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**Paper No. 19**

## Information Highway: Policy and Regulation in the construction of Global Infrastructure in ASEAN.

25 -27 Nov., 1998. River View Hotel, Singapore.

### SUMMARY REPORT

Twenty nine delegates, comprising researchers, senior media practitioners and management/policy level persons from the eight ASEAN countries – Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam<sup>1</sup>, participated in the three-day conference held at the River View Hotel, Singapore. In addition five observers also attended the conference. Thirteen participants were from Singapore while 21 were from Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The participants from ASEAN were nominated in consultation with the ASEAN COCI.

The conference was sponsored by the ASEAN COCI and organized by the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) and the School of Communication Studies, Nanyang Technological University (SCS-NTU). It was part of a wider research conducted in ASEAN countries by AMIC and SCS-NTU.

The conference programme consisted of presentations by delegates from ASEAN countries, discussion sessions, work in committees and a plenary. The conference provided a useful critique of the research done in ASEAN countries. A senior media policy maker and a senior journalist from each of the ASEAN countries were invited to comment on the research in respect of their countries. In addition to country research papers there were four papers on special topics. These papers discussed some of the most vexing problems in the area of transborder communication. These included issues relating to the internet, intellectual property rights, telecommunication services, multinational satellite broadcasting, the race to dominate the skies and the need for a legal framework to properly address these issues. An important activity of the conference was the drawing up of a common framework for cooperation among ASEAN countries on issues central to the utilization of modern communication technologies. Such a framework was formulated and adopted by the conference. Below is a breakdown of the sessions. For details please refer to the Conference Agenda attached.

Day One :       Registration  
                  Welcome Address  
                  Research Presentations  
                  1.           Malaysia  
                  2.           Indonesia  
                  3.           Laos  
                  4.           Brunei  
                  5.           Singapore

Day Two        Research Presentations  
                  1.           Philippines  
                  2.           Thailand  
                  3.           Vietnam

#### Presentation of Overview Papers

1.           Legal Issues Relating to the Internet in ASEAN/ Dr. Ang Peng Hwa
2.           Legal Issues Relating to Transborder Broadcasting / Dr. Austin Pulle
3.           Intellectual Property and Satellite Transmission in ASEAN / Dr. Assafa Endeshaw
4.           Transnational Communication : The Race to Dominate the Skies / Dr. Anura Goonasekera

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<sup>1</sup>Myanmar participated in the research and submitted an interim report. However due to internal reasons the delegates were unable to attend the conference.

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Day Three : Preparation of Framework for Cooperation Among ASEAN on Transborder Communication  
(Three Sub-groups)

1. Telecommunication/Internet
2. Intellectual Property Rights
3. Satellite Broadcasting and a Law of the Skies

Plenary

The conference was well-received by the participants. On average, the delegates gave a 3 or 4 (4 : Strongly Agree; 3 : Agree) for Conference content & relevance, administrative arrangements, and the overall quality of the conference.

There were several suggestions for future action. These included 1. a follow-up conference to be conducted to determine the status of the recommendations made in this conference 2. To include issues relating to social and cultural matters for discussion at such a conference.