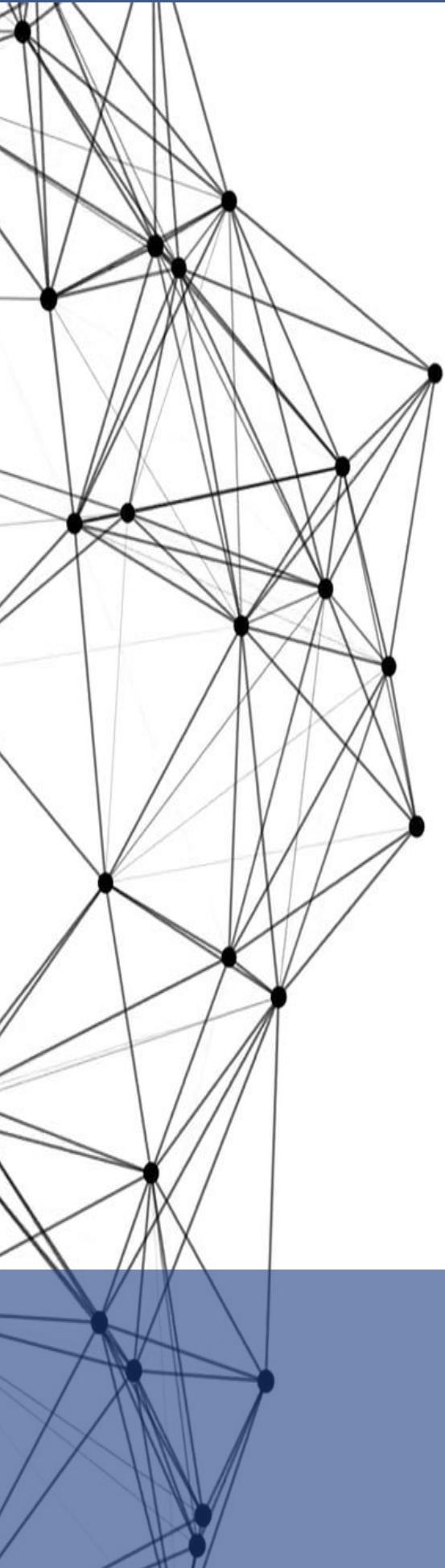


NOV 2019



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ASIC [Scrutinising](#) Libra Cryptocurrency

A preliminary report from the ASIC states the Libra ecosystem “poses many risks and threats, including the proliferation of scams based on Libra via mobile apps”. Libra poses all kinds of challenges for regulators and they are hampered by Facebook’s less than forthcoming responses to inquiries. Libra could potentially give Facebook a new set of data about users spending habits and their financial situation – a troubling outcome for regulators.

Australia [Set](#) to Sign RCEP Free Trade Agreement in 2020

Australia and 14 other Indo Pacific countries will sign the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement which will commit them to a common set of rules on intellectual property (IP) protection and e-commerce. The RCEP should provide new trade and investment opportunities for Australians.

- The new e-commerce rules will address data transfers across borders and limit govts from including requirements to locally store data, promote the digitisation of trade documents and the use of electronic signatures and protect consumers and their personal information online.
- A rules framework for the access and use of telecom services across the region will also be set up such as the portability of mobile phone numbers and reasonable international roaming rates. India is the one country yet to agree to the RCEP.

ACCC [Taking](#) Google to Court Over Personal Location Data Misrepresentations

The ACCC has opened a case in the Federal Court alleging that Google made false and [misleading](#) representations, in breach of Australian Consumer Law, to consumers about the location data Google collects or uses when certain Google Account settings are enabled or disabled on Android mobile phones and tablets. The ACCC is arguing that Google has collected, kept and used highly sensitive and valuable personal location information without giving the consumers a chance to make an informed choice.

- From Jan 2017 to late-2018 Google did not properly inform consumers that they had to switch off “Location History” and “Web & App Activity” if they did not want Google to track them.

Google [Meets](#) with AGD Over Violent Content Streaming

The Attorney General’s Department (AGD) has been meeting with relevant parties to discuss the Criminal Code Amendment (Unlawful Showing of Abhorrent Violent Material) Bill 2019 which went through Parliament in Apr. Google has asked the AGD for further clarification on the exact definition of abhorrent material. Google or any other provider based in Australia or overseas must notify the Australian Police if it streams or records conduct where a person engages in a terrorist act, murders another person, tortures another person, rapes another person or kidnaps another person. Failure to do so could trigger prosecution. The AGD has released a [fact sheet](#) and a [flow chart](#).

