

**Welcoming Speech  
to the Regional Workshop  
of Technology Assessment For  
Universal Service Obligation Practices  
in ASEAN Member Countries (  $\tau$  (tau)-Project**

**Yogyakarta, 7 September 2007**

Mr. Honorio Vitasa  
Director of Agriculture and Infrastructure of ASEAN ICT Unit  
represented by Mrs. Mima Sefrina (ASEAN ICT Unit)

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

First of all, I'd like to confirm regret from the Director of Agriculture and Infrastructure of ASEAN ICT unit, Mr. Honorio Vitasa. Due to previous working commitment, he could not attend this important workshop. Nevertheless, he pays special attention to this event and has assigned me to state remarks on his behalf.

Distinguished representatives from ASEAN member countries, distinguished speaker, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow us to compliment the transport and logistics studies of Pustral from Gadjah Mada University for successfully implementing the USO practices in ASEAN member countries or better known as *tau*-project.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to DG Postel who continuously provides support to the project implementation unit in answering the effective implementation of the project. Our sincere gratitude also goes to the member of *tau* project task force who has been working hand in hand with Pustral providing information relating to USO practices in member countries respectively. Of course, our deepest appreciation goes to the government of Japan who has provided financial and technical support to the project.

Universal service obligation is an important issue for ASEAN member countries considering the existing rural and remote areas in this region. Efforts have been made as ways to exchange views to provide the services for all people, among others:

1. In April 2007 general in group meeting recommended the establishment of ASEAN USO forum including tau-project and framework of indicators to measure the universal access and digital divide for ASEAN.
2. Following up the decision of general framework meeting, on 21 July 2007 the workshop on USO in ASEAN was held in Phnom Penh Cambodia.
3. Last but not least, today's workshop on finding the telecommunication solution for rural community development in ASEAN region

Recently the successfully held the 7<sup>th</sup> telecommunication and information technology ministers meeting (TELMIN) in Siem Riep, Cambodia on 23-24 August 2007. The meeting has adopted the Siem Riep declaration on enhancing universal access on ICT services in ASEAN. They put special emphasis on the importance of regional efforts and regional activities to provide Universal access on ICT services in rural and remote areas. This declaration has marked ASEAN commitment to ensure that all people in society benefit from the information and communication technology. We are delighted to know that this workshop is complete as regional efforts to implement the Siem Riep declaration.

We hope that through this event, all participants are able to come up with the recommendations on how to provide the telecommunication for rural areas in ASEAN. We wish the workshop successful.

In closing, we would like to once again thank Pustral of the Gadjah Mada University and all other concerned department for organizing this workshop and providing this warm hospitality. We would also like to thank the government of Japan and the people of Japan for providing financial and technical support to the project.

We wish all participants a memorable stay in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Thank you.