ADB Policy Dialogues on Tech Governance

Policy Innovation in the Digital Age

KEITH DETROS
Programme Lead, TFGI

Definition of terms

For this study, we adopt definitions based on Tech Policy Design Centre's report on Tending the Tech Ecosystem.

Term	Definition
Tech-ecosystem	Is broadly defined to include: • The tech sector, its employees and financiers; • Manufacturers, retailers, installers and repairers of digital technologies; • End users of digital technologies (government, enterprises or individuals); • Entities (other than companies and individuals for whom it is a core business) that develop digital technologies, study the impact of digital technologies or support the tech sector's talent pipeline; • Entities (public or private) that design and implement tech regulation; and • Tech regulators.
Tech Regulation	An intentional form of intervention in the tech ecosystem with the aim of achieving a public policy objective or set of objectives. The intervention can be direct and/or indirect, the activities can be economic and/or non-economic, and the regulated party may be a public or private sector actor.
Tech Regulator	Government officials, departmental units and independent statutory authorities that are empowered to administer and enforce tech regulation, or more specifically to grant approvals (including registration and licensing), monitor compliance and enforce regulations.

Source: Weaver, J. and O'Connor, S. 2023

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Philippines

Philippine Competition Commission (PCC)

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

National Privacy Commission (NPC)

National Telecommunications Commission (NTC)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CCIC)

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Indonesia

Indonesia Competition Commission (KPPU)

Ministry of Trade (Kementerian Perdagangan)

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (KOMINFO)

Indonesia Financial Services Authority (OJK)

Bank Indonesia

National Cyber and Crypto Agency (BSSN)

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Malaysia

Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC)

Ministry of Domestic Trade and Costs of Living (KPDN)

Ministry of Communications and Digital*

Personal Data Protection Department (PDPD)

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)

Ministry of Health Malaysia

National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA)

Commercial Crime Investigation Department (CCID)

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Singapore

Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS)

Enterprise Singapore

Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)

Singapore Customs

Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI)

Smart Nation Singapore

Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)

Personal Data Protection Commission Singapore

Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act Office (POFMA)

Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)

Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

Singapore Police Force (SPF)

Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA)

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Thailand

Trade Competition Commission of Thailand

Ministry of Digital Economy and Society

Electronic Transactions Development Agency

Securities and Exchange Commission

National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission

Personal Data Protection Commission Office

Bank of Thailand

National Cyber Security Agency

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Vietnam

Vietnam Competition and Consumer Authority

Ministry of Planning and Investment

Ministry of Industry and Trade

Ministry of Information and Communications

State Bank of Vietnam

Ministry of Public Security

Ministry of Science and Technology

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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While tech regulation approaches vary across the region, common areas of focus include...

Preserving competition innovation

Protecting Consumers

Safeguarding personal data to foster trust

Enhancing cybersecurity

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Regulatory Trends in Southeast Asia's Digital Economy

There are also key trends on how governments in SEA-6 are regulating the rapidly changing landscape of the digital economy.

Existing regulators are seeing their roles expand

Specialist agencies emerge with fresh mandates

Increasing the need for coordination

Innovative policy approaches

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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To keep pace with emerging technologies, governments have to be agile

Types of policy development approaches gaining in prominence:

Outcome-based / Principle-based regulation

Outcomes / principle-driven vs prescriptive in the "how"

Co-regulation

Collaborative development between regulators and industry stakeholders

Dynamic regulation

Use of real-time data and analytics to monitor and adjust regulatory frameworks / policies as needed

Regulatory Sandbox

Testing effectiveness of regulatory approaches

Testing of impact of new products and services

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Coordination Recommendations

Stakeholder coordination is vital for regional digital economy advancement.

Between the private and public sector

Open and collaborative engagement between these sectors is essential for driving digital innovation and ensuring effective regulation amidst rapid technological advancement.

Between government agencies

Close coordination among government agencies via soft channels enhances digital governance by facilitating coordination, alignment, and collaboration opportunities.

Between governments in SEA

Governments in Southeast Asian must coordinate to advance digital economies, leveraging initiatives like the Digital Economy Framework Agreement for interoperable frameworks and responsive regulations.

Source: Tech for Good Institute, 2024

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Thank you!

Evolution of Tech Regulation in the Digital Economy

Keep pace with the dynamic landscape of tech governance in Southeast Asia!

Sandbox to Society

Gain valuable perspectives into the current sandbox initiatives in Southeast Asia!

Contact us:
keith.detros@techforgoodinstitute.org
info@techforgoodinstitute.org

in Tech for Good Institute
www.techforgoodinstitute.org