E-Commerce in Global Market & Lawmaking in China

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Workshop on the UN Electronic Communications Convention: a legal tool to promote cross-border electronic commerce

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AP E-Commerce Legislation

- UNCTAD Studies on E-commerce Legislation
- (UNCTAD E-Commerce Law Week 25-27/03/2015)
 - More than 70% of countries in AP have enacted e-commerce law
 - Largely based on UNCITRAL model laws
 - Primarily on e-signatures
 - Some not technologically neutral
 - Lack of capacity for law enforcement

Chinese Laws: the Stay of Play

- E-Signature Law (2004)
 - Enacted in order to standardize acts of electronic signature, validate the legal effect of electronic signature, and safeguard the lawful rights and interests of the parties concerned.
- Contract Law (1999)
 - Enabling e-contracting
- Consumer Right Protection Law (2014)
 - Consumer protection on the Internet
- Criminal Law (1997) and amendments
 - Cyber-crimes
- NPC Decision and Ministerial Regulations on protection of personal information
 - Personal data protection on the Internet

Remarkable Growth



Source: The financial results published by enterprises, interviews with experts, and iResearch statistical model.



Booming Market

- According to China Ministry of Commerce, total ecommerce (B2B+B2C+C2C) gross merchandise volume (GMV) exceed US\$ 2.1 trillion in 2014
 - Expected to be more than US\$ 3 trillion by 2015;
- B2B remained as the dominant e-commerce sector, which made up 80% of total e-commerce GMV.
 - SME B2B accounted for more than 50% share;
 - Over 80% of large enterprises use e-commerce services
- More than 10% of consumer retail sales are with online retail (B2C+C2C).
 - 649 million Internet users
 - § 557 million mobile Internet users
 - 361 million online shoppers

National Strategy: "Internet+"

- Chinese Premier Mr. Li's Governmental Report at NPC March 2015
 - National strategic focuses on mobile Internet, cloud computing, big data, etc.
 - Action Plan for "Internet +"
 - Internet as cross-cutting stimulus for national economy
- Acceleration of lawmaking for e-commerce
 - Creating enabling law environment

E-Commerce Lawmaking

- General timetable
 - NPC decision on October 2013
 - NPC leader group
 - Expert supporting platform
 - Cross-ministerial working group
 - Initial Draft by October 2015
 - Expert Draft
 - Other Proposals (Alibaba, etc.)
 - Public consultation by June 2016
 - Finalization targeting to 2018

Draft Framework (24/03/2015)

- 1. General Rules
- 2. E-Contracts
- 3. Subjects and Objects of E-Transactions
- 4. Transactional Platform and Supporting Services
- 5. Consumer Protection and Market Competition
- 6. Policy to Stimulate E-commerce
- 7. Cross-border E-commerce
- 8. Dispute Resolution Mechanisms
- 9. Governmental Regulation
- 10. Legal Liability
- 11. Miscellaneous

Ambition, Purpose and Scope

- 21st Century basic economic law
 - Not confined to any industry or area
 - Applicable to e-commerce in the territory of China and/or involving Chinese parties
- Correlation with existing laws
 - Not to duplicate
 - © Coherence, improvement (e.g. E-Signature Law)
- Flexibility for future development
 - Framework and specific rules

Principles

- Basic principles
 - Simulation of innovation
 - Minimization of governmental intervention
 - Multi-stakeholder governance
 - Free flow of information
 - Improvement of regulatory regime
- Normative principles
 - Technological neutrality
 - Functional equivalence
 - Non-discrimination

Facilitation of Cross-Border E-Commerce

- International cooperation
 - Accession to UNECC
 - Mutual recognition of e-sign, certificates and validity of e-contracts
- Working for national Single Window
 - Commitment to NSW in October 2014
 - Administrative coordination among customs, MoC, AICs, Taxation, Quality Inspection, Post
 - Building e-customs
- Data sharing and protection
- Tax benefit
- FDI

Conclusion

- Ambitious goal to establish a comprehensive e-commerce legal framework
- Holistic approach for strategic economic development

THANK YOU!

