

International Conference
on
FUTURE OF DIGITAL ECONOMY:
Need & Importance of Optimal Regulations

Date: Friday August 11, 2017

Venue: Viceregal (Second Level), The Claridges, 12, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road, New Delhi

Time: 1430 – 1915 hours

AGENDA

14:30 – 15:00 **Registration**

15:00 – 15:45 **Opening Session: Setting the context**

Representatives from CIRC, CUTS International, Government and Regulatory Agencies will discuss the need for an enabling regulatory environment for growth of digital economy in India. The need to ensure that its benefits reach the last mile consumer while also safeguarding them from potential risks will be highlighted. The speakers would reflect on the some of the pertinent regulatory challenges that are hampering growth of digital economy and suggest possible solutions.

Chair Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International

Presentation about the CIRC-CUTS Initiative: Rohit Singh, Policy Analyst, CUTS International

Panellists

- Ram Sewak Sharma, Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
- Ajay Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- Arvind Mayaram, Former Finance Secretary, Government of India & Chairman, CUTS Institute for Regulation & Competition (CIRC)

15:45 – 16:00 **Tea Break**

16:00 – 17:30 **Panel Discussion I: “New age regulations for new age businesses: The Industry perspective”**

Digital Economies have become incubators for new age businesses, which are based on disruptive technologies and business models. Despite immense success, a number of such businesses have found themselves in turmoil, often owing to the existing/prospective regulations. Due to the disruptive nature of such businesses, the regulatory bodies often find it difficult to regulate such entities, and end up applying archaic regulations, which may hamper the growth of these digital enterprises. Thus, this session will highlight the industry perspective from India and Philippines vis-à-vis regulatory burden and need for adoption of optimal regulatory framework to promote innovation.

Chair Arvind Mayaram, Former Finance Secretary, Government of India & Chairman, CIRC

- Panellists**
- Sudhakar Ramasubramaniam, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank
 - Shweta Rajpal Kohli, Head of Public Policy for Uber India & South Asia
 - Rohan Mishra, Vice-President, Public Policy, South Asia, MasterCard
 - Ashutosh Chadha, Group Director, Govt. Affairs & Public Policy, Microsoft India
 - Subi Chaturvedi, Senior Director, Communication & Public Affairs, COAI*
 - Christine Ruth Salazar, Project Evaluation Officer at Philippine Institute for Development Studies

17:30 – 19:00 Panel Discussion II: “Hearing Voices from the Ground: Challenges faced by consumers and possible solutions”

The digital economy has facilitated delivery of goods and services to consumers convenient and at much lower direct costs, than conventional business models. At the same time, it has also raised scepticism in the mind of the consumers on issues such as cyber security of online transactions, online privacy, data protection, redressal, etc. Such issues need to be factored in by the policy makers, while developing policies/regulations. Thus, this session will discuss the imminent challenges faced by the consumers, and the measures needed to address them, effectively and efficiently, which will ultimately benefit the consumers holistically.

Chair George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS International

- Panellists**
- Sanjeev Ahluwalia, Advisor, Observer Research Foundation
 - Mukesh Sadana, Project Management Specialist – Financial Inclusion, USAID
 - Pavan Duggal, Advocate, Supreme Court of India
 - S Saroja, Director Consumer Advisory and Outreach, Citizen consumer and Civic Action Group
 - Varun Aggarwal, Public Policy Analyst, Institute for Financial Management and Research
 - Alice Pham, Director, CUTS Hanoi Resource Centre

19:00 – 19:15 Closing Remarks
The closing session will summarise the discussions from the various sessions, highlight key conclusions, set out next steps under the project.

- Udai S Mehta, Deputy Executive Director, CUTS International

19:15 – 22:00 Dinner

*TBC