PJCIS Review Calls for [Rewrite](#) of Proposed Face Matching Legislation

The Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security (PJCIS) has come to a [decision](#) that the Identity Matching Services Bill 2019 and the Australian Passports Amendment (Identity matching Services) Bill 2019 in their current form should not proceed. It made this decision due to privacy fears and the fear that the bills would give govt agencies far too much surveillance power over Australian citizens. The Department of Home Affairs (DOHA) will have to rewrite both bills as the PJCIS found the proposed system neither secure nor accountable and basically lacking in details. The new regime should be built on privacy, transparency and have robust safeguards in place. It should be subject to parliamentary oversight and do an annual report on the use of identity matching services.

- The Australian govt had suggested using facial recognition technology to verify that people who watch [online](#) pornography are of legal age.

NPP [Roadmap](#) Published

Australia's New Payments Platform (NPP) has published a roadmap detailing expansion plans and the development of foundational capabilities. One of the plans is for bank customers to get control over direct debits, including the ability to stop them without having to contact each merchant individually. It will also make it easier to update these payments when changing banks by linking them to something like a mobile number, rather than a bank account or credit card. Other planned changes include standards that will allow business and govt users to send more data with payments and a business service to support the domestic leg of inbound cross-border payments.

- The NPP Australia has put out an updated [response](#) with added information on its response to the thirteen recommendations coming out of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) Conclusions Paper regarding NPP Functionality and Access Consultation.

Feedback [Update](#) to Australia's AI Ethics Framework

The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science has updated its site on draft AI ethics principles which it ran a consultation on, in Apr. A viewer can see all submitted responses where consent to publish was given. There are eight AI ethics principles including human, social and environmental wellbeing, human centred values, fairness, privacy protection and security, reliability and safety, transparency and explainability, contestability and accountability.

ACMA Takes 11 Telcos to Task over [Failure](#) to Comply with Consumer Protection Rules

The ACMA has issued a formal warning to M2 Commander for transferring a consumer's account and service from another telco without their consent. Other telcos found to be in breach of the Telecommunications Consumer Protections (TCP) Code include CNS Group Australia, Exetel, Novel Telecom, Real Sim, Red Broadband, Simply NBN, Telco4U, Trikon, Uniti Wireless and Voiteck. They have failed so far to submit annual compliance statements to show they are meeting TCP Code obligations.

NBN [Setting](#) up New Regional Business Unit

The new [regional](#) business unit will include the fixed wireless and satellite networks and the unit head will have the title of Chief Development Officer, Regional & Remote. The NBN Co has also just launched the Business NBN Satellite Service for medium-to-large businesses, regional business and govt users which will offer a Virtual ISP (VISP) service and an IoT solution. The setting up of the new business unit is part of the govt's response to the 2018 Regional Telecommunications Review.

- Telsyte research estimates there will be a 30% growth in Australian businesses using satellite services by 2021.

China [Passes](#) Cryptography Law, Effective on 1 Jan

The Standing Committee of the NPC approved the cryptography law after a second review. The Law, effective on 1 Jan next year, governs the use of cryptography and promotes the development of cryptography industry to safeguard national and cyberspace security.

- While authorities and institutions responsible for the development and use of core and common cryptography to encrypt confidential state information must implement management, supervision and emergency response systems, private sectors are encouraged to undertake research, nurture talent and develop applications for commercial cryptography technologies.
- The Law will ensure the protection of IPR in cryptography and misconduct such as hacking of cryptography security system, use of unauthorized or unauthenticated commercial cryptography products and services will be penalized.

Minor Protection Law [Revised](#) to Strengthen Privacy Protection

Legislators have revised the Minor Protection Law, which is dedicated to the protection of minors under 18, to include provisions that strengthen personal data privacy and cyberspace protection.

- The draft amendments stipulate that online service providers are required to obtain parents' or guardians' permission before they can collect and use personal information from minors which aligns with the Internet privacy regulations for minors that came into effect in Oct.
- The revised regulations, currently under the review of the NPC and public consultation, also aim to protect minors from cyber-bullying, Internet content deemed to be insulting and threatening to minors would be deleted.

Beijing Subway System to [Deploy](#) Facial Recognition for Security Checks

To improve operational efficiency and handle the ever increasing passenger volume, Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport has decided to deploy facial recognition technology in metro security check systems. Cameras will scan the faces of commuters as they enter the subway station and based on information from the databases, passengers will go to different security channels for further clearance.

- Daily trips on Beijing subway lines will increase from 13.7 million to over 17 million in 2022 when total rail transit lines exceed 1,000km.

China [Rolls out](#) 5G Services in 50 Cities on 1 Nov

China's three major telcos have unveiled their 5G services on 1 Nov covering 50 major and second-tier provincial capital cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Wuhan.

- 5G plans offered by the telcos ranges from CNY128 (USD18) to CNY598 (USD85) per month. The former includes 30GB data at 300 Mbps download speed and 500mins of voice call while the more expensive plan comes with higher download speed of up to 1Gbps. Over 10 million users have registered for the 5G services ahead of the official launch.

