

**6th ASEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS & IT MINISTERS MEETING (TELMIN)
OPENING CEREMONY
18 SEPTEMBER 2006
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, BERAKAS
BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM**

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Deputy Sultan, as personal representative for His Majesty, has consented to officiate the Opening ceremony of the 6th ASEAN Telecommunications & IT Ministers Meeting (TELMIN 6) this morning at the International Convention Centre, Berakas.

The arrival of His Royal Highness at the International Convention Centre was met by the Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Communications, Yang Mulia Dato Paduka Haji Yusoff bin Haji Abdul Hamid, Deputy Minister of Communications and Yang Mulia Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Mohd Ali, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and member of the steering committee of TELMIN 6.

The Ceremony began with the recital of the Surah Al-Fatihah by, Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Hj Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal, and followed by the sembah alu-aluan of the Minister of Communications, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong.

(Text of the sembah alu-aluan is attached)

His Royal Highness also consented to deliver a titah during the ceremony.

His Royal Highness then marked the commencement of TELMIN 6 by initiating a short multimedia videoclip that describes the ICT development and the tie between Brunei Darussalam and the ASEAN region. The Minister of Communications then presented a pesambah to His Royal Highness.

The doa selamat was then read by the Yang Berhormat Pehin Datu Imam Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Hj Awang Abdul Hamid bin Bakal.

The Ceremony was attended by Ministers and Vice Ministers from ASEAN countries who will be attending the 6th ASEAN TELMIN. The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Communications, will assume chairmanship in the 6th ASEAN TELMIN.

ASEAN TELMIN was formed to create stronger regional ties within the telecommunications and ICT sector in ASEAN and provides ministerial policy direction for ASEAN ICT cooperation in the region with an emphasis on implementation of ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology programmes. TELMIN meets once a year during which the Ministers hold a dialogue amongst themselves and includes sessions with the ASEAN Dialogue Partners, namely the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and India.

TELMIN also interacts with the telecommunications and IT industry players in ASEAN through the e-ASEAN Business Council (e-ABC) which comprises representatives of the private sector from all ASEAN Member countries. Annual session between e-ABC and TELMIN serves as a formal channel between the industry and government policymakers. TELMIN also provides a platform for ASEAN youth to share their perspectives and views on telecommunications and ICT through the ASEAN E-Youth Forum. This year, ASEAN e-Youth Forum is coordinated by Universiti Brunei Darussalam.

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Discussions in TELMIN 6 will focus around its theme of “*Enhancing ICT competitiveness: capacity building*”. This theme highlights the importance of building capacity in areas such as ICT literacy, full integration of ICTs in education and training at all levels and creation of critical mass of qualified and skilled ICT professionals and experts. Enhancing ASEAN’s competitiveness in such areas is crucial in ensuring our relevance particularly in the borderless world. Continued cooperation and joint efforts towards accelerated development of the ICT infrastructure would eventually benefit the ICT industry and the general economy within ASEAN. TELMIN 6 is also expected to endorse the first set of developmental projects to be funded by the newly established ASEAN ICT Fund.

For further information on 6th ASEAN TELMIN, please visit the official website at <http://www.mincom.gov.bn/telmin6/>

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