

E-ASEAN Framework

ICT for International Relations
International Relations, UNIKOM

E-ASEAN Framework

- It is widely perceived that new ICTs can significantly advance transnational co-operation and regional integration in both economic and political terms. Transnational flows of communication are synonymous to the decline in the importance of national, geographical, and institutional boundaries.
- The launch of the European Information Society in the early 1990s serves as an example of public policy based on the notion that new ICTs can be a positive factor to regional integration.

- e-ASEAN is “to develop a broadbased and comprehensive action plan including physical, legal, logistical, social and economic infrastructure needed to promote an ASEAN e-space, as part of an ASEAN positioning and branding strategy” (ASEAN Secretariat, 2003).
- Internally, the e-ASEAN initiative is to use ICTs “to speed up economic integration of the group” and, externally, to “help them compete better in the global economy”

- The promotion of regional economic growth and acceleration of regional peace and stability have been the key objectives of ASEAN since its establishment in 1967. In today's globally competitive world, ASEAN officials argue, "regionalism has to take on a larger meaning and scope than market integration alone" (ASEAN Secretary- General, 2000).
- ASEAN members endeavour "to acquire the technological prowess without which the ASEAN nations cannot hope to move forward economically" (ASEAN Secretary- General, 2000). A key question to be asked is whether or not the global communications revolution can be advantageous to regional integration in South East Asia.

- Intra-regional cooperation among member states is manifested in the aims of e-ASEAN Framework Agreement:
 - (1) co-operation to develop, strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of the ICT sector in ASEAN;
 - (2) cooperation to reduce the digital divide within individual ASEAN member states and amongst ASEAN member states;
 - (3) co-operation between the public and private sectors in realising e-ASEAN
 - (4) the liberalisation of trade in ICT products, ICT services and investments to support the e-ASEAN initiative

- Facilitating the establishment of the ASEAN Information Infrastructure
- Facilitating the growth of electronic commerce in ASEAN
- Promoting and facilitating the liberalisation of trade in ICT products, ICT services, and of investments in support of the e-ASEAN initiative
- Promoting and facilitating investments in the production of ICT products and the provision of ICT services
- Developing an e-society in ASEAN and capacity building to reduce the digital divide within individual ASEAN Member States and amongst ASEAN Member States
- Promoting the use of ICT applications in the delivery of government services (e-government)
- Enabling advanced member states to assist the lagging member states to undertake capacity building (E-ASEAN Initiative)

- The signing of the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement has generated much enthusiasm within the public and private sectors across the ASEAN region. This is in part manifested in the large number of transnational ICT projects established in response to the launch of e-ASEAN involving project partners from different member states.
- total of 40 ICT projects, 22 are within the field of ecommerce and the rest address the new and specialised market areas such as e-society, Information Infrastructure and e-Government

Access to ICTs in ASEAN, 2000 (Source: Based on figures from World Bank [2002], CIA [2005b] and Dai [2003])

Country	Telephone mainlines per 1000 people*	Mobile phones per 1000 people*	PCs per 1000 people*	Internet users (% of population)*	GDP per capita, PPP in US\$**
Brunei	245	289	70.1	8.82	18,600
Cambodia	2	10	1.1	0.05	1,900
Indonesia	31	17	9.9	0.95	3,200
Laos	8	2	2.6	0.11	1,700
Malaysia	199	213	103.1	15.88	9,000
Myanmar	6	0	1.1	0.01	1,800
Philippines	40	84	19.3	2.65	4,600
Singapore	484	684	483.1	30.00	23,700
Thailand	92	50	24.3	3.79	7,400
Vietnam	32	10	8.8	0.25	2,500

