

ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards (DTS) Initiative

The [ASEAN-Australia DTS Initiative](#) is a leader's level initiative, which was announced at the [ASEAN-Australia Special Summit](#) in Sydney in March 2018. It was established to support the greater implementation of digital trade standards by ASEAN Member States to increase digital trade for regional prosperity and security. It also seeks to capture ASEAN and Australia's strategies to advance gender equality, women's empowerment and disability and social inclusion.

The DTS Initiative is focused on three key areas:



Research

Development of an evidence base, focusing on key areas of digital trade growth and inclusion, and relevant digital trade standards to enable ASEAN and ASEAN Member States to channel resources and coordinate efforts effectively



Capacity Building

Support policymakers, regulators and standards bodies by building awareness and understanding of digital trade developments and requirements, and how to effectively leverage digital trade standards



Engagement and Awareness

Develop an information repository that enables policymakers, regulators, standards bodies and businesses to access resources for continued learning, increased awareness and buy-in of the fundamental importance of digital trade standards

DTS Insights

The country-specific **Market Reports** analysed how digital trade is taking shape in each of the ASEAN Member States. They estimated the economic value of the digital trade, examined its breakdown of components, identified priority areas for potential growth as well as key international standards for the identified priority areas, and suggested ways forward to accelerate digital trade growth.

The report on **Digital Transactions** examined key developments in ASEAN, particularly the key technologies and infrastructure that are emerging in ASEAN, the areas in which ASEAN can help facilitate fast, interoperable and seamless digital transactions, as well as promote real-time payment readiness and adoption. **Case studies** on the developments in Indonesia and Thailand were also presented. The DTS Initiative also explored how digital trade standards in digital transactions could contribute to furthering **financial inclusion**, particularly to scale **digital transactions for women**.

The report on **Paperless Trading and E-Invoicing** provides an overview of key initiatives and their projected impacts in ASEAN, as well as the international standards, agreements and treaties, and policies and regulations enabling their implementation. **Case studies** on the developments in the Philippines and Singapore were also presented. The DTS Initiative also highlighted how **e-invoicing standards** can help accelerate digital trade and e-commerce, including for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Participate in DTS Programs



Fellowship Program

The **Program**, led by Standards Australia, connects emerging digital trade professionals in ASEAN, including women and persons with disabilities, with established standardisation mentors. Mentors and fellows engage in a series of upskilling workshops and attend an in-person showcase event to promote their work as changemakers in the regional digital trade standards framework.

The Program includes:

- Introductory workshops
- Professional upskilling workshops
- Virtual attendance to the ISO/IEC JTC1 Information Technology Plenary
- Inclusivity in Digital Trade Workshop
- Personal Brand Workshop
- In-person showcase event

If you are interested to know more, you may contact **Summer Lamont** at Standards Australia.

E-Learning Course

The online **Course** is designed to provide access to knowledge on the importance of standards in digital trade, and explore the various ways these are developed, formulated and disseminated. It includes considerations of leveraging standards to strengthen social inclusion, including gender equality, women's empowerment, and disability.

The course contains five modules, covering:

- Module 1: Introduction to digital trade
- Module 2: Introduction to standards
- Module 3: Standards and digital trade
- Module 4: Standards and inclusive digital trade
- Module 5: Becoming involved with standards

The course is designed for participants to complete it at their respective pace. Participants will be awarded a certification after satisfactory completion of the course.

If you are interested to know more, you may contact the **Australian APEC Study Centre, RMIT University**.

Webinars

The DTS Initiative periodically organises webinars to share research findings, as well as convene policymakers, standards professionals and industry players to share their perspectives and experiences.

For more information:

🌐 DTS website: <https://asean-au-dts.org/>

📺 DTS videos: [@asean-australiadtsinitiati4738](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa14738)