INFORMATION PAPER 3:

ASEAN SECTORAL BODY INITIATIVES ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Cross-sectoral AI initiatives in ASEAN represent a key strategy in advancing the region's digital transformation agenda, fostering collaboration between various industries such as healthcare, education, finance, and telecommunications. These initiatives aim to harness the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence to address sector-specific challenges while promoting innovation and regional integration. By encouraging cooperation among public and private entities and leveraging partnerships with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, these efforts help align AI applications with broader socio-economic goals, ensuring inclusive growth and digital development.

2. Such initiatives also address the region's need for harmonised AI governance frameworks, ethical standards, and cross-border data collaboration. In the context of diverse economic, social, and cultural landscapes within ASEAN, cross-sectoral collaboration ensures AI solutions are adaptable, scalable, and responsive to each sector's unique demands. This approach enhances efficiency and innovation across sectors and strengthens ASEAN's position as a leader in AI adoption and governance in the global digital economy.

3. Given the cross-sectoral nature of the application of AI technology , the ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM) is playing the leading role for ASEAN AI initiatives with coordination support provided by the ASEAN Digital Economy Division (DED), particularly on AI policy, governance, laws and regulations, and standards. However, this does not preclude other sectoral bodies from pursuing AI initiatives. ASEAN sectoral bodies are encouraged to explore opportunities to leverage AI in developing impactful initiatives, fostering collaboration and maximising the benefits of this transformative technology across the region. Other sectoral bodies are advised to inform and consult ADGSOM on AI-related initiatives, especially those that affect AI policies, governance, laws and regulations, standards, and direct contact with AI industry player within and beyond ASEAN.

B. MAPPING OF CROSS-SECTORAL AI INITIATIVES BETWEEN ADGSOM AND COSTI

4. To promote a holistic and aligned approach to AI governance and development across sectors in ASEAN, it is essential to map out collaborative opportunities between two key sectoral bodies namely, ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM) and the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI). These

two key sectoral bodies play pivotal roles in driving digital transformation and scientific advancement, making cross-sectoral collaboration crucial for the region's AI initiatives. Figure 1 below is the mapping of AI initiatives between ADGSOM and COSTI:

