

Report of the Strategic Direction Working Group

The Strategic Direction Working Group (SDWG)¹ was set up at the 35th Conference pursuant to the Strategic Direction Resolution² with a two year mandate to undertake various tasks anticipated in the interim strategic plan.³

The SDWG was directed to undertake its work “in close liaison” with the Executive Committee (ExCo). The New Zealand Office of the Privacy Commissioner performed the roles both of SDWG Convenor and ExCo Secretariat allowing certain tasks implementing the strategic plan to be performed seamlessly between these two bodies.

In this final year of the SDWG’s mandate, priority was placed upon completing three tasks:

- Implement the arrangements to encourage and confirm hosts well in advance (item 2(b) of the 2014-2015 action plan);⁴
- Develop a workable plan to fund the Secretariat (item 3(b) of the 2014-2015 action plan);
- Prepare a revised set of strategic priorities and action plan to commence in 2016 (clause 2(b) of the Strategic Direction Resolution).

The SDWG is pleased to report completion of all three high priority tasks and notes:

- ***Encourage and confirm hosts well in advance:*** The Secretariat and an ExCo Subcommittee (NZ/FR) managed a process that called for expressions of interest in hosting the 2016 Conference. Detailed written Guidance was prepared and released to assist authorities planning to submit a proposal. A process to evaluate the multiple proposals was developed and operated enabling a host for the 2016 event to be confirmed at least 4 months earlier than would have been possible under the former system. The target set out in the action plan was met (“Achieve the position of having one or more future hosts confirmed before the 37th Conference”). Planning has been completed to enable the host of the 2017 event to be confirmed even further in advance.
- ***Workable plan to fund the Secretariat:*** Sharing the costs of the Secretariat is seen as a critical step in building the Conference’s capacity to achieve its goals. A plan has been developed and will be submitted for adoption at the 37th Conference.

¹ The SDWG comprised member authorities from British Columbia, Colombia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Netherlands, New South Wales, New Zealand, USA and Victoria.

² <http://icdppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Strategic-direction-resolution.pdf>

³ <http://icdppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Strategic-Plan-2014-2015.pdf>

⁴ These arrangements were designed by the SDWG/ExCo the previous year and authorised in a rule change adopted by the 36th Conference, see: <http://icdppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Amendment-to-Article-2.1d-3.2c-of-the-Rules-and-Procedures.pdf>

- **Revised Strategic Plan:** A Strategic Plan to cover the years 2016-18 has been developed and will be submitted for adoption at the 37th Conference.

The SDWG undertook various other tasks that informed the work on those three priority items. These involved researching such matters as the priorities and strategic plans of other networks, the handover practices between annual meetings, the strengths and weaknesses of the Conference and barriers to hosting. While these tasks have not resulted in the presentation of any formal reports or recommendations to the Conference several working documents have been added to the Conference website for reference.⁵

The SDWG commends for the Conference's adoption the proposals presented jointly by the SDWG and ExCo for:

- Funding of the Secretariat; and
- A new Strategic Plan.

On behalf of the Strategic Direction Working Group

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⁵ See <http://icdppc.org/document-archive/working-group-reports/>.