

Fostering Innovation in a Digital Economy

APEC Structural Reform Capacity Building Workshop June 1-3, Singapore

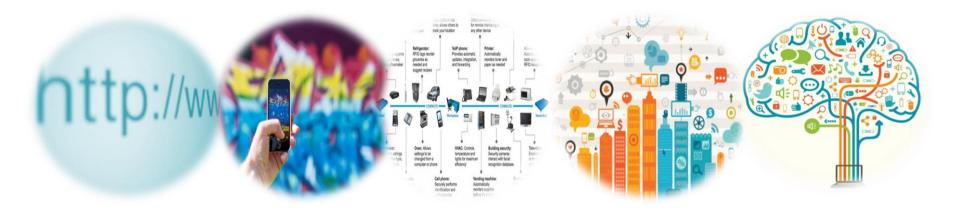
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Key Points

- Divergence within and across APEC fundamentally challenges the potential for an integrated economic community and the prospects for a digital economy
- However there are important opportunities for APEC to proactively drive a digital economy and for low income countries to leapfrog to digital
- Interconnectivity and interoperability are the key building blocks of a digital economy; multi-modal access the key integrator
- Cross-sector policy frameworks are the key enabler. Awareness and capacity are fundamental to achieving this.
- Access, service delivery and affordability are the key determinants to innovation and inclusiveness



Digital Economy is...



an inter**connected economy** wherein the **Internet** is an embedded and **pervasive infrastructure** — the horizontal enabler

- and driver across all sectors of the economy and society.

From Connectivity to Interconnectivity



Digital Economy and Society

- Digitization of public service delivery, social interactions and commercial transactions
- Creation of inclusive and integrated society

Multi-modal Platforms

- More 'things' coming online
- Services, content and processes → platform agnostic

Interconnectivity and Interoperability

- Proprietary networks becoming IP-based
- Platforms talk to each other and are able to work with one another



Interconnectivity and Interoperability provide the foundations...

- Proprietary networks becoming IP-based provides the capability to interconnect and interoperate
- Interconnection of networks of all kinds ≠ the Internet
- Interoperability of applications and content across different platforms and networks is also required
- Combined, the two provide the ability to diversify the range of communications, products and services on the able to be delivered on IP-based networks



For multi-modal platforms to emerge

- Able to access the same applications and content from a variety of different devices
- Fosters collaborative work processes, communications and sharing of information regardless of devices
- Allows consumers to become platform agnostic and to choose the when, where and how of digital content consumption.
- Internet consumption patterns shifting from fixed devices (i.e. PC) towards mobile devices



Leading to a digitally integrated economy and society



- Internet = stand-alone vertical
- Economies of scale

- Internet = universal platform
- Economies of scope

The role of the government is to facilitate advancement of an Internet economy with the vision to instill interoperability in order to usher in the digital economy



Digitization boosts productivity and fosters innovation *across* sectors.

But the benefits of digitization are often proving to be more dramatic in traditional sectors



Japan's farming industry is facing extinction from the TPP, demographic pressure and declining competitiveness...

Adopting cloud transformed its supply chain and helped breed a young generation of farmers





Source: TRPC Going Digital Whitepaper

Transitioning to a digital economy requires more than technology take-up.

It requires reimagining business models...



- Food service > 10% of GDP (USD105B pa)
- With the # of chicken restaurants in Korea > than the # of McDonalds globally...
- ...Supply threatens to be > Demand
- And yet small 'mom-and-pop' shops have neither the skills nor the motivation to go online

Digitization allows mom-and-pop restaurants to expand their reach, compete on quality and manage return-on-investment



While emerging markets are playing catch up... ... and still face challenges in terms of access to affordable devices, robust connectivity and limited market awareness...



E-learning in Vietnam



... they are gaining momentum with digital start-ups...





Viet Nam's startup ecosystem begins to go past 'Flappy'



A customer browses goods on shopping site Vatgia.com. Vatgia is among Viet Nam's first generation of startups, after which many startups are developing very fast and expanding in the region. — VNS Photo Viet Thanh

by Mai Huong

Governments increasingly cognizant of the need to develop a national digital economy plan...

