Access Partnership

TPX Tech Policy Exchange

Tech Policy Exchange 2023

Expanding Technological Frontiers in Emerging Markets

19th September 2023

As economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and regulatory challenges constrain tech's potential in developed nations, the industry is beginning to focus investment strategies on existing products and services. Speculation has been suspended. Anti-consolidation trends are fostering inactivity, yet innovation is inevitable. Where will the world turn to sustain the sector's entrepreneurial spirit?

The world's largest economies once sought to establish themselves as the cradles of innovation. In 2023, emerging markets are filling the void. Low labour costs and favourable regulatory environments are making LATAM, Africa, and the Middle East magnets for investment. Growing, tech-savvy populations are building start-ups with access to capital and mentorship through accelerators and incubators. Sandboxes are generating supportive development ecosystems with strong government oversight.

The potential of these former outposts of innovation is huge as they become early adopters of next-generation technologies. Unique regional problems are breeding local solutions with global implications. Soon, it may be the developed world that finds itself riding waves created on other continents. The status quo is being upended, but what challenges lie ahead as these regions establish themselves as key pillars in the global landscape? How can emerging markets maximise tech's transformative capabilities for the benefit of nations near and far?

Access Partnership's annual Tech Policy Exchange will address these questions and more by exploring how to expand technological frontiers in emerging economies. From 5G connectivity and the ethics of content moderation to digital trade's impact on global commerce and how to shape AI and immersive technology's regulatory future, our flagship dialogue brings together international stakeholders across leading industries and institutions for a day packed with expert insight.

Split across four sessions, this day-long event will invite government representatives, leading global organisations, and thought leaders to engage in discussions to address challenges and seize opportunities in these vibrant markets, to share their perspectives on the biggest questions facing tech's most dynamic markets.

Agenda

Registration and Networking
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Opening Remarks
9:30 AM - 9:40 AM

Keynote Address: Gregory Francis, CEO, Access Partnership.
9:40 AM - 9:55 AM

Session 1: Artificial Intelligence, Immersive Technology and Diversity: How can we co-create an inclusive digital future?
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Mid-Morning Break
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Session 2: Mind the connectivity gap: The role of 5G, Wi-Fi and satellite-based communication technologies in emerging markets
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

Lunch Break
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Session 3: Content moderation in geographically, culturally and religiously diverse environments: how do we balance free speech and user protection?
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Afternoon Break
3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Session 4: Digital Trade: Leveraging Technology for Economic Recovery and Resilience
3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks
5:00 PM - 5:15 PM

Network and Social Hour
5:15 PM - 6:30 PM

Moderator:
Melissa Govender
Senior Manager, Policy
Innovation Hub

Session 1

Artificial Intelligence, Immersive Technology and Diversity: How can we co-create an inclusive digital future?

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

About the session:
New technologies developed in Silicon Valley often don't consider the perspective of citizens in the rest of the world. As we move into the next phase of innovation, global views must be considered, with use cases relevant to all citizens.

How can we ensure that global citizens have a voice in determining how new technologies are adopted and utilised, and to what extent will these technologies be relevant to them? Can we reverse the trend where next-generation technologies such as generative AI, virtual reality, and augmented reality, have high barriers to entry for the least connected, exacerbating the digital divide? How can we ensure that global world views are incorporated, so that rules for emerging technologies are truly representative?

For further reading in our Tech Trends 2023 Report:

TOPIX **1 -** Web 3.0 and the next web

TOPIX **3 -** Metaverse Exploring Reg Future

TOPIX **5 -** The Future of AI Policy

Moderator:
Dr William Webb
Chief Technical Officer

Session 2

Mind the connectivity gap: The role of 5G, Wi-Fi and satellite-based communication technologies in emerging markets.

