



**ASEAN Australia Development
Cooperation Program**

**Legal Infrastructure for E-
Commerce in ASEAN**

**AADCP E-Commerce - Malaysia
Workshop (W4) Speeches and
Media (v5 8 August 2005)**

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Table of Contents

1.	About this document	2
2.	Speech by Datuk HJ Mohd Shafie Bin Haji Apdal (Malaysian Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs) - Workshop Opening.....	3
3.	Speech by Tom Yates (Acting Senior Australian Trade Commissioner in Malaysia) - Workshop Opening	9
4.	Press Coverage: New Straits Times, <i>Two Bills to make online transactions more secure</i> , Friday 29 July 2005, Page 14.....	11
5.	Press Coverage: The Star, <i>E-commerce laws soon</i> , Friday 29 July 2005, Page 26	12
6.	Press Coverage: Bernama.com (Malaysian National News Agency), <i>Need For Harmonious e-Commerce Law In Asean, Says Shafie</i> , 28 July 2005	13

1. About this document

This document has been compiled by Galexia following the AADCP E-Commerce Project Malaysia Workshop (W4). The Malaysian Ministry for Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs were the hosts for the workshop. The Minister (Hon. Datuk Shafie Apdal) opened the workshop and made a speech announcing the development of e-commerce and e-government Bills in Malaysia

2. Speech by Datuk HJ Mohd Shafie Bin Haji Apdal (Malaysian Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs) - Workshop Opening



SPEECH BY

THE HONOURABLE DATUK HJ MOHD SHAFIE BIN HAJI APDAL MINISTER OF DOMESTIC
TRADE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

AT THE OPENING OF

4TH WORKSHOP OF AADCP E-COMMERCE PROJECT HARMONIZATION OF E-COMMERCE
LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ASEAN.

AT ISTANA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR THURSDAY, 28TH JULY 2005, AT 9.00 AM.

MR. TOM YATES
ACTING SENIOR AUSTRALIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER TO MALAYSIA

MR. H.R. ROGER VITASA
HEAD, INFRASTRUCTURE UNIT, ASEAN SECRETARIAT

DA TO' SERI T ALAA T HAJI HUSAIN
SECRETARY GENERAL
MINISTRY OF DOMESTIC TRADE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

MR. PETER VAN DIJK
DIRECTOR, GALEXIA CONSULTING PTY L TD

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

MAY I BEGIN BY WISHING YOU ALL A VERY GOOD MORNING AND "SELAMAT DATANG
KE MALAYSIA" TO OUR PARTICIPANTS FROM OVERSEAS.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE INVITED TO THIS 4TH WORKSHOP OF THE ASEAN-AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROGRAM (AADCP) E-COMMERCE PROJECT, HARMONIZATION OF E-COMMERCE LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ASEAN. THE INITIATIVE BY ASEAN TO COMMISSION THIS TWO YEAR PROJECT IS A STRATEGIC MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, FOR THIS WILL PAVE THE WAY TOWARDS MORE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES BRINGING MUTUAL BENEFIT TO COMPANIES IN THIS REGION.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE AIM OF THIS PROJECT IS TO ASSIST ASEAN COUNTRIES INTEGRATE INTO ONE MARKET FOR GOODS, SERVICES AND INVESTMENT. THE OBJECTIVES WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A HARMONIZED LEGAL, REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR E-COMMERCE. THIS IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE FOR IT WILL FURTHER ENHANCE TRADE BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERIC IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE AND COUNTRY SPECIFIC IMPLEMENTATION GUIDES ON E-COMMERCE LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS ESPECIALLY WELCOME AND WILL HAVE LASTING BENEFITS. HENCE, I BELIEVE IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL OF US IN ASEAN TO ASSIST AND ENSURE THAT THE CLMV COUNTRIES ARE ALSO EQUALLY DEVELOPED IN THIS SECTOR.

