The TPP, led by the US (http://www.ustr.gov/tpp), is the latest and among the most ambitious regional trade treaties under negotiation involving 11 Pacific Rim countries, including Japan but excluding China. For that reason critics have dubbed it as the “anyone but China” treaty. From another perspective, Mr Pascal Lamy, the DG of the WTO, has questioned the role of bilateral and regional trade agreements on the grounds they can easily throw up a new set of NTBs to trade which will undermine WTO-multilateral trade talks. (http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/754fcf02-ef7c-11e2-8229-00144feabdc0.html)

NTB-to-trade and investment issues include more restrictive IPRs and bans on parallel imports, especially prevalent in ICT markets. The secrecy which often surrounds these negotiations is another source of concern to many (e.g. https://www.eff.org/issues/tpp) because lack of transparency offers an opportunity to promote the special interests of powerful lobby groups as well as hidden trade-offs.

A third issue of growing concern, especially across ASEAN countries, is a clamp down on the Internet, ranging from draconian libel laws to intermediary liability to new intercept and surveillance requirements to domestic bans on sharing international information to “performance bonds” for news sites. If Internet usage is restricted either directly or as a result, what does this mean for the free flow of information across borders? What is the impact upon regional and international commerce? How might this help or hinder the growth of local digital economies? How will these issues be handled in the TPP talks?

This roundtable forum will view these issues from different perspectives and in a balanced way. Invited are Infocomm Development Authority (IDA), the Asia Internet Coalition, and others. The outcome of the TPP talks could have profound implications for the future of regional trade and commerce for the ICT sector and the role of the Internet.

Speakers’ Panel

1. **Mr. Justin Lee**, Senior Manager, International Division, Infocomm Development Authority (IDA)
2. **Mr. Steven Liew**, Associate General Counsel & Head of Government Relations - Asia Pacific, eBay Inc; speaking in his capacity as Chairman of Asia Internet Coalition
3. **Mr. Kuek Yu-Chang**, VP for Global Stakeholder Engagement for Asia, and Managing Director (Singapore) for the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
4. **Mr. Bernie Trudel**, Cloud Chief Technology Officer for Asia Pacific, Cisco; speaking in his capacity as Chairman of the Asia Cloud Computing Association
5. **Mr. Darryn Lim**, Director, Trade & Innovation Policy, Microsoft
6. **Mr. Rob Bratby**, Managing Partner, Olswang Asia
7. **Mr. Harish Pillay**, President of the Internet Society (Singapore Chapter)

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