

**The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings**  
**Singapore, 1 - 2 February 2024**

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

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1. The 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting (ADGMIN) was held in Singapore on **1-2 February 2024**. Her Excellency Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information, Republic of Singapore, chaired the Meeting with His Excellency Prasert Jantararungtong, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand, as the Vice-Chair.

**Building an Inclusive and Trusted Digital Ecosystem**

2. The Meeting recognised the good progress made on implementing the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 (ADM 2025), despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting welcomed the ADM 2025 Mid-Term Review (MTR) which took stock of the ADM 2025's progress in building trusted digital services, preventing consumer harm, and increasing the quality and coverage of fixed and mobile broadband infrastructure.
3. The Meeting acknowledged the key recommendations from the ADM 2025 MTR, in developing governance standards for emerging technologies including artificial intelligence; strengthening collaboration in digital infrastructure building and maintenance; taking steps to strengthen trust for digital users and facilitate the responsible use and sharing of personal and business data; ensuring that data is transmitted in a responsible manner to foster trust amongst trade partners and investors; and developing regional digital competency framework and share best practices to identify and adopt targeted approaches to enhance inclusiveness and bridge the digital divide in ASEAN Member States (AMS).
4. The Meeting encouraged AMS to cooperate and implement the action items outlined in the ADM2025 MTR to strengthen regional digital inclusion efforts and connectivity and build trusted digital regional communities.
5. The Meeting recognised the need to establish policies and guidance to spur the development of emerging technologies in a responsible and secure manner. To that end, the Meeting endorsed the ASEAN Guide on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Governance and Ethics, which sets out ASEAN's approach towards governing and leveraging the power of AI. The Guide, which includes use cases for trustworthy AI, will serve as a practical and implementable tool to support the trusted deployment of AI solutions in the region. The Meeting also welcomes the recommendation to set up a new Working Group under ADGSOM on AI Governance, including initial work on generative AI.

6. The Meeting acknowledged the ongoing work under the Working Group of Digital Data Governance (WG-DDG) to promote the adoption of the ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses, which will facilitate seamless regional integration to create value for businesses and citizens. The Meeting also welcomed the Implementation Guide of the Joint Guide to ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses (MCCs) and EU Standard Contractual Clauses (SCCs). The Implementation Guide identifies best practices that businesses can consider implementing when transferring data between ASEAN and the EU on the basis of the MCCs and/or SCCs.
7. The Meeting acknowledged the project completion of the Regulatory Pilot Space (RPS) to Facilitate Cross-Border Digital Data Flows to Enabling Self-Driving Car in ASEAN. In 2023, the project has successfully delivered the project outcome in mapping the barriers of cross-border digital data flows of Self-Driving Car/ Autonomous Vehicle (AV) within ASEAN. In 2024, the project will continue to engage with industry to further refine its outputs and enhance collaboration.
8. The Meeting also welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN Regional CERT Financial Model which concludes the discussion on the ASEAN Regional CERT implementation details as a key initiative under the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2021-2025. The ASEAN Regional CERT will further strengthen regional cyber resilience, including through timely information sharing, exchange of best practices and capacity building initiatives to bolster the overall effectiveness of regional incident response capabilities.
9. The Meeting welcomed the completion of the ASEAN Framework on Logistics for Digital Economy Supply Chain for Rural Area, to improve coordination in ASEAN and provide support for infrastructure and enhance connectivity through ICT solutions in rural areas to accelerate the digital economy.
10. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of project on Assessing the Relationship between ICT Infrastructure and Digital Skills and the Inflow of Foreign Investment to the ASEAN ICT Sector: Identification of Policy Options to Improve Investment Attraction aimed at enabling AMS to develop new legal, policy, regulatory and institutional innovations that will improve inbound investment.
11. The Meeting also welcomed the endorsement of the project Establishment of the Standard to Exchange Data and Information Related to Disaster in the ASEAN region, to standardise disaster data and information exchange through common data exchange platform and processes.

12. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of ASEAN Working Group on Anti - Online Scam (WG – AS) as a platform for ASEAN Member States to cooperate and collaborate on capacity building, training and sharing of information related to combating online scams, and scams across digital and telecommunication channels.
13. The meeting noted the project completion of the study on identification and codification of best regulatory practices in ASEAN, named Digital Policy Action Areas for a Connected ASEAN. This Report assesses the level of readiness of digital policy, legal and governance frameworks for digital transformation in ASEAN countries and proposes action areas to advance preparedness for digital transformation of the ASEAN region and its member states through the acceleration of a harmonised, best-practice-oriented and locally grounded enabling regulatory environment.
14. The Meeting acknowledged the continued efforts in realising affordable international mobile roaming services in the region, in line with the ASEAN Framework on International Mobile Roaming. The Meeting further noted the recommendations of the ASEAN Workshop on International Mobile Roaming held in December 2023 in Vietnam, and efforts to establish affordable mobile roaming packages across the entirety of the ASEAN region.
15. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of enhancing a secure, diverse and resilient digital infrastructure within ASEAN, including the development of 5G networks. The Meeting noted the outcomes of the 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Conference on 5G in December 2023 in Vietnam, and encouraged the ATRC, in collaboration with ASEAN telecom operators, to develop a reference roadmap for 5G development in ASEAN.
16. The Meeting noted the completion of the Final Report of the Study on the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA) to examine areas that can be included in a framework agreement to accelerate the region's digital integration towards a regionally integrated economy. The Meeting also welcomed the Leaders' Statement on the Development of the ASEAN DEFA announcing the launch of ASEAN DEFA negotiations in 2023 and the aim to conclude negotiations by the end of 2025.

