Joint Ministerial Statement
ASEAN-China ICT Ministerial Forum

21 April 2006, Penang, Malaysia

"Strategic Regional ICT Cooperation for Growth and Prosperity"

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1. We, the Ministers responsible for Telecommunications and Information Technology of ASEAN Member Countries and China, held our ICT Forum in Penang, Malaysia on 21 April 2006, to discuss the progress of our cooperation and collaboration in advancing the catalytic role of the ICT sector in promoting the region's economic growth and prosperity.

2. H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications of Malaysia and H.E. Mr. Wang Xudong, Minister for Information Industry of China served as Co-Chairmen.

3. H. E. Dato' Sri Haji Mohd Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, officially opened our Forum. Recognizing the potential of ICT in promoting further development in the region, he encouraged ASEAN and China to forge stronger partnership and establish appropriate follow up mechanism to implement and realize the benefits from existing and future ASEAN-China ICT initiatives.

4. We are pleased with the progress of ASEAN-China ICT Cooperation since the adoption of Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development at the First ASEAN-China ICT Week in May 2005.

5. In particular, we noted with appreciation a number of workshops that were organized last year in China including those on capacity building for national computer emergency response team, rural communication and universal services, and information superhighway.

6. We are also pleased to note the continued progress in the implementation of the Information Superhighway project under the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) framework. To further strengthen our efforts in ICT infrastructure building in the region, we agreed to expedite the implementation of the GMS Information Superhighway project while, at the same time, tasking our senior officials to explore the possibility of expanding the GMS project to cover all ASEAN countries towards the establishment of an ASEAN-China Information Superhighway.

7. In 2006, more than ten activities and events are planned, including study visits, training programs, an ASEAN-China ICT Seminar, and a Joint Symposium on RFID Application. An ASEAN-China Coordination Framework for Network and Information Security Emergency Responses will also be developed.

8. Recognizing the importance of the Next Generation Network and its on-going implementation in some of our countries, we agreed to further exchange views and experiences in the migration from PSTN to NGN (including related issues such as IPv6, VoIP and VPN). We also agreed to put greater efforts into enhancing rural communication and universal services and to consider the implementation of pilot projects involving actual application of suitable technology in selected rural areas in the region.

9. Given that there will be the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Greece in October 2006, we agreed to conduct a dialogue on a broad set of issues on internet governance, such as network and information security, international charging arrangement, and deployment of international domain name, and to explore the possibility to develop a common position on issues to be raised at the IGF 2006.

10. To facilitate intra-regional trade, investment, and logistics, particularly in light of ASEAN-China FTA, we agreed that studies may be conducted on e-commerce and e-government, regional standards, and MRAs for telecom equipment certification and ICT expertise certification.

11. Furthermore, ASEAN Ministers are pleased to note that China will be participating, for the first time, in the meeting of ASEAN Telecommunications Regulator Council (ATRC) to be held in Mandalay, Myanmar in July 2006. This would further enhance our understanding of the region's regulatory regimes.

12. We are satisfied with the active participation of our private sectors in the ASEAN-China ICT Business Forum held on 18-19 April 2006. They expressed their support and willingness to participate in ASEAN-China cooperation activities in ICT including, among others, in establishing the ASEAN-China Information Superhighway, universal services, digital content development, RFID, training, standards and MRAs.

13. ASEAN Ministers conveyed their appreciation to China for the donation of 200 units of computers to Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam within this year.

14. We reiterated our commitment to continuously enhancing the ASEAN – China strategic partnerships in ICT to support regional growth and prosperity.

15. We expressed our appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for the warm hospitality accorded to us and the excellent arrangements made for the Second ASEAN-China ICT Week.

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List of Ministers

1. H.E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam;
2. H.E. Mr. So Khun, Minister of Posts and Telecommunication, Cambodia;
3. H.E. Mr. Wang Xudong, Minister of Information Industry, China;

4. H.E. Dr. Ashwin Sasongko, Vice Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Indonesia;
5. H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, Vice Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR;
6. H.E. Dato' Seri Dr. Lim Keng Yaik, Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia;
7. H.E. Mr. U Aung Myint, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar;
8. Hon. Dr Emmanuel C. Lallana, Commissioner, Commission on Information and Communications Technology, The Philippines;
9. Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Deputy Chief Executive and Director-General, Infocomms Development Authority, Singapore;
10. H.E. Mr. Mahidol Chantrangkurn, Vice Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand;
11. H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Hung, Vice Minister of Posts and Telematics, Viet Nam; and
12. H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General of ASEAN.