



**ASEAN ICT
Forum
on Child Online
Protection**



2nd Annual ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

“Strengthening Ties to Protect Children in Online Environments”

Justice, Rights-based Supports, Prevention

THE NEED FOR AN ASEAN ICT FORUM ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

Among internet users, Asia has the highest rate of child internet use globally and in 2022, around 73 per cent of young people ages 15-24 in Asia and the Pacific were regularly connected. Along with the many benefits for children, risks in online contexts are also apparent, including risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse. 1% and 20% of internet-using children within six ASEAN Member States reported experiencing child sexual exploitation and abuse in online contexts in a 12-month period.

Recognizing the rapidly growing numbers of children at risk of online harms, the need to accelerate action on child online protection and the necessity of providing guidance for ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Heads of State adopted the Declaration on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in 2019, followed, in 2021, by the endorsement of the Regional Plan of Action to support implementation of the Declaration.

Priority Action 7 of the Regional Plan of Action highlights the critical role of collaborations between industry and the private sector in preventing and responding to online harms, and calls for an annual convening of industry, government and other sectors to identify key actions and areas for collaboration.

THE FIRST ASEAN ICT FORUM ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

The first convening was hosted by Cambodia in 2021. This inaugural ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection brought together Government representatives from nine countries in ASEAN and 42 small, medium and large industry actors active in East Asia. Following a consultation with 321 children and young people from ASEAN countries, young people issued a Call to Action at the first Forum directed at industry and Governments. Participants discussed and shared knowledge and rich new data about the scale and scope of online child sexual exploitation and abuse in our region, shared experiences in designing technology in ways to protect children from first principles, and shared experiences of effective collaborations between government, industry, civil society and young people about online safety. Positive outcomes from the Forum included calls to establish an ASEAN Industry Working Group and commitments to reconvene in 2023.

THE SECOND ASEAN ICT FORUM ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

Capitalizing on the success of the inaugural ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection, the second forum will be held in **Bangkok 23-24 November 2023** under the leadership of the Representatives for Children's Rights of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia and Thailand of the ASEAN Commission for the Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).

**23-24
November
Bangkok**

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FOCUS AREAS OF THE SECOND ASEAN ICT FORUM ON CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION

The Forum aims to provide a positive space for discussion and collaboration between industry active in the region and Government and other key actors to ensure children are safe online. The second ASEAN ICT Forum will provide an opportunity to continue building collaborations, share perspectives, good practices and guidance on:

- **Keeping children safe through legislative and regulatory reform:** Progressing legislative reforms and practical regulation; deliberations of the regional Industry Working Group; future proofing legislation in the face of rapidly evolving technology, including AI.
- **Enhancing access to justice and support:** Cross border justice collaboration – outcomes of the regional law enforcement dialogue; enhancing collaboration with between industry and justice; new tech tools for online protection; expanding reporting mechanisms with industry; and innovative, collaborative and child-centred response and support systems for child victims.
- **New research and findings on what works to prevent online harm:** Preventing sextortion and sexual harassment; ensuring diversity and inclusion in prevention initiatives; equipping parents to support young children online; introduction of new online tool for evaluating impact of educational initiatives; safety by design – ensuring online protection is built into the digitization of education.
- **Strengthening collaborative solutions:** Industry, government, law enforcement and civil society are already collaborating to find and deploy solutions and the Forum allows successes to be emphasized and new opportunities to be identified.

What can you expect from the ASEAN ICT Forum?

- Collaborative, positive space to identify and inspire regional and national action to keep children safe online;
- To hear directly from young people about their experiences in the digital environment and what they expect from the ICT sector, Government and other actors;
- To learn from experts, leaders, industry actors and governments in the field of child online protection, including on cutting edge technologies;
- To share your perspectives, experiences and challenges on key topics of legislation, justice, victim support and prevention;
- Learn about the progress of the ASEAN Industry Working Group on Child Online Protection;
- Engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders on COP and create connections beyond the Forum.

When will the ASEAN-ICT Forum on Child Online Protection take place?

The 2nd ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection will take place in Bangkok on **23rd and 24th November 2023** and will be co-hosted by the Royal Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Thailand. The event will be in person format with key sessions live streamed to enable wide engagement opportunities.

Who should attend?

ACWC, ASEAN sectoral bodies, ASEAN Member State governments representing ICT, social welfare, education; law enforcement; industry representatives from large, medium and small technology companies active in the region; and UN, development partners, academia, civil society, and advocates for online safety.