Impact Analysis: With the govt throwing full weight behind 5G network construction, the launch of 5G services comes much earlier than expected given that the MIIT only handed out the licenses in Jun. The accelerated rollout shows that the ban on Huawei's technologies and the trade dispute has little impact on the network deployment and that China can catch-up with the US and South Korea. The affordable service plans are likely to drive adoption and the telcos will have a tight schedule to further improve and extend the network coverage to meet service demands and the target of having 130,000 base stations set by the govt.

SFC Provides Guidelines on Use of External Electronic Data Storage

The [Circular](#) released by SFC stipulates the Regulatory Record keeping requirements for licensed corporations to mitigate cybersecurity risks when engaging the services of external EDSPs and no duplicated set of records are kept at its own premises. It is vital for licensed corporations to preserve the accessibility, authenticity, integrity and reliability of regulatory records.

- The guidelines also lay out the regulatory standards to be observed by licensed corporations when EDSPs is used to store and process information electronically.
- The newly released guidelines apply to external public and private CSPs, operators of servers or data storage devices at data centres and providers of virtual storage of electronic information.

OGCIO Highlights Progress on Open Data Implementation Measures

The open data policy adopted in 2018 has led to an increase of 20-30% of datasets published by over 80 govt bureaux and departments. The total number of datasets which meet usability requirements such as in machine-readable format is expected to reach 4,000 before the end of this year.

- Real-time estimated time of arrival data were made available on the Public Sector Information Portal since Aug by transport operators including New World First Bus, Citybus, New Lantao Bus and MTR with an average daily download of 1 million.
- The OGCIO has kick-started the development of a City Dashboard which presents information on public facilities, road traffic, weather in an easily understandable manner. The govt departments are in preparation to publish their second annual open data plans to be released in Dec.

ITB Making Steady Progress on Smart City Development Initiatives

Various initiatives announced in the 2017 Smart City Blueprint such as the setting up of the Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology and FPS have been carried out and the govt will publish the Smart City Blueprint 2.0 in Dec which includes new initiatives and recommendations.

- The eID system, now renamed as iAM Smart, will be completed in Q4 2020. iAM Smart will provide a one-stop platform for personalized digital govt services such as eTAX, renewal of driving license, online form filling. The govt will also encourage public and private organizations to integrate their online services with iAM Smart.
- The Smart Government Innovation Lab established in Apr will focus on the application of robotic technologies to improve public services including the development of robotic process automation modules.

➤ **Impact Analysis:** According to ITB, iAM Smart stands for Internet Access by Mobile in a Smart way and the purpose of renaming the service is to avoid confusion with smart ID card. Rather than just changing the name to something totally unrelated to the use of eID and e-govt services, the govt should strive to improve communication and engagement with the public to alleviate their concerns on privacy, increase their understanding on the advantages of digital ID and promote its use, otherwise it will be doomed to fail.

Govt Departments Adopt FPS for Bill Payment Service

Beginning 1 Nov, users of FPS can pay taxes, rates and Govt rent, water bill through scanning the QR code printed on the payment slip. The new payment service is currently supported by 16 banks and five SVFs. HKMA will continue to work with other govt departments to extend the use of FPS in mobile payment of govt service.

- Volume of FPS transactions in Sep doubled to 4 million as compared to last year and the number of registrations totalled 3.5 million.

The Central Govt. [Increases](#) E-payments Target for FY2020 to 45 Bn

The govt has increased the target for e-transactions in the financial year ending Mar 2020 from 40 billion to 45 billion by volume. MeitY has also redistributed individual targets for banks and payments firms for the same period. Paytm's Payments Bank and HDFC Bank have seen their targets increasing the most among all other banks.

China's ZTE [Considers](#) Setting Up a Cybersecurity Lab in India to Alleviate Security Fears

ZTE has shared that it is open to setting up a cybersecurity lab in India similar to its European labs to address public and industry concerns regarding 5G security, as well as offering access to its product source code. The Chinese telecom gear maker has also called for a strong regulation around cybersecurity to fix accountability.

Impact Analysis: This initiative could help ZTE in assuaging security concerns by going a step further to being more open and transparent. These comments come at a time when India is evaluating the possibility of involving Chinese vendors such as Huawei and ZTE in the country's 5G field trials and commercial networks.

TRAI [Releases](#) Recommendations on Allotment of Spectrum to Indian Railways

TRAI has finalised its Recommendations on the 'Allotment of spectrum to Indian Railways for Public Safety and Security services'. The salient features of the recommendations include out of the 35 MHz (paired) spectrum available in the 700 MHz band, 5 MHz (paired) spectrum may be allocated to Indian Railways, while the remaining 30 MHz (paired) in the 700 MHz band may be up for bidding in the forthcoming auction.

