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The US-ASEAN Business Council and the Asia Internet Coalition host first industry-led ASEAN Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on “Over-the-Top” (OTT) services

(Singapore) - The US-ASEAN Business Council (US-ABC) and the Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) today hosted the first industry-led *2019 ASEAN Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue* in Singapore, bringing together key stakeholders, including industry and regulators, to discuss the future of Over-the-Top (OTT) services and its contributing role to the growth of the ASEAN digital economy.

This ASEAN Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue is the first industry-led session under the ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators’ Council’s (ATRC) “ATRC Stakeholders’ Consultative Dialogue” platform, which was institutionalized and endorsed by ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers (TELMIN) in 2018 to promote broader inputs into OTT policy-making. The second installment of the ATRC Stakeholders’ Consultative Dialogue will be government-led.

Around 50 participants comprised of ASEAN telecommunications regulators, private sector representatives and subject matter experts from academia, think-tanks, and trade associations, attended the Dialogue, which was held at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House, National University of Singapore.

Asia Internet Coalition’s Managing Director, Jeff Paine said at the event, “As a representative for leading technology companies, AIC is confident that public-private sector engagements, such as this dialogue, are critical for building better understanding and collaboration between government and industry. ASEAN economies will need to ensure they have the right policy and regulatory systems in place that support innovation, investment and economic growth; industry inputs into policy can help by ensuring that local SMEs and entrepreneurs have the right access, support and knowledge to leverage technology like OTT, which will enable them thrive and scale beyond borders.”

“For business and government leaders in the OTT space, multi-stakeholder dialogues like these are important opportunities for us to advance outcomes and steer the conversation via collaboration, open discussion, and public-private partnerships,” said US-ABC’s Senior Vice President & Regional Managing Director, Ambassador Michael Michalak. “However,

dialogues are just a starting point, and we hope today’s event will facilitate ongoing conversations on these topics and provide an even stronger foundation for the next government-led ASEAN Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue later this year. Accelerating the development and growth of ASEAN’s ICT industry and services will play an important role in fostering an inclusive digitally-enabled community, and the US-ASEAN Business Council is proud to play a role in facilitating these engagements.”

The full-day session brought together ASEAN regulators from broadcast, telecommunications, tax, and media sectors in Brunei, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, alongside experts from academia, industry and think tanks, to discuss challenges and opportunities within the OTT ecosystem, and how OTT services can support ASEAN in achieving its digital economy ambitions around economic transformation and growth, investment, and innovation.

The Dialogue featured in-depth structured sessions designed to explore the complexities of the vast OTT ecosystem, including key verticals: Video-on-Demand (VOD) platforms, platforms with User-Generated Content (UGC), and Communications platforms. Subject matter experts presented case studies on each sector, followed by panel and participant discussions on the latest innovations, global best practices, and the current policy and regulatory landscape.

The next dialogue under the ASEAN Telecommunications Regulators' Council will be hosted by government and held in August in Bangkok.

Note

“OTT” describes as any digital service delivered via the Internet, ‘over the top’ of traditional infrastructure such as telecommunication, broadcast, or cable networks. It covers a wide range of services including: communications (delivering audio, video and other media), social media platforms and products, media and entertainment services (including movie streaming and TV on demand), and e-commerce (including marketplaces, fintech, transport services).

Press Contacts

Monica Chritton
US-ASEAN Business Council
+1 (202)-416-6712
mchritton@usasean.org

Jamie Menon
Asia Internet Coalition
+65-8157-8850
press@aicasia.org

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About Asia Internet Coalition (AIC)

The AIC is a leading industry association for Internet policy in Asia, representing the world's largest technology companies and helping governments develop well-informed policies that support the growth of the digital economy in Asia. For more information on AIC, visit <https://www.aicasia.org/>

About US-ASEAN Business Council

For 35 years, the US-ASEAN Business Council has been the premier advocacy organization for U.S. corporations operating within the dynamic Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Worldwide, the Council's membership of more than 160 companies generates over US\$6 trillion in revenue and employs more than 13 million people globally. Members include the largest U.S. companies conducting business in ASEAN, and range from newcomers to the region to companies that have been working in Southeast Asia for more than 100 years. The Council has offices in Washington, DC; New York, NY; Bangkok, Thailand; Hanoi, Vietnam; Jakarta, Indonesia; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Manila, Philippines; and Singapore

US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC.

Washington, D.C.

1101 17th Street, NW
Suite 411
Washington, DC 20036 USA
+1 202 289 1911
mail@usasean.org

New York

521 Fifth Ave (@43rd St)
Suite 1700
New York, NY 10175 USA
+1 212 687 4505
mail@usasean.org

Indonesia

35th Floor Menara Astra
Jln. Jend. Sudirman Kav. 5
Jakarta 10220- Indonesia
indonesia@usasean.org

Malaysia

26th Floor, Menara Maxis
Kuala Lumpur City Centre
50088 Kuala Lumpur
+60 3 2615 7975
malaysia@usasean.org

Philippines

Room 808, 8/F Ascott BGC
28th Street & 5th Avenue
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City 1634, Philippines
+63 2 860 9826
philippines@usasean.org

Singapore

100 Beach Road #22-04/05
Shaw Tower
Singapore 189702
+65 6339 8885
singapore@usasean.org

Thailand

23rd Floor, Siam Piwat Tower
989 Rama 1 Road
Patumwan, Bangkok 10330
+66 2 649 1119
thailand@usasean.org

Vietnam

Unit 1505, Pacific Place
83B Ly Thuong Kiet st.
Hanoi, Vietnam
+84985140843
vietnam@usasean.org

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