Message from the Chair

While many of you seem to be enjoying a mild winter, down here in the South Pacific we are tidying our desks and preparing for our summer holidays. We’ll take a break, and not think about safe harbours, or bridges, unless we are swimming in them, or jumping off them to cool ourselves down.

When we come back in the middle of January, the Secretariat and I will make a start on the work programme agreed at our December Executive Committee meeting. There will be some administrative tidying of rules and procedures and other tasks necessary to implement the 3 year strategic plan agreed in Amsterdam. These include developing a proposal for funding a permanent Secretariat, supporting the establishment of a working group on Privacy and humanitarian action, identifying opportunities for building links with other networks and facilitating enforcement cooperation.

We’d also like the Conference website to host a comprehensive calendar of privacy related events, so that organisers can see what’s happening, when, where, and how, and coordinate, and avoid clashes. Please advise the Secretariat of events that you or your network are planning so that we can add them to the calendar.

The next time we meet, the Executive Committee will receive recommendations for the hosting of the 2017 Conference, in good time for the successful proposer to begin the necessary arrangements. We hope to be able to let you know of that decision soon after our February meeting.

One of the most important and immediate tasks for us will be to decide on a theme for the 2016 Closed Session. Our recent committee “brainstorming” session yielded some promising possibilities:

- How to reconcile security with privacy and personal data protection?
- From data protection toward privacy-driven algorithms
- Shall privacy be adapted to cultural specificities?
- Privacy and economic and social development.
- Space connectivity: challenges and impact on privacy and personal data protection.
- Data Protection and Data Privacy in using data, including Big Data, for development and humanitarian action causes

We since received several suggestions for possible closed session topics via the evaluation survey. These will be considered at the next Committee meeting.

What do you think? If you see promise in any of those, or have ideas of your own, get in touch with the Secretariat, or any member of the Executive Committee.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee I’d like to send best wishes for the holiday season after an eventful year.

John Edwards - New Zealand Privacy Commissioner and Chair of the ICDPPC Executive Committee
Seasons greetings from the Conference Secretariat

The New Zealand Office of the Privacy Commissioner Continues to provide the conference Secretariat.

The secretariat team are (L-R): Vanya Vida, Blair Stewart and Linda Williams.

You can contact the secretariat by email at ICDPPCEx-Co@privacy.org.nz

Executive Committee: Highlights of its meeting

The Executive Committee met on 9/10 December 2015 via teleconference. The meeting discussed several important issues, a few highlights are:

- The Committee has agreed to put in place a Committee work plan for 2015-16.
- The Committee discussed possible topics for the closed session in 2016.
- The Committee has received proposals to host the Conference in 2017. A sub-committee will evaluate the proposals.
- The Privacy and Humanitarian Action working group will be co-convened by Spain and Switzerland.

Update on the 38th Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco

For the first time, privacy and personal data protection regulators and enforcers will meet in Morocco, the crossroad of African, Muslim, Arab, Andalusian and Jewish cultures: Marrakesh, the ocher city, known for its history, monuments and gastronomy will host the 38th conference, in October 2016.

The preparations are on the right path; indeed, necessary funds to finance the Conference were included to the CNDP’s 2016 budget and a local program committee has identified potential topics for both the closed and open sessions. Once, shortlisted, the topics will be presented to the Executive Committee. Please feel free to send your suggestions to us at contact@privacyconference2016.org.

The graphic charter of the 38th Conference is almost finalized which will pave the path to the design of the conference’s website, the appropriate place to stay tuned to the 38th conference news.

Lahoussine Aniss, CNDP Morocco
Chair publicises Conference Resolution on Big Data

John Edwards was recently invited to address a conference in Macau, China, in his capacity as Chair of the Conference Executive Committee. He was pleased to take up the opportunity to highlight the 36th Conference’s Resolution on Big Data.

The message of the Chair’s presentation to the ‘Big Data, Key Challenges: Privacy Protection & Cooperation’ seminar hosted by the Office for Personal Data Protection, Macao SAR, was that the accumulation and use of ‘Big Data’ carries both significant challenges for privacy protection and the promise of substantial benefits for society and consumers. The Chair highlighted the Conference’s 2014 resolution and surveyed a few examples at national and international level of attempts to develop frameworks to enhance privacy while realising big data’s benefits.

