ASEAN Plus Three (10+3) Digital Economy Workshop and the Third ASEAN-China (10+1) Digital Economy Workshop Concept Paper

I.   Project Background

With the rapid advancement of the digital economy, regional cooperation in this field has become increasingly important. On September 7, 2023, during the 26th ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in Jakarta, Chinese Premier Li Qiang delivered a keynote speech highlighting innovative cooperation in the field of digital economy. He emphasized that "China is ready to deepen innovation cooperation with all parties in such fields as the digital economy, clean energy and new energy vehicles, to boost the emerging industries and foster more new drivers of growth."

Entrusted by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, Zhejiang University successfully organized the "ASEAN-China (10+1) Digital Economy Workshop" for two consecutive years in 2023 and 2024, and is scheduled to host the third session in 2025. In response to the accelerating development of artificial intelligence, and under the commission of the China National Data Administration, Zhejiang University now plans to launch the "ASEAN Plus Three (10+3) Digital Economy Workshop" to further promote regional knowledge exchange in digital transformation and AI-related fields.

II. Project Objectives and Significance

This project aims to deepen mutual learning and exchange in the fields of digital economy and artificial intelligence among the 10+3 countries through experiential observation and two-way communication, thereby promoting economic and trade cooperation between China and other countries in the region.

This project, initiated by Zhejiang University and leverages Zhejiang Province's strengths in the fields of digital economy and artificial intelligence. By organizing case-based discussions, cross-border comparisons, and other knowledge exchange activities in leading digital cities in China such as Hangzhou and Shenzhen, the project will not only deepen mutual understanding among member states of the 10+3 mechanism, but also facilitate dialogue on cooperation needs, existing challenges and shared priorities, and ultimately advance regional collaboration in digital-intelligent transformation and governance.

III. Project Framework Design
Project Title:

ASEAN Plus Three (10+3) Digital Economy Workshop and the Third ASEAN-China (10+1) Digital Economy Workshop

Theme:

Collaborative Digital-Intelligent Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Development

Training Content:

The project focuses on practical experiences and case studies of digital and intelligent transformation (referred to as digital-intelligent transformation, or "数智转型" *Shuzhi Zhuanxing*) in China and other countries in the 10+3 region. Special emphasis is placed on China's development in artificial intelligence and the city case of Hangzhou.

Approximately 60% of the total course time is dedicated to case-based discussions, covering a wide range of actors, including leading AI companies, firms specializing in computing power, algorithms, and data services, traditional infrastructure enterprises in sectors such as power and telecommunications, as well as the urban innovation ecosystems of the city cases—such as venture capital, human capital development, and the local business environment.

Training Format:

The project consists of classroom lectures, discussions at case study sites and institutions, and participant-led sharing sessions—with case-based learning as the core. In addition, weekend activities will offer immersive experiences in digital transformation, such as visits to digitally empowered cultural tourism sites and specialized digital markets.

Duration:

October 16 (Thursday) to November 6 (Thursday), 2025 (Three weeks in China)

Venues:

Classroom Sessions: Zijingang Campus, Zhejiang University, 866 Yuhangtang Road, Xihu District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China

Case Studies: Selected enterprises and public institutions in Hangzhou, Shenzhen, and other cities

Working Languages:

Chinese (Mandarin) and English. Participants may choose either language. Simultaneous interpretation between Chinese and English will be provided throughout the program, along with support from student volunteers.

Participant Recruitment:

Targeting senior professionals from government agencies, the private sector, and academia in the 10+3 countries. Recruitment will be coordinated by Zhejiang University through established channels, including the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat, the ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting with China (ADMIN+China), the

Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Mekong Institute, and Chinese diplomatic missions abroad.

Project Participants:

The project will host up to 50 participants, including no more than 45 international delegates from the 10+3 member countries (3–4 participants per country). Target participants include government officials, leading figures from digital-intelligent technology enterprises, and academic experts. The Chinese delegation will include 5 participants.

IV. Project Funding and Organizational Structure

This project will cover participants' international travel expenses, tuition fees, as well as accommodation and meals during their stay in China.

Organizers: Zhejiang University; Department of Foreign Affairs of Zhejiang Provincial People's Government

Implementing Agency: Centre for International Studies on Development and Governance, Zhejiang & Zhejiang University (CiSDG); Center for Global Development Studies, Zhejiang University (CGDS).