

## Report by Secretariat on Observer Application from APEC Electronic Commerce Steering Group (APEC ECSG)

The APEC ECSG has applied to become an observer in accordance with the principle of the principle of reciprocity.

Rule 5.3c sets out the applicable criteria for observer status

### 5.3 Observer status

The following entities and organisations can take part in the Conference, with an Observer status:

- a. ...
- b. ...
- c. Any ... organisation that has granted Observer status to the Conference, under the principle of reciprocity.

Observer status may be granted for a particular annual meeting or for a period of time covering more than one annual meeting.

APEC ECSG has extended guest status to ICDPPC since 2012. 'Guest' is the APEC term for observer. The status was [renewed](#) in 2015 and continued until 31 December 2017.

This is the first observer application received by the Conference on the basis of reciprocity. We understand that the APEC ECSG Chair has already arranged to register for the Marrakesh Conference.

### Recommendation

**The Secretariat recommends that observer status be recommended for APEC ECSG for a period to expire on 31 December 2017 (to align with the reciprocal guest status granted to ICDPPC).**

**Executive Committee Secretariat**

8 September 2016

## New Application to be accredited as an observer of the Conference (Reciprocal Rights)

<b>Details of Applicant</b>
<b>Name of organisation</b>
APEC Electronic Commerce Steering Group
<b>Postal Address</b>
APEC Secretariat, 35 Heng Mui Keng Terrace
<b>City</b>
Singapore
<b>Postal Code</b>
119616
<b>Country</b>
Singapore
<b>Website</b>
<a href="http://www.apec.org">www.apec.org</a>
<b>Details of contact person for this application:</b>
<b>Name</b>
Colin Minihan
<b>Email</b>
[REDACTED]
<b>Description of applicant</b>
<b>Briefly describe the organisation</b>
<p>I am submitting this application in my capacity as the Chair of APEC Data Privacy Sub-Group (DPS), which sits under the APEC Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG). The DPS is the APEC body charged with developing and implementing privacy policy initiatives within APEC. The ECSG provides high-level oversight and coordinates the work and priorities of the DPS with broader APEC objectives, as set by APEC member economy ministers and leaders. The DPS developed the APEC Privacy Framework and the Cross-Border Privacy Rules System.</p> <p>The purpose of this application is to facilitate ongoing cooperation between the ECSG (specifically the DPS) and the ICDPPC through participation in relevant meetings.</p>
<b>Reciprocal Recognition</b>
<b>Has the applicant organisation granted the International Conference status as an observer to its meetings?</b>
Yes
<b>Provide relevant details of the observer status granted by the applicant organisation to the Conference</b>
<p>The ICDPPC was granted renewed guest status at APEC Electronic Commerce Steering Group (ECSG) meetings on 22 January 2015 for the period January 2015 through to 31 December 2017. The ECSG has two sub-groups, the Data Privacy Sub-Group and the Paperless Trading Sub-Group. All three groups meet twice a year. The APEC guest status is equivalent to observer status. The ICDPPC guest status entitles ICDPPC representatives to participate in all ECSG and sub-group meetings as well as to receive invitations to other APEC events (for example, seminars, workshops or projects) on the same basis as ECSG member economies.</p>
<b>Duration of requested observer status</b>
<b>Duration:</b>
for a period of time covering more than one annual conference