



**Report of the Chair of the 6th Executive Committee
to the
Closed Session of the 39th Conference
Hong Kong September 2017**

Selected highlights

- ❖ Organised in-depth closed session discussion on government information sharing
- ❖ Active communications through multiple channels
- ❖ Endorsed regional enforcement cooperation meetings
- ❖ Selection of future conference hosts 2 years in advance
- ❖ Surveyed membership on future size and membership
- ❖ Planned for smooth transition to new Chair, Committee and Secretariat

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Report prepared: 6 September 2017

Report on behalf of ICDPPC 6th Executive Committee: 2016/17

This annual report is the 6th issued for the Executive Committee and the third and final under the Chairmanship of John Edwards, New Zealand Privacy Commissioner.

The Committee derives its mandate principally from the Conference [rules and procedures](#). It also receives mandates from Conference [resolutions](#) and the [strategic plan](#). The Committee has roles both of a governance and operational nature.

The governance roles are exercised with, and subject to, the closed session while the operational roles are performed principally by the Secretariat. Some tasks are delegated to particular Committee members.

Composition of Executive Committee

The five-member Executive Committee established at the 38th Conference is as follows:



John Edwards
Elected member and Committee Chair
New Zealand Privacy Commissioner
NZ elected at 35th Conference, to step down at 39th Conference



Daniel Therrien
Elected member of Committee
Privacy Commissioner of Canada
Canada elected at 38th Conference



Isabelle Falque-Pierrotin
Elected member of Committee
President, CNIL, France
France elected at 36th and 38th Conference



Said Ihrai/Lahoussine Aniss
Immediate past host member of Committee
Moroccan Data Protection Authority



Stephen Wong
Next host member of Committee
Hong Kong Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

By the time it completes its term, the Committee will have met 7 times: 3 times in person (in Marrakesh, Washington DC and Hong Kong) and 4 times by teleconference. Although the term of this Committee was only 11 months we were able to squeeze in the same number of meetings as last year.

The Conference rules provide for two year terms for elected Committee members. Members may be re-elected for no more than two consecutive 2-year terms. New Zealand completes its second 2-year term and will step down to be replaced by another elected member. Canada will complete its first 2-year term and will offer itself for election for a final 2-year term. The other elected member, France, is mid-way through its second 2-year term and accordingly does not face election this year.

Hong Kong has served as the next host member and will continue next year as the immediate past host. Morocco as past host drops off the Committee and will be replaced by the joint hosts of the 40th Conference.

I pay tribute to retiring member Lahoussine Aniss who, in addition to playing a principal part in organising last year's Conference, has stepped into the Committee role following Commissioner Ikhrai's appointment as President of Morocco's new Constitutional Court.

Committee members actively involve members of their staff in the work. I particularly acknowledge the contribution of the following staff: Miguel Bernal-Castillero, Sophie Bory, Nicolas de Bouville, Barbara Bucknell, Amine Byad, Daniele Chatelois, Ivan Chan, Aki Cheung, Brent Homan, Patricia Kosseim, Michael Maguire, Belinda Pui, Florence Raynal, Andrea Rousseau, Vanya Vida and Linda Williams.

Secretariat

Under the conference rules the Chair provides the Secretariat. Accordingly, for the third year, New Zealand has provided the Executive Committee Secretariat under the responsibility of Assistant Commissioner Blair Stewart.

The rules confer responsibility upon the Secretariat for "the management and preservation of the documents and files of the Conference". The Secretariat built and launched a permanent Conference website in 2015 which continues to provide a sound platform to store documents to ensure that they are available for the membership and remain accessible for the benefit of future Committees. The benefit will become manifest now that the role is being passed over to a Committee with a new Chair and new Secretariat. The aim has been to ensure that there is a smooth transition so that the Conference's and Committee's momentum is not lost.

Communications

I place a special emphasis on transparency as a means to meet the needs of the Conference and to be accountable and responsive to the membership. The website is the centrepiece for information dissemination with the regular newsletter and twitter account in support.

This year 5 regular issues of the newsletter have been released. In addition 4 special issues were devoted to the 90 entries for the ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards.

The number of followers of the ICDPPC Twitter account had more than doubled from 630 in September last year to 1430 now. Having successfully established a following, the Secretariat generally ceased retweeting general privacy content in January to concentrate solely upon conference-related content. This year the ICDPPC Secretariat also established a YouTube presence.