WE CANNOT BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT INTRA-ASEAN TRADE IS OF PIVOTAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE REGION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

MALAYSIA IS MOVING EVER CLOSER TOWARDS THE REALISATION OF THE GOALS OF VISION 2020. OUR GOAL OF CREATING A DEVELOPED NATION IN OUR OWN MOULD EMBODIES THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCED LEGAL AND REGULATORY INFRASTRUCTURES. WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT SYSTEMS OF REGULATION AND GOVERNANCE ARE CAPABLE OF RESPONDING TO THE NEW CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION AND MOST PARTICULARLY THE OPPORTUNITIES OF E-COMMERCE.

I HARDLY NEED TO REMIND THIS AUGUST BODY THAT ELECTRONIC BUSINESS AND COMMERCE KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES.

IN TODAY'S WORLD, TRADE TRANSCENDS THE TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES AND THE OLD SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES ARE NO LONGER A SUFFICIENT FORM OF CONSUMER. THEREFORE, GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF HOW TRADE IS TO BE REGULATED IN THE NEW ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS NOT AN ISSUE THAT CAN BEST BE TACKLED UNILATERALLY.

FOR ALTHOUGH MALAYSIA WILL DO ITS PART TO ENSURE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPER LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND EFFECTIVE REGULATORY CONTROLS, WE WANT TO DO THIS IN ACTIVE COLLABORATION WITH OUR ASEAN AND REGIONAL PARTNERS.

THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO ENCOURAGE TRADE, AFTER ALL WE ARE THE 18TH LARGEST TRADING NATION IN THE WORLD. HOWEVER, WE WANT TRADE TO BE FAIRLY BASED ON SOUND PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRITY AND PROBITY. MALAYSIAN CONSUMERS LIKE OTHERS NEED LEGAL PROTECTION AND THE ASSURANCE THAT THE GOODS AND SERVICES THEY BUY CONFORM TO ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS. FURTHERMORE, THE CONSUMER NEEDS TO BE CONFIDENT OF THE SECURITY OF, FOR EXAMPLE, ON-LINE MONETARY TRANSACTIONS.

INVESTORS TOO NEED THE SUPPORT OF AN EFFECTIVE REGULATORY SYSTEM IN THE NEW ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT. IT IS NOT GOING TO BE ACCEPTABLE OR IN ANY NATIONAL INTEREST TO HAVE A GROWING SECTION OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY OPERATING OUTSIDE THE LAW.

IF THERE IS NO LAW THEN WE HAVE TO CREATE NEW LAWS, FOR E-COMMERCE IS NOT A TRANSITORY PHENOMENON. E-COMMERCE IS HERE NOW, IT IS GROWING AND I SEE NOTHING TO SLOW ITS EXPONENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA HAS ALWAYS PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE NEED TO INVEST IN TECHNOLOGY TO FURTHER ENHANCE BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS. THE SETTING UP OF THE MULTIMEDIA SUPER CORRIDOR IS A BENCHMARK DEVELOPMENT AND IT HAS AND WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT ENGINE FOR GROWTH.

THE COUNTRY HAS ALREADY BENEFITED IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND HIGHLY BENEFICIAL FLOWS OF INWARD INVESTMENT. TODAY, THERE ARE 113 MSC STATUS COMPANIES ALL OF WHOM ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN E-COMMERCE.

MANY OF THESE COMPANIES ARE GLOBAL PLAYERS AND WE WISH TO MAKE SURE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY OPERATE SUPPORTS THEIR INNOVATIVE EFFORTS AND WEALTH GENERATING CREATIVITY.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED THEIR SHARED SERVICES CENTERS IN MALAYSIA. THESE INCLUDE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

- THE GROUP DATA CENTRE;
- THE COMMUNICATION AND NETWORK SUPPORT CENTRE;
- THE GROUP SERVICES CENTRE; AND,
- IT SERVICES CENTRE.

