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# The ASEAN Broadband Corridor – policy instrument or network?



**IIC Conference on AIM – 3 April 2012**

# Agenda

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- 1. ASEAN Broadband Corridor – bases.**
- 2. ABC – What is it ?**
- 3. Multi-local / regional /**
- 4. Commentary**

# ABC – bases

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'Connectivity' concept – from 2010 Masterplan on ASEAN  
Connectivity (MPAC) see background paper

Also note origins of the AIM – genesis in TELSOM.

'Connectivity' is much broader than being connected by good  
broadband or telecoms link or social or government network.

We've seen the Three Pillars and Three Foundations.

ABC – formal announcement in early December 2011 around time of  
TELSOM meeting in Myanmar.

# What we know

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ASEAN economies are vastly different in many measures – eg broadband penetration (see later slide on broadband penetration)

Legal bases – eg ASEAN Charter, ACIA (ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement), ATIGA (ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement), AFAS (ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services) support collaboration and policy goals, much weaker on trade in services than on trade in goods

ABC has a basis in infrastructure (think of infrastructure as soft and hard).

Some funding is identified / pledged for infrastructure development.

# ABC – what is it?

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Physical network – eg like Acacia’s or the managed network of a global managed services provider? - No.

Overlay network with specific applications and services (eg G to G tool and reaching out to citizenry?)? – No.

An agreement to identify cities / locations with reasonable propensity for broadband take up? – Yes

A way of connecting them and encouraging use of broadband? - Yes

A way of accelerating broadband penetration? – Yes

A policy intention, leading to a policy instrument? - Yes

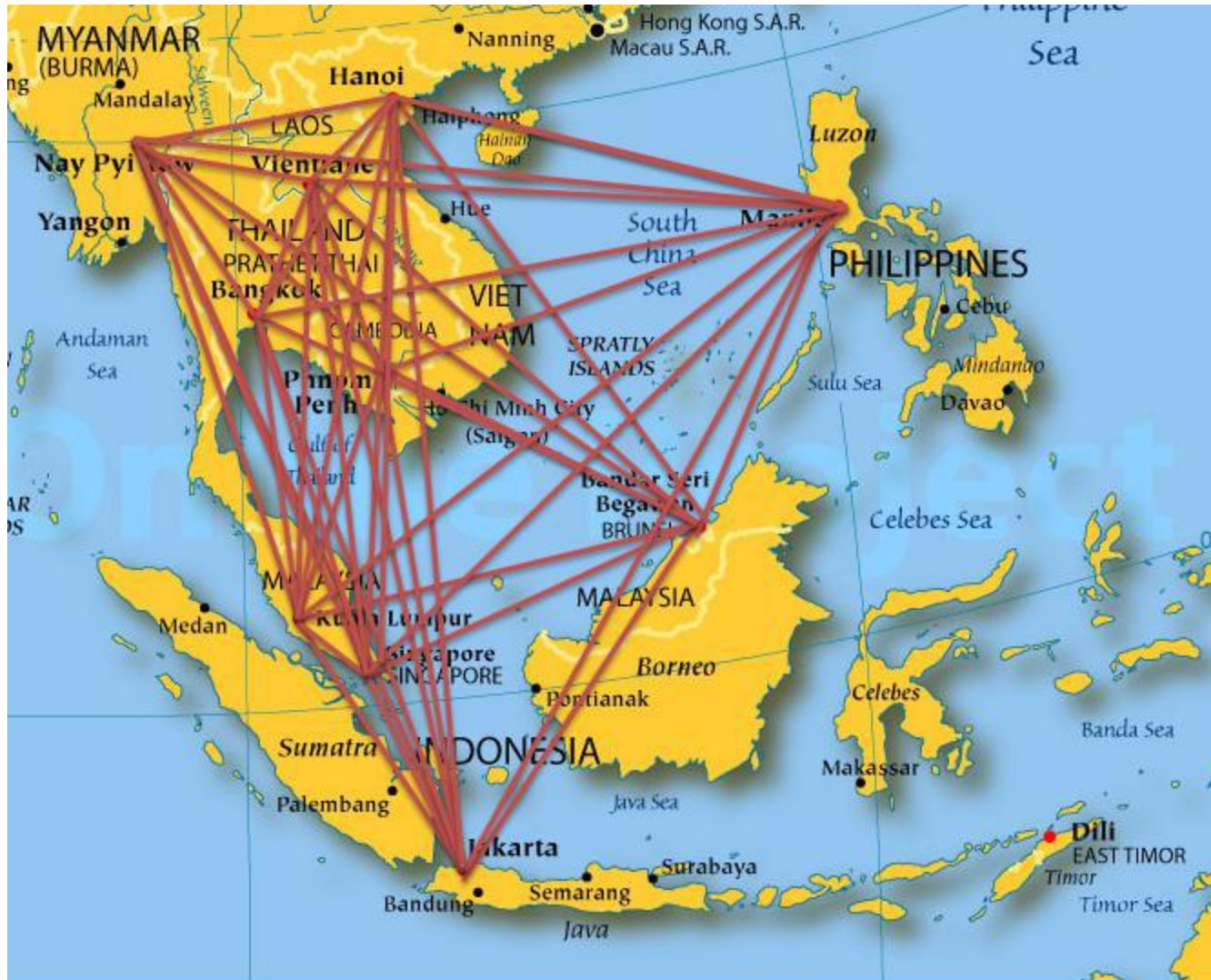
# One of three Foundations – Infrastructure Development – basis for ABC

