

Updates on the ASC project on use of ICT for ASEAN coordination and community-building: Vientiane Roundtable

The 8th Roundtable on the Use of ICT to enhance ASEAN community building took place on 5 May 2010, Wednesday, in Vientiane, Laos. Almost 20 participants turned up at this roundtable which was held at Laos's National Authority for Sciences and Technology. Some of Lao government officials, including those from the Foreign Ministry, the ICT Ministry and the Prime Ministerial Office, attended and participated actively in the discussion. Representatives of the private sector, NGOs and the academic were also present at this workshop.

One of the key findings of this roundtable is that Laos has remained one of the least developed economies in ASEAN, and therefore the gap in ICT technology still exists. Lao participants would like to see the standardisation of ICT technology within ASEAN, to receive financial assistance from more advanced economies in order to upgrade the nation's ICT infrastructure, and more importantly, to find a way, with the help of ASEAN, in making the development of ICT a sustainable process.

Pavin Chachavalpongpan, lead researcher for political and strategic affairs of the ASC, attended the Vientiane Roundtable, and shall continue his journey to Hanoi where the 9th Roundtable will be organised on 7 May 2010.

