



BIIA Regional Meeting – March 14th to 15th, 2018
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Introduction

This paper provides details of the first regional meeting that BIIA will be hosting on March 14th and 15th, 2018, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

BIIA recently hosted its Biennial conference in Bangkok which was attended by a wide range of pre-eminent business and consumer's information sharing/using participants, bureau and registry operators as well as regulators. During the annual general meeting a number of key members within the association expressed the need for regional meetings to discuss common issues with users, regulators, and officials from government and public information sectors.

Regional Meeting

Objective

In line with the suggestions from the membership BIIA will be hosting its first regional meeting to discuss key issues and concerns relevant to the industry and to lead efforts to promote dialog, identify solutions and to facilitate the development of potential pathways forward.

Format

The meeting will be a two day event, held on March 14th and 15th, with a networking dinner at the end of day one. The event will start at 09.30am on 14th and will close after lunch at around 2.30pm on the 15th.

The meeting will consist of presentations from experts followed by roundtable discussions.

All discussions will be held under 'Chatham House' rules to encourage an open and frank dialogue.

Agenda

A number of issues/concerns have already been identified for inclusion on the agenda for the regional meeting. These include the following:

- Cyber Security
- Cross Border Data Exchange
- Blockchain
- FinTech

Further background on each of these topics is included in Appendix 1 to this document. Prior to the first meeting stakeholders invited will be consulted on the relevance of these topics and any others that would be worthy of discussion.

Attendees

The meeting will be open for all credit bureaus, public credit registers, regulators, policy makers and lenders in the Asean region to attend (both members and non-members of BIIA).

All attendees will be required to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

BIIA will provide all refreshments during the event, including tea and coffee, lunches on both days and dinner on the 14th.

Location

The meeting will be held at the Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra Hotel, 26 Old August Site Sothearos Boulevard, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, 12301 Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

<http://www.sofitel-phnompenh-phokeethra.com>.

Background

The Business Information Industry Association (BIIA – www.biaa.com) is a trade association for providers of a wide range of consumer and business information services which help other businesses manage growth and reduce risk.

BIIA members' services include information providers, platforms, workflow software, decision systems, identity and authentication services, compliance and risk assessment tools. The largest member segments are consumer credit bureaus, commercial credit information companies, business information and software providers supporting digital commerce.

BIIA was formed in 2005 in Hong Kong as a Regional Organization with the objectives to:

- Provide a neutral, open forum through which business and consumer information providers and users, regulators, and government and public information sectors can debate and resolve common issues.
- Promote the information content industry by demonstrating the value of information for businesses and national economies.
- Serve as a resource on industry standards, trends, technological developments, and policies.
- Advocate a legal regulatory environment beneficial to the industry.
- Provide a valuable platform for networking.

BIIA recently hosted its Biennial conference in Bangkok which was attended by a wide range of pre-eminent business and consumer's information sharing/using participants, bureau and registry operators as well as regulators.

A number of key members within the association, such as Asia Credit Bureau Holdings, (Singapore, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia and Indonesia) CTOS, PCB Vietnam, Experian, Equifax amongst others in the private sector and Brunei, CIC Philippines and others in the public sector, believe that BIIA has the ability to provide a neutral, open forum through which business and consumer information providers and users, regulators, and government and public information sectors can debate and resolve common issues.

Appendix 1

Further background on some of the key topics that will be discussed at the first meeting.

Cyber Security.

As a consequence of the recent massive data breach at Equifax, one of the three major global credit reporting companies, that impacted upon approximately 145 million consumers in the USA, the UK and Canada, policy makers, regulators, bureau and registry operators, data providers and lenders have all expressed serious concerns, and are seeking ways to address mutual concerns.

Whilst there is still debate around the exact cause of the data breach, policy makers and regulators in many jurisdictions are urgently reviewing their current status to ascertain whether they have power to intervene to prevent such an occurrence happening in their respective jurisdiction.

Many proactive operators are undertaking cyber security reviews, whilst regulators, banks and other lenders are seeking guarantees that sensitive data is secure and that appropriate policies and procedures are in place and are being followed.

Whilst some jurisdictions within ASEAN operate only private credit bureaus (PCB's) (Cambodia, HK, NZ and Australia amongst others) others operate both private credit bureaus as well as public credit registries (PCR's) (Vietnam) , some solely PCR's (Lao PDR and Brunei) whilst others have a hybrid model (Philippines and Indonesia)

Whilst banks are subject to regular oversight by Central Banks, PCB's and PCR's are not currently subject to the same level of ongoing scrutiny when it comes to cyber security and some regulators have expressed their concerns in light of the recent data breach that it would be helpful to gain a better understanding of;

- the current standard and status of cyber security being deployed by PCB's/PCR's and data users, particularly banks;
- the current investments by PCB's in respect of data security (and past investments over recent times) as well as what has been committed to in the near terms; and
- by seeking to identify how all stakeholders can work together to develop policy to educate and prevent potential data breaches from occurring with the view to all stakeholders adopting best practice supported by an appropriate level of investment.

Cross Border sharing of credit reports.

The CEBU Action Plan required APEC member economies to work with the Financial Infrastructure Development Network (FIDN) to develop modern full-file and comprehensive credit information systems and regionally consistent legal and institutional frameworks for secured transactions and insolvency. This effort has involved BIIA attending workshops to support legal and policy reform, the modernization of credit reporting regimes and cross-border sharing of credit reports and the development of the credit information data dictionary.

These meetings involved credit information suppliers from China, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

The purpose of these meetings was to agree on the principles / next steps of creating framework and securing written agreements (MOU's) to commence the cross border sharing pilot. In collaboration with the IFC, BIIA drafted a bilateral sharing agreement that addresses the respective legislative challenges and this has been adopted by the various stakeholders. The FIDN secretariat has shared these draft documents with APEC members to seek feedback/comments on the documentation and proposed processes and procedures. It is anticipated that a number of bilateral MOU's will be signed in the near term once stakeholders are in agreement.

To support this initiative BIIA has also been requested to create an APEC regional data dictionary which has been commenced but the effort is currently suspended with no further action being undertaken until suitable funding can be secured.

In addition to seeking agreement of the specific wording of the agreements, BIIA has raised the issues of data security, data protection and cross border dispute resolution as areas that may need further discussion and BIIA / IFC leadership around collaboration and process execution.

Blockchain.

There have been concerns expressed within the Asean region by both regulators and participants around the potential for Blockchain, as distributed ledger technology (DLT), to be utilized to share sensitive credit information in an environment where the overall benefits and risks are yet to be completely identified and understood. It is believed that such technology has the potential to help facilitate trade finance, particularly cross-border.

Fintech

The impact of Fintech as potential disrupters of the current credit reporting environment and the scope of integration into the lending landscape is yet to be understood. This is an area where there is the potential for existing private sector credit reporting service providers and newcomers to collaborate for the betterment of the community at large by promoting increased financial inclusion.