

**REPORT OF THE 10th ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS &
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING
(TELSOM-10)**

12 – 14 October 2009, Vientiane, Lao PDR

“Promoting the Realization of Broadband across ASEAN”

INTRODUCTION

1. The 10th ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Senior Officials Meeting (TELSOM) was held on 12 – 14 October 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.
2. The Meeting was attended by all ASEAN Member States, AICTC Officials and staff members of the ASEAN Secretariat. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS OF OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

3. Dr. Moedjiono, Senior Adviser for International Relation and Digital Divide to the Minister of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia, on behalf Dr. Basuki Yusuf Iskandar, the Director-General for Posts and Telecommunications of Indonesia, delivered the Opening Remarks of the outgoing Chairman. In his Opening Remarks, he highlighted that significant ICT initiatives and developments have been proposed and implemented during the chairmanship of Indonesia towards building an ASEAN Community, especially on the realization of the “Bali Declaration on forging partnership to advance high speed connection to bridge digital divide in ASEAN”. He also mentioned that the ASEAN ICT Master Plan had been initiated and it was expected to be an important guide towards enhancing ASEAN ICT cooperation in the fast changing ICT environment to better position ASEAN as an attractive ICT market, investment and production base.
4. The outgoing chairman conveyed his sincere gratitude to Member States, ASEAN ICT Centre and the ASEAN Secretariat for their support and cooperation given to Indonesia during his Chairmanship in 2008 - 2009. He also thanked the government of Lao PDR for the warm welcome and excellent arrangements for the 10th TELSOM Meeting. He wished the incoming TELSOM Chair and Vice Chair a successful year ahead.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

5. The Meeting unanimously elected Lao PDR and Malaysia as the Chair and Vice Chair of the 10th TELSOM, respectively.

6. Dr. Snith Xaphakdy, Director-General of Planning and Cooperation of the National Authority for Posts and Telecommunications (ANPT) of Lao PDR, as the Chairman of the 10th TELSOM, welcomed all delegates to Vientiane. He expressed sincere thanks to the outgoing chair for his successful chairmanship last year.

7. In his Opening Statement, the TELSOM chair emphasised the importance of the broadband networks and services in contributing to higher productivity, socio-economic development and quality-of-life improvement at all levels of the society in the ASEAN region. As such, he proposed that the 10th TELSOM discussed on ways and means to promote the realisation of broadband across ASEAN. He wished ASEAN Member States to continue extend the cooperation spirit in advancing regional activities for mutual benefit.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF AGENDA

8. The Meeting considered and adopted the Agenda, as in **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: BUSINESS ARRANGEMENT

9. The Meeting was held in plenary.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DECISIONS/FOLLOW-UP REQUIREMENTS FROM THE ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC) COUNCIL AND OTHER ASEAN COORDINATING COMMITTEES

5.1 41st ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting

10. The Meeting noted the following decisions of the 41st AEM Meeting held on 13 – 14 August 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand:

- To assess the effectiveness of the measures adopted and the contribution of the implementation of the AEC Blueprint has made to economic growth, employment, competitiveness and social welfare within ASEAN; and
- To encourage more sectoral focused consultations between the private sector and relevant sectoral bodies or working groups.

11. The Meeting noted that there are three (3) different sets of the AEC Scorecard reports to be produced for three different audiences, i.e. the Leaders, the Ministers and officials. The first report of the Scorecard would cover the period from 1 January 2008 to 31 August 2009, and the subsequent reports would be based on two reporting periods ending 30 June and on 31 December each year.

12. The Meeting noted that the 1st set of the ICT related topics in AEC measures of the AEC Scorecards, appearing as **ANNEX 3**, has captured the ICT development in the period of 1 January 2008 to 31 August 2009. The Meeting also noted that the 1st ICT Scorecards have well captured the status of ASEAN ICT progress.

13. The Meeting also noted that the TELSOM project on “ASEAN ICT Skill Standards Development” which was completed in January 2009 can complement an AEC measure on “Facilitate MRA for qualification in IT professional skills”. As such, the Meeting was of the view that the measure on “Facilitation of the ICT Professionals” should be highlighted as “on-going” and expected more concrete outcomes to be made available in 2010.

