



## Updates on ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council (ATRC)

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### Background

- Formed in July 1995. 10 member countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.
- Discussion and coordination of policy, strategic and regulatory issues in telecommunications that are of mutual interest to the administrations of ASEAN.
- Identification and promotion of areas of potential cooperation amongst ASEAN nations and facilitate the exchange of information in these areas through:
  - Annual meetings
  - Workshops and seminars

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## **Main Issues Discussed at 12<sup>th</sup> ATRC**

- Regulatory Updates of Respective Regimes
- Workshops on NGN, Competition and Public Consultation:
  - Guidelines to Enhance Competition
  - Best Practice Guidelines on Public Consultation
- ATRC Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Telecommunication Equipment
- International Cooperation activities
- ATRC Work Plan 2007

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## **Guidelines to Enhance Competition**

- **Transparency**
  - Competition policies and rules, and their enforcement, should be transparent.
- **Proportionate Regulation**
  - There should be heavier regulation on dominant ICT suppliers.
- **Effective Enforcement**
  - Administrations should have the legal authority and enforcement procedures to enforce rules.

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## Guidelines to Enhance Competition

- **Non-Discrimination**
  - Application of rules should not discriminate between ICT suppliers that are in like circumstances, whether these suppliers are affiliated or not.
- **Scope** - The scope of competition policies should address the following anti-competitive practices:
  - Abuse of dominant position in the market
  - Unfair methods of competition
  - Agreements involving multiple service suppliers that restrict competition
  - Changes in ownership and market consolidations, including cross ownerships.

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## Best Practice Guidelines For Public Consultation

- **Planning**
  - Goals, Clarity, Initial Position, Focused Questions, Milestones
- **Execution**
  - Engage key stakeholders, Consult widely, ensure accessibility & response options, Timeframe, Monitoring.
- **Evaluation and Closing**
  - Responses to submissions.

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## **ATRC MRA**

**(Mutual Recognition Arrangement on Conformity Assessment of Telecommunication Equipment)**

**The MRA's purpose is to facilitate trade and make business costs lower for companies by:**

- eliminating the need for re-testing and re-certification of telecom equipment
- shorten time-to-market for each country's manufacturers and exporters of telecom equipment

Consumers will hence enjoy greater savings from lower transaction costs and faster delivery times

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## **ATRC MRA**

- To date, three MRA negotiations have been initiated:

1. Indonesia-Singapore, April 2004
2. Brunei Darussalam-Singapore, May 2004
3. Malaysia-Singapore, January 2005

- Malaysia-Singapore MRA operational since August 2006. Trade in telecom equipment between the two countries in 2005 is US \$2.3 billion.

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## ATRC Surveys

- Completed Surveys:
  - ASEAN RFID Spectrum Allocation
  - ASEAN Wireless Broadband Spectrum Allocation
- Ongoing Survey:
  - 3G Implementation in ASEAN

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## International Cooperation

- Regulatory dialogue with MII China in 2006
  - Future regulatory dialogues with other regulators planned
- Cooperation with international organizations eg ITU, Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and APEC

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## ATRC Work Plan 2006-2007

- Tier 1
  - NGN
  - Competition
  - MRA
  - Network Security, including Prepaid SIM Registration
  - Resource Management (Wireless Broadband)
  - International Roaming Charges
  - Mobile Number Portability
- Tier 2
  - Consumer Protection
  - Universal Service Provision
  - Trade Issues

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## ATRC Website [www.aseanconnect.gov.my](http://www.aseanconnect.gov.my)

The screenshot shows the ATRC website in a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window. The browser title is "ASEAN CONNECT DIGITAL DIVIDE - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.aseanconnect.gov.my/". The website content includes:

- ASEAN CONNECT ASEAN ICT Portal** logo and navigation menu with links: TELMIN, TELSOM, ATRC, NEWS, CONTACTS, PAPERS.
- A large image of the Singapore Lion King.
- A "Welcome!" message with a sunset background, stating: "ASEANConnect is a platform for the exchange of information on all aspects relating to the development of ICT policy and regulation in ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations)".
- A "Welcome to ASEANconnect, the website of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Telecommunications and IT Ministers (TELMIN), Senior Officials (TELSOM) and Regulators (ASEAN Telecommunication Regulators' Council/ ATRC)." section.
- A "USEFUL LINKS" section with "What's New" and "Databases" links.
- An "ASEAN Country Profile" section with a "Select Countries Here" dropdown menu.