

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore strengthens Personal Data Protection efforts globally

Signs MOU with Mexico and renews MOU with Australia

SINGAPORE, 1 December 2023 — Singapore’s Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC) and Mexico’s National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (INAI) signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to strengthen cooperation on personal data protection between both countries, virtually on 1st December 2023, the first such collaboration between Singapore’s PDPC and a data protection authority of a Latin American country. Singapore’s PDPC and Australia’s Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) renewed the MOU to deepen collaborations on personal data protection at the 60th Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA) Forum held in Sydney, Australia, on 1st December 2023.

Signing of MOU between Singapore’s PDPC and Mexico’s INAI

2 Data governance and cross border data flows are essential for global trade in a digital economy. As such, personal data protection is a global issue requiring collaboration between countries to engender trust and facilitate trusted cross border data flows. As part of Singapore’s efforts to strengthen personal data protection, Commissioner of PDPC Mr Lew Chuen Hong signed a new MOU with Commissioner Josefina Román Vergara on behalf of the Board of INAI Mexico.

3 The scope of collaboration with Mexico’s INAI includes the development of compatible data transfer mechanisms to facilitate trusted cross border data flows and cooperation in facilitating technological innovation to enable these trusted data flows. PDPC and INAI will also exchange information, share best practices, and collaborate for research on emerging privacy and data protection issues and trends.

“The collaboration between our countries marks a significant step towards a future where we will work hand in hand to navigate the complexities of the digital age. By focusing on the development of compatible data transfer mechanisms, technological innovation, and information exchange, through

this MOU we are not only shaping our digital futures, but also setting a standard for global cooperation”, said Commissioner of Mexico’s INAI, Mrs Josefina Román Vergara.

“Singapore’s PDPC is committed to facilitating responsible cross border data flows, and the MOU with Mexico’s INAI is a significant step forward to bridging the fragmented global landscape for personal data protection. We look forward very much to working closely with Mexico on this.”, said Commissioner of Singapore’s PDPC, Mr Lew Chuen Hong.



Photo: Commissioner of Singapore’s PDPC, Mr Lew Chuen Hong, at the signing of the MOU with Mexico’s National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection (INAI)



Photo: Commissioners of Mexico's INAI at the signing of the MOU with Singapore's PDPC. From left to right: Norma Julieta del Río Venegas, Blanca Lilia Ibarra Cadena, Josefina Román Vergara, Adrián Alcalá Méndez,

Renewal of MOU between Singapore's PDPC and Australia's OAIC

4 Singapore's PDPC and Australia's OAIC have enjoyed warm working relations through the previous MOU on personal data protection. To further deepen the collaboration, Commissioner of PDPC Mr Lew Chuen Hong and Australian Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner Ms Angelene Falk signed and renewed the MOU on cooperation in personal data protection. The scope of the MOU includes the continued sharing of experiences and exchange of best practices on data protection. Both countries will also provide exchanges of information and mutual assistance in cross border personal data incidents that contravenes each countries' data protection legislation.



Photo: Commissioner of PDPC Mr Lew Chuen Hong and Australian Information Commissioner and Privacy Commissioner Ms Angelene Falk with the renewed MOU on cooperation in personal data protection

“We are very grateful for the partnership thus far on personal data protection with Australia and look forward to continuing and strengthening the cooperation on personal data protection between Singapore’s PDPC and Australia’s OAIC”, said Commissioner of Singapore’s PDPC, Mr Lew Chuen Hong.

5 Singapore’s PDPC will continue to actively collaborate and strengthen cooperation on personal data protection globally.

About Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC)

The PDPC was established to administer and enforce the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) in Singapore by serving as Singapore’s main authority in matters relating to personal data protection and representing the Singapore Government internationally on data protection related issues. The PDPC’s mission is to foster an environment of trust among businesses and customers by striving to

balance the protection of individuals' personal data with organisations' need to use the data for legitimate purposes. For more information, please visit www.pdpc.gov.sg.

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