



Expert Group Meeting

“Digital trade and investment for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”

14-16 November 2022, Online

The objective of this Expert Group Meeting is to gather input and guidance in support of the preparation of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2023. The meeting covers a wide range of issues related to “Digital trade and investment for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific”. Selected experts will share recent or current research and analyses in designated areas and provide policy recommendations and other suggestions on how to ensure digital trade and investment, including trade digitalization, can better support inclusive and sustainable development of the Asia and the Pacific region.

Tentative Programme

Day 1: 14 November 2022 (UTC+7)	
13:00	<p>Opening</p> <p><i>Ms. Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division (TIID), ESCAP</i></p>
13:00 – 13:40	<p><u>Session 1: Harnessing digital trade and investment for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific</u></p> <p>This introduction session will start with ESCAP presentation of the initial concept note and draft outline of the Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report (APTIR) 2023. It will be followed by an expert presentation mapping out goods and services sectors through which digital trade and investment could contribute directly to achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APTIR 2023: Draft concept and outline <i>Yann Duval, Chief, Trade Policy and Facilitation Section (TPFS)</i> • Digitalization in different goods and services sectors: identifying sectors with a high potential contribution to the SDGs. <i>Paul Baker, CEO, International Economics</i> <p>Discussants</p> <p><i>Mia Mikic, Advisor At Large at ARTNeT</i></p>

	<i>Tommaso Giardini, Associate Director, Digital Policy Alert</i>
13:40 – 15:15	<p><u>Session 2: Measuring digital trade, recent trends in digital trade flows and regulatory state of play in global and regional levels</u></p> <p>This session will focus on trend analysis. The first set of presentations will suggest possible measurements and draw the important trends and development of digital trade flows. The second set of presentations will focus on an overview of the regulatory and cooperation landscapes and implications for regulatory interoperability in the region.</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A New Model of Digital Trade Agreements: The Digital Economy Partnership Agreement. <i>Henry Gao, Professor, SMU</i> • Recent trends of global digital trade flows <i>Daniel Ker, Economist, UNCTAD</i> • The trends of digital trade and investment flows in Asia-Pacific region <i>Michelle Monique A. Sianghio, Consultant, ADB</i> • Digital policies: state of play and implications to sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific <i>Tommaso Giardini, Associate Director, Digital Policy Alert</i> <p>Discussants</p> <p><i>Paul Baker, CEO, International Economics</i> <i>Mia Mikic, Advisor At Large at ARTNeT</i> <i>Pramila A. Crivelli, Economist, ADB</i></p>

Day 2: 15 November 2022 (UTC+7)	
14:00 – 16:15	<p><u>Session 3 Impact channels of digital trade and investment to achieving sustainable development</u></p> <p>This session will map out the positive and negative impact channels of digital trade and investment on sustainable development – concerning specific goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. It will also discuss the importance of trade digitalization, digital FDI, and targeted investment policies for inclusive and sustainable participation in the digital economy and modern patterns of globalization.</p>

	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive and negative impact channels, determining factors, and existing evidence <i>Javier Lopez Gonzalez, Senior Economist, OECD</i> • Trade digitalization in promoting digital trade and enhancing its sustainability impact. <i>Prabir De, Professor, RIS</i> • Digital FDI, trends, and investment policies for inclusive and sustainable participation in the (global, regional, and national) digital economy <i>Premila Nazareth Satyanand, Consultant, ESCAP</i> <p>Discussants:</p> <p><i>Daniel Ker, Economist, UNCTAD, TBC</i></p> <p><i>Gloria O. Pasadilla, Partner at Leadership Design Studio Pte, Ltd</i></p> <p><i>Kimberley Botwright, Head of Sustainable Trade, WEF</i></p> <p><i>Mahezabin Natasha, Consultant. ITC / ESCAP</i></p> <p><i>Pamela Mar, Managing Director, ICC DSI</i></p> <p><i>Andreas Hora, WAIPA</i></p>
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Day 3: 16 November 2022 (UTC+7)	
14:00 – 16:15	<p><u>Session 4: Evidence and policy recommendations</u></p> <p>This session will discuss possible approaches for assessing the impacts of digital trade and investment policies on sustainable development. The session will also discuss policy recommendations for fostering digital trade and investment that promote sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific. Discussants may also provide further feedback and suggestions on the initial concept note and draft outline of APTIR 2023 in this final session.</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaping opportunities from ongoing multilateral and regional cooperation dialogues <i>Simon Lacy, Senior Lecturer, University of Adelaide</i> • The potential impact of DEAs on the development of members and non-members <i>Xie Taojun, Senior Research Fellow, LKY School of Public Policy</i> • Initial assessment of the CPTPP’s Ecommerce Chapter: lessons learned for developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region to structure and implement digital trade chapters <i>Kati Suominen, Founder and CEO of Nextrade Group (pre-recorded)</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making digital trade and investment work for micro and small enterprises in the developing Asia-Pacific region <p><i>Deborah Elms, Executive Director at Asian Trade Centre</i></p> <p>Discussants</p> <p><i>Marco Kamiya, Division Chief, Digital Transformation and AI Strategies, UNIDO</i></p> <p><i>Erik van der Marel, Chief Economist, ECIPE</i></p> <p><i>Andrea Giacomelli, Trade Policy and Aid for Trade Advisor, PIFS</i></p> <p><i>Mustafizur Rahman, Distinguished Fellow, CPD</i></p>
16:15	Closing