Co-Chairs’ Statement on the Inaugural ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue

MEDIA NOTE

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

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The following is the text of the Co-Chairs’ statement from the ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue released by the Dialogue Co-Chairs: the Governments of the United States of America and Lao PDR. The ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore October 3.

Begin Text:

The inaugural ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore on October 3, 2019. The Dialogue demonstrated strong partnership and a shared vision of an open, interoperable, reliable and secure information communications technology (ICT) environment that fosters efficiency, innovation, communication, and economic prosperity. The Dialogue was co-chaired by the United States and Lao PDR.

Recalling the ASEAN-U.S. Leaders’ Statement on Cybersecurity Cooperation adopted at the 6th ASEAN-U.S. Summit in November 2018, which reaffirmed our shared vision of “a peaceful, secure, and resilient regional cyberspace”, the Dialogue exchanged views on the international cyber environment, national cyber priorities, joint cooperation in international venues, and our respective cyber capacity building priorities in the region.

The Dialogue also discussed the potential of 5th generation (5G) wireless technology, including the importance of opportunity and innovation provided by 5G networks and services for industrialization 4.0 and the digital economy as well as the importance of its security.
The Dialogue reaffirmed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 71/28 and its call for all States to be guided in their use of ICTs by the 2015 Report of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE); including its recommendations to enhance trust, confidence and cooperation, and to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment, as well as its recommendations on voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in cyber space.

The Dialogue acknowledged the work that has been done in fostering greater regional cybersecurity cooperation and capacity building, as well as the importance of continued implementation of cyber confidence building measures to reduce the risk of misperception and escalation in cyberspace, including through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), the ASEAN Telecommunications and Information Technology Ministers’ Meeting (TELMIN), the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ARF ISM on ICTs Security), and the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) Experts’ Working Group on Cyber Security, and committed to increasing efforts on the development and implementation of national cyber strategies as guided by the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy.

The Dialogue also discussed broadening regional cooperation on cyber capacity building including through initiatives and programmes such as: the ASEAN Cyber Capacity Development Project, the Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership, the U.S.-ASEAN Smart Cities Partnership, the U.S.-Singapore Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Programme for ASEAN, the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre, the ASEAN-Singapore Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence, and the U.S.-ASEAN Connect Digital Economy Series, and agreed to continue supporting ASEAN in building its capacity to protect critical infrastructure and combat cybercrime, as well as to counter the use of ICTs, including the Internet, for terrorist purposes, among other efforts.

The Dialogue advances the cooperation between the United States and ASEAN outlined under the U.S.-ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action, as well as the principles and vision of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

The Dialogue agreed to explore the possibility of convening the second ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue in 2020.

*End Text*

For additional information on the ASEAN-U.S. Cyber Policy Dialogue, please contact the Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues at SCCI_Press@state.gov.