- Additionally, spectrum may be assigned to Indian Railways on administrative basis for captive use only, and not for any commercial services such as Wi-Fi.

TRAI [Mandates](#) Minimum Call Ringer Duration of 30 Seconds

TRAI's recent regulation has mandated a minimum ring duration of 30 seconds for outgoing mobile calls before they are disconnected, and 60 seconds for such calls to landlines. TRAI has mandated the terminating network to disconnect the incoming call -- in this case -- after the minimum ring span and simultaneously inform the originating network. But in the event, the originating network does not receive the message, it can disconnect the call from its end after 90 seconds.

Govt to [Operate](#) Public Cloud by 2022

Kominfo has announced that it will operate a public cloud by 2022, to accommodate its plans for data classification and strategic data, as well as general public services. The public cloud will be supported by four data centres.

PDP, Broadcasting Bills [Included](#) in Prolegnas 2020

The Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, along with the Broadcasting Bill, has been included in the National Legislation Programme (Prolegnas) 2020 due to the recognition of the lack of regulation on personal data and broadcast digitalisation. The PDP Bill is expected to be discussed in H1 2020, with the Bill passing into Law in Oct 2020.

Calls for [Re-Evaluation](#) of GR 71/2019

There has been much pushback from the release of GR 71/2019, the revision of GR 82/2012, with claims that GR 71/2019 infringes on data sovereignty.

✎ **Impact Analysis:** Kominfo has been working hard to [socialise](#) the ICT community to the benefits of the new regulation, but it remains to be seen if their efforts have borne fruit.

Kominfo [Reaffirms](#) Universal Service Commitment

Kominfo has announced that it will ensure the construction of 4000 base transceiver stations (BTS) throughout Indonesia, especially in the 3T (frontier, outermost and disadvantaged) regions. It was also revealed that the Great Indonesia Satellite (SATRIA) will be built to increase equitable distribution of telecom access across the country.

✎ **Impact Analysis:** This announcement is encouraging given that Ubiqu, the satellite Internet solution launched by PT Pasifik Satelit Nusantara (PSN), the oldest private satellite-based telecom company in Indonesia, was recently made [available](#) in the 3T regions as well, at an affordable price. The existence of both public and private sector developments bodes well for the reduction of the digital gap in Indonesia.

BSSN, Huawei [Collaborate](#) on Cybersecurity

The BSSN (National Cyber Encryption Agency) has signed a MoU with Huawei on cybersecurity development, especially in the context of developing human resource capacity, building public awareness of cybersecurity, and knowledge sharing about cybersecurity threats. This capacity building is envisioned to be conducted via seminars and workshops involving various sectors and industries.

Ministry of Industry to Establish Centre for Industrial Digital Innovation

The Ministry of Industry is building a digital capability centre, the Centre for Industrial Digital Innovation (PIDI) 4.0 to promote the development of technology research capability and skilled human talent. PIDI 4.0 will also assist industrial companies in their digitization transformation in line with the "Making Indonesia 4.0" roadmap.

MRT Jakarta to [Offer](#) QR-Code Payments via E-Wallets

MRT Jakarta has partnered with three e-wallet service providers, DANA, LinkAja and OVO, to provide digital travel tickets, with the option to make QR code-initiated payments. This service will be available through MRT Jakarta's latest app, along with other features such as a train schedule feature and advance transportation mode search. MRT Jakarta is also looking to develop an online shopping pick-up service and emergency call feature.

MIC Publishes Additional Recommendations for Effective Spectrum Use

A series of meetings were conducted since Sep 2019 to follow up on the proposals made in the report on the effective utilisation of radio waves (summarised in Aug 2018) and to examine specific measures for effective use of radio waves. The MIC has compiled the results of these discussions into a draft report, which is open for comment until 29 Nov.

- The draft report contains 4 recommendations, on the “actual operation of a dynamic frequency sharing system”, “suppression of distribution of equipment that does not comply with technical standards”, “training of wireless IoT human resources”, and “overseas deployment of new radio wave systems”.
- In dynamic frequency sharing, Japan has a preference for the initial adoption of the “database utilisation method” for dynamic frequency sharing (method adopted by Europe) rather than the “sensor utilisation method” (more technically advanced method adopted by the US) as the MIC believes the former is the more cost-effective for large-scale implementation.

Impact Analysis: Other than the technicalities and of the system development and operation, the MIC seems to be concerned about information privacy and operation costs. To address information privacy, the MIC recommends that the system operator should be a neutral entity that can ensure confidentiality, such as a public institution. To address operation costs, the MIC recommends making the use of the system compulsory by subjecting secondary users to radio licenses. Such a licensing requirement may be detrimental to smaller entities and limit competition and participation in shared spectrum-enabled services.

ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2020 Approved

The 14th Japan-ASEAN Minister of Information and Communication Meeting was held on 25 Oct in Laos, during which the ASEAN-Japan ICT Work Plan 2020 was discussed, with agreements around the cooperation on disaster prevention using ICT and cybersecurity.

- The 2020 Work Plan aims to: 1) support the introduction of a social media data analysis system located in Jakarta to improve disaster monitoring, as well as the establishment of an ASEAN smart notification system for efficient disaster notification; 2) enhance cybersecurity human resource capabilities by strengthening existing cybersecurity cooperation; and 3) conduct joint research to eliminate the digital divide.

MIC Publishes Review of Competition Rules for Comment

The MIC had consulted with the Information and Communication Council for a “comprehensive review of competition rules in the telecommunications business field” in Aug 2018, and published the Council’s final draft report on 24 Oct for comments. The deadline is 22 Nov.

- The report examines current and future trends impact the competitive landscape of the telecom sector, and proposes regulatory directions to ensure that competition rules remain fair and relevant.

Impact Analysis: Amongst the proposed rules is a partial application of the Telecommunications Business Law to foreign operators providing services to domestic users. The objective is to ensure fair competition between domestic and foreign operators, but there may be challenges in

NTT, Sony, Intel to Develop 6G

The trio are looking to establish a 6G organisation in the US by Q2 2020 to develop the technology which is forecasted to be launched around 2030.

Malaysia [Working](#) to Strengthen Data Protection Law

The govt is looking at improving the existing data protection law, on how amendments could be implemented in the existing provision to address cybersecurity and data security issues. The Amendment Bill is expected to be tabled during the next Parliament session between Mar and May 2020.

- Cybersecurity has been highlighted in the nation's recent Budget 2020. Aside from the amendment, CyberSecurity Malaysia has stated that appropriate funding should be provided by the govt on the development of protection technology, system governance and human-development capabilities.

Impact Analysis: This is a timely as Malaysia may be at high risk if the focus is only on the development of digital technology without the protection itself. The govt should look at improving the skills of existing workforce to ensure they stay relevant. Community's mentality is also vital, and they should be equipped with skills to be integrated into the digital transformation era as demand and skills are constantly changing. Malaysia needs to fortify and strengthen its cybersecurity ecosystem with strategic initiatives, and through public-private sector collaborations.

Ericsson [Predicts](#) Revenue for Telecoms Service Providers in Malaysia

Ericsson has from its recent report titled '5G for business: a 2030 market compass', forecasted that the value of 5G-enabled digitalisation revenues in Malaysia could reach MYR33bn (USD7.9bn) by 2030, of which MYR16bn (USD3.8bn) or almost half can be addressed by telecom services providers. The report analyses the 5G industry digitalisation business potential across ten key industries including healthcare, manufacturing, energy and utilities, automotive, public safety and media and entertainment.

Govt Partners with Ooredoo and Google for Digital Literacy Training Programme

Myanmar's Ministry of Education, together with Ooredoo and Google, has [launched](#) a nationwide digital literacy and digital citizenship training programme for schools.

- The aim is to equip both teachers and students with the tools and knowledge that will allow them to use the internet responsibly.
- All three partners see this initiative as essential to the longevity of Myanmar's digital economy, as millions of Burmese citizens stand to gain access to the Internet over the next decade.
- In this context, it is important that newer generations are aware of the possibilities increased connectivity represents, as well as the associated risks that must be avoided.

Ooredoo and Facebook Partner to Boost Digital Literacy in 200 Remote Villages

Ooredoo is working with Facebook to [launch](#) "Internet 101" (Internet One on One), a mobile digital literacy initiative aimed at rural and remote parts of Myanmar.

- Two vans will travel for 100 days to help educate people about how to stay safe online and how to be responsible digital citizens.
- The aim is to reach 200 villages over the 100 days, with at least 1,000 people visited daily in rural and remote parts of Myanmar.
- The programme offers security tips such as password-security advice, and helps communities learn about the enrichment potential of the Internet – staying in touch with friends and families, finding jobs, etc.

New Zealand [Passes](#) Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Bill

The legislation will create a framework to prepare for climate change effects and institute meaningful climate change action to meet the country's commitments under the Paris climate accords. New Zealand is shifting to a low emissions Zero Carbon country by 2050. The bill is coupled with other actions such as strengthening the emissions trading scheme, planting one billion trees, investing in green hydrogen, making electric cars more widely available, putting more money into public transport and walking infrastructure, and establishing a NZD100m (USD64m) Green Investment Fund. The plan certainly will impact design of future data centres in New Zealand and make such investors seek alternative ways to provide energy and electricity to them that does not rely on things like a backup diesel generator. New fuel cell technology could play a role here. The climate plan also will require lots of careful data analysis and evidence for policy shifts.

