FACTSHEET

SINGAPORE JOINS APEC CROSS-BORDER PRIVACY RULES AND PRIVACY RECOGNITION FOR PROCESSORS SYSTEMS

In the digital economy, data-related economic activities often straddle borders, as services – particularly digital services – can easily scale regionally if not globally. As a globally connected digital economy, Singapore supports open data flows across borders and robust data protection standards to ensure that data is exchanged and used in a responsible way.

1. Singapore is participating in the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR) and Privacy Recognition for Processors (PRP) systems, and once the Personal Data Protection Commission’s (PDPC) certification scheme is in place, certified organisations will be able to exchange personal data with certified organisations in participating APEC economies much more seamlessly, while consumers can be assured that the cross-border transfer of their personal data will be subject to high standards of data protection. PDPC is developing the certification scheme and, once it is ready, organisations can start applying for the CBPR and PRP systems certification.

2. The APEC CBPR and PRP systems are multilateral certification mechanisms that ensure certified organisations have in place data protection policies consistent with the APEC Privacy Framework. CBPR applies to data controllers, which include organisations that control the collection, holding, processing, or use of data. PRP applies to data processors, which include organisations that process data on behalf of other organisations at their instruction. Together, the CPBR and PRP systems establish a harmonised set of data protection standards across the Asia-Pacific, facilitating data transfers for certified organisations across participating economies.
On 26 July 2017, Singapore submitted her Notice of Intent to participate in the APEC CBPR and PRP systems. With approval from the APEC Joint Oversight Panel, on 20 February 2018, Singapore has become the sixth APEC economy to participate in the CBPR system alongside USA, Mexico, Canada, Japan and the Republic of Korea, and the second APEC economy to participate in the PRP system alongside USA.

For media clarifications, please contact:

Jill Lim (Ms)
Assistant Manager, Corporate Relations Division
Ministry of Communications and Information
Tel: 6837 9757
Email: Jill_LIM@mci.gov.sg