



## POLICY IN ACTION

# ASEAN Digital Ministers Look to Cross-Border Data Flows to Promote Digital Trade

### Market context

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ASEAN Member States have seen the value in acting as a bloc. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a trade agreement between ASEAN nations Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea designed to remove barriers to trade, including digital

trade, between the signatories. The ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 endeavours to make ASEAN “a leading digital community and economic bloc, powered by secure and transformative digital services, technologies and ecosystem.”

### Policy or regulatory action

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On 22 January 2021, the ASEAN Digital Ministers approved the Data Management Framework (DMF) and Model Contractual Clauses for Cross Border Data Flows (MCCs), both developed by ASEAN member state efforts, led by Singapore. These two tools were designed to assist

companies in moving data across borders. An ASEAN Regulatory Pilot Space had previously been established through efforts of the GSMA and Singapore to facilitate testing of cross-border data policies, regardless of the existing data privacy or cybersecurity laws.

### Why this is good practice

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Digital trade and cross border data flows will drive economies in the future. As 5G deployment continues and new ecosystems are developed, cloud operations will become integral to economies across the globe. Data that

can flows without regulatory impediment between countries will fuel these operations. As more businesses embrace connectivity, cross-border data flows will allow the full realisation of digitisation and its benefits.

[ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025](#)  
[ASEAN Regulatory Pilot Space, GSMA](#)

Read more at:  
[gsma.com/publicpolicy/policy-good-practice](https://gsma.com/publicpolicy/policy-good-practice)

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