Website continually updated

The Secretariat has completed uploading documentation from the 37th Conference including a number of new photographs. Thanks to our members from France and Mexico we have been able to include French and Spanish translations of all the new resolutions. In addition:

- The list of participants to the Global Cross Border Executive Committee (2014/15) are now added.
- The events calendar is updated – but we welcome notification of additional international events to be added.

Commissioner Profile Cyprus: Irene Loizidou Nicolaidou

Irene Loizidou Nicolaidou, Commissioner, Office Of The Commissioner For Personal Data Protection, Cyprus

Where did you grow up?
Nicosia, Cyprus

When did you first become involved in data protection or privacy?
September 2015 when I became the Commissioner

What was the first International Conference that you attended? (City and if you can remember it, the year)?
Amsterdam 2015

What did you do before you became a Commissioner?
I was an Advocate with the Local Councilor at Engomi, Nicosia municipality from 2001

What is the best thing about participating in the International Conference?
Sharing information and experiences with fellow colleagues

What is the best thing about being Data Protection Commissioner?
It is a great challenge and privacy and data protection is a sensitive subject. There are many things that are to be done in regards to awareness, education, participation etc.
Comings and Goings

Federal Swiss Commissioner Hanspeter Thür retired in November 2015. Deputy Commissioner Jean-Philippe Walter is the Interim Commissioner till a new Commissioner is appointed.

Celebration of Privacy: Louis D. Brandeis Privacy Awards

The Louis D. Brandeis of Privacy Awards recognise individuals for their significant intellectual, legal, and technical contributions to the field of health information privacy.

Professor Masao Horibe was one of the recipients of the Louis D. Brandeis Privacy Awards 2015. Professor Horibe is well known internationally and was appointed in 2014 as the Chair of the Specific Personal Information Commission, Japan.

Timeline Factoid

2015: ICDPPC established a permanent website

[Diagram: Innovation Adoption Lifecycle]
Profile of Partners in Privacy

London Action Plan: Steve Eckersley

Steve Eckersley, Head of Enforcement at the UK Information Commissioner’s Office and Co-Chair of the London Action Plan

What does your role involve? How long have you been performing this role?
I have been at the ICO for 4 years. Recently I became a member of the Senior Management Team and this has brought me extra responsibilities. The ICO has been a member of the London Action Plan for some time and became a Co-Chair in 2014.

What is your background? How did you become involved in data protection or privacy?
Prior to joining the ICO I was a Senior Investigating Officer in the Police and I investigated Homicides and Serious and Series Crime. I have lots of experience at tactical and strategic levels, particularly partnership working.

I was attracted to the role because it offered me a change in career direction, but more importantly because it provided me with a great opportunity to help change the direction, focus and structure of the ICO’s UK and International operations and investigations.

Is there anything else about yourself you wish to add?
My role and work within The London Action Plan has grown considerably in the past 12 months and I am very excited about working with colleagues from the CRTC and FTC and other LAP members in taking the plan forward.

What is the role of the London Action Plan?
The purpose of the London Action Plan is to promote international spam enforcement cooperation and address spam related problems, such as online fraud and deception, phishing, and dissemination of viruses.

What have been the LAP’s most notable achievements in the last few years regarding privacy? What has the London Action Plan been working on recently?
The London Action Plan met in Dublin in June 2015 and embarked on a process to create a new Executive Committee, Operational Plan and Working Groups to take work forward in the key areas of enforcement, communications and training. The meeting also served as a useful platform to share intelligence and ways or working relating to tackling spam communications. Organisations from the private and public sectors were represented, including several organisations with responsibility for data protection and privacy, providing different views and approaches to tackling the problem.

What is the London Action Plan focusing on in 2015? What might be of most interest to data protection and privacy commissioners?
The London Action Plan currently has a number of projects ongoing, including the development of a multi-lateral Memorandum of Understanding to support the sharing of information to support enforcement collaboration and the development of a ‘Sweep’ to coordinate work on a particular topic internationally.

Is there anything else about the London Action Plan you wish to add?
Most spam involves the processing of personal data. Therefore the work of the London Action Plan is definitely of relevance not only to those organisations with specific anti-spam roles, but to the wider data protection and privacy community.

