

APEC Digital Prosperity Checklist Survey

Summary of Responses

The Digital Prosperity Checklist, endorsed by Leaders in 2008, is a critical tool for assisting APEC economies to promote the use and development of ICTs as a means to enhance their participation in the digital economy and bring cost savings and efficiencies in key sectors of the economy. This tool allows economies to evaluate whether their domestic legal, regulatory and trade policy frameworks are designed to positively impact the capacity of ICTs to generate value for their economies.

Sixteen economies responded to the APEC Digital Prosperity Checklist Survey, namely Australia; Canada; Chile; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Korea; Mexico; Malaysia; New Zealand; Peru; the Philippines; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; and the United States. Their answers to the questions in the survey show broad agreement with the Checklist recommendations for promoting the use and development of ICT. This is especially true in four of the six key areas or "I's." Responses showed that economies were consistently implementing the Checklist recommendations in the areas of Infrastructure, Intellectual Capital, Investment, and Innovation. The survey results indicated that the ICT related policies varied more in the areas of Information Flows and Integration, suggesting more potential for future cooperation and coordination in these areas.

Infrastructure

All respondents indicated that they had both incorporated ICT considerations into national infrastructure planning and increased access to unserved or underserved segments of the population with many comments providing detailed explanations and useful examples. Australia highlighted its new National Broadband Network and Australian Broadband Guarantee as examples of programs to increase access in underserved areas. Peru has created the Investment Fund for Telecommunications (FITEL) for financing telecommunications services in rural areas or other places considered to be of preferential social interest. However, the responses diverged on providing tax incentives and grants to telecommunications service providers to expand existing communications networks.

Intellectual Capital

There was very little divergence in the responses to questions in the section on Intellectual Capital with economies reporting actions consistent with the checklist recommendations for nearly every question. Several economies provided valuable examples of steps taken to increase computer literacy and ICT development skills in the workforce and enhance ICT education in schools. Hong Kong, China is developing a Qualification Framework and Specification of Competency Standards for the ICT sector to promote continuous upgrading and lifelong learning of the ICT workforce. Mexico explained its Paracurricular Model, which works as a strategy that allows flexible, agile and continuous updating and training of human capital required by the software industry.

Investment

Again, nearly all economies answered affirmatively to implementing the Checklist guidelines in nearly every question under investment. Respondents almost unanimously indicated that they had implemented or made progress implementing the 1998 APEC Options for Investment Liberalization and Business Facilitation, the 2008 Investment Facilitation Action Plan, and the 1994 non-Binding Investment Principles. Nearly all respondents reported that they permitted the use of various technology mediums for e-payments.

Innovation

The results showed broad agreement in the area of intellectual property rights, notably in the implementation of relevant APEC Model Guidelines from 2005 and 2006. Several economies offered examples of innovative programs/policies to address intellectual property issues, for example. Thailand noted the establishment of its National Committee on Creative Economy in August 2009. The Philippines cited its Anti-Camcording Act, approved in May 2010, and the Philippine Technology Transfer Act of 2009 as examples. The only area of significant diversion was in implementation of the APEC Technology Choice Pathfinder. Several economies have yet to implement the APEC Technology Choice Pathfinder, which could be a useful area for future cooperation.

Information Flows

There was somewhat less convergence in the key area of Information Flows, but respondents still widely reported implementing the recommendations of the Checklist. All economies indicated that they had facilitated the adoption and deployment of digital signature technology.

Integration

The Checklist Survey results suggested Integration was the area where economies had been least consistent in implementing the Checklist recommendations. Although nearly all economies that responded to the survey indicated that they had implemented the WTO Information Technology Agreement and made commitments in the WTO on relevant services, several respondents reported having established tariff or non-tariff measures related to the trade of digital products and maintaining market access or nationality-based restrictions on the provision of ICT services.

APEC Digital Prosperity Checklist Survey Results

		TOTAL	
I. Infrastructure		Yes	No
a. Supply Chain			
1.	Has your economy incorporated ICT considerations into national infrastructure development planning, for example, its fiscal stimulus packages or other national infrastructure development planning? If available, please provide reference to information on your fiscal stimulus package.	16	0
2.	Has your economy promoted policies to encourage public-private collaboration in capital investments in ICT infrastructure?	14	1
3.	Does your economy accept electronic documents as equivalent to paper documents in the customs or supply chain process?	16	0
4.	Has your economy recently adopted internationally recognized data standards for paperless trading?	13	2
b. Communications			
1.	Has your economy increased Internet access to unserved or underserved segments of its population?	16	0
2.	Has your economy taken to steps to increase competition among public telecommunications services operators?	14	0
3.	Has your economy provided tax incentives and grants to telecommunications services providers to expand existing communications networks?	10	5
4.	Is your economy on track to realize the goal of universal broadband access by 2015 as set by the APEC TEL ministers in 2008?	15	0
5.	Has your economy moved toward more efficient use of its radio frequency spectrum?	14	0
6.	Has your economy implemented the <i>APEC TEL Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of 1998</i> ?	10	4
7.	Has your economy adopted policies to implement the <i>2002 APEC Cybersecurity Strategy</i> and the <i>2005 APEC Strategy to Ensure a Trusted, Secure and Sustainable Online</i> to protect its network and citizens from cybercrime and cyberattack?	15	0
c. Applications			
1.	Has your economy pursued opportunities for software knowledge exchange and development with the private sector?	14	0
2.	Has your economy adopted policies to orient e-government services (including publication of regulations and pertinent documentation) to its citizens?	16	0
II. Intellectual Capital			
a. Skills and Capacity Development			
1.	Has your economy taken steps to increase computer literacy and ICT development skills in the workforce to create a new pool of ICT professionals?	16	0
2.	Has your economy adopted policies and/or programs to encourage the private sector to enhance ICT professional development and opportunities, including through international exchange programs?	13	1
3.	Has your economy taken steps to promote use of ICTs and Web-based services by SMEs?	14	0
4.	Has your economy taken steps to promote e-learning at the primary and secondary levels?	12	1
5.	Has your economy taken steps to promote e-learning at tertiary institutes?	10	0
b. ICT Education			
1.	Has your economy taken steps to ensure that curricula for subjects that are the foundations of ICT capacity – mathematics, computer science and engineering – are available at all levels of education?	15	0
2.	Has your economy developed programs or capacity-building to ensure that teachers are skilled in using ICTs in education?	13	0
3.	Has your economy facilitated cooperation between domestic and international education institutions on online coursework?	12	1
4.	Has your economy developed educational programs on information security and privacy at all educational levels?	10	3