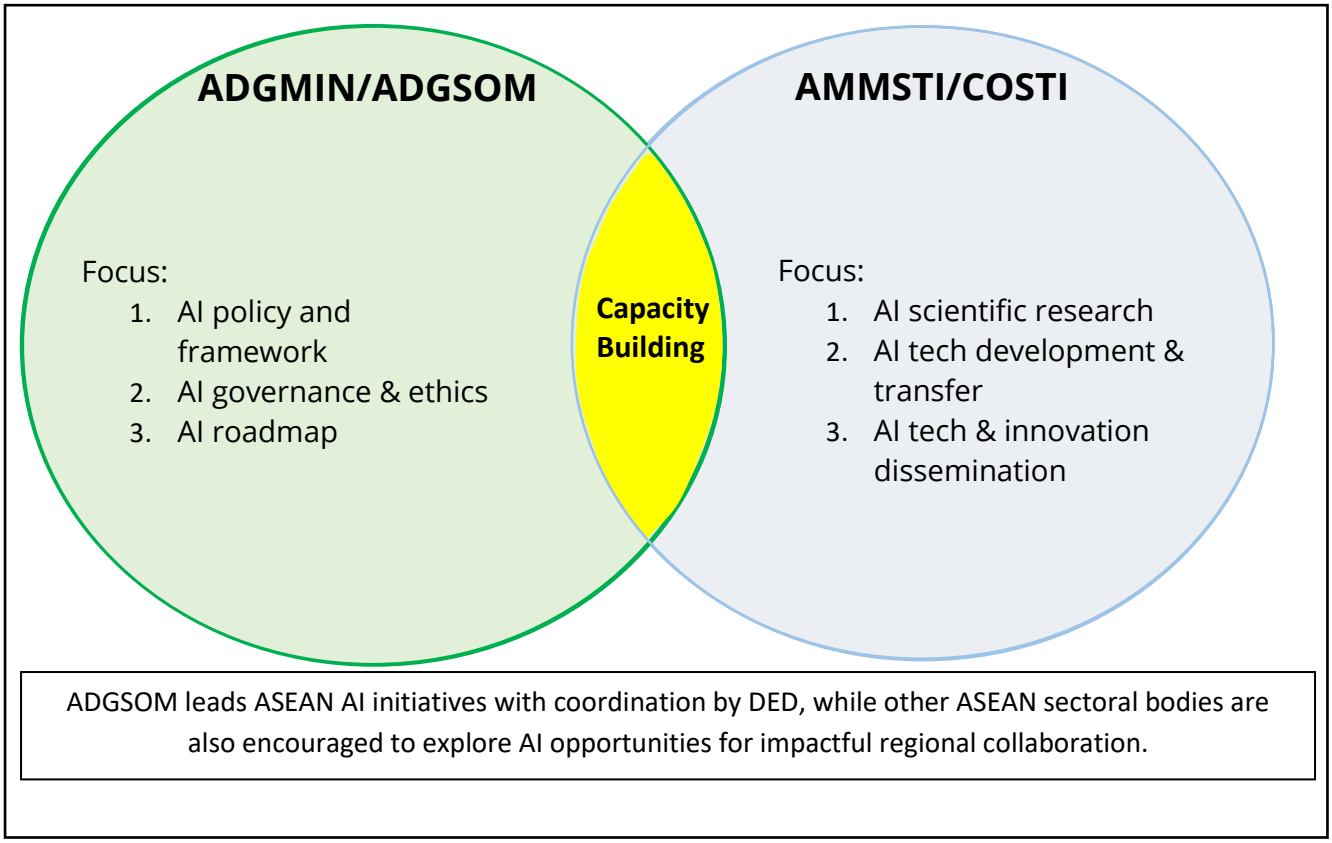


Figure 1. Venn Diagram of Cross-Sectoral AI Initiatives between ADGSOM and COSTI

C. PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR ASEAN SECTORAL BODY INITIATIVES ON AI

5. Managing cross-sectoral AI initiatives among ASEAN Sectoral Bodies requires a multi-faceted approach, focusing on strategic coordination, regulatory harmonisation, and cross-sectoral collaboration that aligns diverse stakeholders, including governments, private sector entities, academia, and civil society.

6. To this end, ADGSOM should be enhanced with coordination and advisory roles related to AI matters. Other Sectoral Bodies should seek ADGSOM's views, input, or technical advice for initiatives related to AI development and adoption, especially initiatives that affect AI policies, governance, laws and regulations, standards, and direct contact with AI industry player within and beyond ASEAN. To this end, the terms of reference of the Working Group on AI Governance (WG-AI) should be updated to reflect these essential roles.

7. An exercise to compile ongoing and upcoming activities related to AI implemented by ASEAN sectoral bodies was conducted. As of 1 October 2024, a total

of 32 activities have been identified across 9 sectoral bodies/working groups, as outlined in Table 1. The complete list of these 28 activities can be found in Annex 1.

No	Sectoral Body	Division	Number of activities as of 1 Oct 2024
1.	ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting (ADGSOM)	Digital Economy Division (DED)	6
2.	ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI)	Science & Technology Division (STD)	14
3.	ASEAN Experts Group on Competition (AEGC)	Competition, Consumer Protection and Intellectual Property Rights Division (CCPID)	1
4.	ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection (ACCP)		1
5.	ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation (AWGIPC)		2
6.	ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management (AWGWRM)/ ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment (ASOEN)	Environment Division	1
7.	Senior Officials Meeting on Health Development (SOMHD)	Health Division (HD)	2
8.	ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE)	Energy & Minerals Division (EMD)	1
9.	ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals (ASOMM) Working Group on Capacity Building on Minerals (WGCBM) Working Group on Minerals Information and Database (WGMID)		1

Table 1. Ongoing and upcoming activities related to AI implemented by ASEAN sectoral bodies

8. Recognising the cross sectoral nature of AI, a framework indicated as Figure 2, is proposed to streamline AI-related initiatives across sectoral bodies within ASEAN, including outlining a cohesive strategy that aligns AI initiatives with the region's broader digital and socio-economic objectives.

