THE 3RD ASEAN DIGITAL MINISTERS' MEETING WITH INDIA
(3rd ADGMIN+INDIA)

10 February 2023, Boracay, Philippines

<India to brief>

Thank you, Excellencies. It is indeed impressive to note the perspectives of the ASEAN Member States and their concerted efforts to bridge the digital divide and build digital infrastructure to foster increased inclusiveness, prosperity, competitiveness, and a stronger sense of partnership.

This year the theme of ASEAN Digital Ministers' meeting is 'Synergy Towards a Sustainable Digital Future'. Excellencies, we live in a world that is rapidly being transformed by digital technologies. From the way we communicate and do business, to the way we learn and entertain ourselves, the digital revolution has touched every aspect of our lives. As we embrace this new era, it is crucial that we work together to ensure that the benefits of these advancements are equitably distributed and that their impact on society and the environment is positive and sustainable.

Governments, private organizations, and individuals all have a role to play in this effort. Governments should invest in digital infrastructure and skills, and develop policies that promote inclusiveness, privacy, and security. Private organizations must use technology in responsible and ethical ways, and contribute to the development of sustainable solutions. And individuals must be empowered to use digital technologies in ways that promote their well-being and that of their communities.

By working together in this way, we can ensure that the digital revolution benefits everyone, not just a select few. We can create new opportunities for economic growth and social development, and address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. We can build a more inclusive and equitable society, where everyone has access to the tools and resources they need to succeed in the digital age.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi emphasizes to utilize various technological innovations to advance the nation's development. To further support the growth of the telecom industry, promote fair competition, and increase the

availability of broadband and telecom connectivity, the Indian government has ushered a new era of reforms in the telecom sector to encourage investment.

The recently launched 5G services in India is a significant step towards modernizing the country's telecom infrastructure and supporting the development of new technologies and applications. This will enable new and innovative use cases in areas such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR), and autonomous vehicles. The Government of India has supported creation of a favorable ecosystem for the deployment of this technology. This includes allocation of spectrum, development of standards and regulations, and investment in infrastructure and skills development.

The launch of 5G services in India is expected to bring about several benefits for consumers and businesses. For consumers, it will bring about faster and more reliable mobile internet, enabling them to access a wide range of new and innovative services and applications. For businesses, it will provide a platform for digital transformation, allowing them to embrace new technologies and create new revenue streams.

India and ASEAN have commenced their journey of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects. The India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan for 2023, endorsed by ADGSOM and India, supports various initiatives in the ICT sphere, including capacity building in areas such as IoT, Artificial Intelligence in Cyber Security, Sustainable Data and Transport Networks for future, 5G, regulatory and policy issues, role of ICT in implementation of Digital Health, etc.

Excellencies, I believe that through ongoing and future ICT projects, India and ASEAN can elevate their collaboration to new levels by capitalizing on each other's complementary strengths. India is willing to share its vision and experiences and also learn from the best practices and policies globally. With this collaborative approach, we can work towards realizing the goal of a smart, sustainable global society and attain the Sustainable Development Goals through secure usage of next-gen technologies. Thank you.