
Telecommunications and Information

The 60th Meeting of the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL60) was held in Seoul from 13 to 18 October 2019. TEL60 conducted three roundtables on the following topics:

- Facilitating Innovation and Diversity of 5G Network Ecosystems in APEC Region
- Public-Private Partnership in Data-Driven Economy for Encouraging Innovation
- Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities from Emerging Technologies

In addition, there were three drafting sessions for a five-year strategic action plan (SAP 2021-2025).

The projects that are currently in progress for each steering group are as follows.

ICT DEVELOPMENT STEERING GROUP (DSG)

The ICT Development Steering Group (DSG) focuses on expanding digital access and usage, and exploring new ICT applications and services in the APEC region. At TEL60, the worked on the following activities:

*ICT Skills Framework Project (Papua New Guinea)**

This project aims to solve the shortage of skills in the ICT sector, starting by defining ICT skills. The Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) has been either adopted or considered by five out of the six economies as a useful reference framework to build skills across the region. At TEL60, the project steering committee discussed the ways to contextualize the adoption of SFIA by economies and to develop mutual recognition agreement for an ICT Skills Framework within APEC.

Recommendations for Implementation of Smart Sustainable City (SSC) ICT Infrastructure in the APEC Region (Viet Nam)

The project has three objectives:

- Ensure to identify prerequisite conditions to deploy smart sustainable city (SSC) ICT infrastructure in a certain city/urban geographical area in the APEC region
- Create a framework for analyzing key elements needed to support the development of SSC ICT infrastructure in the APEC region
- Develop recommendations to help economies recognize importance of deploying SSC ICT infrastructure

At TEL60, a workshop was held to address policies and regulations for SSC deployment, ICT standards and opportunities/challenges of ICT infrastructure deployment. Participants discussed a case study from Chinese Taipei.

(* This project was implemented jointly by the DSG and LSG.)

APEC e-Government Research Center 2020 (Japan) – Extension

The APEC e-Government Research Center 2020 is a multi-year project. The main activities of the center are monitoring and assessing the e-APEC initiative, maintaining a data bank for e-government readiness for member economies and conducting trainings with a distance online system. The center also offers recommendations for the improvement of e-government implementation. As part of the center's commitment to addressing e-government issues, the center is working on e-APEC. At TEL60, the project overseer, Dr. Obi, shared critical digital government issues that had been discussed at the meetings he had been attended intersessionally. The issues include harmonization between central and local governments, finding solutions to new urban issues (such as infrastructure for citizens' quality of life), and lessons from megacities.

Smart Silver Innovation Project 2019–2023 (Japan)

The project seeks to identify solutions to the challenges from an ageing society through the use of ICTs (i.e., “smart silver innovation”) and knowledge sharing. More specifically, it considers the range of applications of emerging technologies (like the internet of things, big data, AI, and 5G). At TEL60,

Japan gave a brief on the project and shared the result of the first “Smart Silver Innovation” meeting which was held in Taipei on 26 September 2019.

APII Testbed Project 2020 (Korea)

The APII testbed networks are widely available to industry, academia and government to promote the timely development of new applications and strategic international joint research and cooperation through connecting testbeds in the Asia-Pacific. At TEL60, Korea updated on activities of KOREN in 2019 and plans for future activities. From 2020, they plan to upgrade the network to an AI-based intelligent network (4-year project) as well as 5G convergence testbed.

Innovation Roundtable on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for Data-Driven Economies (Korea)

The main objective of this roundtable is to facilitate information exchange of best practices for leveraging data among APEC economies. At a TEL60 roundtable, participants raised the importance of connectivity as the essential foundation for taking advantage of the data-driven economy. It also highlighted the need to take into account things such as security, privacy, and personal data protection.

LIBERALIZATION STEERING GROUP (LSG)

The Liberalization Steering Group (LSG) focuses on regional economic integration in ICT, and on effective policy and regulatory frameworks for industrial innovation and public interest. At TEL60, they worked on the following activities:

Conformity Assessment & Mutual Recognition Arrangement Task Force (CA&MRA TF)

The task force discusses, learns about, and shares best practices on processes used to determine that products meet the necessary technical and regulatory requirements before and after being placed on the market. This includes topics such as accreditation and market surveillance. The task force also shares best practices and solutions to various challenges faced by regulators that are managing the conformity assessment procedures for telecommunication equipment for their economies.

Regulatory Roundtable on Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities from Emerging Technologies (Korea)

The objective of this roundtable is to share the views on changing roles and challenges of existing regulations in the era of digital transformation to encourage developing new business models and services. The roundtable was consisted of two sessions. The first session focused on the regulatory challenges in the era of the fourth industrial revolution. The second session focused on sharing their policy initiatives to deal with regulatory challenges for encouraging innovation and to minimize the risks brought about by new technologies.

Industry Roundtable on Facilitating Innovation and Diversity of 5G Networks Ecosystems in APEC Region (Korea)

The objective of this roundtable is to share various initiatives for promoting a vibrant and diverse 5G ecosystem with multi-stakeholder engagement. The roundtable was consisted of two sessions. The first session covered Korea’s experiences of establishing 5G networks, 5G commercialization experiences, etc. In the second session, three speakers were invited to share the strategies for the next generation network in the APEC region.

Recommendations for Implementation of Smart Sustainable City (SSC) ICT Infrastructure in the APEC Region (Viet Nam)

The project has three objectives:

- Ensure to identify prerequisite conditions to deploy SSC ICT Infrastructure in a certain city/urban geographical area in the APEC region
- Create a framework for analyzing key elements needed to support the development of SSC ICT infrastructure in the APEC region
- Develop recommendations to help economies recognize importance of deploying SSC ICT infrastructure.

At TEL60, a workshop was held to address policies and regulations for SSC deployment, ICT standards and opportunities/challenges of ICT infrastructure deployment. Participants discussed a case study from Chinese Taipei. (* This project has been implemented jointly in DSG and LSG.)

SECURITY AND PROSPERITY STEERING GROUP (SPSG)

The Security and Prosperity Steering Group (SPSG) focuses on promoting security and trust in networks and cybercrime prevention. They are working on the following activities:

Public-Private Dialogue on Status, Trends, Opportunities and Threats of Social Network (Thailand)

The project aims to promote the sharing of information and experiences between the public and private sectors, including NGOs and academia, with a view to examining and updating the status, trends opportunities, and threats, as well as bringing forward best practices and recommendations on social network. At TEL60, Thailand received comments from member economies on the current draft report and will provide a new draft for consideration ahead of TEL61.

Cyber Security Awareness Activity (United States)

This is a collaborative effort between government and industry to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and ensure that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online. In this context, the United States created the National Cybersecurity Awareness Month Toolkit that provides tips and resources to engage with stakeholders to promote positive, lasting cybersecurity habits.

Source: <https://www.apec.org/Groups/SOM-Steering-Committee-on-Economic-and-Technical-Cooperation/Working-Groups/Telecommunications-and-Information>.