

FUTURE LEADERS

The IIC's Future Leaders Competition, for entrants aged 35 and under working within the TMT policy sector, attracted a strong field on the given topic of "Global realities, national choices: Communications policy making in a cross-sectoral, cross-jurisdictional world". Here is an overview of the runners-up – the winning entry is on page 30 of this issue

ALISON S MAXWELL – HOW DO WE CLOSE THE GAP?

This essay advances three methods for closing the "gap" between the pace of technological change and regulation of the telecommunications and media sector:

1. Tech-neutral policies, considering a new type of policy-making; 2. Consumer focus, becoming more focused on the consumer; and 3. Regional cooperation. It considers the creation of high-level regional policies to address similar issues, and emphasises that each jurisdiction has to decide if it is ready and willing to collaborate.

OLIVER ROTT – GLOBAL REGULATORY CHALLENGES FOR LEO SATELLITES

Companies seeking to "connect the globe" via global low earth orbit (LEO) nongeostationary orbit (NGSO) satellite systems and applications face many, often very different, national regulatory regimes. This essay outlines a satellite operator's "regulatory journey" by giving examples of duplicate, onerous or prohibitively high barriers to entry in various countries, and suggests best practice recommendations to enable LEO NGSO satellites to provide innovative services and benefit end-users globally.

BRAD NICKEL – THE DATA UTILITY

Data transmission is key to the economic and social fabric of society and a data transmission market design must balance accessibility, security, reliability and affordability to deliver the greatest value. Drawing on regulatory models for electricity, natural gas and water, and applying relevant elements to the data transmission challenge, this paper advances "A New Regulatory Market Model for the Data Utility", with guiding principles, economic analysis and sandbox methodology of deployment with a new franchise competitive performance-based regulation model.

CLAIRE BARRACLOUGH – NATIONAL CHOICES IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

In an increasingly globalised and connected world, communications policy is already an area of considerable international cooperation. Noting the development of new technologies and networks across international borders, this essay considers the key national choices to be made in order to maximise policy coherence and efficacy and posits that governments must recognise where their national choices are limited, and where international action could better address the issues at hand.

Entrants were asked to produce a report on the topic "Global realities, national choices: Communications policy making in a cross-sectoral, cross-jurisdictional world". The winner was Angel Fu, associate at Clifford Chance, Australia, who presented her paper "Playing Fair in the Platforms Playground - A Case for Regulatory Neutrality and International Cooperation" at the IIC's 50th annual conference in London. The judges were Derek Wilding (University of Technology, Sydney), Steve Simpson (former commissioner at the CRTC, Canada), Bárbara Navarro (Google), James Filippatos (The Walt Disney Company), Monica Ariño (BT Group) and Andrea Millwood Hargrave (IIC director general).

LAURA WILKINSON – INTERNATIONAL HARMONISATION AND SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT

While the role of spectrum harmonisation and cross-country coordination between national spectrum managers is well established, this essay discusses the benefits and limitations and supports the view that national spectrum managers should, at times, prioritise national interests over international harmonisation. It canvasses emerging coordination issues beyond the scope of harmonisation that need to be addressed at national and international scale.

ALEXANDRA CUTEAN – SMART POLICY AND SMART CITIES IN CANADA

This paper outlines key focus areas for smart cities facilitated via the integrated use of data and digital technology, examining smart developments across government, mobility, infrastructure, environment and energy, health and well-being, and regulation. It advances that highlighting innovations in these priority areas is the basis upon which the growth and impact of smart city technologies will be analysed to inform future shifts and demands, including workforce skills.

FAIZA SALEEM – DIGITAL PAYMENTS: FINANCIAL INCLUSION IN THE APEC REGION

The rapid surge in adoption of mobile communications devices across the Asia Pacific has enabled greater participation by individuals previously excluded from the financial ecosystem in digital financial services, including e-commerce. This paper outlines the development of digital payments and their impact on financial inclusion, and recommends policy approaches to expand them, noting some degree of harmonisation will be helpful in establishing interoperable payment systems across different regions.

RIHÁRD RÁK – INSTITUTIONALISING CYBER ATTRIBUTION

There is growing recognition amongst states that strengthening existing institutional frameworks and international legal mechanisms is necessary to protect the security, stability, safety and resilience of the internet and connected devices from cyberattacks. This paper looks at the establishment of a global cyber attribution mechanism and the need to ensure international legitimacy by incorporating confidence- and capacity-building institutional solutions.