



International Regulators Forum 2026

Date: 12th - 13th October 2026

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Agenda: Monday 12 October 2026

09:00: Welcome and opening keynotes

09:30: Experimental regulation for emerging technologies - towards more agile and adaptive frameworks

- At what stage is new technology considered mature enough to move from the innovation phase to establishing regulatory guard rails? What can be done in advance to test the water?
- International experiences - what has worked well, what needed improvement, advice for those considering the use of tools including regulatory sandboxes
- Managing the balancing act: fostering innovation whilst ensuring compliance with public interest objectives

10:45: Networking break

11:15: Trust, security, and resilience in digital infrastructure

- How do regulatory models need to evolve to ensure we have safe, secure, future-proofed infrastructure?
- Subsea cable resilience, repair rights and geopolitical risk. How are regulators coordinating nationally and internationally, and cross-sector, to oversee permitting, physical protection, repair priority, foreign-adversary risk, landing-station security, route diversity for small states, etc
- Sustainability as a strategic regulatory issue. Energy access, water use, grid pressure, national AI compute capacity - what role for regulation?
- Post-gigabit connectivity and infrastructure readiness

12:30: Insight into Malaysia's national AI Action Plan - timelines, progress, core pillars

12:50: Networking lunch

14:00: Inclusive digital access - moving from broadband availability to trusted digital participation for all

- Tools for measuring and mapping digital equity – coverage, throughput, quality
- Safeguards against exclusion from digital public infrastructure and services
- Accessibility for vulnerable groups
- Reflections on the changing nature of Universal Service and the funding of it

15:15: Networking break

15:45: Preparing for WRC-27

- How has the 6 GHz band debate progressed since WRC-23?
- Considering other potential bands for mobile, including the 7/8 GHz bands
- Considering use of terrestrial mobile bands for satellite connectivity
- Rethinking spectrum awards, allocation and auctions – what’s working, what isn’t and what ‘s next

17:00: Close of day one followed by IRF dinner

Agenda: Tuesday 13 October 2026

08:00: Small Nations Regulators Forum - Breakfast Roundtable Regulating online content in small jurisdictions: the role of media literacy and education

09:30: Welcome

09:45: Online safety & consumer protection in the digital world

- Sharing best practice – regulatory tools and strategies to tackle harmful content
- Regulating platform design: age assurance, endless scroll, recommender systems, engagement loops, child profiling, AI chatbots used by minors
- The practical enforceability of under-15/under-16 social media restrictions.
- Consumer protection is expanding into platform choice architecture: dark patterns, manipulative defaults, subscription traps, addictive interface design, targeted advertising to vulnerable users. Discussing the interface between privacy, competition and online safety regulation

11:00: Networking break

11:30: Competition in digital markets

- Fostering a regulatory environment that supports innovation, competition, and the new digital economy for the benefit of society
- Managing the juxtaposition, and possible tensions, between competition law, privacy law, data governance laws

12:30: Session to be confirmed

12:50: Networking lunch

14:00: News, democracy and algorithmic delivery

- How is AI transforming both the creation and distribution of news?
- Effectiveness of tools such as provenance standards, watermarking/labelling, authenticity credentials, political advertising rules, real-time takedown
- As GenAI services become discovery gateways for news, commerce, public information and advertising should AI answer engines face obligations similar to search engines or very large online platforms: transparency, source attribution, recommender accountability, auditability, competition effects and content liability?
- Should regulation ensure the visibility of trustworthy news sources online — and if so, how?
- What role should public service and independent journalism play in maintaining credibility in an AI-driven information ecosystem?
- How are regulators preserving free expression while protecting democratic trust?

15:15: Networking break

15:45: Creative economy, globalisation and cultural dominance: the regulators' role

- Re-evaluation and adaption strategies to support local content in the face of globalisation and the international streaming market.
- Balancing cultural integrity and global market dynamics, strategic funding and investment, and comprehensive support for content development in the evolving landscape of local audio-visual content and broadcasting journalism
- Highlighting recent strategies including digital levies, taxes on digital giants, and crowdfunding as newer funding mechanisms.

17:00: Close of IRF, followed by Welcome Reception