

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**7th ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Senior Officials Meeting (7th TELSOM)**  
**14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

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**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006** - Today marks the official opening session of the 7<sup>th</sup> **ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Senior Officials Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> TELSOM)**. The 7<sup>th</sup> TELSOM Meeting, hosted this year by Brunei Darussalam, will be held consecutively for three days from 14 until 16 September 2006, at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.

Delivering the welcoming remarks during the meeting was Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Mohd Ali, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications cum Chairman of the 7<sup>th</sup> TELSOM Meeting.

The 7<sup>th</sup> TELSOM Meeting was attended by Senior Telecommunications Officials duly designated from each of the ASEAN Member countries.

Specifically, TELSOM's mandate is:-

- a) To identify, implement and monitor cooperation programs and activities to meet the telecommunications and IT requirements of the ASEAN region;
- b) To serve as a forum for exchange of information, discussion and consultation on major regional or international issues and developments in telecommunications and IT of common interest to Member Countries;
- c) To provide the mechanism to promote participation of the private sector, regional/international organisations and non-governmental organisations in the development and implementation of its programs and activities;
- d) To establish, as and when necessary, working groups/expert groups to assist in the development and implementation of its cooperative programs and activities;
- e) To report progress to the ASEAN Telecommunications Ministers Meeting (TELMIN);  
and
- f) To carry out other activities as may be mandated by the TELMIN and as may be requested by other relevant ASEAN bodies.

To this end, TELSOM coordinates with the ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council (ATRC), the e-ASEAN Business Council and the ASEAN Dialogue Partners.

There are 4 Working Groups under TELSOM, where each Working Group has its own Terms of Reference, Work Programmes and activities. The Working Groups are:-

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**1) Working Group on ASEAN Information Infrastructure (WG-AII);**

**Objectives:**

- a) To facilitate the establishment of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure by enhancing the design and standards of National Information Infrastructure (NII) of Member Countries and ensuring their interoperability and interconnectivity;
- b) To work towards establishing high-speed direct connection between the national information infrastructures with a view to evolving this interconnection into an ASEAN Information Infrastructure backbone;
- c) To work towards facilitating the setting up of national and regional Internet exchanges and Internet gateways, including regional caching and mirroring; and
- d) To promote the security and integrity of ASEAN Information Infrastructure.

**2) Working Group on e-Commerce and ICT Trade Facilitation (WG EC-ITF);**

**Objectives:**

- a) To establish dialogue mechanisms and cooperative arrangements among ASEAN TELSOM administrations to discuss regulatory and policy issues pertaining to trade and investments in the Telecomm and IT sector and technological aspects of e-Commerce;
- b) To encourage and facilitate the adoption of electronic commerce regulatory and legislative frameworks that create trust and confidence for consumers and to facilitate the transformation of ASEAN businesses to be e-enabled;
- c) To establish dialogue mechanisms with ASEAN private sector and ASEAN Dialogue Partners on technological issues related to e-Commerce and ICT trade facilitation.

**3) Working Group on Universal Access, Digital Divide and e-Government (WG UA,DD & EGov);**

**Objectives:**

- a. To facilitate and promote cooperation in policy development and program implementation on universal access and digital divide in order to increase ICT access and usage in ASEAN;

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- b. To enhance access, adoption, and usage through universally accessible ICT networks and competitive and affordable ICT products and services;
- c. To facilitate the reduction of the digital divide amongst ASEAN Member Countries;
- d. To encourage and facilitate the provision of a wide range of government services on-line, facilitate linkages and /or consultations between public and private sector; and
- e. To work towards enhancing inter-governmental cooperation by promoting the use of electronic means in their procurement of goods and services and facilitating freer flow of goods, information and people within ASEAN.

**4) Working Group on e-Society & ICT Capacity Building (WG ES-ICB).**

**Objectives:**

- a) To develop the ASEAN Information Society where citizens are able to work, communicate and recreate in the knowledge-based economy and enhance productivity growth through improvement in workers' knowledge, skills, expertise and literacy relating to ICT and through expanding the usage of ICT within and across sectors;
- b) To undertake activities aimed at promoting the Positive Use of the Internet (PUI) among the public, private, non-governmental and people sectors through seminars, workshops, the formulation of common ASEAN guidelines and the development of websites for the positive use of the Internet; and
- c) To recommend incentives and policy guidance in collaboration with the private sector for the development of local and ASEAN content and other applications to maximize use of existing and planned infrastructures for ICT, as well as generate opportunities for business, livelihood and employment.

TELSOM will be proceeded with the **6<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting (6<sup>th</sup> TELMIN)** which will commence on the **18 until 19 September 2006**, also venued at the Indera Kayangan Ballroom, Empire Hotel & Country Club, Jerudong.