



Asia Pacific Economies Leading in Digital Revolution

- 1) ASOCIO/WITSA inaugural research reports highlights major initiatives in the creating a digital savvy population
- 2) Learnings from 12 economies provide basis for the policy recommendations

TAIPEI, 12 September 2017 – The Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) and The World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) unveiled its inaugural research report today. Released on the side-lines of the joint session of the World Congress on IT (WCIT) 2017 and the ASOCIO Summit, the report outlines key policy recommendations for consideration in developing a digital agenda.

Speaking to journalist at the press conference, ASOCIO Chairman, David Wong expressed this confidence that the report will be a useful guide and barometer of the state of digital adoption in the region. He noted that while many economies in this region have a concerted focus on ICT and digital economies, there is still much work to be done.

“It is heartening to note that Asia Pacific is at the forefront of the digital revolution. Governments across the region have a serious and deep understanding of the impact technology has on the economy, population and social wellbeing,” highlighted David Wong.

The report covered titled “Reimagining the Digital Era - Digital Transformation Agendas & Initiatives Within the Asia Pacific Economies” covers 12 economies in the region across a broad spectrum of digital readiness and economic activity. In the report, it also highlighted areas of opportunities that economies in the region could avail itself in the digital future. This includes equipping the people with the necessary skills, ensuring

equitable access and connectivity and embracing technology for the betterment of society.

Among the key recommendations of the report are:

- 1) Promote Fast and Ultra-Fast “Internet for All”
- 2) Build Robust Digital Ecosystem for Start-ups & SMEs
- 3) Address Needs of ICT Human Resources
- 4) Foster Cross-Border Investment and Digital Trade
- 5) Provide Impetus to Smart Cities Development
- 6) Ensure Faster Adoption of New & Emerging Technologies
- 7) Use ICT to Enhance Social Welfare
- 8) Address Regional Cyber Security Needs

The eight recommendations are supported by an enabling course of action to standardize measurement metrics on digital progress. This would provide a more accurate picture on the state of the digital readiness across the participating economies.

ASOCIO will be forming a Digital Advisory Council that will be made up of eminent figures in the digital forefront that will provide thought leadership and will help facilitate dialogues and discussions with governments and industries across.

This report was made possible with the collaboration and support of the World IT and Services Alliance (WITSA) that provided the strategic advice and financial support in the production of this report. “I am delighted to support ASOCIO in the publication of this important report that will shape the development of the economies. Much learning can be applied from this study to other parts of the world where policy makers can adopt many of the best practices for local implementation,” said Yvonne Chiu, WITSA Chairman.

“I look forward to rollout this report to other parts of the world so that the benefits of technology that is changing our world will also change lives for the better across the world,” concluded Yvonne Chiu.

The report is available at www.asocio.org and at http://witsa.org/witsa-wp-site/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/ASOCIO_Consolidated_24Aug17_Finalrevised.pdf

About ASOCIO

The Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) is a grouping of ICT industry associations representing economies in the Asia and Oceania region. ASOCIO was established in 1984 with the objective to promote, encourage and foster relationships and trade between its members, and to develop the computing industry in the region.

Presently, ASOCIO represents 24-member economies. Its mission is to be globally recognised as the champion for Asia Oceania in the promotion and facilitation of ICT trade and development for our members. Today, ASOCIO's members account for more than 10,000 ICT companies and represent approximately US\$350 billion of ICT revenue in the region.

About WITSA

Founded in 1978, the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) is a leading consortium of ICT industry association members from over 80 countries/economies around the world. WITSA's members represent more than 90 percent of the world ICT market.

As the leading recognized voice of the global ICT industry, WITSA aims to drive transformation and grow the industry given that ICT is the key driver of the global economy:
