2007 PLAN OF ACTION TO IMPLEMENT THE BEIJING DECLARATION ON ASEAN-CHINA ICT COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMON DEVELOPMENT

Signed in Cebu, Philippines on 14 January 2007

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RECALLING the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development (hereinafter referred to as "Beijing Declaration") adopted in May, 2005 in Beijing by the Ministers Responsible for the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) authorities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN") and the People's Republic of China (hereinafter referred to as "China") And Together hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties";

RECOGNISING the strong appreciation and recognition the Parties show towards the Beijing Declaration;

CONFIDENT that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration will contribute significantly to the common development of the Parties, consolidate and deepen the partnership for common development in the ICT field of the Parties;

IN PURSUANCE thereof, the Parties hereby adopt the "Plan of Action", which sets a detailed scope of ASEAN-China's key programme areas and strategic actions and measures for collective cooperation in the ICT field for the following five years (2007-2012), as follows:

I. ICT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. Expedite the implementation of the GMS Information Superhighway Project, which will endeavor to make the infrastructure building basically completed and service operation available by 2008 and the network for full deployment and operation of services by 2010.

2. ASEAN-China Information Superhighway Project

    2.1. Set up ASEAN-China Information Superhighway Working Group, to guide the project feasibility study stage, and plan and steer project implementation in the future.

    2.2. Develop ASEAN-China Information Superhighway services and applications taking into account the levels of readiness and specific requirements of the Parties.

    2.3. Encourage active participation of business sectors of the Parties.

3. The Next Generation Network (NGN)

    3.1. Study plan for seamless migration from traditional communication network to NGN.

    3.2. Conduct studies on policy and regulatory issues to facilitate the deployment of NGN business cooperation and technology standards involved in the migration process.

    3.3. Cooperate on standard-setting, R&D and promotion of technology and products of Next Generation Internet (NGI).

3.4. Coordinate efforts of the Parties to address such issues as interconnection and market regulation.

4. Broadband Communications

4.1. Share experiences on development of broadband communications and Internet applications

4.2. Cooperate and develop multi-lingual and diversified digital contents and multi-media information resources, such as on-line education, telemedicine, etc.

4.3. Encourage operators of each Party to establish high-speed ASEAN-China Internet Exchange Path (Peering link) and encourage the private-sector to develop internet-based application platform based on the Internet development status of the Parties.

5. Radio

5.1 China to provide training for ASEAN Member Countries on spectrum management, radio monitoring, etc.

5.2 Further strengthen technical exchange and cooperation in such fields as radio frequency planning and coordination, radio monitoring and spectrum management automation.

6. Research & Development

6.1 ASEAN and China will work together to promote the establishment of R&D Center on Telecommunication Equipment for ASEAN-China markets.

II. UNIVERSAL SERVICE

1. Cooperate and develop a universal service guide to specify the development goal and strategy of narrowing the digital divide.

2. Establish the ASEAN-China Telecom Universal Service Forum, which can be considered in conjunction with TELSOM activities, to share best practices and experiences on investment and compensation mechanism, technological means and management skills.

3. Communications in Rural and Remote Areas

3.1. Study ways of telephone and Internet infrastructure building and ways of promoting information services in rural areas.

3.2. Study the best practices of China's experiences for accelerating the development of rural communication.

3.3. Develop pilot projects involving application of suitable technologies in rural areas, and promote solutions which are cost-effective, efficient and easy in maintenance.

III. HUMAN CAPACITY BUILDING

1. Continue the promotion of government-led HRD cooperation through the implementation of China's proposal to provide training for ASEAN mid- and high-level ICT managers and technicians.

2. Leverage private sector's resources in providing training programmes for industry's specific needs.

3. Promote ICT training in the form of e-learning, and set up on-line schools, e-learning centers and community access center for wider training coverage and sharing of information resources.

4. Link up websites of ICT research institutes of the Parties to the existing website for ASEAN-China ICT Cooperation (www.caict.org.cn) for information sharing.

5. Encourage volunteers to the rural and remote areas of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV countries) to help the local people get basic ICT knowledge.