ASEAN AI INITIATIVES

Guiding Policy: ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics

Overall Lead: ADGMIN/ADGSOM

Sectoral Body: ADGSOM

Division: DED

1. ASEAN Guide on AI Governance and Ethics
2. Working Group on AI Governance (WG-AI)
3. ASEAN Responsible AI Roadmap
4. ASEAN-Korea Digital Innovation Flagship Project (KADIF)
5. Expand the AI Guide to include Generative AI
6. ADGSOM AI related projects

Sectoral Body: COSTI

Division: S&TD

1. ASEAN Discussion Paper on Generative AI
2. AMMSTI Statement on AI
3. ASEAN COSTI Tracks on AI (ACT on AI) 2024-2025
4. ASEAN Workshop on Implementation of Artificial Intelligence on Carbon Neutrality and Blue Economy
5. Korea-ASEAN AI Development/Startup Competition
6. Korea-ASEAN Artificial Intelligence (AI) Convergence and Spread Project
7. AI for Sustainable Development in ASEAN (AISDA): strengthening evidence toward promoting responsible, safe and inclusive AI to support sustainable development in Southeast Asia
8. Detection and Prediction of Diabetic Kidney Disease in ASEAN: Developing Artificial Intelligence Algorithms with Ocular Imaging
9. Development of Electromagnetic Shielding Materials and Devices for 5G/6G Digital Infrastructure
10. Deep Ensemble Under Non-Ideal Conditions and Its Typical Applications in Computer Vision
11. ASEAN-Pakistan Technological Research Collaborations Program Through NCRA
12. "Enabling environment for a human-centered adoption of AI in ASEAN" Workshop
13. Learning technologies with KidBright Platform
14. Integrating Artificial Intelligence into ASEAN Journal on Science and Technology for Development (AJSTD)

Sectoral Body: AEGC

Division: CCPID

1. Study and Workshop on The Impact of AI towards Competition

Sectoral Body: AWGIPC

Division: CCPID

1. ASEAN Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Helpdesk
2. Implementation of AI-Assisted Trademark search in the ASEAN IP Register

Sectoral Body: ACCP

Division: CCPID

1. Study and Workshop on The Impact of AI towards Competition

Sectoral Body: SOMHD

Division: HD

1. ASEAN BioDiaspora Reports and Other Products
2. ASEAN BioDiaspora Virtual Centre (ABVC) with tentative new name "ASEAN Biological Threats Intelligence Centre"

Sectoral Body: ASOMM

Division: EMD

1. 1st Technical and Database Workshop on Critical Minerals Management and Strategy for Sustainable Environment in ASEAN

Sectoral Body: AWGWRM

Division: ED

1. ASEAN-MRC Technology Competition Tackling Flash Floods Using AI and Machine Learning

Sectoral Body: AMEM

Division: EMD

1. Op-Ed: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for a Greener Data Centre

Stakeholders: Governments | Private Sectors | Academia | Civil Society | Dialogue Partners | International Organisations

Figure 2. ASEAN AI Initiatives: The list of sectoral bodies activities is valid until 25 Sept 2024 and is not exhaustive. Expansion of activities is expected in the future.

Legends:
ADGSOM- ASEAN Digital Senior Officials' Meeting
COSTI – ASEAN Committee of Science, Technology and Innovation
AEGC – ASEAN Experts Group on Competition
AWGPIC - ASEAN Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation
ACCP - ASEAN Committee on Consumer Protection
AWGWRM- ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management
AMEM-ASEAN Ministers' on Energy Meeting
ASOMM- ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Minerals
SOMHD – ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Health Development

9. This framework is proposed to address cross-sectoral issues related to AI in ASEAN with greater nuance and sensitivity. It emphasizes the importance of clearly defining lead and supporting roles to promote collaboration rather than fostering competition among ASEAN Member States. Establishing leadership on issues that span multiple ASEAN sectors is crucial. The framework aims to delineate clear areas of responsibility and highlight the need for effective coordination and collaboration across sectors to ensure cohesive implementation.

End

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