International Institute of Communications

International Regulators Forum 2026

Date: 12th - 13th October 2026

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Agenda: Monday 12 October 2026

09:00: Welcome and opening keynotes

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications
Isolde Goggin, President, International Institute of Communications
Abdul Karim Fakir bin Ali, Managing Director, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

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

Moderator:
Isolde Goggin, President, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Thabisa Faye, Councillor, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)
Nathalie Théberge, Vice-Chairperson, Broadcasting, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)
Mohamed Al Binali, Director Competition, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), Bahrain

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

Moderator:
Chris Woolford, Director of International Spectrum Policy, Ofcom, UK; Board Director, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Aileen Chia, Deputy Chief Executive & Director-General (Telecoms & Post), Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore
Dr. Denny Setiawan, Director of Digital Infrastructure, Strategy and Policy, Ministry of Communications and Digital Affairs (KOMDIGI), Indonesia
Wan Khairil Reza Wan Kamaludin, Head, Infrastructure Planning Division, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)
Jared Carlson, Deputy Chief, Office of International Affairs, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

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

• Development of AI Act
• Establishment of AI Safety Institute
• Enabling the innovation engine

Mohd Alhafidz Yahya, Director, AI Innovation, National AI Office (NAIO), Malaysia

12:50: IRF Regulators Group Photo

13:00: Networking Lunch

14:00: News, democracy and algorithmic delivery: International comparative review of initiatives and good practices regarding echo chambers, disinformation, media literacy, media pluralism and concentration of ownership

• 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?

Moderator:
Dr. The Hon. Allyson Leacock, Chairman, Barbados Broadcasting Authority; Director, National Transformation Initiative, Government of Barbados; Board Director, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Nerida O'Loughlin, Chair and Agency Head, Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)
Latifa Akharbach, President, High Authority for Audiovisual Communication (HACA), Morocco
Rimini Haraya Makama, Executive Commissioner, Stakeholder Management, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)

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

Moderator and speaker:
Chris Woolford, Director of International Spectrum Policy, Ofcom, UK; Board Director, International Institute of Communications
Speakers include:
Rafeeza Rahim, Head, Spectrum Planning and Assignment Division, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)
Brig. Gen. Mohammad Moniruzzaman Jewel, Director General, Spectrum Division, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)
Tebogo Mmoshe, Director Licensing, Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA); Board Director, International Institute of Communications
Jared Carlson, Deputy Chief, Office of International Affairs, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

17:00: Close of day one followed by International Regulators Reception

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

18:00: International Regulators Reception

International Regulators Reception:
Venue: Sky Lounge, Level 6, NU Sentral
Open to all regulators, join us for an evening of**drinks, food and networking** in a relaxed setting overlooking Kuala Lumpur.

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

Regulating online content in small jurisdictions: the role of media literacy and education

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

09:30: Welcome

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

Isolde Goggin, President, International Institute of Communications

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

Moderator:

Datuk Zurkarnain Mohd Yasin, Senior Advisor, Operations, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

Speakers:

Lucius Lee, Deputy Director and Head of Policy & Compliance, Online Safety Regulation, Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA), Singapore

Saudatu Shagari, Principal Manager, Online Safety Unit, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)

Neha Prasad, Manager Legal & Board Secretary, Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF)

10:45: IIC's 2026 Future Leaders Competition Winner: Effective emergency preparedness: safeguarding ICT systems and infrastructure from disruption

Marc-Antoine Prévost, Enforcement Officer, Compliance and Enforcement, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

11:00: Networking break

11:30: Whole-of-Government (WoG) approach to support the delivery of sustainable and citizen-centric digital government services

Nurul Effa binti Ahmad, Deputy Director, National Digital Department (JDN), Ministry of Digital, Malaysia

11:50: 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

Moderator:
Tebogo Mmoshe, Director Licensing, Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority (BOCRA); Board Director, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Ben Oakley, Head of Telecommunications, Market Regulation Branch, Commerce Commission of New Zealand
Dr. Mohd Arif Adenan, Head, National Information Dissemination Centre (NADI), Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)
Jawwad Hafeez, Director Planning and Evaluation, Universal Service Fund, Pakistan
Mothibi Ramusi, Chairperson, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA)
Onwaree Jarernporn, Executive Director of the Numbering Management Bureau, National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC)

13:15: Networking lunch

14:15: 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

Moderator:
Isolde Goggin, President, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Farha Nabiha, Head, Competition Economics Division, Malaysia Competition Commission (MyCC)
Polume Lume, CEO, National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), Papua New Guinea
Philip Marnick, General Director, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), Bahrain; Board Director, International Institute of Communications

15:15: Networking break

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

• Re-evaluation and adaption strategies to support local content and public service media in the face of globalisation, changing audience habits 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, contestable funds and other emerging funding mechanisms and crowdfunding as newer funding mechanisms to support local content and production.
• Ensuring the discoverability and prominence of local content and public service media so audiences can continue to find trustworthy and culturally significant content.

Moderator:
Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications
Speakers:
Dr. The Hon. Allyson Leacock, Chairman, Barbados Broadcasting Authority; Director, National Transformation Initiative, Government of Barbados; Board Director, International Institute of Communications
Lydie Omanga Dihanju, Vice-President, Regulatory Authority for Post and Telecommunications of the Democratic Republic of Congo (ARPTC)
Cristina Nicolotti Squires, Group Director, Broadcasting and Media, Ofcom, UK

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

Lynn Robinson, Director General, International Institute of Communications

18:00: Welcome Reception

Welcome Reception

Kindly sponsored by Netflix

Venue: MaiBar, Level R, Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral

All delegates are welcome to join us at MaiBar, Aloft Kuala Lumpur Sentral's vibrant rooftop bar, for an evening of drinks, BBQ and networking as we close the International Regulators Forum and kick off the Annual Conference.