

Data, Investment and Technology: Establishing Thailand at the centre of the Greater Mekong Subregion



WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2020 10AM BANGKOK

Each speaker will have 9 or so minutes to give an overview of key points they'd like us to remember, then we engage in dialogue.

Sean Bergin

Co-Founder And President

APTelecom

Sean Bergin, Co-Founder & President APTelecom, built APTelecom into a globally recognized leader in telecom and fiber consulting,

Sean has significant management experience at both national and international levels at Telstra & BT. as Director of Sales for Australia Japan Cable,

Sean is also the Vice President of the Board of Governors for Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC)

Assoc Prof Dr Tiranee Achalakul

Director of Government Big Data Institute (GDBi)

Digital Economic Promotion Agency Thailand (DEPA)

Dr. Achalakul is the director of the Government Big Data Institute GDBi - DEPA (Ministry of Digital Economy and Society), the intelligence service provider for government agencies in Thailand.

She has worked in the fields of big data analytics, high performance computing, cloud and virtualization, and software engineering since 2000.

During the past 18 years, Dr. Achalakul has been both an educator and a consultant. She serves on advisory boards for multiple agencies as well as teaches university students at KMUTT.

Natasak Rodjanapiches

Vice Chairman, Digital Economy & E-Commerce

Board of Trade of Thailand

Natasak Rodjanapiches is the Vice Chairman for Creative Digital and E-Commerce subcommittee at The Board of Trade of Thailand

Managing Director at Oracle Corporations Thailand post for more than 20 years and during that period, ASEAN Regional Managing Director for three years.

Tandem Computers prior to Compaq acquisition;

Senior advisory roles at Price Waterhouse Management Consulting, and KPMG Phoomchai Advisory services.

Theme

Thailand's geo-centricity in S E Asia is often heralded as a natural advantage in regional trade and investment.

That might apply to goods, but the winner in the digital world will be the economy with a Digital Economy which is innovative, attractive and trusted, underpinned by soft and hard telecoms infra, highly regarded for Ease of Doing Business and competitiveness.

What in Thailand's Digital Economy including support infrastructure can be used to support its ability to act as a digital and data centre in the GMS?

What needs to be developed further and enhanced?

HUB elements can include

- Cable infrastructure and services
- Cost of bandwidth
- Local market – two SOEs which make Thailand almost unique in the world in not having evolved their status.
- Expensive spectrum – 4G investment is not returned, hard not to do it, but did we really need 5G spectrum at this point?
- MVNOs (which are SMEs) are not well supported
- Good take up in eCommerce
- Skills – needs upgrade and infusion
- EoDB – work permit and visa are the single most talked about issue
- An acid test of a digitised is how it is applied. Visa extensions now to end of Oct or in some cases end of Nov – when it ends we will be back queuing.
- No Digital Government (whole of government) plan yet but in train.
- But most relevant legislation is in place as an enabler.

World Bank 'doing business' (10 criteria)	2015, 2017: 46; 2018: 26; 2019: 27; 2020: 21
IMD World Competitiveness Rankings (WCR) /63	2018: 30 2019: 25 2020: 29
IMD Digital Competitiveness /63	2017: 41; 2018: 39; 2019: 40
WEF GCI 4.0 (ICT Adoption) / 140	2018: 38; 2019: 40

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