

**AIC Media Statement  
US dropping digital trade demands at WTO  
21 November 2023**

*To be attributed to Jeff Paine, Managing Director, Asia Internet Coalition*

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The Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) is discouraged by the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) October 25 decision to withdraw its longstanding support for digital trade proposals at the World Trade Organization (WTO). Withdrawal of support for these proposals, which includes promoting free cross-border data flows and avoiding forced data localization mandates, will invariably impact the vast number of small businesses that have powered the rapid growth of Asia Pacific's digital economies. For many of these businesses, the free flow of data across borders enables them to use common infrastructure to serve their customers in multiple markets. Restricting free cross-border data flows increases the costs of doing business and limits the opportunities for local businesses to grow domestically and internationally. We strongly urge the USTR to reconsider its position and resume its support for these fundamental digital trade policies.

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***About the Asia Internet Coalition***

The Asia Internet Coalition (AIC) is an industry association comprising leading Internet and technology companies. The AIC seeks to promote the understanding and resolution of Internet policy issues in the Asia Pacific region. Visit [www.aicasia.org](http://www.aicasia.org) for more information.