MALAYSIAN COMPANIES ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN PROVIDING SHARED SERVICES. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY NOW OFFER:

- OFFICE PROCESSING;
- IT MANAGEMENT SUPPORT;
- CONTACT CENTRE MANAGEMENT SERVICES; AND,
- LOGISTICS AND E-FULFILLMENT SOLUTIONS.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY LOCAL COMPANIES THAT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED BUSINESS BY USING E-COMMERCE AS A MODE OF TRANSACTION NAMELY:

- THE LEADING INTERNET BANKING SERVICE PROVIDER, MALAYAN BANKING BERHAD, THROUGH ITS MAYBANK2U DOT COM PORTAL,
- ASIA TRAVELMART, IN THE TOURISM SECTOR; AND,
- SMART TRANSACT, A LEADING POWERHOUSE FOR E-COMMERCE SOLUTIONS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WE READILY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IN TODAY'S RAPIDLY CHANGING BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, EVERYONE HAS TO BE ALERT AND RESPONSIVE. THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD WORK CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE E-COMMERCE AND E-TRANSACTIONS BECOME A NORMAL AND ACCEPTABLE FORM OF BUSINESS AMONG TRADERS AND CONSUMERS.

ALREADY MANY OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION ARE EXPLOITING THE E-COMMERCE OPPORTUNITIES. THE MORE MATURE AMONGST US MUST KEEP UP FOR THIS IS THE WAY OF THE FUTURE.

I WANT TO SEE BUSINESSES REALIGN THEIR MARKETING STRATEGIES AND BE READY TO MEET THE NEW E-CUSTOMER DEMANDS. COMPANIES WHO ADOPT A PROACTIVE AND INNOVATIVE APPROACH AND WHO ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY AND GROWTH THROUGH E-COMMERCE WILL BE THE TRADING CHAMPIONS OF THE COMING DECADES.

IN THIS CONTEXT, THE GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA HAS TAKEN SEVERAL MEASURES TO OVERCOME THE CONSTRAINTS IN THE MOVE TO PROMOTE E-COMMERCE AS A MODE OF TRADING TRANSACTIONS. AMONG THE IDENTIFIED CONSTRAINTS ARE INTERNET AND PC PENETRATION AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE.

EFFORTS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN TO IMPROVE INTERNET ACCESS TO ENABLE MORE CONSUMERS TO CONDUCT ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS. IT IS ENVISAGED THAT AN INTERNET PENETRATION OF 20% OF THE POPULATION WILL ACT AS AN ADDITIONAL SPUR TO THE GROWTH OF E-COMMERCE IN MALAYSIA.

HAVING SAID THAT I FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMIND EVERYONE THAT THE CONSUMER WILL REQUIRE ASSURANCES THAT THEIR ON-LINE TRANSACTIONS ARE SECURE AND THEIR INTERESTS PROPERLY PROTECTED. WITHOUT BUILDING THE NECESSARY PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IT WILL TAKE LONGER THAN NEED BE TO REALIZE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF ELECTRONIC COMMERCE.

I CAN REPORT THAT THE TOTAL E-COMMERCE REVENUE IN THE MALAYSIAN ECONOMY CONTINUES TO GROW FROM USD 384 MILLION IN YEAR 2000 TO USD 9.4 BILLION IN 2005. THIS DRAMATIC INCREASE IS LARGELY DUE TO THE GROWTH IN THE VALUE OF BUSINESS TO BUSINESS E-COMMERCE.

THIS HAS RISEN FROM RM0.04 BILLION IN THE YEAR 2000 TO RM32 BILLION THIS YEAR, DURING THE SAME PERIOD E-COMMERCE BUSINESS TO CONSUMERS GREW FROM RM1.4 BILLION TO RM8.1 BILLION.

I WANT MALAYSIA TO BE THE VANGUARD COUNTRY IN THE REGION IN RESPECT OF PROMOTING E-COMMERCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE PROJECT CONDUCTED BY GALEXIA CONSULTING PTY LTD WHICH AIMS TO HARMONIZE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE LAWS IN THIS REGION WILL DOUBTLESS FACILITATE AND INCREASE CROSS BORDER TRADE BETWEEN ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRIES.

TO FURTHER FACILITATE AND BROADEN ACCESS TO E-COMMERCE, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED THE NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN, WHICH WILL FACILITATE AND ACCELERATE NATIONWIDE COVERAGE OF BROADBAND ACCESS AND SERVICES.

