



### **OTT IMPLICATIONS AND EQUIVALENT TREATMENT** Same Service Same Rules (SSSR)

ITU-ASEAN Forum on Over-the-Top (OTT) Services 8-9 December 2015, Cambodia

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# Advancing Asia

Revenue

RM18.7 Billion

PATAMI

RM 2.3 Billion

**Market Cap** 

RM 60.5 Billion

**Subscribers** 

> 260 Million

**Employees** 

25,000

**Countries** 

8

\*FY2014





India



Sri Lanka

robi





Malaysia

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Singapore

eco

🔰 xL axiata Indonesia

### **AXIATA'S GOAL: ADVANCING ASIA**

One of Asia's largest telecommunications groups; a global brand visible in 8 countries across the region with over 260mil customers and 25,000 employees



axiata



### **Challenges due to OTTs**

## INCREASING NUMBERS OF OTT PLAYERS OPERATING THROUGHOUT THE VALUE CHAIN





Source: Literature; 1 IM: Instant Messaging; VOIP: Voice over IP

**ITU-ASEAN Forum on OTTs** 



The bigger pie of the industry



#### **ITU-ASEAN Forum on OTTs**

### OTT SERVICES CREATE DIFFERENT IMPACT TO OPERATORS, YIELDING THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES





**ITU-ASEAN Forum on OTTs** 

THE THREAT IS MATERIALISING AND ITS IMPACT PUTS INVESTMENT AT RISK Revenue from traditional voice and SMS services is static / falling. OTT substitution effect will affect future ability reinvest into network and innovative services



"Global annual SMS revenues will fall to around US\$97 Bn in 2018, down from US\$120 Bn in 2013... **annual Asia Pacific SMS revenues to drop from US\$45.8 Bn in 2013, to US\$38 Bn in 2018**" – Telecoms.com, 13 November 2013



WhatsApp free voice calls: "The new service, could **help wipe hundreds of billions of dollars** from the revenues of mobile carriers in the next five years, say analysts". - The Financial Times, 24 Feb 2014



### MY: TOTAL SMS INDUSTRY REVENUES & ARPU (only Celcom, DiGi, Maxis)



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company confidential Source: MCMC, News Articles, Axiata, GSMA, Analysys Masøn



### Same Service Same Rules (SSSR)

OTT PROVIDERS AND MNOs SHOULD BE TREATED SIMILARLY Same regulations regardless of difference in technology or business model adopted, especially services that are functionally or economically substitutable



	MNOs	vs OTTs	Meet High Quality Regulatory Principles?
Business model	<ul> <li>Regulated, licenced, high-CAPEX, long-term and nationally-based</li> <li>Focus on connectivity / services,</li> <li>Customer data for user enrichment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Unregulated, global and "seasonal"</li> <li>Mostly centred around use of consumer data (service not 'free')</li> </ul>	<b>1. Long-term interest of consumers</b> allows regulators to balance a range of competing aims e.g. affordability, service
Licensing	<ul> <li>Multiple licenses with &gt;200 including obligations on rollout, interconnection and CSR</li> </ul>	Usually no license needed; exposed to minimal obligations	<ul> <li>quality, service choice and safety</li> <li>2. Non-discrimination and technology neutral ensures rival services compete on the merits of the value that they offer consumers, rather than on the basis of some unfair advantage</li> </ul>
Taxation	Sector-specific fees e.g. spectrum, USO, licence and general corporate taxes	<ul> <li>No sector-specific taxes, freedom to structure business primarily for tax planning</li> </ul>	<b>3. Innovation</b> ensure competitive incentives remain to promote genuine innovation that creates additional value for consumers.
Privacy & Security	<ul> <li>Horizontal laws; sector obligations</li> <li>Rules on data localisation, retention, disaster recovery and LI</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Uncertain enforcement</li> <li>Minimal restrictions on data location, retention and LI</li> </ul>	<b>4. Proportionality</b> ensure that regulation is intended to address identifiable specific risk of harm.
Consumer Protection	<ul> <li>Customer-centric obligations e.g. transparency, contract info, QoS, SMP</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No specific enforcement outside major countries</li> </ul>	5. Responsiveness ensure regulatory frameworks evolves to reflect technological, economic etc. changes



THERE ARE INCREASING TRENDS BY POLICY MAKERS TO CAPTURE OTTS AND NON-TRADIONAL PROVIDERS UNDER REVISED / NEW NATIONAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS





Addressing this will:

- 1. Meet long-term interest of consumers, promote digital innovation and ensure MNOs will be able to reinvest into the network.
- 2. Ensure international OTTs with relaxed rules will not impair the development of local OTTs
- 3. Ensure government to a certain extend will continue to have control on content, application services and customer data

OECD'S BASED EROSION AND PROFIT SHIFTING (BEPS) GAINING TRACTION G20 Meeting in Nov 2015 endorsed measures; implementation early 2016-2020 supported by IMF, UN and the World Bank; interested non-G20 countries can join.



#### ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### **Policy Brief**

- 15 final outputs in Oct 2015, since 2013
- Closing gaps in international tax rules that allow MNCs to legally but artificially shift profits to low or no-tax jurisdictions.
- Developed equal footing measures, with extensive engagement by developing countries and regional tax organisations.
- Designing an inclusive framework for monitoring and implementation support

### **Examples of Final Outputs**

OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project

Addressing the Tax Challenges of the Digital Economy The importance

- USD100-240Bn (or 4-10% of global revenues) of lost taxes annually from global corporates shifting their profits to lower tax regimes e.g. Ireland, Luxemburg, Netherlands, etc.
- Reduces national tax revenues and harms public
- Domestic companies face an uneven playing field

### The impact

- · Improving coherence: model rules to eliminate exploitation; best practices identified
- **Tightening substance:** upgraded transfer pricing rules; modified definition of "permanent establishment" to better reflect business realities and avoid widespread circumvention
- Ensuring more transparency / certainty: mandatory disclosure rules; reporting templates; dispute mechanisms reinforced; G2G exchange information; monitoring tools
- Rules and mechanisms developed to collect tax based on country where consumer is located e.g. VAT / GST on cross-border transactions,
- Technical options to deal with the broader tax challenges e.g. nexus and data discussed / analysed.
- > Initially proposed methods to test for fully dematerialised digital activities and significant digital presence

OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project

Preventing the Artificial Avoidance of Permanent Establishment Status

- Agreed permanent establishment (PE) definition changes to address techniques used to avoid the tax nexus, incl. via commissionaire arrangements and artificial fragmentation of biz activities.
- Changes proposed for inclusion in the multilateral instrument that will implement the results of the work on treaty issues mandated

### OPTIONS TO ADOPT A EVOLVED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK Imposition of equivalent regulatory treatment available with a mix of Option 1 "Extend" and Option 2 "Change / Relax regulation for MNOs"



Extending the current level of regulation through horizontal regulation and rules

**Competition law:** consideration of market reviews taking into account competitive impact of OTT providers

Taxation on revenues and profits: based on any national market activity

**Data protection and privacy**: depending on whether laws are already present and have kept up with best practice

**Consumer protection:** possible incorporation of transparency controls

### National security obligations:

considerations on any services with the potential to be used to engage in criminal or terrorist activity Potential Implementation and Enforcement

Options based on practicability and effectiveness of enforcement

- 1. Voluntary compliance systems
- 2. Local subsidiary or payment route enforcement
- 3. Registration-based licensing systems
- 4. White-list for advertisers and app-stores
- 5. Black-listing non-compliant providers

Different approaches applicable or viable for different types of OTT providers e.g. internet majors, niche providers, illegal providers. Relaxing the current level of regulation i.e. sector-specific regulatory frameworks and rules

Licence and Spectrum fees: modification of definition of relevant revenue and applicability of OTT licensing

### Universal service obligations:

2

reconsideration of USOs and their effectiveness

**Quality of service regulation**: roll back for communications services and applied consistently if substitutable

**Emergency call service obligations**: with possible location information requirements for a limited period

**Constructive Engagement** 

**International Best Practice** 

**Regional Co-operation** 

**Staged Approach** 

REGULATING OTTs WILL BE MULTI-PRONGED AND RATHER COMPLEX A forward-looking phased approach while promoting self-governance, gradual rationalization of rules and pro-investment policies



2015 - 2016	2017 - 2018	> 2019
SHORT-TERM	MID-TERM	LONG-TERM
<ul> <li>Horizontal measures: Privacy legislation, Consumer Protection legislation and possibly Taxation (prelim. discussions)</li> <li>Voluntary compliance systems may be used for enforcement, potentially black and white lists etc.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Registration-based licensing and enforcing local subsidiary or payment route measures e.g. Diverted Profit Tax, Base Erosion Profit Sharing</li> <li>Horizontal measures: National Security / Lawful Interception</li> <li>Imposition of vertical measures: Emergency calling, interconnection</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Single licensing regime: Equivalent regulatory treatment irrespective of underlying technology and service deliver for OTT and MNO</li> <li>Regional co-operation: ASEAN harmonization on OT Regulations and cross-border data transfers</li> </ul>
Rationalisation of current vertical	<b>measures</b> e.g. QoS, USO, license fees	
WITHIN NATIONAL CONTROL AND SECTOR JURISDICTION	REGIONALLY AL	IGNED
CROSS-MINISTRY	JURISDICTION	"SAME SERVICE SAN REGULATION" IN FULL EFFE

### **THANK YOU**



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