- New Zealand intends to help keep global warming below 1.5 degrees.
- A new 2050 greenhouse gas reduction target will be enshrined into law and a climate change commission will be set up.

Govt and WEF Start Re-Imagining Regulation in the Age of AI [Project](#)

The World Economic Forum (WEF) and the gov't of New Zealand, including the Gov't Chief Digital Officer (GCDO), will research AI regulatory approaches and convey to the world a New Zealand perspective on the issue. The project will examine ways AI can be implemented that are transparent and have appropriate safeguards to ensure public confidence. The project hopes to kick off a national conversation.

Chorus [Fears](#) UFB Over-regulation Would Kill Foreign Investment in Infrastructure

The Chorus chairperson voiced the fear that over-regulation of the Ultra Fast Broadband (UFB) could scare away foreign investors. If the ComCom implements a regulatory regime for fibre that does not give foreign investors a fair return after the risks they have taken, they will have to look elsewhere to invest. Fear mongering tactics most often blow up in one's face. New Zealand requires some NZD130bn (USD83bn) in infrastructure investment in the coming ten years. The ComCom is tasked with coming up with a regulatory regime that promotes competition and prevents Chorus from getting excessive profits. The regime will be implemented in 1 Jan 2022 and will seek to impose a revenue cap and service quality standards on Chorus and other local fibre companies.

DICT [Working](#) with UNDP, Speedcast on Connectivity

The initial 23-month partnership worth around USD14.4m will see Speedcast deploy Internet services in 3,000 remote areas across 11 regions in the Philippines including installing and managing connectivity to all sites, providing 24x7 technical support and field services, and where over 60% of sites will be powered by solar energy.

Didi Chuxing Eyes [Entering](#) Philippine Market

Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing is in talks with local player U-Hop to enter the local market, although it will also have to comply with foreign ownership restrictions of a 40% cap, which had earlier restricted Go-Jek's entry.

- The Passenger Forum (TPF), the local ride-hailing industry group has [urged](#) the govt to support local ride-hailing firms including Owto, GoLag, Ryde, uHop, Hype, Hirna, SnappyCab, e-Pick Me Up and Micab by discussing and offering assistance to increase their competitiveness before allowing foreign players to enter the market.
- The Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) is [working](#) closely with Grab to monitor and ensure its price increases remain reasonable, i.e. due to inflation or poor traffic.

[Impact Analysis](#): Despite the presence of 10 Transport Network Companies (TNC) in the Philippines, Grab still controls 90% of the market share indicating a lack of capability for local firms to compete effectively and Didi Chuxing or Go-Jek entering the market may be the solution to soaring prices. The regulator however will have to evaluate its priorities between increasing competition for consumers to benefit or providing assistance to local firms to enhance their offerings to better compete against the current Grab monopoly where the latter looks unlikely given a history of poor R&D funding afforded to the local industry from national budgets.

Dito Telecom [Increases](#) Network Rollout Investment, Targets 30% Market Share

Dito Telecom has increased its investments into its mobile network rollout and will exceed its initial PHP6bn (USD119m) commitment as it targets capturing 30% of the market share in its first year of operations.

PLDT [Receives](#) USD1m Grant for Capacity-building to Support 5G and Fibre Deployment

The USD1m grant from the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will be used to fund a fibre network and transmission infrastructure modernization training program held by Cisco, including certification for deploying Cisco equipment.

MAS to [Invest](#) in Green Funds Driving Towards a Green Finance Ecosystem

As part of MAS' green action plan initiatives, a USD2b Green Investments Programme will be launched by MAS with a green focus to drive climate action, that will generate sustainable long-term returns on its investment portfolio. USD100m will be allocated to the Bank for International Settlements' Green Bond to support its global green finance initiatives.

Other initiatives include:

- Grant schemes that will be offered to firms to defray the costs for developing sustainable frameworks;
- MAS will support organisations that would contribute to Asia-focused climate research applicable in the financial sector;
- An Environmental Risk Management guidelines will be issued across banking, insurance and asset management sectors. The consultation paper on the guidelines is expected to be published in Q1 2020.

PayNow Payments [Enters](#) SGQR Ecosystem

Businesses are no longer required for a separate PayNow QR code when collecting payments as consumers are now able to just scan the universal QR code also known as the Singapore Quick Response Code (SGQR) through their apps via PayNow. The move aims to push PayNow as the ubiquitous payment mode in Singapore with the increasing registrations and transactions for PayNow service.

