

# ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative

2023

Fellowship Program



THE AUSTRALIAN  
APEC STUDY CENTRE  
Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation

In partnership with  
 **RMIT**  
UNIVERSITY

# ASEAN Australia Digital Trade Standards Initiative 2023

## What is the initiative?

Building on the last four years of the ASEAN-Australia Digital Trade Standards (ASEAN-AU DTS) Initiative, Standards Australia will be facilitating the 2023 Fellowship Program. The Fellowship Program will align leading experts and emerging professionals in standardisation and digital trade across ASEAN. Through the program, fellows and mentors will have the opportunity to develop an Action Plan to unlock digital trade standards opportunities within the region.

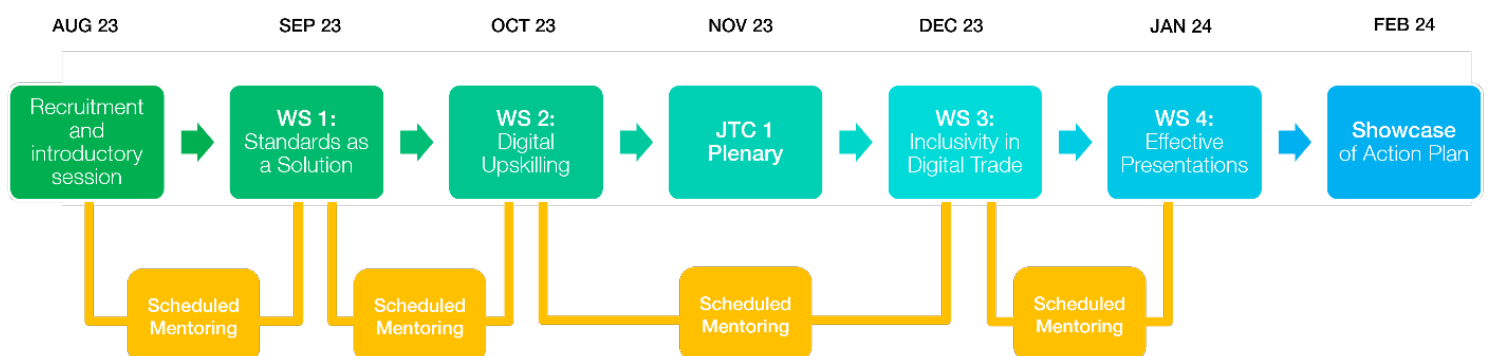
**Fellows** will develop an action plan for a digital trade standard initiative within the region. These standard action plans will focus on a specific aspect of digital trade such as digital logistics, digital transactions, e-commerce and e-invoicing. **Mentors** will provide ongoing guidance and support to fellows as they develop their action plan.

## Benefits of the Program

- Meet, network and collaborate with established and emerging professionals in digital trade.
- Ongoing professional development through dynamic training sessions.
- Recognition as a digital trade standards expert.
- Potential opportunity to observe International Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1 Information Technology Plenary Meeting.
- Funded travel to in-person Showcase in Jakarta, Indonesia.

## What's involved?

The program includes capacity building workshops, mentoring sessions and a final showcase. Participants will also have the opportunity to observe international standards meetings.



**Note:** In addition to workshops, participants will undertake intersessional work to support the delivery of their action plans. Time required: approximately 2 hours per month.

## Who should apply?

Fellows	Mentors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in an ASEAN Member State.</li><li>• Interest in digital trade and/or digital trade standards.</li><li>• Professional competency in English.</li><li>• Committed to completing all compulsory elements of the program.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Located in an ASEAN Member State or Australia.</li><li>• Experience in digital trade and/or digital trade standards.</li><li>• Professional competency in English</li><li>• Committed to completing all compulsory elements of the program.</li></ul>

Participants could come from industry, a standards development organisation, government or community interest group, including organisations for women and persons with disabilities.

## How to apply

Fellows and Mentors can apply by submitting an application by the **7th of August 2023** through the link below.

Fellows will also be required to complete a short Concept Note on their proposed Action Plan (example on next page).

Click here to complete the [online application form](#), or scan the QR code.



# Digital Trade Standardisation Initiative - Action Plan

---

A core element of the Fellowship is the development of an action plan for a digital trade standardisation initiative in ASEAN. These standard action plans may focus on any element of digital trade such as e-commerce and e-invoicing. Fellows will receive hands on support and professional advice in the development of these action plans from their mentor and Standards Australia.

## What is an Action Plan?

An action plan is a detailed plan outlining actions needed to achieve one or multiple objectives. Action plans often lay out a specific sequence of steps or activities within a broader strategy.

## The Fellow Application

Applying Fellows will be required to submit a Concept Note made up of the below questions as part of their application. Concept Notes provided an initial summary of a Fellow's Action Plan.

Concept Notes geared towards facilitating digital transactions or facilitating digital trade logistics and delivery will be prioritised.

Example Concept Note:

### Title of proposed Action Plan

*E-Invoicing in ASEAN*

### What are the element/s of digital trade that your action plan will focus on?

*E-invoicing*

### What opportunity or challenge is your action plan seeking to address in digital trade? (Maximum 300 words)

*In my country, e-invoicing is relatively new. Many small and medium sized businesses are unfamiliar with the technology. The main limitation in my country is a lack of awareness of the necessary standards to support electronic accounting which is preventing many small and medium sized businesses from expanding their customer base and scaling up their business capacity. E-invoicing software is also often misaligned which causes issues with interoperability, with many businesses continuing to use propriety e-invoicing solutions with multiple fragmented standards.*

### Describe the rationale for your action plan: Why is it needed? (Maximum 200 words)

*In my experience, e-invoicing is a key digital enabler of trade not only facilitating transactions between buyers and sellers locally but opening up greater market opportunities across borders. Currently, knowledge of how to implement e-invoicing through standards is maintained within large enterprises. Local businesses are being left behind and limited in their payment methods.*