14. The Meeting requested the ASEAN Secretariat to work with other concerned bodies to reflect this matter in the Scorecard.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ASEAN ICT FUND

15. The ASEAN Secretariat updated the Meeting on the status of the ASEAN ICT Fund, the summary of which appears as **ANNEX 4**. The Meeting acknowledged that:

- a. The ASEAN ICT Fund, as of 31 August 2009, stands at USD 2,866,333.34;
- b. 9 TELSOM projects have received disbursement from the ASEAN ICT Fund amounting to USD 185,859.65;
- c. Contributions from five (5) Member States were recorded in the Fund's August Statement;
- d. Singapore's and Myanmar's contribution has been made to the Fund in September 2009;
- e. Other three (3) Member States are in the process to transmit money to the Fund by 31 December 2009.

AGENDA ITEM 7: TELSOM PRIORITY PROJECTS

16. The Director of the ASEAN ICT Centre updated the Meeting on the implementation status of the TELSOM Priority Projects in the 2007 – 2009 period. Her presentation slides appear as **ANNEX 5**.

17. The Meeting was pleased with the projects implementation progress. The Meeting noted that out of 16 projects which were funded by the ASEAN ICT Fund, 10 projects had been completed and 4 projects were on-going. The Meeting also noted that 1 project was shelved and 1 project was withdrawn.

18. The Meeting also noted that an increasing number of projects have been implemented in collaboration with Dialogue Partners and/or under self-funding basis. The Meeting was of the view that ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN ICT Centre should continue their efforts to engage the Dialogue Partners and private sector to support TELSOM projects.

19. The Meeting recalled the decision of Special TELSOM in July 2009 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on the projects proposed for the work cycle 2009 – 2010 and agreed on the following:

- Agree with the view of JWG Meeting (12 October 2009) on the 2 project revisions, namely (i) “CA-CA Interoperability Framework in ASEAN (Phase 2)” proposed by Thailand and (ii) “Training Course on Spectrum Management for Developing Countries in ASEAN” proposed by Viet Nam, and endorsed these two projects for funding support of ASEAN ICT Fund in the work cycle of 2009 – 2010;
- Agree to recommend to TELMIN to approve USD 351,384 from ASEAN ICT Fund to implement 8 following projects:

ASEAN ICT Fund's Projects	Amount
ASEAN CyberKids Camp (Phase II)	15,000
Promotion of Digital Dividend in ASEAN	44,400
A Study on Mobile Data Roaming in ASEAN	55,000
CA-CA Interoperability Framework in ASEAN (Phase 2)	45,000
Training Course on Spectrum Management for Developing Countries in ASEAN	42,600
Strategic ASEAN Policy: Promoting & Disseminating Green ICT Actions	51,384
ASEAN ICT e-Mall Phase II	53,000
Setting up the ASEAN Internet Exchange (AIX) for Internet working among ASEAN Member Countries	45,000

- To recommend another 10 projects, appearing as **ANNEX 6**, as TELSOM priority projects, to be implemented on self funding basis and/or in collaboration with Dialogue Partners.
- Also to recommend to the TELMIN+India Meeting to consider a feasibility study for the project on “Establishing VSAT based Tele-Medicine and Tele-Education network for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV)”. The feasibility study is expected to be funded by the ASEAN India Fund.

20. Noting the precedent of setting a cut-off date for the projects in the work cycle 2007 – 2008, the Meeting agreed with the AICTC Director's suggestion to continue this practice. The cut-off date for the projects under the 2008 – 2009 work cycle will be **28 February 2010**. Any project that will not have met the requirement of a minimum disbursement of 60 percent of the allocation from the ASEAN ICT Fund by the aforementioned date should be recommended to be withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ASEAN ICT MASTER PLAN 2010-2015

21. Singapore, as the Co-Lead of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan, briefly introduced the development process of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan (2010-2015), notably on the ideas and initiatives generated during the 1st Task Force (May 2009 in Singapore) and the 2nd ASEAN TELSOM Retreat (September 2009 in Kuala Lumpur) on the Master Plan.

22. Singapore informed that Accenture was commissioned to facilitate the brainstorming and of the outline of the Master Plan which will be submitted to TELMIN for consideration, guidance and approval.

23. Accenture, in the presentation appearing as **ANNEX 7**, introduced the approach used to define the framework for the Master Plan .

24. The Meeting noted a comment in relation to ASEAN joint activities to bridge the digital divide in ASEAN and further noted the suggestion to put forward the development of a universal language in the Master Plan to bridge communication difficulties between groups speaking different languages in ASEAN and outside ASEAN region.

