



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

2020/DESG/012

Agenda Item: 4

COVID-19 and the Digital Economy

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Chinese Taipei



**Digital Economy Steering Group Special
Virtual Meeting on COVID-19
26 June 2020**

We invite member economies to share information on digital-economy related policy interventions, initiatives, lessons learned, and/or solutions in response to COVID-19 ahead of the 26 June 2020 APEC Digital Economy Steering Group Special Virtual Meeting using the template below. The descriptions of the issues below are **only suggested points** to help members with the exercise, and members need not regard them as mandatory points to follow in generating their information sharing in the template. Members are advised to submit the completed template below through the APEC Collaboration System (ACS) no later than 23 June. Members are able to view and download completed templates submitted by other members on ACS ahead of the Special Virtual Meeting, and this will help DESG optimize the limited meeting time on 26 June.

- a) **Business continuity and resilience** – As COVID-19 has caused significant disruptions to economic activities and business operations, members may wish to share how they support business continuity and resilience in terms of:
 - i. Ensure access to reliable connectivity and relevant digital technologies, in particular among MSMEs, women, and young entrepreneurs, to help overcome digital divides;
 - ii. Encourage businesses, including MSMEs, to leverage digital technologies and solutions in carrying out production, business activities, and international trade, so as to maintain the stability of global supply chains;
 - iii. Encourage the digital transformation, including through digitalized production systems, e-commerce, digital supply of services, e-invoicing, and e-payments, and other services, as well as smart working solutions, including remote working, and innovative new business models.
- b) **Exchange and use of data in a secure manner** – Members may wish to share how they:
 - i. Encourage collaboration to collect, pool, process, and share reliable and accurate non-personal information that can contribute to the monitoring, understanding, and prevention of the further spread of COVID-19 as well as other infectious diseases;
 - ii. Ensure the collection and processing of COVID-19-related data is being done in an ethical, transparent, safe, interoperable, and secure manner that protects the privacy and data security of individuals, in line with prevailing international measures and domestic laws and regulations.
- c) **Use of digital technologies and solutions including for tracing purpose** – Given the importance and urgency of slowing down the spread of COVID-19, members may wish to share how they:
 - i. Use digital technologies and solutions to enable individuals and firms to continue to participate in the economy;
 - ii. Use digital technologies to help contact tracing efforts;
 - iii. Promote digital work and the development of basic digital skills in companies, public institutions, schools, and universities;
 - iv. Encourage and collaborate with the research community, private sector, and business entities to promote the use of digital technologies and solutions for the development and manufacturing of critical medical equipment and supplies (including disinfectants, Personal Protective Equipment, and ventilators) to fight COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.
- d) **Secure and trusted online environment** – Given the increased digital vulnerability in the context of a pandemic, members may wish to share how they:

- i. Enable timely domestic and international responses to counteract malicious cyber activities that present risks to the security of the digital economy;
- ii. Work collaboratively with businesses and organizations to leverage online platforms to continue sharing trustworthy information and prevent disinformation, hoaxes, and online scams;
- iii. Ensure that reliable crisis communication over digital channels is available.

e) **Preparations for economic recovery post-COVID** – Members may wish to share other policy interventions and initiatives as part of the preparations for economic recovery, given the reinforced significance of the digital economy as a result of COVID-19.

[Chinese Taipei]

[Ms. Pei- Chuan Lu pclu@trade.gov.tw]

ISSUE	POLICY INTERVENTIONS, INITIATIVES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND SOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE	ACTUAL/EXPECTED OUTCOME
Business continuity and resilience	<p><u>Implementation of broadband infrastructure access plan for remote areas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating fixed internet broadband service in all remote areas • Expanding bandwidth of all Wi-Fi hotspots and improving mobile broadband coverage <p><u>Building digital capabilities.</u> Helping offline retailers and food and beverage companies enter the e-commerce market.</p> <p><u>Digital trade promotion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VR exhibition hall • Online business matching • Virtual responsive trade missions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to connectivity and infrastructure. • Expand sales channels and revenue streams for retailers and food and beverage companies • Bolster the stay-at-home economy

ISSUE	POLICY INTERVENTIONS, INITIATIVES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND SOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE ISSUE	ACTUAL/EXPECTED OUTCOME
Exchange and use of data in a secure manner	<p><u>Using Non-personal Data for Epidemic control</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Mask Inventory Map: Open data application <p><u>Pandemic control by taking privacy into account: Data subject autonomy and public engagement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #Cohack (with the United States): Gather new ideas to build-up a citizen-centric data network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective resource allocation • Generate innovative services, such as MyLog, LogBoard, Autonomy
Use of digital technologies and solutions including for tracing purpose	<p><u>Utilizing AI as a tool for pandemic prevention</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid screening test for COVID-19 • R&D: Vaccine and medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen health and welfare enhancement
Secure and trusted online environment	<p><u>Trustworthy information sharing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Anti-COVID-19 Pavilion: A portal to gather anti-epidemic resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient resource allocation • To realize the right to know
Preparations for economic recovery post-COVID	<p><u>Digital Talent Cultivation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Trade Institute • Digital Skill Counselling Package 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate MSME digital transformation process