

# The Singapore MRA Story

**NIST 2<sup>nd</sup> International MRA Workshop, 5-7 May, Gaithersburg**  
**Presented by Melinda Tan, Lead ICT Trade Negotiator, International**

**6 May 2009**



# Outline

- > **About Singapore**
- > **Singapore's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Journey**
  - **Asia-Pacific Economies Cooperation Telecommunication (APEC TEL) MRA**
  - **ASEAN Telecommunication Regulatory Council (ATRC) MRA**
  - **Bilateral MRAs**
- > **Singapore's MRA Experiences**
  - **Benefits and Challenges**
  - **Our Approach**
- > **Summary and Conclusion**

# About Singapore

Land Area : 707 km<sup>2</sup>

Population : 4.84 million

GDP : US\$174b

GDP per capita : US\$37,850

Trade : US\$611b

Literacy Rate : 95.7%

Labour Force : 1.92 million

Mobile Penetration Rate: 131.3% (Jan'09)

Home Broadband Penetration : 102.1 million (Jan'09)



# The journey begins.....

## THE THIRD APEC TEL MINISTERIAL MEETING 3 to 5 JUNE 1998 – SINGAPORE

### MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

# APEC TEL MRA



# Objective of MRA

- > To facilitate trade by allowing a Conformity Assessment Body in the exporting economy to perform testing/certification of equipment to the importing economy's requirements.**

# Scope of equipment coverage

- > **Covers all equipment including wireline and wireless, terrestrial and satellite equipment**

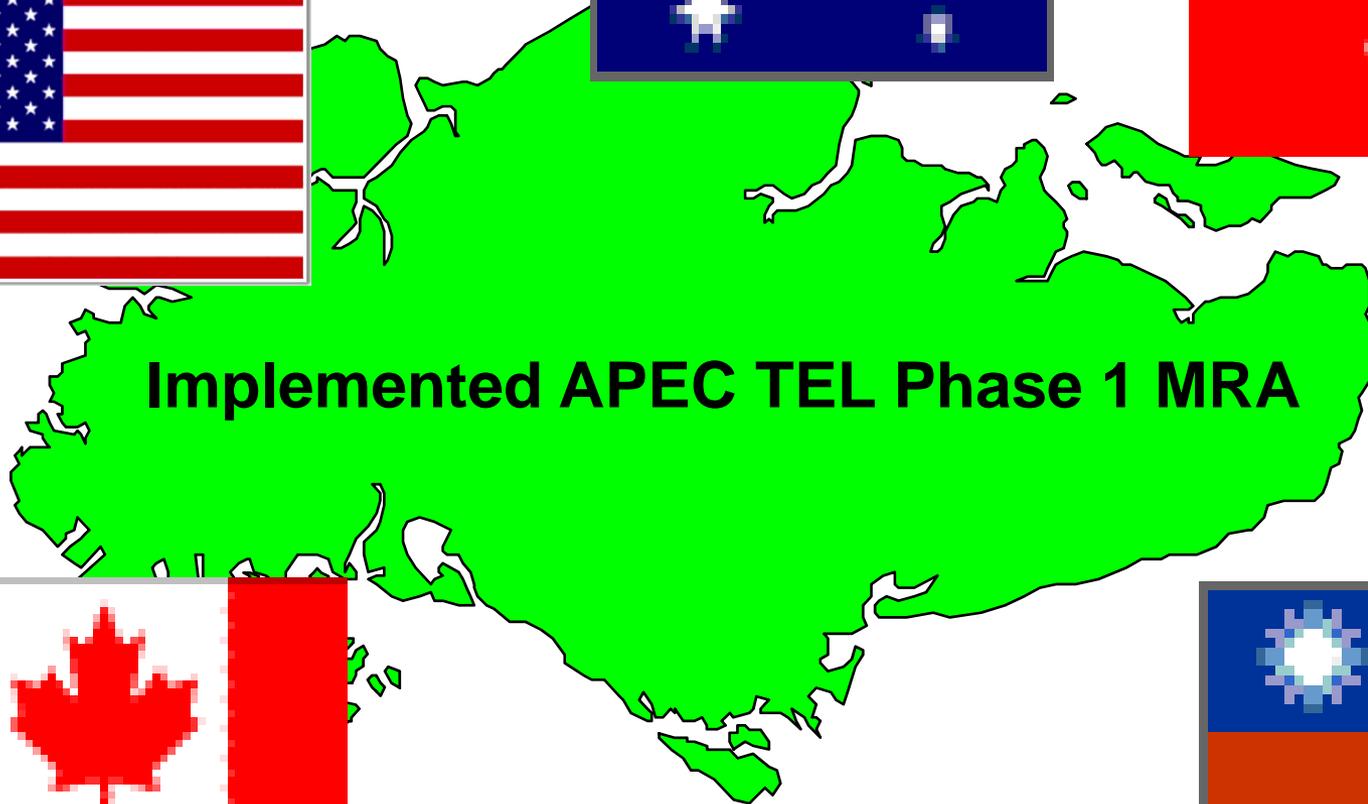
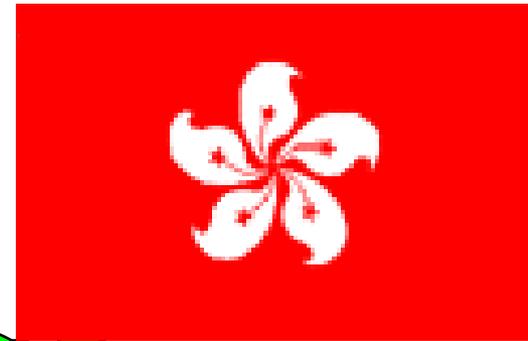
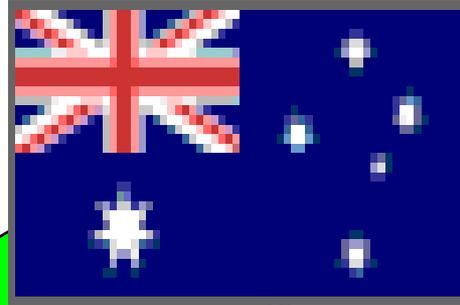
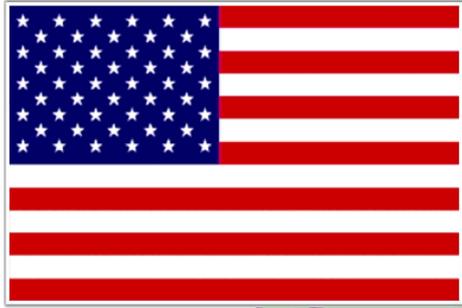
**subject to**