THIS IS IN ADDITION TO LOOKING INTO CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SMALL RETAILERS TO ENCOURAGE EXPANSION AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES. THERE IS ALSO THE "ONE COMPUTER FOR ONE FAMILY PROGRAM" WHICH IS FUNDED THROUGH WITHDRAWALS FROM EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS AND IS EXEMPTED FROM TAX.

FURTHERMORE, IN A MOVE TO DEVELOP PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ON ISSUES SUCH AS SECURITY, PRIVACY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED THE DIGITAL SIGNATURES ACT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LEGISLATION IS TO MEET THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF E-COMMERCE WHILST THE COMPUTER CRIMES ACT AIMS TO DEAL WITH CYBER CRIMES.

CURRENTLY, THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S CHAMBERS OF MALAYSIA TOGETHER WITH MALAYSIAN ADMINISTRATIVE MODERNIZATION AND MANAGEMENT PLANNING UNIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT AND THE MINISTRY OF DOMESTIC TRADE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS IS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE BILL AND THE ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES BILL.

THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE BILL WILL STRENGTHEN THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR TRANSACTIONS CARRIED OUT ELECTRONICALLY.

WITH THE APPLICATION OF GENERAL CONTRACTUAL PRINCIPLES, IT WILL FURTHER HELP TO CREATE CONFIDENCE AMONG THE PUBLIC TO CONDUCT TRANSACTIONS ELECTRONICALLY. IT WILL ALSO SERVE TO PROMOTE CONSISTENCY BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND ITS TRADING PARTNERS.

ONCE THESE BILLS HAVE BEEN ENACTED, IT WILL FACILITATE BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITHIN THE COUNTRY AND ALSO FURTHER ENHANCE CROSS BORDER TRADE. BUSINESSES WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT ELECTRONICALLY.

THIS WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL BECAUSE E-COMMERCE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE TRANSACTION COSTS. I BELIEVE THAT THIS MOVE BY THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE COST EFFECTIVE AND SAVE TIME - TWO ESSENTIAL FACTORS IN BUSINESS.

WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED MUCH BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL NOT REST ON OUR LAURELS. WE SHALL CONSTANTLY MONITOR THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS SECTOR TO ENSURE THAT OUR LEGISLATION REMAINS FOCUSED, PROACTIVE AND RESPONSIVE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

MAY I LEAVE YOU WITH A FINAL THOUGHT; BUSINESSES SHOULD ALWAYS ENSURE THAT CUSTOMERS ARE PROPERLY PROTECTED AND DEALT WITH IN A FAIR MANNER.

AS THE MINISTER ENTRUSTED TO PROMOTE CONSUMER PROTECTION, I AIM TO ENSURE THAT CONSUMER PROTECTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ARE CARRIED OUT AND INFORMATION ON CONSUMERS' RIGHTS IS EFFECTIVELY DISSEMINATED.

THEREFORE, MY MINISTRY IS STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING COMPREHENSIVE GUIDELINES FOR CONSUMERS ON ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS. THIS INITIATIVE COUPLED WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO INTRODUCE APPROPRIATE CYBER LAWS WILL SERVE TO GAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS. PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WILL ENSURE A MANAGED GROWTH OF THE SECTOR AND INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I HOPE ALL OF YOU HAVE A BENEFICIAL AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSION DURING THIS TWO AND HALF DAY WORKSHOP. I AM SURE IT WILL LEAD TOWARDS STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING E-COMMERCE IN THIS REGION. I ALSO HOPE OUR VISITORS ESPECIALLY CAN TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO VISIT AND ENJOY THE MANY PLACES OF INTEREST IN OUR CITY. AND SO, IT IS WITH THOSE WORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN DECLARING OPEN THE 4TH WORKSHOP OF AADCP E-COMMERCE PROJECT HARMONIZATION OF E-COMMERCE LEGAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ASEAN.

THANK YOU.



Photo (left to right):

Hon. Datuk Shafie Apdal (Minister),
Hon. Dato' Khairddin Sari (Deputy Secretary General),
Dato' Seri. Talaat Husain (Secretary General) and
Hon. Dato' S. Veerasingam (Deputy Minister)

Opening the AADCP E-Commerce Project Malaysia Workshop.

