING the commitment of the 14th ASEAN Summit on 1 March 2009 in Hua Hin, Cha-Am, Thailand, to engage in cooperation with the private sector to, amongst others, champion specific projects for timely integration of ASEAN under the theme “Walk together, work together toward AEC”;

RECOGNISING that Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is important for ASEAN Member States to be a force in the global market for economic prosperity and mutual benefit of all ASEAN Member States, and that ICT is an indispensable tool and that universal and affordable access to ICT, notably to a high-speed direct connection between national information infrastructures within ASEAN, plays a vital role in achieving higher productivity, socio-economic development and quality-of-life improvement at all levels of society in the ASEAN region;

RECOGNISING further the progress in the implementation of the 2000 e-ASEAN Framework Agreement and the Vientiane Action Program (VAP) 2004 – 2010 on concerted and collective efforts in building of the Information Society and in enhancing the region’s connectivity and competitiveness;

BUILDING on other international commitments, including those under the Geneva Declaration of Principles on Building the Information Society: A Global Challenge in the New Millennium (December 2003) and the Tunis Commitment of the World Summit on Information Society (November 2005); and

ACKNOWLEDGING the points of view of the civil society, academia, private sector, international organisations and other stakeholders in the realisation of broadband connectivity across ASEAN towards forging closer cooperation among ASEAN countries;

HEREBY AGREE TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING:

Jointly promote ASEAN-wide broadband initiatives to enable ICT to become a major empowering and transformative force in the ASEAN Community building process;

Further promote the expeditious development of next generation networks by establishing an ASEAN broadband infrastructure connecting to high speed national information infrastructures through facilitative policies and regulation as well as by leveraging on other regional backbone initiatives, to ensure sufficient capacity and route diversity, to have adequate infrastructure for redundancy and to avoid over reliance on any particular regional system between the ASEAN Member States and to extend broadband access to the ASEAN communities by 2015;

Increase broadband penetration through, amongst others, technology neutral approach, affordable solutions, innovative applications and usage models as well as relevant content to stimulate information flow within the region to further the goal of ASEAN as an inclusive, vibrant and integrated region;

Further cooperate to create a conducive business environment that promotes reliable information networks, information security, consumer safeguards and intellectual property rights to encourage development of local online businesses and content, recognising that localized and multilingual content will serve as an important catalyst to enhance demand for broadband;

Ensure efficient spectrum management by facilitating greater harmonisation and coordination activities within ASEAN to promote the realisation of broadband services;

Encourage the introduction of new broadband services through the utilisation of digital dividend, where available;

Encourage Universal Service Obligation (USO) and other universal access strategies in ASEAN to include broadband;

Further encourage active usage and delivery of cross-border and cross-sectoral e-services in key sectors including logistics, education, healthcare, transport and energy, through regional recommendations, guidelines and interoperable broadband platforms

to create an enabling environment for innovation in these sectors, and by facilitating citizen interaction with public administrations;

Ensure the provision of secure and affordable broadband access to schools, public healthcare centres, libraries and other public facilities in order to promote the use of broadband to the fullest extent;

Implement measures to build a resilient infrastructure with a high level of security to enable the continued provision of public services in the event of natural disasters;

Enhance citizen's awareness of cyber-threats, cyber-wellness and information security, in particular for online transactions as well as to implement policies and legislation to ensure cyber security, personal data protection, and privacy and a safe and healthy environment for internet users particularly for young people and children.

Engage the ICT industry to establish a shared and coordinated mechanism between national and regional Internet exchanges and gateways to achieve the efficiency of Internet traffic and lower the cost of Internet tariff amongst ASEAN Member States;

Strengthen cooperation on human resource development, particularly on regional standardisation of ICT human capital competencies and mutual recognition of ICT skills certification, to create an ICT-skilled workforce in ASEAN, and to promote more productive use of ICT; and

Enhance international cooperation at both regional and international levels through continuous collaboration to address common international issues on broadband.

ADOPTED at the Ninth ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN) on 15 October 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.