



International Conference of Data
Protection & Privacy Commissioners

Communique

39th International Conference of
Data Protection and Privacy
Commissioners



27 September 2017, Hong Kong, China

Communique from the 39th International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Privacy and Data Protection Authorities from around the world have assembled in Hong Kong, China this week for their 39th annual conference and today completed their closed session before starting a public conference tomorrow.

The closed session began by admitting as new members the national data protection authorities of, Japan, Montenegro, South Africa and Turkey and the Belgium Supervisory Authority for Police Information Management.

The assembled commissioners spent a day in in-depth discussion on government information sharing with a key focus upon how to protect sensitive data, prevent discrimination and manage risk.

Data protection authorities around the world are faced by governments that are increasingly seeking to break down public sector information and organisational silos to drive commercial innovation, disseminate knowledge, increase transparency, enhance public services and seek cost savings and efficiencies. Expert speakers explored with commissioners the issues of information sharing from different angles and highlighted both the challenges and opportunities.

Expert speakers also explained the processes of risk management, ethical analysis devoted to avoiding discrimination and unpacked the complexities of sharing within the government and with other players. Commissioners heard how administrative datasets are used for government researches and the development of predictive risk modelling and profiling, which can cause risks to privacy and autonomy. Both sides of this story were discussed: the reliability of the data science and modelling to inform public policy, and the risks of using such tools to prompt government intervention into with the lives of individuals.

In-depth discussions were held on:

- The drivers and barriers to information sharing and understanding where governments are heading.
- How government shared use of information can trigger public concerns about discrimination and protection of sensitive information.
- Identifying constructive data protection responses to demand increased government information sharing.
- Social licence considerations in innovative use of government datasets.

After completion of the first full day of discussions, the Commissioners held a dinner at which the winners of the inaugural ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards were announced.

During the second day, the meeting heard from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Privacy on progress in his mandate and plans for the coming year. It also received updates from working groups in digital education, data protection metrics, humanitarian action, enforcement cooperation, telecommunications and conference membership and size.

The meeting spent considerable time discussing internal matters relating to conference membership, size and objectives. Elections were held for a new Committee and Chair.

The Conference passed three resolutions:

- Data protection in connected and automated vehicles.
- Collaboration between data protection authorities and consumer protection authorities for better protection of citizens and consumers in the digital economy.
- Exploring further options for international enforcement cooperation.

The annual meeting marked the third and final year under New Zealand's chairmanship. John Edwards, New Zealand Privacy Commissioner, will be succeeded as ICDPPC Chair by Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin, CNIL President.

The Conference looks forward to the 40th Conference, to be hosted by the EDPS and Bulgarian DPA in October 2018, and to the 41st Conference to be hosted by the Albanian DPA in 2019.

On behalf of the Conference:

John Edwards

New Zealand Privacy Commissioner
Executive Committee Chair, International Conference
of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners

Stephen Kai-yi Wong

Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, Hong Kong
Host, 39th Conference