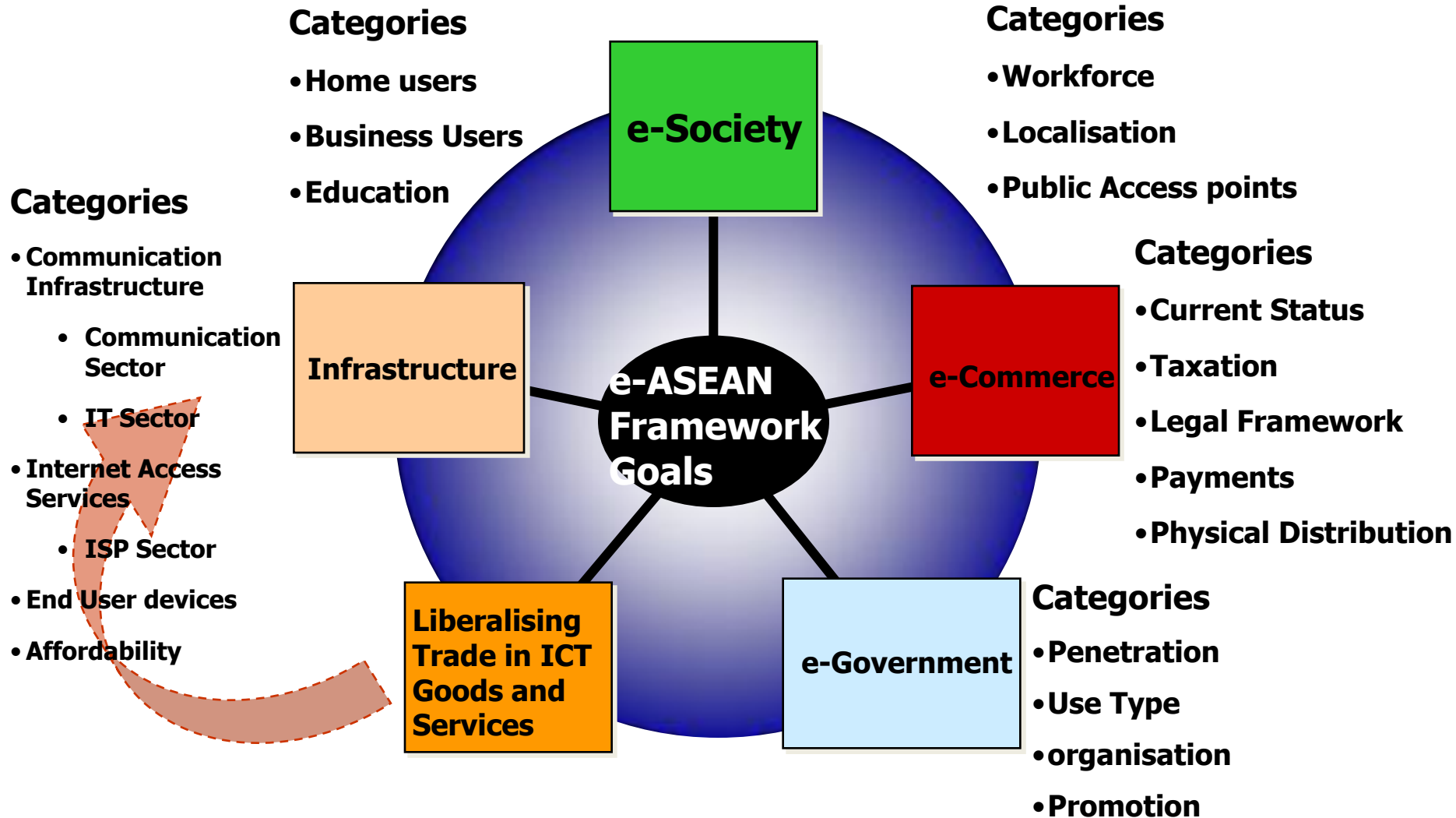
eASEAN Framework Agreement signed by ASEAN Leaders at ASEAN Summit in Singapore in November 2000

Six main thrusts:

- Establishment of ASEAN Information Infrastructure
- Growth of electronic commerce
- Liberalisation of trade in ICT products and ICT services, and of investments
- Facilitation of trade in ICT products and services
- Capacity building and e-Society
- e-Government

ASEAN e-Readiness Assessment (2001)

153 Indicators



Measuring ICT/e-Commerce Development

e-Readiness

ICT investment, ICT spending, ICT occupations, telecommunication access paths, broadband penetration rates, Internet hosts, number of Websites, Internet access prices

e-Usage

Internet subscribers, PC in households, Internet use by households and individuals, Internet use by enterprise size and industry, Internet transactions

e-Impacts

Value added, return on Investment employment, R&D and patents in ICT industries, trade in ICT goods, cross-border mergers, acquisitions and alliances, job creation, productivity, and social impacts

