

DIGITAL ECONOMY STEERING GROUP (DESG)

CONVENORS REPORT AND INPUTS FOR 2020 CTI ANNUAL REPORT TO MINISTERS

Key Achievements in 2020

This section will be incorporated in the body of the 2020 CTI Annual Report to Ministers. Please provide one paragraph per achievement in dot points. Where possible, please highlight outcomes of these achievements.

Example:

- On March 9, 2020, the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (“CBPR”) system Joint Oversight Panel approved the Philippines’ application to join the APEC CBPR system. The Philippines becomes the ninth APEC economy to join the CBPR system, joining the United States, Mexico, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Chinese Taipei and Australia. In 2020, the DESG also endorsed two additional accountability agents (AAs), bringing the total number of AAs to seven for the CBPR system. AAs perform a key role by certifying that the privacy policies and practices of participating companies are compliant with the CBPR requirements.
- DESG completed the project “Promoting the participation of MSMEs in the regional market to bridge the digital divide in APEC economies” with the publication of its report in March 2020. The report provides information on policies, initiatives and best practices to develop the e-commerce and trade related digital economy. The report also draws on wide ranging desk research and interview with experts and policymakers in developed economies to uncover successful policies to assist and encourage MSMEs to participate in the regional market via e-commerce and trade related digital economy.
- DESG completed the project “Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade: Challenges and Opportunities”. Published in June 2020, the project’s workshop report captures in-depth discussions on: i) the challenges consumer protection agencies face in digital trade; ii) international norms and principles that APEC can refer to in order to improve consumer protection mechanisms; and iii) ways to promote regional cooperation in the field of consumer protection, including development a framework for enforcement cooperation.

Work Undertaken by the Fora in Response to COVID-19 (if applicable)

Please provide no more than one paragraph per work undertaken in dot points.

- During the Special Virtual Meeting on 26 June, DESG members shared digital economy-related policy interventions, initiatives, lessons learned, and solutions in response to COVID-19 across areas, including: 1) Business continuity and resilience; 2) Exchange and use of data in a secure manner; 3) Use of digital technologies and solutions including for tracing purpose; 4) Secure and trusted online environment; and 5) Preparations for economic recovery post-COVID.

Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora

Please provide a high-level summary of issues in dot points

- N/A

Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers/Leaders at the end of 2020 (if applicable)

Please advise if your Fora intends to submit any deliverables to Senior Officials or Ministers/Leaders and attach these documents.

- N/A