



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2014/TEL50/PLEN/014

Policy and Regulatory Update – Thailand

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Thailand



**50th Telecommunications and Information
Working Group Meeting
Brisbane, Australia
29 September – 3 October 2014**

APEC Telecommunications and Information Working Group, 50th Meeting, (Activity from May – September 2014)

I. Law and Regulatory Development

Thailand has set out a new ICT Master Plan which is the 3rd episode of the country's ICT development plan since its first version launched in 2002. The second one launched from 2009 – 2013. The plan will cover 2014 to 2018 with four major development strategies including building optimal infrastructure, nurturing vibrant business, be a smart government and capitalizing ICT human resources. In each strategic development tract, key measures, projects and initiatives are focused to weave into a perfect path to destination of being “Smart Thailand” in 2020 as aimed by the 3rd ICT Master Plan under ICT 2020 policy framework of the nation.

The master plan has tentatively laid down its development strategies in-lining with the country policy framework toward 2020 (ICT 2020) which emphasizes to target to the level of community and local entity in terms of benefits and gains from the key projects and initiatives in the development pipeline.

In building optimal infrastructure, highlighted projects such as Free WiFi and provisional internet service are eligible to cater certain local communities. In real terms, common devices and platforms to facilitate Thai citizens are to be encouraged in the hands of related development authorities and entities for embracing their lives and works at a calibrated international standard level. In an effort to drive relevant actions against building vibrant business, opportunities rest upon products and services ranging from life-style goods to healthcare to which the country still have a certain race to reach.

As for the smart government strategy under the 3rd ICT master plan, smart public service to react to expectation of citizens is to be paid of attention as well as promotion of innovated devices and applications. While at the same time the last ICT development strategy which addresses obviously over human capital development during the five year plan will pave a distinctive channel to accommodate the citizens to succeed ICT literacy as aimed to see the targeted group of people be able to use ICT for improving their quality of life and work extensively.

At the end of the 5-year term of ICT master plan, the country aims to enter into “Digital Society” in a smart manner, defined in ICT2020 with the so-called “Smart Thailand”. Under this smart development theme, ICT innovations and services will be prevalent to help Thailand prepare itself ready for transforming into a digital society within the next two decades. Institutional framework in the light of success toward implementation will find multi government agencies and public organizations to join hands. Academic entities must also play an active role in harvesting idea, know-how and R&D and business sector together with industry expert will help foster technological aspect of development in the form of PPP. In utmost mode of development, the country needs to adapt and adept itself to possibly avoid some incidental and technological traps by adopting international standard as well as regional collaboration that Thailand already holds its stake including ASEAN, APEC and IAC perse’

II. ICT Supply Chain Development

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (The Ministry of ICT) in collaboration with Software Industry Promotion Agency (Public Organization) or SIPA in short, also attaches the importance on ICT supply chain development by enhancing industrial software and digital content; supporting software market; as well as building up software and digital content organizations. As such, SIPA has implemented many projects in 2014 such as

- Strengthening software entrepreneurs and business start - ups in preparation for entering AEC
- Promoting open source software industry
- Encouraging SMEs to focus on enhancing their software production processes that meet the international standards e.g. ISO 29110, ISO 20000, and ISO 27000
- Raising awareness on the intellectual property protection and providing the entrepreneurs with knowledge on Intellectual Property Law

III. Promote a Safe and Secure Environment

Like other countries, Thailand constantly faces serious problems regarding online attacks. While it is impossible to stop every assault attempt against websites currently available online, one effective defense is to improve knowledge and awareness among service providers. The Electronic Transactions Development Agency (Public Organization) or ETDA, Ministry of ICT, aims to help create such awareness. It is currently working on a Website security standard (WSS) that consists of (a) How to set up secure web servers and develop secure web applications and (b) How to handle security incidents professionally.

Currently, ETDA is working closely with the Thai e-Commerce Association and the Thai Webmaster Association to develop a website security standard (WSS) and to create a certification program related to this standard. The first phase of WSS will deploy the self-assessment program used for achieving secured website certification. In the next phase, ETDA plans to offer the WSS to the government which will include this program as a requirement for all software vendors when providing services to government websites. In time, the WSS will be extended to both public and private organizations.

IV. Space Development and Applications

Regarding the application of ICTs, Thailand has accomplished IT – related work areas counting towards harnessing the benefits of ICT to build a smooth E – government service and promoting statistical data analysis as well as the meteorological operation.

- The Electronic Government Agency (Public Organization) (EGA) under the Ministry of ICT Thailand in collaboration with Institution of e-Government Waseda University of Japan, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore and Taiwan e-Governance research center has conducted the APEC self – funded project “Extension of APEC E – government Research Center”. The objective of the project is to organize both the research and workshop on the focus of online services applications, public safety, regulation as a continuation of the past activities to develop sustainable framework of e-Governance.

Many of the activities taking place this year comprise 2 important aspects that are policy and innovation development such as Policy research about the National e-Government Policy Development with the local experts in Thailand, Surveying the agency under the Thailand e-Government Readiness Framework, Government Open Data Pilot Project with many various agencies such as The Secretariat of the Senate, Ministry of ICT, Thailand National Electronics and Computer Technology Center, Hydro and Agro Informatics Institute, The Excise Department, and Asian University Thailand, Government Big Data Pilot Project with Thailand National Electronics and Computer Technology Center and Department of Highways. EGA also has the collaboration with Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Korea National Information Society Agency, and Thailand IT Architects Association on Government Enterprise Architecture Project.

- Recently the National Statistical Office has adopted international standards information technology platform for the National Statistical System such as SDMX (Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange) for data sharing and exchanging.

- In the Communication networks, the Thai Meteorological Department, or TMD in short, under Ministry of ICT have been developed consistently. TMD uses the domestic network mainly for collecting observation data and disseminating local weather forecasts including warnings from/to corresponding weather stations and relevant agencies. Whereas the international network called GTS (Global Telecommunications System) network is implemented essentially through dedicated telecommunication means with a guaranteed quality of service. This GTS network is used for international exchange among meteorological/hydrological organizations, satellite data centers and numerical weather prediction centers. With the existing links to eleven countries throughout Asia, there is an additional backup link between Bangkok and Beijing, China through internet for the case of the failure of its main fiber optic link.
