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**Ministry of Transport and Communications Hosts Successful Myanmar
Broadband Forum 2016**

First ever edition of forum sees top local and international policy shapers and experts join hands to discuss efforts to Build a Better Connected Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, MYANMAR, (8 July, 2016) – Myanmar’s Ministry of Transport and Communications hosted the first Myanmar Broadband Forum, themed “Better Connected Myanmar”, co-organized by Huawei, on at the Hilton Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw recently. The full-day forum served as a welcome platform, bringing together government agencies, local operators, local service providers and international stakeholders to shape a shared agenda of accelerated broadband growth throughout the industry ecosystem.

Delivering the opening address at the country’s largest broadband event of the year was H.E. U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications. The forum featured a top line-up of speakers from Thailand’s Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, Industry and Planning Research Institutes, the Indonesia FTTH Association (IFA), international telecoms research company Ovum, major Southeast Asian internet TV service provider iFlix, top Hong Kong telecommunications services provider HKT, and leading global information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider Huawei.

H.E. U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, welcomed the participation of heads of ministries, leaders of the industry and digital innovators from the entire ICT ecosystem who convened for this landmark forum to chart the road ahead towards a Digitally Connected Myanmar. “The widespread of broadband infrastructure and development of ICT technologies are facilitating the delivery of the digital society as a key driver to economy growth and industry transformation of Myanmar. It is also important to fully embrace broadband infrastructure and applications to redefine how we live, how we do business, and how we deliver services both in terms of government to government, as well as between government and citizens transparently and with efficient governance.”

At the event, insightful presentations covered efforts to digitally connect the people of Myanmar nationally and globally and the development of communications and content services. Forum topics also included national broadband planning and situational analyses, broadband and market insight of Southeast Asia and Myanmar, regional broadband industry collaboration opportunities and driving the online entertainment revolution.

With Myanmar’s fixed broadband penetration rate still very low less than 1%, hampering growth opportunities in many areas, a better connected country through broadband development is crucial for empowering the economy with added investment and employment of up to 250,000 jobs in the coming 15 years, social media proliferation, ensuring better environmental protection from lower CO2 emissions, and building a Digital Government that is more efficient, transparent and accountable. This would mean rolling out better and faster broadband, driving synergy between fixed and mobile broadband, and producing better content and services.



The ambitious targets set by the government including achieving internet coverage for 85% of the population amongst others, necessitates effective solutions for the growth challenges such as encouraging conducive policy, effective spectrum licensing, industry collaboration and innovative policies – all of which were discussed at the event.

Mr. Jimmy Pang, Huawei President of Government Affairs, from event co-organizers Huawei expressed his company's ongoing support of the country's broadband sector and was encouraged by the success of the forum in facilitating meaningful dialogue within the broadband space. "We are delighted to have been a part of this grand platform to bring together Myanmar's government agencies and leading organizations to bring about the successful rollout of broadband here. The deployment of broadband nationwide is a formidable undertaking and we appreciate the government's efforts to spearhead initiatives that inspire constructive participation from industry leaders."

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications, U Khin Maung Thet, gave a closing speech. He said, "We are very thankful to Huawei for co-organizing this forum. In the past few years, ICT Sector in Myanmar has witnessed tremendous achievements. Leveraging its experience in local operations to better serve local needs, Huawei is one of the key contributors in this great transformation. We hope Huawei can continuously support the development in the ICT sector with its innovative solutions, trusted services and constructive advices."

The inaugural Myanmar Broadband Forum concluded with calls from industry players, experts and government agencies for the implementation of efforts toward the rapid delivery of broadband development strategies and significantly increased industry collaboration within the country's broadband sector.

Also in attendance at the forum, were other top local and international industry experts and policy influencers including various government ministries and agencies, local telecom operators MPT, Telenor and Ooredoo, as well as ICT and broadband sector consultants.

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