

DIGITAL ECONOMY STEERING GROUP (DESG)

Report for the

CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

In line with 2018 CSOM recommendations, the DESG preserves the functions of the former Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) and continues to report to the CTI on matters of the ECSG's work programme on e-commerce and trade-related digital economy issues.

NOTE: For matters related to the implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER), the DESG reports to the SOM.

For AMM's information

(a) Key outcomes and achievements in 2023

- Survey on E-Commerce Regulations in APEC, **Singapore**. This database of information, which is available to the public on the APEC Trade Repository, facilitates the transparency of economies' domestic regulations and approaches on e-commerce.
- Ongoing work on the Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) Systems which promote interoperability between different data privacy regulations to facilitate trade and build trust in e-commerce
 - Endorsed recertification of *Schellman* and *NCC Group* as CBPR and PRP system Accountability Agents (AA) in the United States, *Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA)* as a CBPR & PRP System AA in Singapore, and the *Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA)* as a CBPR AA in Korea
 - Reviewing recertification applications from *Institute for Information Industry (III)* as an AA in Chinese Taipei
- Submitting and updating Data Privacy Individual Action Plans (IAP) which improve the transparency of data protection frameworks of member economies
- Promoting regulatory cooperation through the Cross Border Privacy Enforcement Arrangement (CPEA) and the CBPR System
 - Accepted the letter of intent to participate submitted by the *Department of Personal Data Protection of Malaysia (PDP Malaysia)*
- Implementation of APEC projects:
 - *Comparative study on best practices to detect and avoid unintended biases in Artificial Intelligence systems* – Chile
 - *Information Sharing on Legal and Regulatory Interoperability for Privacy Protections in APEC* – the United States
 - Joint Workshop for Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS) and ABAC during SOM3 on *Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PET)*
 - *Towards Coordinated Transformation for Digital and Green Development* – China
- Policy dialogues on:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ digital fragmentation, in which participants discussed the current state of digital fragmentation, its impact on businesses in the region, and possible ways it could be addressed; and ○ the <i>WTO Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on E-commerce</i>, involving a presentation from the co-convenors Australia, Japan and Singapore on the importance of the JSI, the current state of negotiations, and its relevance to APEC.
<p>(b) Work undertaken by fora in pursuit of the Putrajaya Vision 2040, including through the Aotearoa Plan of Action (APA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DESG work programme on e-commerce and trade-related digital economy issues broadly contributes to the APA Collective Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote e-commerce / digital trade, including by supporting the development and implementation of international and regional norms and standards for the digital economy, compatibility of standards, regulations and systems, and supporting discussion and sharing best practice on rules and regulations in e-commerce / digital trade ○ Cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening consumer and business trust in digital transactions
<p>(c) Work Undertaken by the fora in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accelerate digital transformation and cooperate on facilitating the flow of data and strengthening business and consumer trust in digital transactions, including through cooperation on regulatory approaches regarding the internet and digital economy as well as consumer protection in the digital environment. ● Bridging all forms of digital divides by strengthening digital infrastructure and facilitating access to information and communication technology goods and services, and ensuring that no one is left behind by equipping all people with the necessary skills needed to thrive in the digital economy.
<p>(d) Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora (if any); &</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open invitation to all member economies to participate in the work of the small voluntary working groups such as the Accountability and Administration Study Group (AASG) and the Study Group on data portability ● Further discussion about the CBPR system within the DPS ● Consideration of further areas of work in the Privacy Framework ● Submitting and updating Information Privacy IAPs, and consideration of possible ways to make IAPs more useful
<p>(e) Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers (if applicable)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A