3. **Speech by Tom Yates (Acting Senior Australian Trade Commissioner in Malaysia) - Workshop Opening**



Photo: Hon. Datuk Shafie Apdal and Tom Yates at AADCP E-Commerce Project Malaysia Workshop.

Hon. Datuk Shafie Apdal, Minister for Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Mr. Roger Vitasa, ICT Unit, ASEAN Secretariat, Other Distinguished ASEAN Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I was very pleased to be invited to say a few words this morning at this important ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program on Legal Infrastructure for E-Commerce in ASEAN, the fourth workshop in this project, and in opening could I say that Australia and ASEAN have a long history of co-operation in many and diverse fields - and we have all mutually benefited from that - in fact this year represents the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN Australia Development Program.

Australia has been able to contribute funding, expertise and considerable experience through the Program, and I should add, I think one more thing and that is our practical experience - and the aim of the program has been to assist ASEAN achieve economic development and integration. Fortunately for us all the ASEAN region is yet again on the growth path and we are proud to be partners in that growth-with the region.

Of course electronic commerce has emerged as a significant issue for economic integration, especially as more and more cross border transactions and communications are conducted via email and Internet.

As you may be aware, this project hopes to assist ASEAN countries reduce barriers to cross border electronic commerce, by concentrating on developing a harmonised legal infrastructure for digital signatures and electronic transactions in ASEAN.

Few may appreciate that Australia is a leader in both e-security and PKI. Our work in the Defence field in e-security where Australian Network Security Products have received the E6 rating – the highest in the world and in Project Gatekeeper, which may be familiar to many of you, are practical examples of this. In fact with the passing of electronic commerce legislation and digital signature recognition legislation in 1999 made us one of the first countries in the region to do this. It would also I think be useful to reflect that there are some 24,000 companies in the ICT sector in Australia and in 2003 they employed 236,000 people - with sales in the ICT sector exceeding some \$240 billion MYR.

In 2004, our e-business readiness was rated by the Australian National Office of the Information Economy as 5th in the world and internet banking in Australia also as 5th with some 35% of Australian undertaking internet banking and this would be a much higher figure amongst the 1 million or so Australians overseas.

It is also very pleasing that the Implementing Partner is Sydney consulting firm, Galexia Consulting which has been an had extensive experience in implementing e-commerce and information management solutions to the Australian Government Information Management Office (Department of Finance), Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Department of Immigration, Multiculturalism and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and the Commonwealth Department of Health.

I have also been impressed that Galexia's staff are mostly lawyers who have mastered the digital divide and have a proven track record in both technical and legal aspects of electronic commerce.

Could I also take the opportunity of thanking the Malaysian Government for hosting this workshop, and I understand that particular thanks is due to the Minister's department the Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs but also I understand that a number of other Malaysian Government agencies have also been involved in hosting this workshop and they include the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission, the Attorney General's Department and the Multimedia Development Corporation.

In conclusion, Australia continues to search for ways to assist the goals of ASEAN and develop better government links and interoperability in the region and we would be pleased to discuss solutions from Australia that are able to provide member countries with practical cost effective solutions to bridge the digital divide and improve e-commerce connectivity around a proven tried and tested legal framework.

Thank you.

4. Press Coverage:

New Straits Times, *Two Bills to make online transactions more secure*, Friday 29 July 2005, Page 14

<http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Friday/National/20050729091923/Article/indexb_html>

14
Prime News

Two Bills to make online transactions more secure

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.—Hackers and Internet fraudsters beware. The Government is preparing legislation that promises severe punishment.

Worried about the increasing cases of hacking and online fraud, the Government is finalising two Bills that will make online transactions more secure.

There were 300 reported hacking incidents in the first four months of this year. Losses due to online fraud amounted to more than RM1.8 billion in the last five years.

The Electronic Commerce Bill and the E-Government Activities Bill will be tabled in Parliament soon, said Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Shafie Apdal (picture).

"The E-Commerce Bill will strengthen the legal framework for transactions carried out electronically. It

will also promote consistency between Malaysia and its trading partners."