6. Promote the establishment of local training bases in CLMV countries.

7. Discuss the set-up of ASEAN-China ICT Youth Leaders Forum by expanding the current ASEAN e-Youth Forum to raise awareness and appreciation of ICT and its role in social development.

8. Organise ICT Contest amongst the young professionals of the Parties.

9. Encourage the establishment of ICT training bases for small and medium enterprises.

IV. NETWORK AND INFORMATION SECURITY

1. Build upon and strengthen ASEAN cooperation on Network Security (ATRC framework and national CERTs), with the view to improve coordination network and improve the capability of network and information security of the Parties.

2. Facilitate the joint participation of ASEAN Member Countries and China in the ASEAN CERTs Incidents Drill (ACID) and subsequently explore the establishment of an ASEAN-China Coordination Framework for Network and Information Security Emergency Responses, to, among others, study the handling of cyber-terrorism and other new threats and challenges by conducting emergency response drills and capacity building seminars. Set up an initial emergency response contact mechanism between ASEAN Member Countries and China by the end of 2007 and ensure its smooth and efficient operation.

3. Establish the ASEAN-China Network and Information Security Expert Group and Forum in conjunction with the ATRC Working Group on Network Security or on other occasions for the exchange of latest technologies and best practices.

4. Cooperate on the R&D and promotion of information security products.

5. Facilitate ASEAN-China sharing of experiences and information on their plans and programmes on awareness of network and information security, i.e. through various means like publication, website, TV programmes, etc.

V. TRADE AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION

1. Deepen the ATRC-China roundtable forum on regulatory regimes, to enhance mutual understanding of ICT regulatory frameworks for an open and transparent environment, which will help in expanding the trade volume and scope of ICT products between the Parties.

2. Identify measures to facilitate mutual recognition arrangements for ICT telecom equipment certification.

3. Promote information exchange and cooperation in the field of online applications and services, especially E-Government (delivery mechanism and solution), E-Commerce and business informatisation.

4. Conduct dialogue and information exchange on E-signature/Digital Signature laws and applications.

5. Set-up ASEAN-China ICT Business Forum for a business-to-business dialogue (by leveraging on the e-ASEAN Business Council meeting or on other occasions).

VI. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DIALOGUE AND EXCHANGE

1. Maintain the high level dialogue and exchange on ICT issues of mutual interest. Make full use of mechanism of ASEAN TELMIN/TELSOM + China Meetings and activities like the ASEAN-China ICT Week.

2. Strengthen consultation and coordination in relevant international organisations.

3. Study and review the implementation of the initiatives proposed by the Leaders of both sides at Summit Meetings.

VII. FUNDING

1. The activities mentioned in this Plan of Action will mainly be funded by ASEAN-China Cooperation Fund (ACCF). Where possible, the Parties will endeavour to offer necessary resources for co-funding projects, either in kind (i.e. expert speakers or consultants) or in cash (i.e. financial support), within their capability. The Parties will work together to explore effective and innovative resource mobilisation strategy for the implementation of this Plan of Action.

2. ASEAN and China will encourage international financial institutions/agencies, development partners and their respective private sectors to participate in the implementation of major projects of interest to them under this Plan of Action.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

1. The specific programmes and measures for the implementation of this Plan of Action will be expressly identified in the annual work plans in the following five years.

2. Regular review of this Plan of Action will be conducted through ASEAN TELMIN + China, ASEAN TELSOM + China and ASEAN TELSOM Working Groups, to ensure the Plan remains relevant to the needs and priorities of the ICT cooperation between ASEAN and China.

3. The Parties may modify or amend this Plan of Action, as deemed necessary. This Plan of Action shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly provide to all ASEAN Member Countries certified copies thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, as represented by the undersigned who are duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments of the ASEAN Member Countries and the People's Republic of China, have signed this Plan of Action to Implement the Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China ICT Cooperative Partnership for Common Development.

DONE at Cebu, Philippines, this Fourteenth Day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven in two original copies, one in the English Language and one in the Chinese Language, all texts being equally authentic. In the event of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For ASEAN:
ONG KENG YONG
Secretary-General of ASEAN

For the People's Republic of China:
LI ZHAOXING
Minister of Foreign Affairs