**telecommunication regulations,  
electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and  
electrical safety requirements.**

# Scope of Conformity Assessment Procedures

- > **Phase I – mutual recognition of test results.**
  - **This allows equipment to be tested in the exporting economy and recognised in the importing economy**
  
- > **Phase II – mutual recognition of equipment certification.**
  - **This allows the equipment to be certified in the exporting economy and recognised in the importing economy**

From March 1999



(Source : Singapore Department of Statistics <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/> dated Feb 2009)

# The ASEAN Family Portrait..



IDA SINGAPORE

# Continuing the journey.....

## THE FIRST ASEAN TEL MINSTERIAL MEETING JULY 2001, MALAYSIA

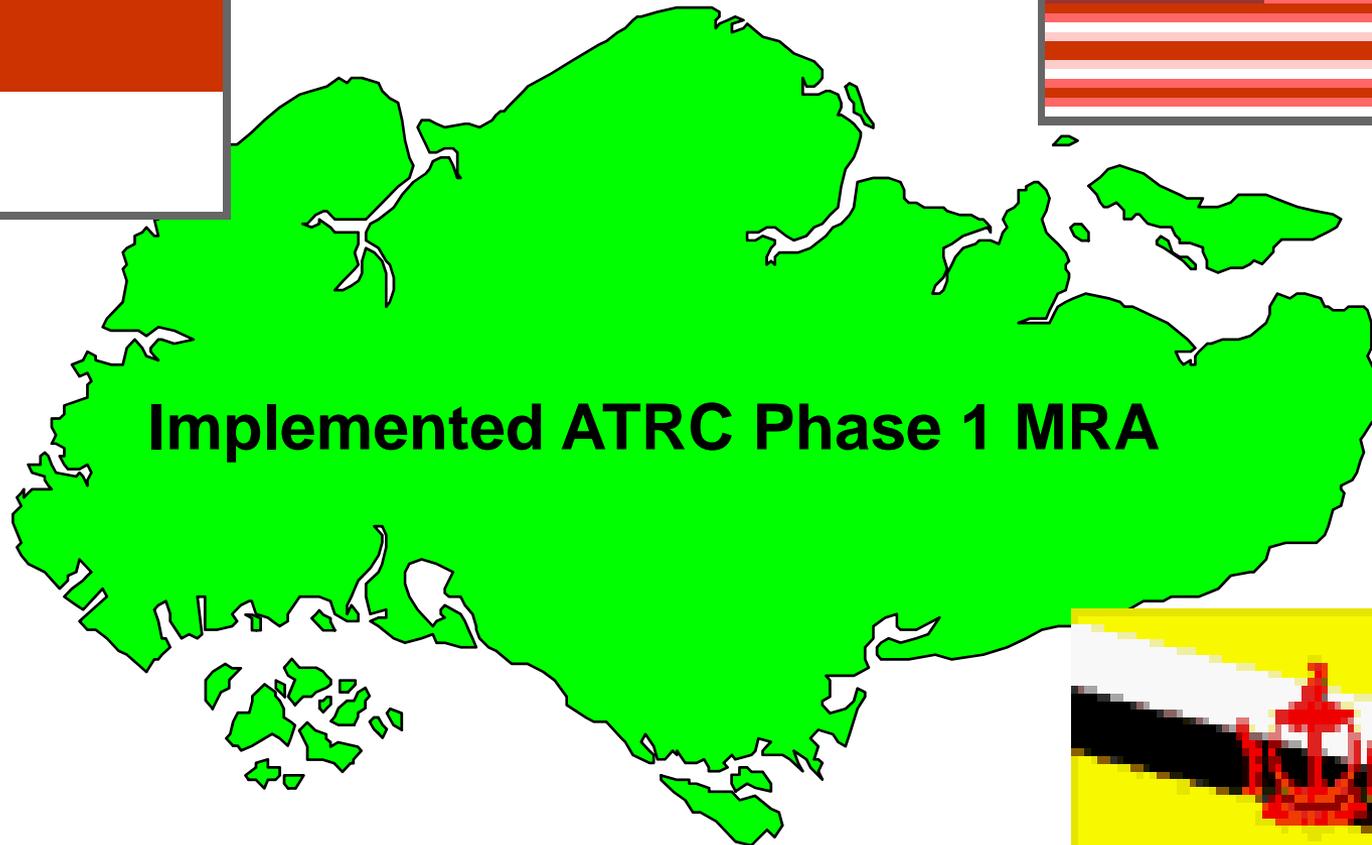
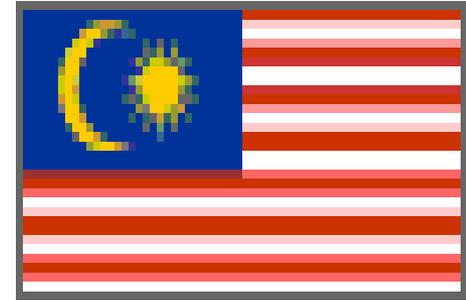


PEACE  
STABILITY  
COURAGE  
DYNAMISM  
PURITY  
PROSPERITY

# ATRC MIRA



Since 2004



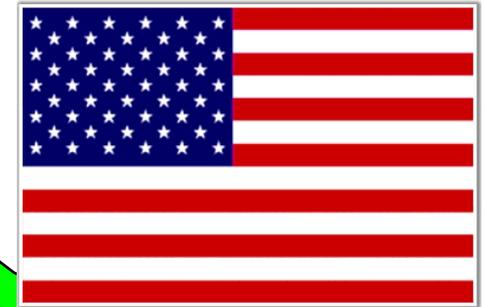
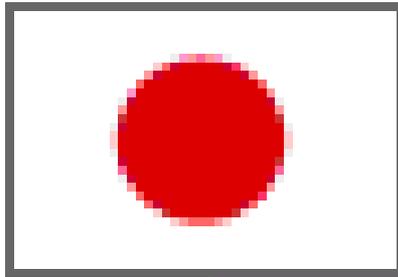
(Source : Singapore Department of Statistics <http://www.singstat.gov.sg/> dated Feb 2009)

# ATRC MRA's achievement today....

- > **Introduce Phase II-bis in the ATRC MRA**
- > **In the process of establishing a new MRA on Technical Equivalence for Electromagnetic Compatibility and Electrical Safety**
- > **Established ATRC Website**

