

2025 BANGKOK DIGITAL DECLARATION

Adopted in Bangkok, Thailand, on 17 January 2025

"SECURE, INNOVATIVE, INCLUSIVE: SHAPING ASEAN'S DIGITAL FUTURE"

The Fifth ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "ADGMIN") was convened from 16 to 17 January 2025:

REAFFIRMING the aims and purposes of ASEAN as enshrined in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967 and the ASEAN Charter, particularly to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development in the region through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnerships to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian Nations;

GUIDED by the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2015, which aims to achieve the vision of an ASEAN Economic Community that is highly integrated and cohesive, competitive, innovative, and dynamic, with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation, and a more resilient, inclusive, people-oriented, and people-centered ASEAN as a strong part of the global economy;

FURTHER GUIDED by the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 to drive the region's digital cooperation from 2021 to 2025, transforming ASEAN into a leading digitally connected community and economic bloc powered by secure and transformative digital services, technologies, and ecosystems, undergirded by robust efforts to enhance cybersecurity;

RECOGNIZING the eight desirable outcomes, under the implementation of ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025, in particular the importance of the delivery of trusted digital services and the prevention of consumer harm, strengthening e-government service, empowering our communities, and increasing capability for business and our peoples with digital skills and talent;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the rapid pace of digital transformation and its profound impact on our economies, societies, and governance—particularly the rise in significance of artificial intelligence (AI) and the proliferation of generative AI as an emerging transformative branch of information technology with cross-sectoral application;

ACKNOWLEDGING the critical importance of cybersecurity, innovation, and inclusivity in shaping a resilient and prosperous digital future for ASEAN;

REALISING the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Development of Strategic Plans to implement the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, which aspires to build a resilient, innovative, dynamic, and people-centered ASEAN by 2045, envisioning a developed ASEAN as the epicenter of growth in the Indo-Pacific;

FURTHER REALISING the ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Enhancing Supply Chain Connectivity, which emphasizes the adoption, application, and integration of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, digitalisation, and the Internet of Things to enhance supply chain efficiency and resilience, and to create a conducive regulatory environment, pursue capacity building, and foster partnerships for wider technology adoption.

HEREBY AGREED TO:

1. Strengthen collaboration through the ASEAN Working Group on Anti-Online Scam (WG-AS) to develop regional recommendations for policies and necessary actions in combatting online scams, collaboration on scam enforcement action for crime syndicates with other related institutions that operate across jurisdictions, and coordination with online platforms and banking authorities to counter online scams and fraudulent activities.
2. Recognise the Report of WG-AS and the ASEAN Recommendations on Anti – Online Scam as significant milestones in our collective efforts to combat online scams, underscoring the successful cooperation among ASEAN Member States in addressing this pressing issue.
3. Enhance public awareness of online threats, equip citizens with digital literacy and skills, and foster collaboration with ASEAN Dialogue Partners to share best practices and knowledge as well as to support Anti-Online Scams collaboration mechanisms under the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) and other relevant Free Trade Agreements to create a more informed and resilient digital community.
4. Strengthen the coordinated regional approach in cybersecurity cooperation, including through the ASEAN Regional CERT, to promote and facilitate the timely sharing of information related to cyber incident response in support of the work of national CERTs in ASEAN Member States, and noting that the completed ASEAN Norms Implementation Checklist could serve as a reference for regional efforts to build collective cyber resilience against emerging cyber and digital threats.
5. Foster digital innovation by encouraging regional investment in research and development across emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, blockchain, and robotics, supporting the growth of start-ups and SMEs in the digital economy, and promoting collaboration among ASEAN Member States in developing and adopting comprehensive governance standards for these technologies.
6. Strengthen trust and promote innovation in AI-driven digital ecosystems through the ASEAN Working Group on Artificial Intelligence Governance (WG-AI) by recommending new dimensions for ASEAN to work together, to facilitate the trusted development and deployment of generative artificial intelligence, as outlined in the expanded ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics - Generative AI.
7. Expand the responsibilities of the WG-AI to support the ADGSOM in its leading role in ASEAN AI initiatives, particularly in AI policy, governance, safety, laws, regulations, and standards. Encourage other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to leverage AI, develop impactful initiatives, and maximize the benefits of this transformative technology across the region, while consulting ADGSOM on AI-related initiatives, including collaboration with AI industry players within and beyond ASEAN.
8. Promote free flow of data within ASEAN, including through the Working Group on Digital Data Governance (WG-DDG), and the adoption of ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses and the Operational Framework for Global Cross-Border Privacy Rules (Global CBPR) and Global Privacy Recognition for Processors (Global PRP), to foster trust and promote greater participation by our citizens and businesses in the digital economy.
9. Strengthen best practices and information sharing frameworks, to facilitate the expeditious repair, maintenance, removal, and protection of submarine cables, including through the Working Group on Submarine Cables (WG-SC)'s efforts to enhance the ASEAN Guidelines for Strengthening the Resilience and Repair of Submarine Cables.

10. Ensure Digital Inclusivity without leaving any ASEAN Member States behind, bridging the digital divide by improving access to affordable and high-quality internet connectivity across all ASEAN Member States, promoting digital literacy and skills development and lifelong learning programs, with a focus on building cooperation between ASEAN Member States and ensuring that digital services are accessible to all, including people in vulnerable situations in every ASEAN Member States.
11. Promote digital talent development within ASEAN to address digital skills gap, foster innovation, enhance regional competitiveness as a global digital hub, and explore regional skills standard to adapt to evolving technological needs, ensuring its relevance to ASEAN's long term digital development.
12. Accelerate the development of sustainable, accessible, interoperable and inclusive digital infrastructure and connectivity across ASEAN to promote digital inclusion, ensure equitable access to digital services, and enhance regional competitiveness.
13. Shape the future of ASEAN with the New ASEAN Digital Masterplan, leveraging the Masterplan as a framework for engaging with ASEAN's dialogue partners and the international organizations on digital cooperation initiatives to ensure that all initiatives under this declaration contribute directly to the achievement of the Masterplan's objectives.
14. Strengthen partnerships with Dialogue Partners and Interested Organizations, to leverage their expertise and resources in advancing ASEAN's digital agenda, and promote ASEAN's digital development and best practices on the global stage.

ADOPTED this Declaration at the 5th ADGMIN in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 January 2025.