

DIGITAL ECONOMY STEERING GROUP (DESG)
including DESG Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS)

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 2022

- 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 JIPDEC as a CBPR Accountability Agent (AA) in Japan, and TRUSTe, BBB National Programs, and Schellman & Co., LLC, as CBPR and PRP system AAs in the United States
 - Reviewing recertification applications from Institute for Information Industry (III) as an AA in Chinese Taipei, and the Info-Communications Media Development Authority (IMDA) as an AA in Singapore
- Submitting and updating Data Privacy Individual Action Plans (IAP) which improve the transparency of data protection frameworks of member economies
 - Updates to the Data Privacy IAP of **Mexico, Singapore and Chinese Taipei**
- Promoting regulatory cooperation through the Cross Border Privacy Enforcement Arrangement (CPEA) and the CBPR System
- Implementation of APEC projects:
 - Study “Review of APEC CBPR System” – **Japan and PSU**
 - Comparative study on best practices to detect and avoid unintended biases in Artificial Intelligence systems – **Chile**
 - APEC Digital Trade Transformation Work Program – **Thailand**

(b) Work undertaken by fora in the implementation of the [Putrajaya Vision 2040](#) including through the [Aotearoa Plan of Action \(APA\)](#)

- DESG work programme on e-commerce and trade-related digital economy issues broadly contributes to the APA Collective Actions:
 - 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

(c) Work Undertaken by the fora in response to Ministerial, SOM and CTI direction

- Promote the interoperability and standardization of e-commerce/digital transactions
- Cooperate on facilitating the flow of information and data, and strengthening business and consumer trust in digital transaction

(d) Key Issues Under Discussion by the Fora (if any); &

- The DESG Chair and Vice Chair positions for the two-year term beginning 2023, are still under discussion.
- 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

(e) Items to submit to Senior Officials or Ministers (if applicable)

- N/A