

2012-08-15

To:
Consumer Credit Bureaus
In the Asia Pacific / Middle Eastern Regions

Reference: Invitation to attend a BIIA/APCCIS meeting on October 24th, 2012 at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the W Taipei, Taiwan

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

You are cordially invited to attend a meeting to discuss the formation of APCCIS, a special initiative of BIIA members which is to focus on industry advocacy for Consumer Credit Information Services in the Asia Pacific, South Asia, South East Asia and the Middle Eastern regions. APCCIS is the acronym for Asia Pacific Consumer Credit Information Services

APCCIS will have three main objectives: Firstly to play a leading role in helping to educate and inform the public in these regions about the role of consumer credit information in lending decisions. Secondly to assist members in developing the skills necessary for operating in today's regulatory and commercial environment. Finally APCCIS will represent its members in important industry and regulatory forums, ensuring that their views are properly represented.

APCCIS will be a not-for-profit institution, owned and managed by the Business Information Industry Association (www.biiia.com).

BIIA members with operations in consumer credit information services (credit bureaus) in Asia and the Middle East have expressed a need for a more focused effort by BIIA on specific issues related to consumer credit information. In a recent meeting in Kuala Lumpur the following key needs were identified (not necessarily in the order of priority):

- **Cross Border Transfer of Consumer Data**
 - Remittances are a lifeline for 700 million people around the world. In 2012, over 250 million migrants worldwide are estimated to have sent home US\$395 billion, with over US\$ 220 billion to Asia alone. There is a gradual shift of transactions from “cash to cash” to “account to account”
 - These remittances need to be considered as an income stream to help establish credit and a credit history. At present these remittances are not recorded by credit bureaus
 - Lack of credit history in the host country prevents access to finance
 - Cross border transfer of credit data has become a key issue in providing access to finance for individuals and micro businesses
 - Principle 5 of the World Bank's [General Principles for Credit Reporting](#) supports the cross border transfer of credit data provided that adequate requirements are in place

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- **Consumer Education in Financial Literacy:**
 - In recent APEC meetings on financial inclusion and literacy it has been noted that significant work needs to be undertaken to raise awareness and help individuals and micro businesses to become more financially literate
 - APCCIS can play an important part in assisting its members in educating individuals (adults as well as young people) in financial literacy, preventing over-indebtedness, fraud and identity theft
 - To support this objective APCCIS will identify industry based best practice for educational programs from around the world and make it available to its members.
- **Skill Development**
 - Developing the skills and knowledge of credit bureau customers and employees is important in an industry where regulation is increasing and countries rely on fair access to credit for consumers and SMEs to support economic growth. APCCIS will work with its members and other leading organizations in the industry to develop programs to support the acquisition of the appropriate skills and knowledge.
- **Industry Advocacy**
 - Industry advocacy is an essential component of our work to protect the industry from unreasonable regulations. Balancing transparency and privacy is an ever increasing challenge
 - BIIA has been very active in the past, on behalf of its members, on regulatory matters concerning consumer and commercial credit information in the region (China for instance). BIIA participated in the World Bank taskforce on general principles for credit reporting. BIIA – APCCIS has participated in recent APEC meetings on Microfinance, Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy

During the meeting **BIIA's board members Phil Cotter and Joachim C Bartels** will present the concept of APCCIS and lead the discussion. Key agenda items will be to reconfirm current perceived needs. Set priorities for APCCIS plans for 2013, discuss funding requirements and association governance.

We look forward to your participation in this important effort and welcome any further input which you may have. We look forward to your organization joining this effort and above all we need volunteers. There is no fee associated in attending this event.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at biainfoasia@gmail.com

Sincerely



Joachim C Bartels
Managing Director



Decide with Confidence



We thank TransUnion and D&B Australia for their sponsorships

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