

Digital Trade and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF): New Rules, New Opportunities, New Challenges

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

10:00am - 11:20am EDT

Virtual (Zoom)

IPEF negotiators are known to be eyeing a partial accord by late-May when their trade ministers meet on the sidelines of the APEC Ministerial meeting in Detroit. Digital trade rules are an important component of the IPEF negotiations. President Biden's U.S. Trade Representative says she is committed to building trust and promoting confidence in the digital economy, while recognizing the need to address legitimate public policy objectives in the digital trade area. The deference to policy space is a bow to the dynamic and fast-changing pace of regulation in the digital sphere—be in terms of anti-monopoly protections, privacy and data protections, fintech-related financial stability risk management, review of liability protection for intermediary service providers, development of rules for artificial intelligence (AI) applications or requiring the transparency of the structure, use, and impacts of algorithmic systems. On the other side of the Pacific meantime, an accession working group has been formed to consider China's application to join the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA).

What is the state of play on IPEF's digital trade text as well as China's DEPA accession talks? What are the commercial and regulatory challenges encountered by private businesses as they navigate their way within the Asia-Pacific region's dynamic digital marketplace? What are the key challenges facing the governance of cross-border data flows at the global level? And how do digital economy chapters and agreements differ in their focus and impact from traditional trade agreements? To listen to these and other answers to pressing digital trade and IPEF-related questions, tune in to the event on May 10th.

Panelists

Susan AARONSON

Research Professor & Director, Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub,
Elliott School of International Affairs
The George Washington University

Zennon KAPRON

Founder and Director
Kapronasia

Patrick LEBLOND

CN–Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy,
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs
University of Ottawa

Moderator

Sourabh GUPTA

Senior Fellow & Head of Trade 'n Technology Program
Institute for China-America Studies

Welcoming Remarks

Nong HONG

Executive Director
Institute for China-America Studies

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ICAS Trade 'n Technology Program



Susan AARONSON is a research professor of international affairs and director of the Digital Trade and Data Governance Hub. Aaronson conceived of and directs the Hub. Since 2019, the Hub educate policymakers, the press and the public about data governance and data driven change. In that regard, the Hub hosts conferences, monthly webinars, study groups, and creates primers, and video primers as well as scholarly papers. The Hub is also the only organization in the world that maps the governance of public, proprietary, and personal data at the domestic and international levels.

Aaronson is also a frequent speaker and writer on international economic developments as well a s cross-disciplinary fellow and affiliate at GW's Institute for International Economic Policy, the Institute for International Science and Technology Policy and the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. Since 2017, Aaronson has also been a senior fellow at the think tank Center for International Governance Innovation (GIGI) in Canada where she publishes much of her research on data driven change and data governance. Previously, Aaronson was a Guest Scholar in Economics at the Brookings Institution (1995–1999); and a Research Fellow at the World Trade Institute 2008-2012. Aaronson was also the Carvalho Fellow at the Government Accountability Project and the Minerva Chair at the National War College. She has served on the Business and Human Rights Advisory Board at Amnesty International and the Advisory Board of Human Rights Under Pressure, a joint German and Israeli initiative on human rights. Aaronson is currently directing projects on mapping data governance and writing on AI Protectionism, Public Participation in AI Governance, XR and International Trade, and data as a global public good.

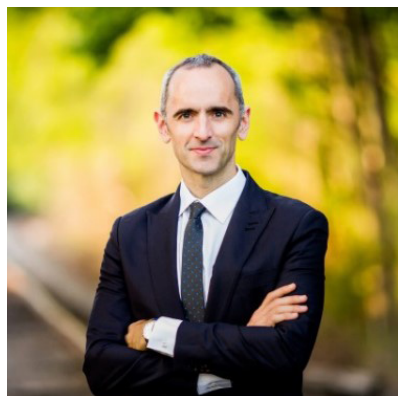


Patrick LEBLOND is Associate Professor and holds the CN–Paul M. Tellier Chair on Business and Public Policy in the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa. He is also Senior Fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Research Associate at CIRANO and Affiliated Professor of International Business at HEC Montréal. Dr. Leblond is an expert on international economic relations as well as economic policy and governance.

He has published extensively on financial and monetary integration, banking regulation, international trade and business-government relations. He was visiting professor at the World Trade Institute (Bern, Switzerland) and the University of Barcelona (IELPO LL.M.) as well as visiting researcher at the European University Institute (Florence, Italy), the Institute for Research on Public Policy (Montreal, Canada) and the University of Lund (Sweden). Prior to moving to Ottawa, he taught international business at HEC Montréal and was director of the Réseau économie internationale (REI) at the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales de l'Université de Montréal (CERIU). Before embarking on his academic career, he worked in accounting and auditing for Ernst & Young as well as in corporate finance and strategy consulting for Arthur Andersen & Co. and SECOR Consulting. Dr. Leblond holds degrees from Columbia University (Ph.D.), Cambridge University (M.Phil.), Lund University (M.B.A.) and HEC Montréal (B.B.A.). He is also a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA).

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Zennon KAPRON is the Founder and Director of Kapronasia, one of Asia's leading providers of consulting services focusing on the fintech industry. Zennon has been involved in financial technology for over 20 years and covers all topics fintech and blockchain. Before Kapronasia, Zennon was the Global Banking Industry Manager for Intel based out of Shanghai, China and, prior to Intel, was the CIO for Citigroup Portugal. Zennon has testified in front of the U.S. Congress on issues of China fintech and is the author of 'Chomping at the Bitcoin: The History and Future of Bitcoin in China' published by Penguin. He holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Syracuse University and an MBA from INSEAD.



Sourabh GUPTA is a senior Asia-Pacific international relations policy specialist with two decades of Washington, D.C.-based experience in a think tank and political risk research and advisory capacity. His key area of expertise pertains to the intersection of international law, both international maritime law (Law of the Sea) and international trade and investment law, with the international relations of the Asia-Pacific region. His areas of specialization include: analysis of major power relationships (China-U.S., China-Japan, China-India, U.S.-Japan, U.S.-India, Japan-India; Russia-Japan relations) and key flashpoint issues in the Asia-Pacific region; analysis of outstanding territorial disputes and maritime law-related developments in Asia; and analysis of developments in World Trade Organization and Asia-Pacific investment, trade and economic regionalism-related policy and politics. He is a

member of the United States Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (USCSCAP) and was a 2012 East Asia Forum Distinguished Fellow.



Nong HONG holds a PhD of interdisciplinary study of international law and international relations from the University of Alberta, Canada and held a Postdoctoral Fellowship in the University's China Institute. She was ITLOS-Nippon Fellow for International Dispute Settlement (2008-2009) and Visiting Fellow at Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (2019), the Center of Oceans Law and Policy, University of Virginia (2009) and at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (2007). She is concurrently a research fellow with China Institute, University of Alberta, Canada, and the National Institute for South China Sea Studies, China. Her research takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining international relations and international law, with focus on International Relations and Comparative Politics in general; ocean governance in East Asia and the Arctic; law of the sea; international security, particularly non-traditional security; and international dispute settlement and conflict resolution. Her selected publications include *China's Role in the Arctic: Observing and Being Observed* (London and New York: Routledge, 2020), *UNCLOS and Ocean Dispute Settlement: Law and Politics in the South China Sea* (Routledge, 2012).

