



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2021/SOM1/CTI/028

Agenda Item: XI

Digital Economy Steering Group Convenor's Report – Endorsed

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: DESG Convenor



**First Committee on Trade and Investment
Meeting
3-4 March 2021**

DESG CHAIR'S REPORT TO CTI 1 2021

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

Outcomes of the relevant work of the DESG since the last meeting:

- Completed the review of new CBPR Accountability Agent application:
 1. [BBB National Programs](#) – as a Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) Accountability Agent (AA) for the USA. Endorsed in January 2021
 2. Institute for Information Industry – as a CBPR AA for Chinese Taipei. The recommendation is under consideration by the DESG.
- Cross-Border Privacy Enforcement Arrangement (CPEA) Administrators accepted the participation of Personal Information Protection Commission (PIPC) as the sole privacy enforcement agency for Korea, replacing the Ministry of Interior and Safety (MOIS) and the Korea Communications Commission (KCC)
- The following reports and updates were received at the DESG Data Privacy Subgroup (DPS) meeting on 18 February 2021:
 1. Reports from existing CBPR economy participants: Japan; Korea; The Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; and the United States
 2. Member economy reports on data privacy developments: Australia; Canada; Chile; China; Hong Kong, China; Japan; Korea; New Zealand; Peru; The Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; and the United States
 3. Guest reports on data privacy developments: Dr. Joshua Paul Meltzer, Brookings Institution; Josh Aas, Internet Security Research Group; ABAC; Business Software Association
 4. Update on ASEAN Cross-border Data Flows Mechanisms
- The following reports and updates were received at the DESG meeting on 19-20 February 2021:
 1. Member economy reports on electronic commerce issues: Chile; Malaysia; New Zealand; Peru; The Philippines; Chinese Taipei
 2. Guest reports on electronic commerce issues: Internet Society; World Economic Forum

Expected outcomes and deliverables for 2021:

- Reviewing the applications for re-certification of CBPR Accountability Agents:
 1. Korea Internet and Security Agency (KISA, Korea)
 2. NCC Group (USA)
- CBPR Administration and Accountability Study Group will continue discussions of the recommendations from the June/August 2019 APEC Accountability Agent workshops, with a focus on reviewing the recommendations for updating the CBPR program requirements
- Implement the following ongoing projects or initiatives:
 1. Using Digital Technologies for the Prevention and Control of COVID-19 and Economic Recovery (China)
 2. Workshop on Promoting the Doing-Digital-Business Environment to Reactivate Market Entities (China)

3. APEC Workshop on Fostering Inclusive Digital Economy: Sharing Best Practices in Advancing Women Participation in Digital Startups (Indonesia)
 4. Personal Data Protection and Utilization in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities (Korea)
 5. Promoting Consumer Protection in Digital Trade/E-Commerce: Towards Building an APEC Regional Consumer Protection Framework (Korea)
 6. Hosting an APEC forum to improve cross-border effectiveness of the personal data breach notification (Korea)
 7. Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) on Promoting Consumer Protection in the Dispute Resolution and Redress Mechanisms in E-Commerce (CTI 09 2019T) (Peru)
 8. Workshop on Transforming Businesses in the Digital Age (Singapore)
 9. Implementing Digital Permitting & E-Government Measures to Advance the Post-COVID Economic Recovery (CMI on behalf of the United States)
 10. Cybersecurity Policy Roundtables (United States)
- Implement the following new projects or initiatives:
 1. Comparative study on best practices to detect and avoid unintended biases in Artificial Intelligence systems (Chile)
 2. Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on Leveraging the benefits of Artificial Intelligence on Intellectual Property Examination to Improve Efficiency and Business Process (Indonesia)
 3. Study on barriers and opportunities in using information and communication technologies (ICT) to provide services for older adults in poverty contexts in APEC economies (Peru)
 4. 2021 Digital Trade Policy Dialogues (United States)
 - Submit new and update existing Data Privacy Individual Action Plans, a mechanism from the APEC Privacy Framework to improve transparency and report on progress of implementation of the Privacy Framework
 - Consider and prioritize recommendations for possible new areas for future work, including to review and update the Privacy Framework and the CBPR system, explore other data transfer mechanisms, and expand cooperation on data privacy regulations
 - Continue discussions to finalize the DPS 2021 Work Plan and the DPS Statement on COVID-19 intersessionally

NOTE: Matters related to the DESG Work Program for the Implementation of the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap will be reported to SOM.