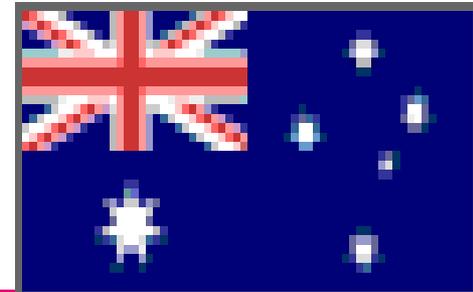
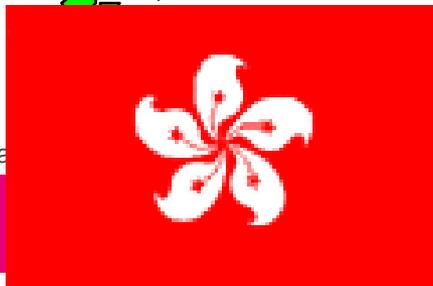


# Moving on.....



**Free Trade Agreements**

**Implemented Phase II MRA**



(Source : Singapore Department of Statistics <http://www.singaporestat.gov.sg/> dated Feb 2009)

# Benefits

## > To the Regulator

- **Facilitate the streamlining of conformity assessment procedures**
- **Facilitate the introduction of new technologies and innovation**
- **Reduce administrative costs and improve operational efficiency**
- **Optimise regulatory human resources through**
  - **enhanced technical knowledge**
  - **wider and higher-value job scope**
  - **continuous learning opportunities**

# Benefits

## > Industry

- **Eliminate the cost of re-testing and re-certification**
- **Shorten time-to-market**
- **Enhance their competitiveness vis-à-vis their competitors from non-MRA economies**

## > Consumers

- **Enjoy greater savings from lower transaction costs and faster delivery time and hence quicker access to new technologies and innovation.**

# Challenges

> Two “C”s and One “I”

- **C**ommitment
- **C**ommunications
- **I**mplementation

# Challenges

## > COMMITMENT -

- **Commitment from the top is essential**
  - **Regulatory Senior Management to drive, support, and give resources to implement changes**
  - **Regulatory Staff to embrace the change, and learn new skills**
  - **Industry's and Customers' support**

# Challenges

## > COMMUNICATIONS -

- **Common Understanding**
  - among stakeholders including MRA partners on the purpose, requirements and responsibilities of implementing an MRA
  - timely notification on changes and amendments to MRA partners
  - domestic regulations, guidelines and definitions should be clear, transparent and mutually understandable
  
- **Contact points**
  - designated contact point
  - update timely when changes occur

# Challenges

## > IMPLEMENTATION

- Keep to committed timeline – eg the economy that is ready can start first
- Dedicate resources (people, money, training, outreach) for implementation
- No need to introduce conformity assessment requirements when there were none

***“Efficiency is doing things right,  
Effectiveness is doing the right things”***

**- Peter Drucker**

# Singapore's Approach

- > **Adopt International Standards and Practices**
  - **IDA adopts international standards in technical regulations wherever possible**
  - **where conformity assessment is necessary, IDA adopts international practices**

# Singapore's Approach

## > Continuous monitoring and reviews

- IDA monitors local and global telecommunication equipment conformity assessment requirements trends to ensure that our conformity assessment regime is as streamlined as possible and yet fulfils regulatory objectives
- IDA regularly reviews and streamlines its conformity assessment policy and regulation
- IDA values the opinions, concerns and expertise of stakeholders and actively engage and consult the industry and consumers when formulating new polices or reviewing existing ones

# Singapore's Approach

## > Commitment to implementation

- **IDA commits time and resources to facilitate the implementation of the MRA by:**
  - **engaging staff at all levels to champion the change**
  - **providing staff with relevant training to take on new roles**
  - **redesigning work processes to meet changes**

# Summary And Conclusion

- > MRA benefits the regulator, the industry and consumer. It provides an opportunity to explore opportunities for new technologies and innovation, for cost savings, and for efficiency gains through implementation of such an arrangement.**
- > Regulator needs to be committed to the implementation of the MRA and develop transparent communication channels with all stakeholders.**

# Summary And Conclusion

- > Regulator needs to continuously monitor and review its conformity assessment procedures to ensure that it is as streamlined as possible and yet fulfils the regulatory objectives.**
- > Successful Implementation of the all MRAs will require considerable commitment, support and cooperation from all members.**

# SINGAPORE: AN INTELLIGENT NATION, A GLOBAL CITY POWERED BY INFOCOMM

[www.ida.gov.sg](http://www.ida.gov.sg)



**THANK YOU!!**