# Save the Date: 2nd and 3rd November 2022

ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

**Background**

It is estimated that close to 3 out of 4 internet users in the Asia-Pacific region are children and youths aged between 15 and 24 years. The increased reliance on digital devices and information services has brought about [both positive and negative impacts on children and young people's lives](#). On the one hand, the internet enables them to access information, learn new skills, develop social relationships and seek entertainment in unprecedented ways. On the other hand, potential threats such as exposure to inappropriate content, violations of privacy, cyberbullying, and [online sexual exploitation](#) have also manifested.

**Why an ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection?**

Recognising the influence of technology and the associated risks for children, ASEAN Member States have committed to proactively collaborate with private sector institutions to strengthen children's protection online. The ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection is the first in a series of annual events under the leadership of ASEAN creating a platform for dialogue and exchange between ICT companies, governments, civil society, academia, and children and young people themselves.

This forum will be held under the leadership of the Royal Government of Cambodia and ASEAN, with support from UNICEF, Australia's eSafety Commissioner and Australia's Attorney General's Department.

**What can you expect from the ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection?**

No matter whether your organisation is at the very beginning of its child online protection journey, or you are an experienced stakeholder in this field, the ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection will provide you with the unique opportunity to:

- hear about cutting-edge research on prevention and response to online child sexual abuse and exploitation;
- learn from the experiences of private sector companies and industry experts on measures to keep children safe online;
- hear directly from children and young people about their experiences in the digital environment and what they expect from the ICT sector;
- explore new technologies developed for the detection of online child sexual abuse and exploitation;
- engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders on child online protection, and create connections beyond the forum.

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

The first ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection will take place on 2nd and 3rd November 2022 and will be hosted by the Royal Government of Cambodia. The event will take place in a blended format and will create active engagement opportunities for both online and in-person participants.

**Who should attend?**
The event will bring together relevant ASEAN bodies, ASEAN Member State representatives, private sector companies, international organisations, NGOs, UN entities, academia, media, technical experts from the international, regional and national levels and children and youth.

Regarding private sector companies, the target audience will be companies that work on the national level or across multiple countries. It targets all company sizes, from small and start-up to medium, large and very large enterprises. Within companies, the forum aims to bring together decision makers from senior management level, as well as technical staff (potentially) involved in issues around child online protection (e.g. compliance, regulatory, sustainability teams or any other designated officer).

**How can I participate?**
Please note that this forum is only open to registered participants. Participation in the forum is free of charge. You can register here: http://bitly.ws/vimZ

**The below documents provide background to the situation of child online protection and the role of the private sector in ASEAN and beyond:**

- Regional Plan of Action (RPA) for the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse in ASEAN (2021)

- Disrupting Harm studies (2022) on practical and actionable solutions to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation both online and offline in  Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Viet Nam, and the Philippines (ECPAT International/INTERPOL/ UNICEF)

- Our Lives Online (2020): Use of social media by children and adolescents in East Asia – opportunities, risks and harms (UNICEF)

- MO-CRIA: Child Rights Impact Self-Assessment Tool for Mobile Operators (2021) (UNICEF)

- Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection (2020) (ITU/UNICEF)

- Safety by Design: putting user safety and rights at the centre of the design and development of online products and services (Australia's eSafety Commissioner)

- Responsible Innovation in Technology for Children: create practical tools for businesses and governments that will empower them to put the well-being of children at the centre of digital design (Lego Group/UNICEF)

- TRUST, Voluntary Framework for Industry Transparency (2022) (Tech Coalition)