



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT



SEVENTH ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS & IT MINISTERS MEETING (7th TELMIN)

23 – 24 AUGUST 2007, SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

“ ICT: Reaching Out to the Rural ”

Opening Ceremony

1. His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, officially opened the Seventh ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting (7th TELMIN). In his Keynote Address, the Prime Minister emphasised the vital role of telecommunications and IT sector in narrowing digital divide to contribute to reducing poverty and supporting development, and helping gain benefits from regionalisation and globalisation. He stressed that strong human and institutional capacity and private sector participation will transform the telecommunications and IT sector to be an important enabler for economic growth and poverty reduction.
2. H.E. So Khun, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications for Cambodia, chaired the Seventh TELMIN, with H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nuh, Minister of Communications and Information Technology for Indonesia as Vice-Chairman.

ICT Support towards the AEC Blueprint

3. Recalling the ASEAN Leaders' commitment to accelerate the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) by 2015, the Ministers agreed to concertedly work towards achieving a secure and connected information infrastructure and further advancing e-Commerce to sustain the region's economic growth and competitiveness.

Enhancing Universal Access to ICT Services

4. The Ministers underscored the importance of universal access to ICT services to all people in society particularly those living in rural communities and remote areas. The Ministers also stressed that universal and affordable access to ICT is key to social and economic prosperity and contributes to greater economic activities, higher productivity and ultimately general welfare.

5. Towards this end, the Ministers adopted the **Siem Reap Declaration on Enhancing Universal Access of ICT Services in ASEAN**.

6. The Declaration provides actions and measures to ensure equal and affordable access to ICT services in rural communities and remote areas as well as to promote the social responsibility of relevant government ministries, agencies, international organisations, industry players and other relevant stakeholders in an information society.

7. The Ministers highlighted the need for proactive universal service policies and regulations to accord all citizens access to ICT services for a better quality education, efficient government services, greater source of livelihood and improved quality of life.

Steady Progress in ASEAN ICT Cooperation Activities

8. The Ministers were gratified by the steady progress in collective efforts in achieving the ASEAN ICT's goal of building a connected, vibrant and secure ASEAN Economic Community.

9. The Ministers were pleased that the ASEAN ICT Fund is in place and progressing with the second annual contributions. The Ministers endorsed the ASEAN ICT Fund's first disbursement plan for 2007 – 2008 to support the implementation of 11 priority projects/initiatives.

10. The Ministers applauded the comprehensive ICT work programmes focusing, among others, on capacity building activities in areas such as next generation network (NGN), IPv6 issues, early warning system for tsunami, USO programmes; and on studies on e-Commerce legal infrastructure, mobile roaming charges and ICT skills standardisation, and on facilitating trade of telecommunications equipment.

11. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) in their successful conduct of the ASEAN Cybersecurity Incidence Drills (ACID II) in July 2007, which included participation from ASEAN Dialogue Partners like China, EU, India, Japan and Korea.

12. The Ministers were pleased that a majority of ASEAN Member Countries have allocated their frequency spectrum for Wireless Broadband Access (WBA) which will enable cost efficient and quick deployment of networks and services in rural areas.

13. The Ministers acknowledged the timely establishment of the ASEAN ICT Centre, with home-based seconded officials, to ensure the coordination, management and implementation of ASEAN ICT Cooperation Work Programmes.

Forging Strategic Links with ASEAN Dialogue Partners

14. The Ministers welcomed regular dialogues and collaborative projects with the ASEAN Dialogue Partners such as China, India, Japan and Korea.

15. The Ministers looked forward to the implementation of the cooperation work plans under the Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development, ICT Cooperation with Korea for Co-Prosperity in East Asia 2007-2011, and the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2007 - 2009.

16. The Ministers were pleased with the Plus Three Countries' (China, Japan and Korea) commitment to further boost human development capacities of ASEAN ICT professionals and experts.

17. The Eighth ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting (8th TELMIN) and Related Meetings will be held in Indonesia in 2008.

LIST OF MINISTERS

1. H. E. Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Communications, Brunei Darussalam;
2. H. E. So Khun, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, Cambodia;
3. H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Nuh, Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Indonesia;
4. H.E. Sithong Thongkeo, Vice Minister of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction, Lao PDR;
5. H.E. Dato' Shaziman Abu Mansor , Deputy Minister of Energy, Water and Communications, Malaysia
6. H.E. Brig. Gen. Thein Zaw, Minister of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, Myanmar;
7. H.E. Cesar V. Sarmiento, Assistant Secretary (Assistant Minister), Department of Transportation and Communications, Philippines;
8. H.E. Dr. Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, Singapore;
9. H.E. Prof. Dr. Sitthichai Pookaiyaudom, Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand
10. H.E. Le Nam Thang, Vice Minister of Information and Communications, Viet Nam; and
11. H.E. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN (as represented by Mr. Honorio R. Vitasa, Director, Agriculture and Infrastructure Cluster, ASEAN Secretariat).
