NB313

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

ON THE JOINT COOPERATION IN PUSHING FORWARD THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY IN THE GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION

BETWEEN AND AMONG

THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA,

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA,

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTS, POSTS & CONSTRUCTION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR,

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND,

AND

THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELEMATICS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of the Union of Myanmar, the Ministry of Communications, Transports, Posts and Construction of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Ministry of Posts and Telematics of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (hereafter referred to as " The six parties") ;

BEARING IN MIND the long-term friendship of the countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) and the common support for the initiative to enhance and promote economic and cultural exchange and cooperation and to facilitate the cooperation among the six parties in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT).

RECOGNIZING that the close cooperation of the countries in the GMS, through the construction of a GMS information superhighway connecting all the six countries will further boost the economic development, economic and trade exchanges and cultural communications between and among the six countries and bridge the "digital divide" within the subregion, which will be conducive to the goal of e-ASEAN and ASEAN integration.

REALISING the principle of equality and mutual benefit and based upon the full use of the existing communication networks in GMS.

HAVE REACHED the following understanding.

ARTICLE 1

Basic Principles

1. The six parties agree to jointly build a GMS information superhighway by enhancing cooperation, making full use of commercial and market mechanisms and accelerating the investment and trade facilitation process in ICT field in the GMS.

2. The existing GMS economic cooperation mechanism has played an active role in the ICT field in the subregion, and the six parties will continue to employ this mechanism to push forward the construction of the GMS information superhighway.

ARTICLE 2

Scope of Cooperation

1. The six parties will promote cooperation in all spheres of activity defined by this Memorandum of Understanding in order to derive maximum benefits for all six countries.

2. The six parties will jointly build a broadband platform connecting the six countries where basic services including voice, data and Internet access services can be provided.

3. On the basis of building the GMS information superhighway, cooperation among the six parties in ICT-related field shall include the following:

a. e-Commerce

b. e-Government

c. Information and IT security

d. Human Resource Development

e. Research, Design and Development

f. Exploration of third country markets

g. IT enabled services

h. IT culture change management in the Public Sector(PS)

i. Other areas that emerge as ICT evolves, as mutually agreed upon by the parties.

ARTICLE 3

Setting Up a "Steering Group" and an "Implementation Group"

In order to implement the scope of co-operation identified in Article 2, the six parties agree to set up a "steering group for the GMS information superhighway" (hereafter referred to as the "steering group") and an "implementation group for the GMS information superhighway" (hereafter referred to as the "implementation group").

ARTICLE 4

Composition and Responsibility of the "Steering Group"

With regard to the steering group, the six parties agree that:

(1) The steering group shall be made up of the contacts (persons in charge of

the specific departments related) appointed by each of the six parties. (the name list is attached as Appendix I)

(2) The contacts appointed by the six parties shall serve as the chairperson of the steering group in turn;

(3) The chairperson shall convene and host the meeting when necessary to exchange ideas on relevant issues between the six parties and resolve these issues on a consensual basis.

(4) The steering group shall be responsible for coordinating the related policies of the six parties on building the GMS information superhighway; it shall also communicate with the Asian Development Bank on relevant issues, evaluate and endorse the implementation group's reports. The steering group will report annually to the six parties.

(5) Other work identified by the six parties.

ARTICLE 5

Composition and Responsibility of The Implementation Group

With regard to the implementation group, the six parties agree:

(1) The implementation group shall be made up of persons representing a nominated operator to be designated by each of the six parties. (the name list is attached as Appendix II)

Persons designated by the six parties shall serve as the chairperson of the implementation group in turn;

(2) The chairperson shall convene and host the meeting when necessary to exchange ideas on relevant issues between the operators and resolve these issues on a consensual basis; views on related issues shall be exchanged in writing between the operators on a quarterly basis.

(3) The implementation group shall deliver a report on the work progress to the steering group on a biannual basis.

(4) The implementation group shall be responsible for building the GMS information superhighway, formulating plans of building the GMS information superhighway and resolving issues pertinent to building the GMS information superhighway such as capital, technologies and personnel training as well as other related matters.

(5) The implementation group shall provide a platform for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in various forms between and among the operators of the six parties;

(6) Other work identified by the six parties.

ARTICLE 6

Form of Cooperation

Parties' cooperation under Articles 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations and national policies of each country.

ARTICLE 7

Funding and Resources

The conduct of cooperative activities under Articles 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be subject to availability of funds and other resources including financing and co-financing from international agencies and donors. The cost of cooperative activities shall be shared by the Parties in manner to be mutually agreed upon.

ARTICLE 8

Validity

1. Upon the written consent of the six parties, this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to modifications and revisions at any time. Such modifications and revisions shall come into force on the day agreed upon by the six parties and become an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding .

2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall come into force on the day of signing and be valid for five (5) years if no party notifies the other parties in writing of terminating this Memorandum of Understanding at least ninety (90) days before this Memorandum of Understanding expires.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized hereof by their respective Governments, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding .

Done at Vientiane on December 28,2004 in six copies in the English language.

for

THE MINISTRY OF POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

H.E.Mr.CHAM PRASIDH

Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce

for

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

H.E.Mr.WANG XUDONG

Minister

for

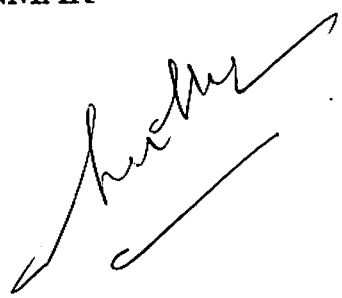
THE MINISTRY OF
COMMUNICATIONS,TRANSPORTS,
POSTS & CONSTRUCTION OF THE
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



H.E.Mr.BOUATHONG VONGLOKHAM
Minister

for

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS,
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OF THE
UNION OF MYANMAR



H.E.Mr.U SOE THA, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development

for

THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY OF
THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

H.E.Mr. SURAPONG SUEBVONG
Minister

for

THE MINISTRY OF POSTS AND
TELEMATICS OF THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

H.E.Mr.TRUONG DINH TUYEN
Minister of Trade