Australia





Canada



2. Protecting Canadians

3. Economic Opportunities

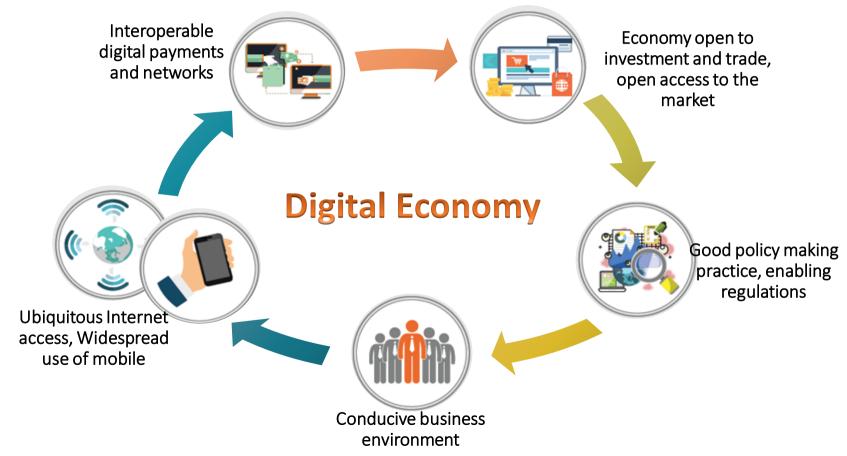
4. Digital Government

5. Canadian Content

Korea



To foster successful transition, it is necessary to ensure appropriate building blocks are in place



Developing economies playing catch-up... Albeit slowly and in a siloed manner

Indonesia



Philippines



Thailand



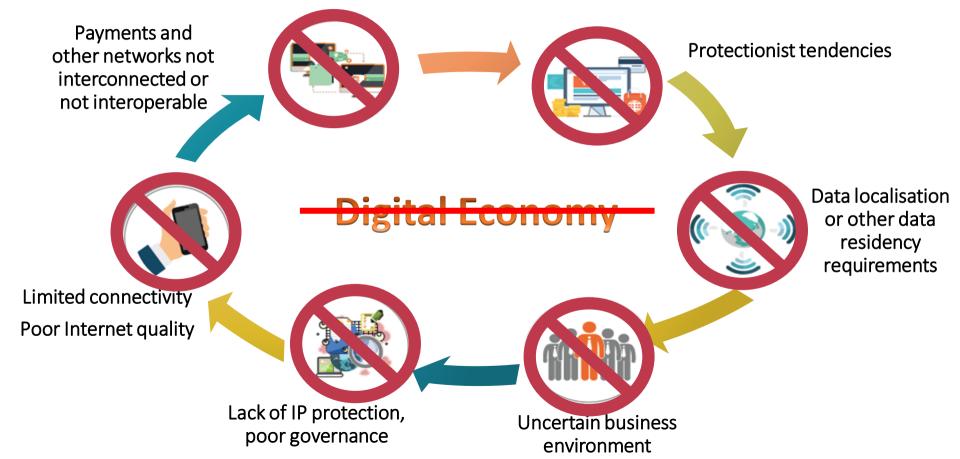
Thai cabinet approves digital economy plans

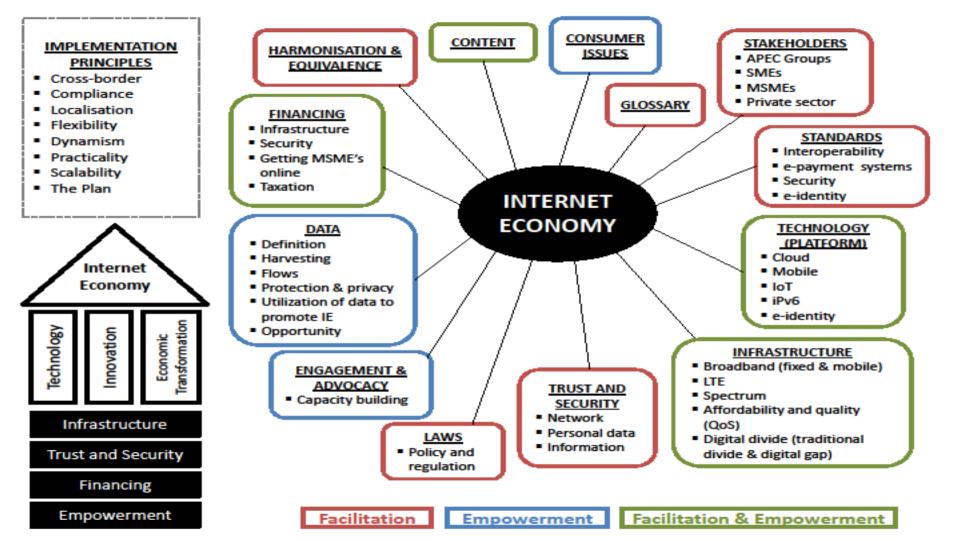
National digital strategies get official green light.



hailand's Cabinet has officially approved two plans on Digital Economy and Digital Government for the next three years, government spokesperson Major-General Sansern Kaewkamnerd announced this week