25. The Meeting was informed that the Universal Networking Digital Language (UNDL) Foundation is working on a computer language that enables computers to process information and knowledge (i.e. an Universal Networking Language system), and therefore suggested TELSOM to consider jointly working with the UNDL Foundation on the UNL system, such as (i) to conduct training, (ii) to choose local language to be included in the system and (iii) to help implementation of the UNL in ASEAN region.

26. The Meeting reviewed the discussions of the TELSOM Leaders Retreat on the ASEAN ICT Master Plan in Kuala Lumpur and agreed on its vision statement of ***"Towards an Empowering and Transformational ICT: Creating an Inclusive, Vibrant and Integrated ASEAN"***.

27. The Meeting agreed to convene a special TELSOM Leaders Retreat, tentatively, in the 2nd half of January 2010 to review the development process of the Master Plan before going to the national and cross-sectoral consultation process.

28. The Meeting agreed to submit the proposed Vision and Outline of the ASEAN ICT Master Plan to the 9th TELMIN for consideration, guidance and approvals. The Meeting re-iterated its agreement made at the Special TELSOM in July 2009 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to recommend to TELMIN to set aside USD 250,000 from the ASEAN ICT Fund for the purpose of funding the ASEAN ICT Master Plan Project. Accenture will submit a detailed implementation proposal for the Master Plan upon approval by TELMIN to proceed with the next stage.

AGENDA ITEM 9: REPORT OF THE 15th ATRC Meeting

29. Thailand, as the Chair of the 15th ATRC, informed the Meeting on the outcomes of the 15th ATRC Meeting held on 27 – 29 July 2009 in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The presentation appears as **ANNEX 8**.

30. TELSOM noted that ATRC is promoting regulatory cooperation in its Work Plan in 2009 – 2010, specifically on international roaming charges, broadband development/NGN, resource management, network security and new media.

31. TELSOM also noted that ATRC is currently working on a MOU for a Stronger Cooperation Framework within ATRC and a possible ASEAN Postal Regulators' Forum..

32. The Meeting noted that the 15th ATRC and China have agreed on the text of the "China + ATRC Framework for Cooperation on Network Security" and the Framework will be submitted for endorsement/notation of TELMIN + China, pending confirmation of all ASEAN Member States.

AGENDA ITEM 10: VIENTIANE DECLARATION

33. Lao PDR briefed the Meeting on the draft of the "***Vientiane Declaration on Promoting the Realisation of Broadband across ASEAN***". The Meeting was informed that this theme was chosen to emphasise the importance of broadband services in building the Information Society and in enhancing the region's connectivity and competitiveness.

34. The Meeting provided inputs and agreed to submit the draft of the ***Vientiane Declaration***, appearing as **ANNEX 9**, for consideration and adoption by the ASEAN ICT Ministers at the 9th TELMIN.

AGENDA ITEM 11: PREPARATIONS FOR TELSOM MEETINGS WITH DIALOGUE PARTNERS

35. The Meeting considered the draft Agendas of TELSOM meetings with the Dialogue Partners, i.e. China, Japan, Korea, India and the EC, to be held

on 13-14 October 2009 and the possible Work Plans of cooperation with the respective Dialogue Partners, which appear as **ANNEXES 10 – 15**.

AGENDA ITEM 12: PREPARATION FOR THE 9TH TELMIN

37. The Meeting considered and agreed on the draft Agendas of the 9th TELMIN and its related meetings with China, Japan, Korea and India, which appear as **ANNEXES 16 - 20**.

38. The Meeting also considered and provided inputs to the draft Joint Media Statement of the 9th TELMIN Meeting, which appears as **ANNEX 21**.

AGENDA ITEM 13: DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

40. Malaysia informed the Meeting that as many international ICT-related events scheduled in October 2010, Malaysia is considering hosting the 10th TELMIN and related meetings in September or November 2010. Malaysia will inform ASEAN Member States on the exact dates and venue of the meetings in due course.

AGENDA ITEM 14: CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

41. The Meeting considered and adopted the Report of the 10th TELSOM held on 12 – 14 October 2009 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

42. Delegations from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, and officials of the ASEAN ICT Centre expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Lao PDR for their warm hospitality accorded to them and the excellent arrangements of the Meeting.

43. The delegations also expressed their appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for their technical assistance for the Meeting.

44. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cordiality and solidarity.