NetLink to [Support](#) TPGF Telecom on 5G Trial

TPG Telecom's 5G trial with 3.5GHz outdoor coverage will be taking place across Singapore Science Parks 1 and 2 by 2020, supported by NetLink Trust providing the fibre network infrastructure to connect TPG's base stations. The trial will be based on a commercially ready 5G core that follows 3GPP's (3rd Generation Partnership Project) newest 5G standard, [Release 15](#).

- Release 16 is expected to be finalised in 2020 to support enhancements of industrial IoTs and advanced automotive connectivity that will feature higher speeds and data transmissions with reduced network latency.


MSIT [Considering](#) Frequency Sharing

MSIT has announced that it is considering a frequency sharing model in response to the increasing demand for spectrum due to convergence services such as 5G and smart cities. MSIT intends to identify possible “frequency common use” bands, analyse interference and technologies for counter-interference, consult existing and new users, before selecting a band for common use. The establishment and operation of a common use database is also proposed to manage the status of frequency allocation, frequency modification, approval of use, frequency usage, users of each band, location of use, conditions of use, availability, radio equipment used etc.

Govt [Announces](#) AI-Driven Digital Government Innovation Promotion Plan

The South Korean govt has announced its Digital Government Innovation Promotion Plan, in response to the current AI and cloud-oriented digital transformation. While the country’s e-govt has been recognised globally as one of the best, citizens still feel services are difficult to use. The plan seeks to achieve five priorities:

- Public service innovation: Citizens are able to receive customised services via a single secure login
- Enabling public sector MyData: Building a MyData Portal that allows users to download their personal information stored in the public sector, and use it safely and securely; launching an e-certificate service to store information like resident registrations; introducing smartphone-based digital ID cards; and implementing digital notices and storage
- Enhancement of citizen participation platform: Integration of call centres and provision of greater support to digitally vulnerable or excluded
- Smart work environment: Supported by cloud-based data storage and the adoption of an open operating system
- Expand use of cloud and digital services: Through allowing the use of private cloud in all systems of the public sector, with exceptions such as national security, building an open, cloud-based, e-govt platform, and encouraging the development of digital services through an open ecosystem

 **Impact Analysis:** As part of the Moon administration’s DNA (Data-Network-AI) strategy, and as an extension of this AI-driven e-govt vision, it is expected that a new AI national strategy will be announced soon.

MSIT [Establishes](#) AI- and Network-Dedicated Personnel

To reinforce digital innovation, MSIT will be reorganising its Information and Communication Policy Office to establish an AI-based policy coordinator and a dedicated department to oversee and coordinate network-related policies. Currently, the development of AI policy is shared by multiple departments within MSIT. The current view of “Internet convergence” policy was also changed to “Information and Communication” policy to promote digital innovation, regulatory innovation, digital engagement policy, and digitalisation of industrial and social sectors.

- A network policy office will also be established to perform the role of a comprehensive control tower in overall broadcasting and communication policies. In particular, the govt will expand its current “Information Protection” policy to “Information Network Protection” policy.

Govt [Releases](#) ICT Standardisation Strategy Map 2020

The 2020 Map proposed six areas that needed to be further addressed: future communication and transmission; software and AI; broadcasting and contents; devices; blockchain and convergence; and next generation security. In particular, the Map also presented strategies for responding to the international standardisation of new ICT convergence industries such as SmartX and unmanned vehicles, as well as core and infrastructure technologies of the govt’s DNA Strategy e.g. 5G, intelligence information, and blockchain.


FSC [Launches](#) Open Banking Pilot

The Financial Services Commission (FSC) pilot-launched its open banking system on 30 Oct. 10 banks (NH Bank, Shinhan Bank, Woori Bank, KEB Hana Bank, IBK, KB Kookmin Bank, Busan Bank, Jeju Bank, Jeonbuk Bank and BNK Kyongnam Bank) currently offer this service. The system will be expanded to include eight other banks (KDB, SC Bank Korea, Citibank Korea, SH Bank, Daegu Bank, Kwangju Bank, K Bank and Kakao Bank) as well as fintech businesses after assessments and adjustments have been made. The expansion is scheduled for 18 Dec.

- Key benefits of the open banking system include lower transaction fees, and enhanced user convenience and security. In 2020, the govt plans to review an expansion of the open banking system to non-bank financial institutions, including mutual finance, savings banks and postal service.

Kakao Temporarily [Bans](#) Comments

In an attempt to crack down on online expressions of defamation and hatred, Kakao Corporation has shut down the comments fields of its Internet portal Daum and mobile messaging app KakaoTalk.

 **Impact Analysis:** Internet bullying, especially of celebrities, has long been a vicious culture in the country but attention was renewed over the recent suicide of K-pop star Choi Jin-ri. An online petition has been lodged, calling for the enactment of a "Choi Jin-ri law" that requires people to leave online comments under their legal names and identities.