Time: 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

About the session:
Emerging markets continue to face the challenge of increasing coverage to rural, underserved areas and low-income populations, whilst building and maintaining reliable and high-speed communication networks, including Wi-Fi and 5G. These technologies and new digital developments, such as satellite direct to handset, have the potential to bring many benefits to emerging markets, but also face regulatory and policy challenges, as well as high costs. It is clear though that both terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks will play a role in reducing the digital gap, and as such, a multi-stakeholder approach to developing emerging markets is required.

What are some ways that emerging markets can address the high cost of building and maintaining communication networks? How can stakeholders work together to ensure that the deployment of Wi-Fi, unlicensed, and 5G networks in emerging markets is fair and equitable for all? How can the benefits of these technologies be maximized while also addressing any potential negative impacts?

For further reading in our Tech Trends 2023 Report:

TOPIX **6 -** Cybersecurity

TOPIX **7 -** Sustainability and the fight for the occupation of space

TOPIX **8 -** Autonomous vehicles

Moderator:
Dr Samantha Torrance
Head of Policy Implementation

Session 3

Content moderation in geographically, culturally and religiously diverse environments: how do we balance free speech and user protection?

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

About the session:
Social media and streaming platforms operate as a "democratic" town square, a central public arena for dialogue and debate amongst citizens, organisations, and governments. However, they are also a global platform, making it difficult for jurisdictions to manage harmful content and false information.

Regulators are responding to these challenges: in the EU with the Digital Services Act, Australia with its Online Safety Act 2021, and somewhat unsuccessfully in the US, with the dropping of the "Journalism Competition and Preservation Act". In the Middle East, where 79% of Arab nationals between the ages of 18-24 get their news from social media, governments are acutely aware of social media's impact on political stability, fuelling attempts by political leaders to exert greater control of both online content and cross-border data flows.

If we accept that broadly speaking there is a consensus on how to deal with harmful content, is a similar outcome possible for false information, misinformation and fake news? What are some examples of differing cultural norms that we are seeing represented on the internet in the form of digital content? How should we deal with "out of bounds" (OB) markers which some cultures find taboo and others celebrate?

Digital content also reflects, represents, and promotes markets for culture. Are we seeing the value of a wide and diverse global cultural content creation and aggregation, and what are we doing to advance that? Or is there a risk of a monoculture emerging, set by some countries but not others? Can content moderation solely provided by AI achieve the right outcome, and how do we account for algorithmic bias?

For further reading in our Tech Trends 2023 Report:

TOPIX **3 -** Metaverse Exploring Reg Future

TOPIX **4 -** US CN Relations

TOPIX **5 -** The Future of AI Policy

TOPIX **6 -** Cybersecurity

TOPIX **9 -** Data Transfers

Moderator:
Dr Peter Lovelock
Head of Fair Tech Policy

Session 4

Digital Trade: Leveraging Technology for Economic Recovery and Resilience.

Time: 3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

About the session:
The Age of Fragmentation is upon us. Governments are in a rush to regulate digital, with a potpourri of new, often inconsistent rules emerging, precisely at the point when digital is required to underpin and drive economic recovery and growth. According to the World Economic Forum, 70% of new value created in the economy over the next decade will be based on digitally enabled business models – but only if those models are able to scale.

How do we best balance these challenges – and trade-offs? How can we ensure that the use of digital enables equitable and inclusive participation in digital economies? With trade in goods now in decline, and trade in services having plateaued for almost a decade, trade in digital is required if the world is to see a renewed set of opportunities and innovation. How do we now need to be looking at these questions to be able to drive rapid progress forward without compromising national security, fair competition, and individual agency? What does fit-for-purpose digital economy regulation and development look like? Among the spaghetti soup of digital trade FTAs, what is emerging that can be taken forward?

For further reading in our Tech Trends 2023 Report:

TOPIX **2 -** Infrastructure and SS Chain Security in EU

TOPIX **4 -** US CN Relations

TOPIX **9 -** Data Transfers

TOPIX **10 -** Cryptocurrency