Draft Laws under the Digital Economy Initiative

In an effort to bolster the digital economy in Thailand, on 16 December 2014, the Cabinet approved two draft laws, namely the Committee for Digital Economy and Society Bill and the Ministry, Department, and Bureau Reform Bill. The first bill is aimed at boosting the digital economy from the perspective of Hard Infrastructure, Soft Infrastructure, Service Infrastructure, Digital Economy Promotion, and Digital Society and Knowledge, among others. The second bill is aimed at reforming the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MICT) into the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society.

To support the direction the government is taking, on 6 January 2015, the Cabinet also approved in principle amendments to certain existing laws and certain entirely new legislation as follows:

1. **The Electronic Transactions Amendment Bill**: Revises criteria for conducting electronic transactions and revises structure, power, and duties of the Electronic Transactions Commission.

2. **The Computer Crime Amendment Bill**: Revises criteria for computer crimes and the power of the relevant officials under the Bill.

3. **The Cyber Security Bill**: Provides criteria for ensuring cyber security, establishes a National Cyber Security Committee and such Committee’s Office.

4. **The Data Protection Bill**: Provides criteria for collecting, using, and disclosing personal data. It also provides the rights of data subjects and establishes a Data Protection Committee.

5. **The Promotion of Digital Economy Bill**: Establishes the National Digital Economy Promotion Committee and such Committee’s Office.

6. **The Digital Development Fund for Economy and Society Bill**: Establishes a Digital Development Fund for Economy and Society, the Digital Development Fund for Economy and Society Committee, and such Committee’s Office.

7. **The Amendment Bill on Organization to Assign Radio Frequencies and to Regulate Broadcasting and Telecommunications Services**: Revises and supplements licensing criteria for radio frequencies. It also revises the power and duties of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC).

8. **The Draft Royal Decree Establishing the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (Public Organization) (Revised)**: Revises and supplements the powers and duties of the Office of Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA).
As these draft laws have already been approved by the Cabinet, they will be forwarded to the National Legislative Assembly (the “NLA”) for further consideration. The NLA is the legislative body with responsibility similar to that of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Once the NLA endorses the draft laws, they will be sent to His Majesty the King for final approval before being published in the Government Gazette and coming into force.