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## 4.1 Foundations – Infrastructure: improve broadband connectivity

Action	Description
Establish an ASEAN broadband corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identify and develop locations in each ASEAN Member State which offer quality broadband connectivity</li><li>• Enable seamless usage of broadband services and applications across ASEAN to further connect and enhance the development of ICT and other sectors</li><li>• Promote the diversity of international connectivity among ASEAN Member States</li></ul>

# Inter ASEAN / multi-local / intra ASEAN ?



# Status and Activity

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**Programme Areas:** - 4 Infrastructure Development

**Activities:** ASEAN Broadband Corridor (ABC)

**Achievements/Expected Achievements:**

Phase I of ABC will be implemented in 2011-2012 focusing on data collection, analysis and recommendations to outline the policy actions to spur broadband adoption and effective use. Phase II will be implemented in 2013-2015 period to identify areas with consistent broadband availability to both citizens and businesses in selected pockets of AMS.



# Broadband penetration

## Fixed Broadband Internet Subscribers

Fixed broadband Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants	ITU (2010) <sup>1</sup>	World Bank (2010) <sup>2</sup>	Government targets
<b>Brunei</b>	5.44%	5.44%	
<b>Cambodia</b>	0.25%	0.25%	
<b>Indonesia</b>	0.79%	0.79%	30% Broadband penetration by 2014
<b>Laos</b>	0.19%	0.19%	
<b>Malaysia</b>	7.32%	7.32%	75% Broadband penetration by 2015
<b>Myanmar</b>	0.03%	0.03%	15% Teledensity for fixed line and broadband by 2015
<b>Philippines</b>	1.85%	1.85%	-
<b>Singapore</b>	24.94%	24.77%	95% Household and commercial coverage by mid-2012
<b>Thailand</b>	4.61%	3.87%	95% Broadband penetration by 2020
<b>Vietnam</b>	4.13%	4.18%	20-30% Broadband penetration by 2015

# Commentary - Pros

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## Pros:

**Some chance of enhancing broadband connectivity, this helps with economic integration**

**Avoids re-inventing wheels and building new networks**

**Probably wise to avoid 'ASEAN applications'**

**Gives a focus to broadband**

**Does not rely on a central developer or regulator (which are unlikely)**

**Opportunities for Private sector engagement**

# Commentary - Cons

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## Cons

**ABC needs some conceptual work – further industry consultation and collaboration recommended.**

**Could be just a multi-local approach with development (given other programmes) may happen anyway,**

# Thank you

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