

**CLMVT Forum 2018**  
**Day 1 – 16 August 2018 (16.30 – 17.30 Hrs.)**  
**Discussion Paper for**  
**Plenary Room Ministerial Conversation: What's Next for CLMVT Digital**  
**Economy?**  
**Candid thoughts-sharing from the couch**

**Lead Discussants:**

- **H.E Mr. Chea Manit**, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Cambodia
- **H.E. Mr. Houmphanh Intharath**, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Lao PDR
- **H.E. U Tha Oo**, Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications, Myanmar
- **H.E. Mr. Bui The Duy**, Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Vietnam
- **H.E. Dr. Pichet Durongkaveroj**, Minister of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand
  
- **Dr. Doan Duy Khuong**, Vice President, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- **Mr. Kalin Sarasin**, Chairman, Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand

**Conversation Shepherd : Mr. Nathporn Chatusripitak**, Advisor to Minister of Commerce, Thailand

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## **Background and Overview**

Nowadays, expeditious and developing trends in digital technologies are considerably affecting citizen's lives. Digital economy creates impacts in many ways such as the way people interact, how new business model is created, how new skills are required in responding to future of job, as well as the approach government interacts with its citizens.

Looking at the bright side, digitalization has crucial implications for CLMVT countries' growth and productivity by taking advantage of economies of scale and networks effects, increasing capital and labour productivity and facilitating better connection in global value chains. Digital economy also enhances inclusivity by reducing costs of transaction and sharing information and thus leads to sharing economy when the small players have better chance to enter the market.

In spite of the advantages led by the digital economy, possible downsides also exist. A serious risk could be the growing inequality between cities and rural areas, depending on the degree to which people have access to digital infrastructure, or another risk could be the possibility of losing jobs if the existing skill sets do not match the market requirement.

To gain maximum benefits from the digital economy and to evenly distribute the gains, the government cannot overlook the strategic planning by setting the key foundations for the Digital Economy.

**Possible Points for Discussion:**

- What are the key foundations for the Digital Economy (i.e. Infrastructure, Information Flows, Intellectual Capital (Digital Literacy), Ecosystem Framework to attract Innovation and Investment, and Integration to global economy)? Are they enough? How can they be sequenced and prioritized?
  - What are the necessary steps that should be taken by the government and business for the development of skills vital for the Digital Economy?
  - What are the institutions and the governance structures that the governments need to put in place to take full advantage of the Digital Economy?
  - What are the new international policies, regulations or collaboration that CLMVT will need to put in place in order to support the Digital Economy across the region?
  - How public and private sectors within CLMVT could cooperate to tackle the challenges of digitalisation?
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