



The **Digital Economy** vision and policy is an important development for Thailand's economy. A **trusted internet** powers the Digital Economy. The internet is an essential business tool which supports international trade and investment in many ways. It enhances government–citizen interactions, supports local commerce as well as personal and group development and communication.

A trusted internet requires support from all stakeholders – government, companies, organisations, individuals, civil society groups. The vast majority of the world now supports the **multi-stakeholder model of internet governance**. There are several players in this model. Government is a service provider (no different to an airline, bank, or medical services provider), policy maker, and supporter of the legal system. Other key stakeholders including public and private organizations as well as individuals (such as CIOs) also need to play their part to make it work and enjoy the benefits. Trust is essential – businesses, individuals and others should adhere to good codes of conduct and basic laws which are designed to help make the internet a secure, safe and reliable environment. Privacy is important. Thus laws such as the proposed Personal Data Protection law will play an important role. Confidence in network and operational security is also a necessary component.

We do not see Security and Freedom as opposites. A secure environment which is trusted supports freedom of expression and the ability to use the internet as a tool. Trust includes reliability and efficiency.

Our understanding of the idea of a **single international internet gateway** is that for security and cost purposes all international internet traffic would be channelled through one point.

An international gateway (IGW) is the point through which all kinds of telecommunications traffic passes on its way to or from the rest of the world. Physically this is a cable landing station or a satellite station. An international internet gateway (IIG) is about internet traffic and manages the in-out traffic for internet communications. Avoiding bottlenecks (eg at cable landing stations) is a key part of overall effectiveness.

The internet is global, but each country typically has several IIGs. Through liberalisation Thailand now has multiple IIGs – 10 in fact. NECTEC maintains a map [NECTEC IIG Map](#)

Thailand has recognised the value in liberalisation of IGW services. In the past there was a monopoly for these services, with CAT (first as a government organ and then as a State-Owned Enterprise) controlling all gateway services. Liberalisation has meant lower cost, greater reliability, and a tremendous increase in internet usage throughout Thailand. The liberalisation journey is not yet complete but has been moving in the right direction.

A single point is also a single point of failure. Re-organising the industry to one IIG would be a massive and costly exercise and would create additional risks, but not bring additional security benefits.

A single IIG is a different idea to a collaborative approach to cost sharing and the use of wholesale services. 'Peering' exchanges such as SGIX in Singapore are one example of this -- an industry owned, industry-operated, non-profit voluntary organisation which allows for lower cost provided by a wholesale and sharing concept. But it is not a mandatory single IIG. Multiple IIGs enable the ecosystem to include as many peering partners as possible.



We *recommend*

- 1) Continued liberalisation of IIGs and, through regulated competition, improve efficiency in bottleneck facilities such as cable landing stations. A single IIG would hold back accomplishing Digital Economy objectives.
- 2) Recognizing that security should start with network and operational security, with the objective of resisting cyber-threats and supporting reliability and efficiency as components of trust.
- 3) Embracing the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance rather than a top-down, controlling structure.
- 4) Supporting an inclusive and balanced approach to the drafting, enactment and enforcement of laws. The consultative approach of inviting industry and user input via ETDA is an excellent example of this process which also supports the buy-in which is essential for effective operation.

15 October 2015

JFCCT, along with EABC, has researched and developed through consultation, a schematic and definition of Digital Economy. A key part of this is the concept of a Trusted Internet with security and governance dimensions.

JFCCT has for more than a decade taken a keen interest in the ICT sectors in the economy as an engine for innovation, being a smart nation, and for growth.