III. Investment				
a. FDI Promotion/Policy				
1.	Has your economy implemented the <i>1998 APEC Options for Investment Liberalization and Business Facilitation</i> ?	13	0	
2.	Has your economy made progress on implementing the <i>2008 Investment Facilitation Action Plan</i> ?	14	0	
3.	Has your economy adopted investment policies that adhere to APEC's <i>1994 Non-Binding Investment Principles</i> ?	14	0	
b. Fluid Capital Markets				
1.	Has your economy taken steps to improve the quality of its financial data reporting standards and to harmonize those standards with other APEC economies?	12	0	
c. Electronic Payments				
1.	Does your economy permit the use of various technology mediums for e-payments (e.g., mobile telephony, Internet)?	15	1	
2.	Has your economy promoted policies that foster competition in the e-payments industry?	13	1	
IV. Innovation				
a. Creative Individuals/Industries				
1.	Has your economy implemented the <i>APEC Technology Choice Pathfinder</i> ?	11	3	
2.	Has your economy attempted to link private sector capital with basic research in order to further innovation in ICT industries?	12	1	
b. R&D				
1.	Has your economy prioritized the use of ICTs in research-intensive industries (e.g., life sciences, energy, and engineering)?	11	2	
2.	Has your economy worked to form collaborative innovation networks between businesses, universities, civil society, and others?	13	1	
c. Intellectual Property System				
1.	Has your economy developed innovative programs/policies to address intellectual property issues in the past 3 years?	14	1	
2.	Has your economy implemented the <i>2006 APEC Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Initiative Model Guidelines for Effective Public Awareness Campaigns on IPR</i> ?	15	0	
3.	Has your economy implemented <i>2006 APEC Model Guidelines to Strengthen IPR Capacity Building</i> ?	14	0	
4.	Has your economy implemented the <i>2005 APEC Model Guidelines to Protect Against Unauthorized Copies</i> ?	14	0	
5.	Has your economy implemented the <i>APEC Cooperation Initiative on Patent Acquisition Procedures</i> ?	14	1	
6.	Has your economy implemented the <i>2005 APEC Model Guidelines to Reduce Trade in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods</i> and the <i>2006 APEC Model Guidelines to Secure Supply Chains against Counterfeit and Pirated Goods</i> ?	14	0	
7.	Has your economy implemented new border enforcement techniques in the past five years to combat piracy and counterfeiting?	15	0	
V. Information Flows				
a. Privacy				
1.	Has your economy developed and implemented data privacy frameworks that enhance privacy protection and facilitate continuity of cross-border information flows consistent with the <i>2004 APEC Privacy Framework</i> ?	13	3	
2.	Has your economy moved toward participation in a multilateral system of data privacy investigation and enforcement cooperation?	10	5	
b. Trusted Environment				
1.	Has your economy implemented the <i>2005 APEC Principles for Action Against Spam</i> and the <i>2005 APEC Implementation Guidelines for Action Against Spam</i> ?	13	3	
2.	Has your economy established effective consumer protection regimes to address instances of economic harm resulting from online transactions?	12	2	
3.	Has your economy established mechanisms for allocating funds or resources to researching emerging cyber threats?	12	2	
4.	Has your economy facilitated the adoption and deployment of digital signature technologies?	16	0	

5.	Has your economy facilitated the adoption and deployment of sensor-based technologies?	12	2
VI. Integration			
a. Products			
1.	Has your economy implemented the <i>WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA)</i> ?	12	0
2.	Has your economy established tariff and/or non-tariff measures related to the trade of digital products?	5	7
3.	Does your economy charge customs duties and/or other fees on digital products in connection with importation or exportation?	4	8
4.	Does your economy accept self-declaration of conformity for electronic and IT equipment where regulators deem products pose little risk?	7	4
5.	Does your economy accept test reports from laboratories outside your borders for electronic and IT equipment? If so, please provide details on requirements associated with accreditation of these laboratories, if any.	9	3
b. Services			
1.	Does your economy maintain market access or nationality-based restrictions on the provision of ICT-services, including professional, telecommunications, value-added network services, computer and related, and consulting services?	6	8
2.	If the answer to Question 1 is yes, have you taken steps to reduce some of these restrictions in the past two years?	3	4
3.	Has your economy made commitments in the WTO on professional, telecommunications, value-added network services, computer and related, and consulting services?	12	1
4.	Does your economy maintain market access or nationality-based restrictions on the provision of services, including advertising, distribution, and express delivery, needed to complete an electronic commerce transaction?	5	9
5.	If the answer to Question 4 is yes, have you taken steps to reduce some of these restrictions in the past 2 years?	1	5
6.	Has your economy made commitments in the WTO on advertising and distribution services?	11	2
7.	Has your economy implemented the WTO Reference Paper in line with the <i>2005 APEC Best Practices for Implementing the WTO Reference Paper</i> ?	12	1