

Second Expert Group Workshop on the Digital Economy
30-31 July 2015 – New York, US

Agenda

INVITATION ONLY

Thursday 30 July

12:00 – 13:00 Light lunch

13:00 – 13:15 Introduction: State of play of the E15 Initiative

Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Principal Convener (ICTSD)
Richard Samans, Principal Convener (World Economic Forum)

Expert Group members and observers will be invited to briefly introduce themselves.

13:15 – 13:30 State of play of the Digital Economy group

Merit Janow, Theme Leader (Columbia University)
Andrew Crosby, Convener (ICTSD)
Joshua Meltzer, Co-convener (Brookings Institution)

13:30 – 14:30 Think piece: Addressing barriers to digital trade

Presenters: Usman Ahmed (eBay) and Grant Aldonas (Split Rock International)

Lead Discussant: Mira Burri (World Trade Institute)

Chair: Merit Janow, Theme Leader (Columbia University)

What are the key regulatory and systemic barriers/challenges preventing e-commerce and digitally enabled trade? Which groups are most affected and who could benefit the most from changes to reduce these barriers? Is a tiered approach necessary that distinguishes between regulation around core enabling services such as financial services; telecommunications; and data freedom versus those that operate at the individual industry/sectoral level? For example, for telecom operators, how do they matter in the digital economy and do approaches to regulation and standardisation, for example, need to be reviewed?

Open discussion

14:30 – 15:30 Think piece: Emerging rules for digital trade and industry/country priorities

Presenters: Amy Porges (Porges Law) and Alice Enders (Enders Analysis)

Lead Discussant: Kati Suominen (TradeUp Capital Fund)

Chair: Andrew Crosby, Convener (ICTSD)

What can emerging governance arrangements and rules in the areas of digitally enabled trade and e-commerce tell us about industry priorities and areas of likely agreement or conflict? How can we think of reconciling the major conflicting interests between countries and in which fora? To what extent does de-facto international standard setting that affects non-parties need to be considered and why?

Open discussion

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 16:45 Think piece: Are existing rules sufficient or are new rules required to accommodate digital trade?

Presenter: Rohan Kariyawasam (Anglia Ruskin University)

Lead Discussant: Gary Horlick (Law Offices of Gary N. Horlick)

Chair: Joshua Meltzer, Co-convener (Brookings Institution)

There are contrasting views between the capacity of the current governance models to accommodate change through refinements versus an argument that the very nature of digitally enabled trade cannot be accommodated or fixed in our current governance arrangements. What would a new set of rules look like? Does emerging governance in the context of TISA, TPP, TTIP or other agreements provide clues? Are additional principles necessary beyond this? Can we define a set of governing principles and domains for nations' behaviours in the global digital economy?

Open discussion

16:45 – 17:45 Think piece: How to deal with the security exception in the digital economy

Presenter: Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Group Manager (ICTSD)

Lead Discussant: Mark Wu (Harvard Law School)

Chair: Sean Doherty (World Economic Forum)

How can the "security exception" be implemented in a manner that does not make it a barrier to digital trade?

Open discussion

19:00 Group dinner

Friday 31 July

08:30 – 09:00 Coffee

09:00 – 10:15 Think piece: The scope of digital trade

Presenter: Susan Lund (McKinsey Global Institute)

Lead Discussant: Jake Colvin (National Foreign Trade Council)

Chair: Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Principal Convener (ICTSD)

How much globalization is occurring in digital trade? How best to define what comes under this ambit? How it will change over time? What portions are transformative and which others are more facilitating? What are the consequences for the internet of things across borders, if any?

Open discussion

10:15 – 11:15 Think piece: Managing cross-border data

Presenter: Anupam Chander (University of California, Davis)

Lead Discussant: Nicholas Bramble (Google)

Chair: Maki Kunimatsu (Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting)

Are emerging business models that rely on data constrained in current governance and are these models likely to need new regulations in order to adapt to them? For example, what are the implications for digitally enabled IP and cross-border service models? As the digital components become increasingly integral to goods and services in complex packages, what are the implications for managing cross border

exchanges? Given these emerging business models, is there a need to reconsider the distinction between goods, services and data in favour of the concept of 'intangibles'? How can we ensure that regulation supporting such models also promotes technology diffusion and business innovation in non-originating regions?

Open discussion

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00 Structuring the policy options (I)

Chair: Merit Janow, Theme Leader (Columbia University)

The Expert Group will divide into breakout groups, with each group identifying the top 3-4 concrete policy options from each session over the last two days.

Breakout discussion groups

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Structuring the policy options (II)

Chair: Merit Janow, Theme Leader (Columbia University)

The rapporteurs will report back the findings after the groups merge together for discussion of the policy options by the full group membership. The Theme Leader will review and determine which policy options could be incorporated into the final report.

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 16:45 Synthesis session

16:45 – 17:15 Concluding remarks and next steps

Merit Janow, Theme Leader (Columbia University)
Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Principal Convener (ICTSD)

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