## **DIGITAL COOPERATION WITH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

17. The Meeting looked forward to further deepening the cooperation with Dialogue and Development Partners in enhancing digital and cybersecurity cooperation, developing human resources, exploring emerging technologies for adoption, and improving the regional capacity in securing the cyberspace in the implementation of the ADM2025.

18. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between ASEAN and China on Co-operation in Communications and Digital Technology, which further strengthens the ASEAN-China partnership in the digital sector. The Meeting expressed appreciation to both AMS and China for the progress of the Action Plan for Implementing the ASEAN-China Partnership on Digital Economy (2021-2025), and the 2023 ASEAN-China Digital Work Plan. The meeting adopted the ASEAN-China 2024 Digital Work Plan, and agreed to jointly develop the China-ASEAN Initiative on Facilitating Cooperation in Building a Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Ecosystem and submit it to the 27<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Summit when appropriate.
19. The Meeting expressed appreciation for Japan's commitment in assisting ASEAN in the digital sector through the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan for 2023, which include areas in (i) 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation - the "ASEAN-Japan Open RAN Symposium"; (ii) Digital connectivity and infrastructure; (iii) digital transformation; (iv) Toughness, reliability and security which covers cybersecurity – conducting training exercises to enhance technical skills through the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC); (v) digital policies, regulations and standards; and (vi) cooperation and coordination through the active participation in ASEAN-related meetings and ASEAN-Japan ICT Fund. The Meeting welcomed the ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan for 2024 on Capacity Building for CERT Cooperation and Cybersecurity Standards in ASEAN to strengthen incident response effectiveness.
20. The Meeting expressed appreciation for the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s efforts to expand continuous cooperation with ASEAN in the area of innovation, connectivity enhancement; human resource development, and cybersecurity. ROK is committed to strengthen digital cooperation with ASEAN in line with Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy and the ASEAN-ROK Solidarity Initiative and highlighted digital rights of citizens for building an inclusive and reliable digital ecosystem. The meeting acknowledged ongoing projects with ASEAN in digital fields, such as AI, data and cybersecurity. The meeting welcomed the ASEAN Cyber Shield Project aiming at reliable digital environment in the region and expressed the commitment to facilitating the 2024 ASEAN-ROK Digital Work Plan, which includes the ASEAN-ROK Digital Innovation Flagship Projects.
21. The Meeting acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of cooperation activities in the ASEAN-India 2023 Digital Work Plan, through various knowledge sharing and capacity building programmes at the India's Centres of Excellences. The Meeting noted the plans and programs that supports the ADM2025 initiatives through the ASEAN-India 2024 Digital Work Plan at the 4<sup>th</sup> ADGSOM+India meeting in 2024.

22. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the United States' strong commitment to develop the digital and telecommunication sectors in ASEAN and welcomes the significant progress of the Regional Cybersecurity Maturity Assessment Report under the ASEAN Cybersecurity Assessment Model (ACAM) workstream and endorsement of the Concept Note of the ASEAN AI Roadmap project. The Meeting also welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN-US Work Plan 2023-2025 at the ADGSOM+US meeting in 2024 and noted the progress under the Work Plan, which include cooperation in (a) Digital and ICT infrastructure; (b) Digital Data Policy and Regulation; and (c) Digital Connectivity and Inclusion.
23. The Meeting welcomed the endorsement of the ASEAN-EU 2024 Digital Workplan which includes further development of the ASEAN Digital Index (ADIX) initiative and wider cooperation priorities such as AI Governance and facilitation of international exchanges through interoperable e-invoices. The meeting expressed appreciation for the EU's contribution to ADIX, as well as for the EU's hosting of the launch of the Reference Guide (first part of the Joint Guide to ASEAN Model Contractual Clauses and EU Standard Contractual Clauses) in May 2023, and welcomed the EU's good cooperation on the Implementation Guide (second and last part of the same Joint Guide), which was launched during the present meeting.
24. The Meeting expressed appreciation to ITU for its commitment to support the development of digital sector, with a focus on universal and meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation in ASEAN, as well as other direct assistance provided to individual AMS. The Meeting welcomed the ASEAN-ITU Priority Cooperation Area 2024-2026 to further cooperation between ASEAN and ITU. The Meeting endorsed the ASEAN-ITU Digital Work Plan for 2024.
25. The Meeting expressed appreciation to the APT for its committed support towards the work of ASEAN and its Member States, particularly in the area of capacity building and direct assistance projects. The Meeting noted with appreciation the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2024-2026 which includes five strategic pillars that focus on digital connectivity, digital transformation, trust and safety, digital inclusion, and sustainability. The Meeting welcomed opportunities to further cooperate with the APT in the area of common interests to promote the advancement of ICT development and digital economy in the Asia-Pacific region. The Meeting endorsed the ASEAN-APT Digital Work Plan for 2024.
26. The Meeting reiterated ASEAN's commitment in pursuing policy and regulatory discussions with all Dialogue and Development Partners. The Meeting also

called for greater participation from the private sector in developing trusted digital solutions and an inclusive digital future with equal access to digital technologies, tools and opportunities.

### **NEXT MEETING**

27. The Meeting agreed to convene the 5<sup>th</sup> ADGMIN and Related Meetings in Thailand in January 2025.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

28. The Meeting expressed appreciation to Singapore for the warm hospitality accorded to them and for the excellent arrangements made for the 4<sup>th</sup> ADGMIN and Related Meetings.