Blockages often the result of lack of awareness, capacity, or policy-making





Digital economy as the key driver of development



fostering innovation and the development of next-gen technologies



leapfrogging development gaps financial services, education and health

invigorating traditional sectors through digitisation and new business models



expanding opportunities and fostering inclusive growth for SMEs, the elderly, marginalized and disabled





developing smarter and more sustainable ways of using natural resources



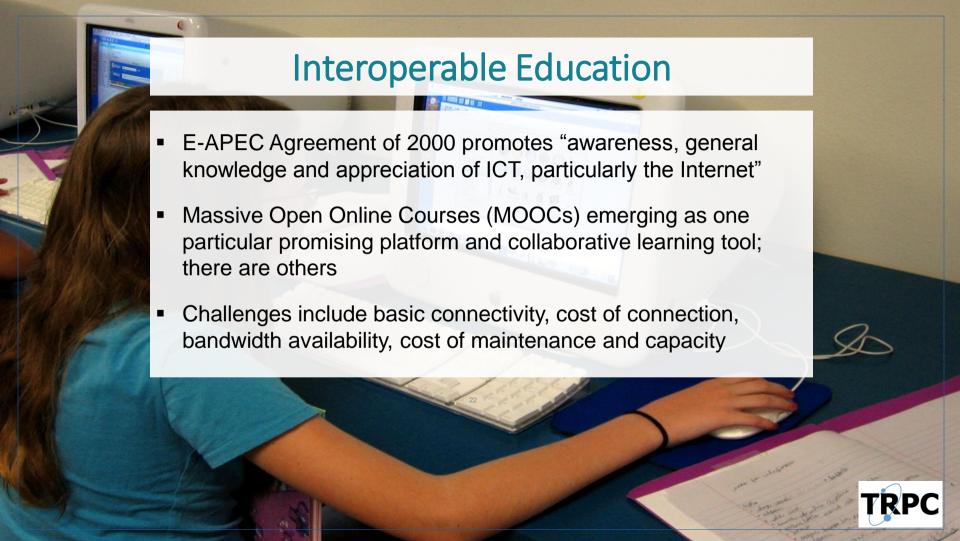
encouraging citizen
participation and improving
services delivery

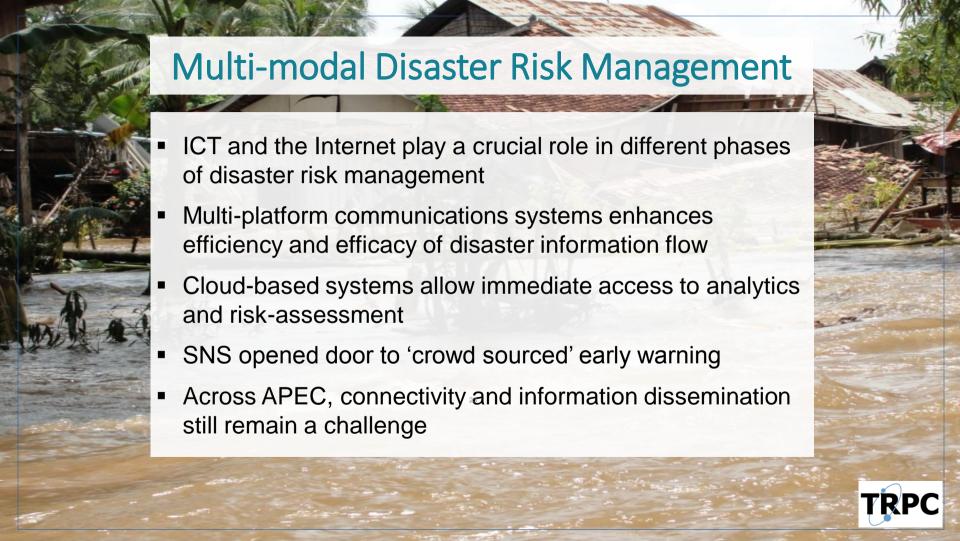


Interconnected Health

- The Internet and interconnectivity among people and devices can advance the public health agenda
- E-health enables (among others):
 - better informed decision making
 - real-time and remote consultations and treatment
 - universal records to enhance quality of treatment
 - real-time response to pandemics
- A majority of APEC governments have included e-health in their development agendas
- However, interoperability and interconnectivity within and across e-health systems remains an issue









Areas for Intervention

1. Vision and plans

2. Harmonization and alignment

3. Business environment

Government needs have a clear vision and a coherent set of policies for digital advancement, encompassing all sectors of the economy Harmonizing regulations enables access to global markets, and investment into local markets

Business processes need to be simplified to encourage new entrants to enter and innovate. Transparency needs to be improved.



Areas for Intervention - continued

4. Industry engagement

Governments in Asia need to be continuously encouraged to consult the industry and engage them in policymaking

5. Capacity Building

Retooling workforce and creating appropriate human capacity building programmes at a national level is vital for Asia

6. Policy research support

Governments in Asia need research support in understanding unintended impacts of their regulations



Regulatory Recommendations

- > Cross-Border Data Enablement: No data residency requirements
- > Equivalence in **Data Privacy Regimes**
- > Seamless Payments Enablement: Need for more efficient, affordable and widely available cross-border payments mechanisms
- > Accessible trade and customs rules
 - · Raise and align de minimis levels
 - Certification programme: authorised economic operator (AEO) by WTO
 - Single Window systems

Frameworks need to be aligned regionally and recourse mechanisms initiated