How can the London Action Plan be contacted?
http://londonactionplan.org/
Profile of Partners in Privacy
Iberoamerican Network of Data Protection (RIPD): Miguel Angel Pérez Grande

Miguel Angel Pérez Grande. Permanent Secretariat of the Iberoamerican Network of Data Protection, held by the Spanish Data Protection Agency.

What does your role involve? How long have you been performing this role?
I am responsible for the daily management of the Network (coordination with the Presidency, presently held by the Mexican INAI, call for the Executive Committee of the Network, organization of seminars and other meetings of the members of the Network, etc). I’ve been in this position for four years.

What is your background? How did you become involved in data protection or privacy?
I am a civil servant by career. I have occupied different positions within the Spanish Administration. I joined the Spanish Data Protection Agency in 2011.

How does the Iberoamerican Network carry out its work on privacy?
The Iberoamerican Network of Data Protection (RIPD) was established in 2003. It is composed of 22 institutions from 16 Iberoamerican countries. 12 DPAs with full membership plus 10 observers, without voting rights, including the Organizazion of American States. Observers come mainly from the fields of transparency and access to public information. The RIPD has no legal personality and acts as a network that seeks to promote data protection in the Iberoamerican region and the cooperation amongst its members. It is led by an Executive Committee of five members, a Chair and the Permanent Secretariat.

What is the role of the RIPD?
The RIPD is configured as a permanent forum for the exchange of information, experiences and assistance among member countries of the Iberoamerican Community. It aims to promote regulatory developments in the region to ensure an advanced regulation of the right to the protection of personal data in a democratic context and to favour international data flows and trade between Europe and Latin America and within the American region. The specific objectives are listed in Article 1 of its Rules of Procedure.

What have been its most notable achievements in the last few years regarding privacy?
The RIPD has been the main promoter of dialogue, initiatives and policies on data protection in the region. It has substantially contributed to a situation in which more than 150 million Latin American citizens have at present, along with the traditional protection of “habeas data”, data protection laws and specialized institutions that effectively guarantee the adequate use of their personal information. Examples of the regulatory progress in the region over the past twelve years of operation of the Network, are in Argentina (2008); Uruguay (2008); Peru (2011); Costa Rica (2011); Nicaragua (2012), Colombia (2012); Dominican Republic (2013) has been the last country that joined the group of countries with specific regulations in this area. All this has helped to strengthen the region’s presence in international fora. RIPD has also contributed significantly to the institutional strengthening of its members and observers through training and educational activities as well as through the organization of annual meetings (13) and workshops and seminars (9) on issues of interest to its members (health, international data transfers, security, etc.).

What is the RIPD focusing on in 2015? What might be of most interest to data protection and privacy commissioners?
During 2015, RIPD activity was as follows: XIII Annual Meeting Data Protection (May, Lima); Training workshop for the entities of the Function of Transparency and Social Control of Ecuador (June, Quito); International seminar on the Brazilian draft law on data protection (October, Brasilia), and Seminar on the new challenges of privacy in connection with massive data processing (November, Montevideo).

Another important activity has been the coordination work carried out by the association with data protection authorities of the Francophonie (AFAPDP) to promote joint initiatives within the ICDPPC. Specifically, at the 37th Conference of Amsterdam this collaboration has resulted in the approval of a Resolution on Data Protection and International Humanitarian Action. Presently The RIPD along with the AFAPDP is promoting the establishment of the Working Group that shall implement this resolution with a view to the 38th ICDPPC.

How can the RIPD be contacted?
http://www.redipd.es
ICDDPC ExCo Communique

Factoid

Did You Know?

- That the Conference has met 33 times in the Northern Hemisphere and 4 times in the Southern Hemisphere?

- That although the Conference has been hosted 37 times, it has met in only 21 countries, as it has been hosted twice by 5 countries (Australia, Germany, Netherlands, Poland, Spain), 3 times by the UK and 4 times each by France and Canada.

A few Firsts

- First conference: Bonn 1979
- First Conference held outside Europe: Ottawa, 1980
- First return visit: Paris 1990 (after earlier visit in 1981)
- First Southern Hemisphere Conference: Sydney, 1992
- First Conference to have a website: Hong Kong 1999
- First jointly hosted Conference: Cardiff 2002
- First Conference routinely to adopt resolutions: Sydney, 2003
- First Conference in a former Communist country: Wroclaw, 2004
- First Conference held on an island: Fort Balaclava, 2014