Enforcement cooperation meetings

The Committee implemented a process for endorsing enforcement cooperation events in 2017 as 'ICDPPC-recognised' as a means to give effect to a resolution of the 36th Conference calling for opportunities for authorities to meet and share enforcement cooperation experience. The process explicitly recognises that these events may be run by or in cooperation with other networks as a means of strengthening links. Events were run in conjunction with GPEN and the APPA Forum.

Advance selection of hosts

As part of a strategy to place the Conference on a firmer footing, the 36th Conference approved rule changes to empower the Committee to evaluate and recommend hosts out of session. The 4th and 5th Committees first operated the process which enabled selection of the host for the 38th Conference 3 months earlier, and the host of the 39th Conference 6 months earlier, than would have been the case under the old system.

This Committee – the 6th – was able to complete selection of the host of the 40th Conference by December 2016 giving the host about 20 months preparation time, a substantial improvement upon the 12 months within which earlier hosts had to prepare. The Committee went further and initiated and completed the process for selecting the 41st Conference more than 2 years in advance of the 2019 Conference. Just over two years would seem to be the ‘sweet spot’ that gives hosts sufficient time to organise and fund a major event but not so long that advance planning and commitments are difficult to manage.

Now that this 6th Committee has completed the demanding task of processing two sets of host selections in a single year, the intention is that future committees continue to select a single host to maintain this cycle of 2 year advanced host selection. (See Secretariat [paper](#) for further details on selection cycle.)

In addition to keeping the Conference on a sound footing this will open up new opportunities for longer term strategic planning by involving the designated hosts in the work of the Committee. A start has already been made by inviting the host of the 40th Conference to participate in this year’s ‘in person’ meeting in Washington DC and by indicating that the host of the 41st Conference should be invited to participate as an observer to the 7th Committee for the full year.

Discussion topics at closed session

The Committee arranged a programme of speakers to enable in-depth discussion of the important topic ‘Government Information Sharing: Protecting sensitive data, preventing discrimination and managing risk’ which will look at the drivers and barriers to information sharing, explore where governments are heading and explore how shared use of government information can trigger public concerns about discrimination and protection of sensitive information.

Three major projects: ICDPPC Census, ICDPPC Awards and Future Size and Membership of the Conference

In addition to the regular business as usual for the Committee, three projects have consumed a large proportion of available Secretariat time.

The first is the ICDPPC Census 2017. This flows from the mandate given the Committee by the [Resolution on Developing New Metrics of Data Protection](#). This is a substantial new initiative that will usefully be repeated periodically and that can be supplemented by smaller subject matter surveys. The initiative is more fully reported on in separate reports with the results released at the 39th Conference.

The ICDPPC Global Privacy and Data Protection Awards was a Chair’s initiative taken to recognise and promote the innovation and excellence of projects taken by member authorities. I was impressed by all 90 entries received and I look forward to conferring awards on the winners at this year’s members’ dinner.

The project concerning the Future Size and Membership of the Conference has involved a lot of work for the Secretariat and resulted in a survey of all members. The survey report demonstrated agreement on a few points and otherwise little consensus for any departure from the status quo. A substantial block of time has been allocated to discussing the topic further in the closed session.

Closing comment

It has been my honour to serve the Conference as Executive Committee Chair for the last 3 years and to have provided the hard working Secretariat. I offer the new Committee my best wishes to build on the substantial progress made this year.

John Edwards

Chair, ICDPPC Executive Committee

7 September 2017

Principal Committee documents (further documentation available [online](#))

6th Executive Committee, 2015 / 2016 (Chair: NZ, Members: FR, CA, MA, HK)				
Meeting #	Date	Agenda	Minutes	Meeting Papers
33rd	18 October 2016	[EN]	[EN]	
34th	21 December 2016	[EN]	[EN]	Compilation of meeting papers
35th	14 February 2017	[EN]	[EN]	Compilation of meeting papers
36th	19 April 2017	[EN]	[EN]	Compilation of meeting papers
37th	12 June 2017	[EN]	[EN]	Compilation of meeting papers, Item 3, Item 6
38th	22 August 2017	[EN]		Compilation of meeting papers, Item 3 & 7