

Second Roundtable for the Track 1.5 Process to Review and Update the CPTPP Chapter 14 on Electronic Commerce

February 12, 2025

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On February 12th, Canada's National Committee of Pacific Economic Cooperation (CANCPEC), and the Australian Pacific Economic Cooperation Committee (AusPECC), co-hosted a virtual roundtable discussion to continue the Track 1.5 process to review and update the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) Chapter 14 on electronic commerce (e-commerce). This marked the second gathering of more than 13 digital trade experts from 10 APEC economies and highlighted the significance of the CPTPP at a time of heightened global economic tensions.

Through the Track 1.5 process, the group aims to provide an ambitious set of recommendations to policymakers as part of the CPTPP's formal review process under Australia's 2025 Chairmanship of the Commission.

To ensure the CPTPP remains an agreement of the highest possible standard amid rapidly evolving digital advancements, participating experts discussed the need to build upon leading digital rules of existing regional agreements. There was an emphasis on raising the ambition of the CPTPP, and the potential for the agreement to drive digital development in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly with new opportunities surrounding data innovation and artificial intelligence (AI).

The main takeaways from the discussion include:

1. The significance of the CPTPP is critical as ever in today's global landscape.
2. Creative and ambitious recommendations are encouraged given the opportunities the CPTPP offers at this time. However, recommendations must be adaptable to diverse regulatory approaches of CPTPP economies.
3. A high level of ambition is encouraged which incorporates frameworks to support innovation and AI governance, with a view to attracting AI developments and sharing AI benefits more equitably across the region.

The experts will meet again in April 2025 to finalize recommendations which will be presented to the 2025 CPTPP Commission under Australia's leadership.

Participants of Roundtable (February 12)

Name	Economy	Affiliation
Arjuna Nadaraja	Australia	AUSPECC Chair
Kristen Bondiotti	Australia	AUSPECC Vice Chair
Don Campbell	Canada	CANCPEC Chair
Hugh Stephens	Canada	CANCPEC Vice Chair
Grace Gown	Australia	Government Experience Manager ANZ, Xero
Devon Whittle	Australia	Special Counsel, Watson Farley & Williams
Dr. Patrick Leblond	Canada	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Ottawa
Dominic Scott	Canada	Strategic Advisor, Isolated Electronics inc, formerly VP of Cisco
Amanda Doyle	Canada	CANCPEC
Momo Sakudo	Canada	CANCPEC
Tanya Dawar	Canada	Research Scholar, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
Dan Ciuriak	Canada	Director and Principal, Ciuriak Consulting Inc.
Danielle Goldfarb	Canada	Advisor & APF Canada/Munk School/CIGI Distinguished Fellow
Dr. Hong Yanqing	China	Professor of law, Beijing Institute of Technology's School of Law
Dr. Hideyuki Miura	Japan	Associate Professor, Kyorin University Faculty of Social Sciences
Juan Navarro	Mexico (Canada based)	President, CMX Partnerships / Associate Faculty, Royal Roads University
Stephanie Honey	New Zealand	Trade policy consultant and former New Zealand trade negotiator
Dr. José Carlos Feliciano Nishikawa	Peru	Deputy Director of the Center for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at Universidad del Pacífico in Peru
Dr. Deborah Elms	Singapore	Head of Trade Policy, Hinrich Foundation
Dr. IChing Chen	Chinese Taipei	Assistant Professor, Department of Diplomacy and International Relations, Tamkang University
Dr. Kati Suominen	USA	CSIS/Founder and CEO of the Nexttrade Group

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