

ASEAN Telecommunications and IT Sectors Towards Closer ASEAN Integration

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ABSTRACT

This study builds on the findings of REPSF 02/009 on the state of telecommunications market in the ASEAN region. An assessment of the market, policy and regulations in the converged telecommunications and IT sectors or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector is provided. The ICT sector is one of the 11 priority sectors for regional integration. Thus an evaluation of the different levels of access to ICT services among ASEAN economies and the factors that reinforce the income gap that underlies the digital divide is relevant to the ASEAN integration agenda. The study also recommends a set of indicators that the member economies may use to track progress and policy reform commitments in the sector. Finally, a regional action plan for 2005-2015 to realize the envisioned e-ASEAN is proposed. Such plan is anchored on six strategies that include liberalization of ICT markets, regional cooperation and creation of institutional mechanisms to push forward member economies' commitments on market reform.