Investment Commission [Green-Lights](#) Google's Plan to Build Second Data Centre

Taiwan's Investment Commission approved Google's proposed investment of NTD26bn (USD850.5m) to construct a second data centre in Tainan, through its Virgin Islands-registered Kohl Holdings.

- The first data centre, which is Google's largest facilities in Asia, became operational in Changhua County in 2013.

MOTC to [Allocate](#) NTD6bn to Boost 5G Systems

The MOTC will provide further funding of NTD6bn (USD200m) to construct 5G systems for a five-year intelligent transportation action plan starting 2021.

- While the four-year plan which began in 2017 is focused on the development of IoV, the upcoming plan aims to strengthen 5G infrastructure which in turn drives the application of mobile communication system in areas such as public safety, disaster prevention and service provision in rural districts.

Fake News Centre is [Up-and-Running](#)

The MDES has officially launched its Anti-Fake News Centre to combat the spread of mis/disinformation online. The Ministry has set aside THB60m (USD1.98m) to run the centre in fiscal year 2020, and will work with 200 organisations and the Police Cyber Taskforce (PCT) to ensure effectiveness in its mission.

- The centre's key responsibility is to verify the truth and disseminate corrections or rectifications to citizens, aiming to verify any stories within two hours to limit its spread. The centre is composed of a mix of human and AI, devoted to verifying the sources and the accuracy of information shared online.
- The four main content areas subject to stringent checks are those considered to affect people's life and property, cause social divide, spur mass misinformation, or ruin the country's reputation.

Thailand [Working](#) on a Set of Ethics Guidelines For AI

The MDES is close to launching a draft set of principles and best practices for AI to be developed in an ethical manner in Thailand.

- The MDES is still in the process of seeking feedback from a range of stakeholders working in the AI space. Microsoft has provided advice and best practices to the govt on the guidelines which MDES hopes to be the regulations.

OIE [Prepares](#) a Plan to Accelerate Thailand 4.0

The Office of Industrial Economics (OIE) has announced plans to launch a digital platform and big data system to facilitate the industrial sector and govt's ease of doing business in 2020.

- A study conducted by the Ministry of Industry shows that only 2% of Thailand's industries meet the criteria to be considered 4.0 – or digitised. Indeed, over 60% of the country's industries remain at level 2.0, while 9% are at a 1.0 level.
- To improve this, the OIE has been tasked with preparing a set of measures and packages to support and promote the sector's transition to 4.0.
- To this end, an integrated big-data platform is being discussed to reduce workflows and procedures by half, helping operators provide information to competent authorities.
- This will help operators in all sectors streamline their requests for approval/permission from the ministry for services from agencies such as the Industrial Promotion Department. In turn, it will allow the relevant authorities to analyse and process information automatically.

[5G](#) a Major Economic Differentiator for Thailand in 2020

NBTC has announced the auction of 5G spectrum to be taking place on 16 Feb 2020, and that four bands will be made available to accelerate the adoption and deployment of 5G that is expected to begin in 2020. The four bands of spectrum are: 700MHz, 1800MHz, 2600MHz and 26GHz.

- Industry players have confirmed their full commitment to a 5G network in Thailand as 4G expansion slows down and 5G promises to go beyond connectivity and increase business productivity and use cases.
- The NBTC is expecting positive responses to the auction, noting that all three major mobile operators are interested in the 2600MHz and 26GHz bands.
- AIS is expected to bid for seven licences on the 2600MHz range, totalling 70MHz of bandwidth, while DTAC and True Move are each likely to bid for six licences on the 60MHz band.

Vietnam SBV [Releases](#) Draft Regulations on Non-Cash Payment

Vietnam's central bank has released draft regulations around non-cash payments for comments. This refers to payment/transfer of money between organisations/individuals via payment service suppliers or intermediaries. The regulation proposes a new licensing framework which may be applied through telcos, allowing for new e-money providers and payment intermediaries to enter the market, provided they are qualified and licenced.

MIC [Requests](#) Facebook to Verify User Identities

Vietnam is taking a tougher stance on Facebook, requesting user verifications for some accounts, and requesting that only users with verified user accounts be allowed to publish content using livestreams, amongst other demands.

Impact Analysis: Facebook's practices has come under intense scrutiny in Vietnam, and electronic information management within the country is likely to continue to tighten, as the government implements various aspects of the Cybersecurity Decree (Decree no. 72).

Vingroup to [Manufacture](#) 5G Telecom Equipment

The company has plans to work with Cisco and Intel to develop 5G hardware and chipset equipment, to be ready in Aug 2020.

FPT Software [Launches](#) Self-Driving Cars in Hung Yen's Ecopark Urban Area

The software was applied to Yamaha electric vehicles, and comes from the same firm which introduced autonomous vehicle technology to Vietnam in Oct 2017.



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