Shafie said this when opening the 4th workshop of the Asean-Australia Development Co-operation Programme E-commerce Project at a hotel here today.

Shafie did not give details about the Bills, except to say that the punishment for the offences would be severe.

At present, those charged under the Computer Crimes Act 1997 face a maximum six-year jail term and a maximum RM150,000 fine.

The new Bills will augment the recently-introduced Digital Signatures Act, which aims to develop public confidence in areas such as security, privacy



and intellectual property protection.

According to the National ICT and Emergency Response Centre, hacking incidents reported this year consisted mainly of intrusions, threats and denial of service.

A centre spokesman said this was a 100 per cent increase from the fourth quarter of 2004.

"Hacking attempts are very high because they are done within and from outside the country."

Examples of online fraud include diverting funds from one bank account to another, holding out to be a legitimate business, and obtaining payment for goods that are either not delivered or are of significantly lower quality.

5. Press Coverage:
The Star, E-commerce laws soon, Friday 29 July 2005,
Page 26

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2005/7/29/nation/11619223&sec=nation>

26 Nation

TheStar

Businesses must be ready to meet the new e-customer demands
- Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal

FRIDAY 29 July 2005

E-commerce laws soon

Regulations to make online businesses safer and easier

KUALA LUMPUR: Laws to regulate e-commerce and safeguard consumers' interests are being put together to encourage more people to embrace this new way of doing business.

Various agencies are in the midst of finalising the Electronic Commerce Bill and the Electronic Government Activities Bill to control and broaden access to e-commerce, according to Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal.

"These legislation are important to lay down the do's and don'ts in e-commerce. This will cover all parties be they government, private sector or the public," he added.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Asean Australia Development Cooperation Programme: Legal Infrastructure for E-Commerce in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He said the Electronic Commerce Bill would strengthen the legal framework for transactions carried out electronically, which would further help create confidence among the public to conduct transactions this way.

"People can just order their groceries using e-commerce without having to head to hypermarkets. They can order and have their groceries delivered to the house."

"Businesses will also be able to deal with the government electronically," he added.



NICE TO MEET YOU: A delegate of the 'Asean Australia Development Cooperation Programme: Legal Infrastructure for E-Commerce in Asean' workshop greeting Shafie during the workshop in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Mohd Shafie said that once these Bills were enacted, they would facilitate business transactions within the country as well as enhance cross-border trade.

He said the total e-commerce revenue in the local economy continued to grow from RM1.45bil in 2000 to RM35.5bil this year.

This dramatic increase was largely due to the growth in the value of business-to-business e-commerce, he said.

"Businesses must realign their marketing strategies and be ready to meet the new e-customer demands."

"Companies that adopt a proactive and innovative approach and that enhance productivity and growth through e-commerce will be the trading champions of the coming decades," he added.

Asked if a fuel price rise was impending, Mohd Shafie said the Cabinet had made no decision.

6. **Press Coverage:**

Bernama.com (Malaysian National News Agency), Need For Harmonious e-Commerce Law In Asean, Says Shafie, 28 July 2005

<<http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=147396>>

Bernama.com
Malaysian National News Agency
Need For Harmonious e-Commerce Law In Asean, Says Shafie

July 28, 2005 18:42 PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 28 (Bernama) -- Asean countries should have a harmonious e-commerce legislation to raise public confidence in electronic business transactions, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal said Thursday.

A compatible law within Asean could directly encourage more traders to conduct business electronically, he told reporters after opening a workshop on E-Commerce Project Harmonisation of E-Commerce Legal Infrastructure In Asean, here.

Forty participants from Singapore, the Philippines, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam are attending the three-day workshop which ends on Saturday.



Datuk Mohd Shafie Apdal (second, right) chatting with some of the participants before a photo session after officiating the 4th Workshop of e-Commerce Asean Australia Development Cooperation Programme (AADCP) Project in Kuala Lumpur. Also present are his deputy **Datuk S. Veerasingam** (third, right) and Senior Trade Commissioner and Counsellor (Commercial) to the Australian Trade Commission, **Tom Yates** (right).
Pix: Md Mudanoran