DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND **CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications, Hon Dr David Clark:

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr David Clark

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr David Clark (CAB-22-SUB-0579 refers)

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr David Clark (CAB-22-MIN-0579 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Office of the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr David Clark

Proposal

1   I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Singapore from 17 to 21 October 2022.

2   The primary purpose of this travel was to attend Singapore International Cyber Week in my role as Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications, with responsibility for Cyber Security Policy. I also conducted a programme of bilateral meetings and visits related to cyber security and digital transformation.

Report

3   Singapore International Cyber Week (SICW) is one of the most established cyber security events in the Indo-Pacific region and is a key feature on the international cyber security calendar. It brings together high-level government representatives, industry leaders, and experts from around the world to discuss current cyber security issues and opportunities for regional and global cooperation.

4   2022 marked the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that SICW was held in person. The theme of this year's SICW was "Digital Security: A Shared Responsibility". Members of the delegation attended sessions on IoT security, ransomware, digital infrastructure security, and cyber diplomacy.

5   As part of SICW, I spoke on a panel alongside representatives from Brunei, the US, and Germany on the topic of "Securing our Digital Future". Areas of discussion ranged from how governments are collaborating with 'big tech' to secure the digital commons, to whole-of-society approaches to the threat of mis and disinformation

6   I also participated in the annual ASEAN Ministerial Conference of Cyber Security (AMCC) Special Session with Dialogue Partners. Dialogue Partners of ASEAN (which includes New Zealand) were invited to discuss key issues in the region and means to enhance regional cybersecurity cooperation among member states. I delivered New Zealand's intervention, which focused on the value of engaging industry partners in the Christchurch Call and the development of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa, while emphasising that there is more work to be done to secure the role of non-government stakeholders in international cyber security discussions.

7   The AMCC Special Session gave New Zealand a unique opportunity for high-level engagement with ASEAN countries on a topic of critical importance to the region. Our participation also sends an important signal to other ASEAN Dialogue Partners in the Indo-Pacific region of our commitment to cyber security in Southeast Asia.

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10   I also visited the Smart Nation Digital Government Group (SNDGG) to meet with the Smart Nation Digital Government Office (SNDGO) and its implementing arm, the Government Technology Agency (GovTech). Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority also attended the meeting. Senior Minister of State and Minister-in-Charge of GovTech, Dr Janil Puthucheary, provided an overview of the SNDGG's strategic oversight of the digitisation of Singapore's government services. GovTech then updated the New Zealand delegation on progress in the implementation of two key services: Singpass, Singapore's digital identification scheme, and PayNow, Singapore's electronic payment scheme. SNDGG's main priority was ensuring the inclusivity and accessibility of their offerings by maintaining physical services that were supported by digital systems at the backend, and diversifying language options.

11   My visit to Nanyang Polytechnic's Centre of Innovation for Electronics and IoT was an opportunity to learn how the centre supports local businesses in adopting new technologies and increasing their capabilities in product innovation, to compete in an increasingly digitised world. The visit included a tour of their 5G, Artificial Intelligence, and IoT labs where they design, manufacture, and deploy product solutions utilising these technologies to address problems or enhance efficiency for local businesses.

12   I also visited the Microsoft Experience Centre at the company's Asia Pacific headquarters. The Microsoft Experience Centre encompasses the Cyber Security Centre, the Experience Zone, the Microsoft Technology Centre, and the Innovation Factory. The delegation saw demonstrations of several technological solutions that Microsoft had developed in partnership with businesses in the region, including IoT supply chain mapping technology, and the use of mixed and augmented reality in the manufacturing and health sectors.

13   The warmth of the relationship with Singapore is worth noting. I was invited to sit at top tables with U.S. Secretary Mayorkas at both dinners I attended, and bilateral meetings with Singaporean Minister were generously hosted, running well over time with constructive conversations on areas of mutual interest.

Proactive Release

14   This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO(18)4 on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website subject to any redactions that may be appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

15   I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Dr David Clark

Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Dr David Clark

Portfolio   **Digital Economy and Communications**

On 12 December 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Dr David Clark under CAB-22-SUB-0579 on his travel, from 17 to 21 October 2022, to Singapore to attend the Singapore International Cyber Week event.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet