



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES OF APEC DATA PRIVACY
SUB-GROUP MEETING, 22 FEBRUARY, 2008 LIMA,
PERU**

- The Philippines announced that it was joining the Data Privacy Pathfinder. We now have 14 (out of 21) economies participating in Pathfinder projects.
- Members identified the Pathfinder projects in which they would participate (either actively, as observers, or as leaders) and timelines were developed.
- It was recognised that significant progress on the projects was required to ensure the timely development of a system for the use of cross-border privacy rules to meet the needs of regulators, consumers, and businesses.
- Australia is participating in all nine Pathfinder projects. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner is leading the work on projects 5, 6 and 7. In addition, we will actively participate in projects 1, 2, 3 and 8, and participate as an observer in projects 4 and 9.
- A 'Friends of the Chair' group (comprising the International Chamber of Commerce, Australia, Hong Kong China, Mexico and the United States) was established on outreach and communications issues. The aim of this group is to develop a communication strategy to ensure that information about the Sub-Group's work is developed that is coherent, easy to understand and consistent and then widely disseminated.
- The Sub-Group agreed to the public release of the Data Privacy Projects Implementation Work Plan as a first step in making the work of the Sub-Group transparent to stakeholders.
- The APEC Privacy Framework has a continuing influence in the APEC region, with new domestic privacy laws being developed in Peru, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Sub-Group agreed to the public release of the Individual Action Plans that economies prepared in looking at the domestic implementation of the APEC Privacy Framework, with further analysis of the plans to be considered.
- Applications for guest status to participate in meetings of the Sub-Group by Privacy International and the Electronic Privacy Information Centre (EPIC) were considered. The importance of involving consumer stakeholders in the work of the Sub-Group was emphasised. The Sub-Group agreed that the participation of Privacy International and EPIC was consistent with ensuring appropriate stakeholder involvement. However, the formal decision was a matter for a superior committee, and in that meeting objections to guest status for both groups were raised. Rather than force a decision, the issue was deferred to the next meeting in August. Work will occur intersessionally on this issue.