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ASEAN MALAYSIA 2025
INCLUSIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

MINISTRY OF WOMEN,
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

"Empowering Children and Strengthening ASEAN's Commitment to a Safer Digital Future"

18 - 19 November 2025 | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



With the generous support of:

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The 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the Ministry of Communications of Malaysia, in collaboration with the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) Malaysia and Thailand, and supported by UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and UNICEF Malaysia.

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2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection was hosted by Malaysia's Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development and the Ministry of Communications, in collaboration with ACWC Malaysia and ACWC Thailand, and supported by UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and UNICEF Malaysia, with generous financial support from the Australian Office of the eSafety Commissioner, the Australian Attorney-General's Department, UNICEF Australia, and Safe Online. Convened under the theme "Empowering Children and Strengthening ASEAN's Commitment to a Safer Digital Future", the Forum brought together government, industry, civil society, academia and young people to strengthen regional cooperation and accelerate practical action to prevent and respond to online harms affecting children.

Discussions reflected a shared recognition that digital opportunities for children are expanding, while risks are evolving quickly and outpacing existing systems. The Forum therefore emphasised approaches that are both rights-based and operationally feasible: regulation and platform accountability that is proportional and adaptable; safety-and privacy-by-design; stronger prevention that addresses underlying drivers (including harmful norms and online gender narratives); accessible reporting and support pathways that children trust; and sustained capacity-building for caregivers, educators and frontline responders. Across sessions, young people reinforced that children do not want "quick fixes" that simply remove access; they want safer services, clearer accountability, and meaningful participation in shaping the digital environments they use.

A core thread through the programme was the practical design and implementation of policy responses in a diverse region. Plenary and parallel sessions examined legislative approaches (including age-related access measures and age assurance), the realities of implementation, and the risk of unintended consequences, if safeguards are not designed with equity, privacy and user experience in mind. Complementary sessions explored children's mental health and wellbeing in an always-on world, inclusion for children with disabilities and neurodiversity, and effective support to parents and educators.

A number of sessions addressed emerging and fast-scaling challenges, including the role of online gender narratives in abuse and violence (including by under-18s), pathways to harmful sexual behaviours, and the implications of AI systems, particularly AI assistants and companion-like tools, for children's rights, privacy, safety and wellbeing. Sessions on victim identification and disclosure highlighted cross-border realities and the need for coordinated referral and justice responses, while "caring for carers" centred the sustainability of the workforce required to enforce safeguards and deliver child protection outcomes.

As the final Forum convened under the current RPA (2021-2025), the 2025 convening marked a transition point: connecting implementation lessons and remaining gaps to the priorities that will shape the next phase of regional action under the extended RPA 2026-2030. The programme therefore culminated in a working session focused on moving from commitments to delivery under the extended RPA, alongside youth foresight reflections and an overview of proposed updates currently under review, due to be launched in 2026.

BACKGROUND

Thirty years on from the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), digital services are no longer “extra” in children’s lives. For many children and adolescents, online spaces are where learning, play, relationships, and participation happen day to day. This creates major opportunities, but also exposes children to serious and fast-scaling harms, including sexual exploitation and abuse, especially as connectivity expands and platforms evolve.

ASEAN’s regional response has developed in step with this shift. Early efforts focused on strengthening national legislation and improving integrated national responses, including the Regional Workshop on comprehensive and harmonised legislation to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation (Bangkok, November 2017) and the subsequent Intersectoral Dialogue on integrated national responses to end online sexual exploitation and abuse of children (Jakarta, February 2018). These processes contributed to a shared regional commitment, culminating in ASEAN’s adoption of the Declaration on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse at the 35th ASEAN Summit (November 2019). The Declaration set clear areas for national action, including stronger laws, law enforcement capability, specialised units, child protection services, data and evidence, education, and private sector engagement.

To translate these commitments into implementation, ASEAN Member States endorsed the Regional Plan of Action (RPA). The RPA recognises that effective child online protection cannot sit with governments alone. It calls for stronger, more systematic cooperation with industry, both to improve detection, reporting, and response to abuse, and to strengthen corporate policies, operational practice, and partnerships that support child protection outcomes. This is reflected in Focus Area 7, which includes an annual convening mechanism: the ASEAN ICT Forum on Child Online Protection, intended to advance minimum expectations and practical collaboration across sectors.

The first Forum was held in Phnom Penh (2-3 November 2022), bringing together government and industry actors active in the region and amplifying children’s perspectives through a youth Call to Action. The second Forum followed in Bangkok (23-24 November 2023), deepening dialogue on emerging risks and strengthening cross-border and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

The third Forum took place on 25-26 September 2024 in Bali, Indonesia, under the theme “Shaping the Future: Advancing Safety and Digital Rights for Children in a Tech-Driven World”. It was convened by Indonesia’s Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection and Ministry of Communications and Informatics, in collaboration with ACWC Indonesia and Thailand, with support from UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office. The 2024 Forum brought together government, civil society, industry and academic experts to address priority challenges in child online safety, with objectives focused on responding to the evolving technology landscape, strengthening cross-border collaboration on OCSEA, and building sustainable partnerships across sectors. Discussions emphasised the need to act earlier on emerging technologies (including generative AI), to develop workable approaches to tools such as age assurance and parental controls across diverse regulatory contexts, and to ground policy and programming in stronger evidence and research.

As the final Forum convened under the current Regional Plan of Action, the 2025 convening marked an important point of transition, linking lessons and implementation realities from the current period to the priorities that will shape the next phase of regional action.

DAY 1

Welcome remarks

Mr Robert Gass, UNICEF Representative to Malaysia, Special Representative to Brunei Darussalam



Welcoming the delegates to the Forum, Mr Gass focused on the pace and severity of emerging threats, stressing that children's lives now play out through "pixels and platforms", and that protection systems are struggling to keep up. He highlighted specific escalations – sharp growth in AI-generated child sexual abuse material, the rise of sextortion (including AI-enabled coercion), and chatbots capable of sexualised interactions and generating abusive imagery. Grounding this in Malaysia, he noted that many children encounter sexual or disturbing content unexpectedly and that significant numbers experience online sexual exploitation or abuse, yet only a small minority would use public reporting tools.

He framed these as rights violations – protection, privacy and being heard – and called for better and more accountable product design, stronger support for families and schools, and child-friendly reporting and support systems co-designed with children.

H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN

Dr Kao positioned the Forum as an ASEAN platform to keep pace with rapidly evolving online risks while reinforcing regional commitments. He highlighted the scale of harm using evidence (including UNICEF research indicating that up to 20% of internet-using children in low-and middle-income countries have experienced online child sexual abuse within the past year) and warned that generative AI is increasing both complexity and speed. He emphasised that progress depends on a whole-of-society approach that includes governments, industry, civil society, academia and communities, and encouraged sustained cooperation across ASEAN frameworks, acknowledging ACWC Malaysia and ACWC Thailand for their leadership.

YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development

The Minister welcomed delegates to the Forum that serves as a shared platform for governments, industry and civil society to advance a common mission: building a digital world where every child is safe, confident and empowered. Referencing the Forum theme, she noted that while technology is reshaping how children learn and connect, it also brings serious risks, including cyberbullying, misinformation, grooming and exploitation, as well as the emotional toll of being "always online".

Given the cross-border nature of these harms, she stressed that solutions must likewise be regional, grounded in shared learning, stronger partnerships and coordinated action.



She highlighted Malaysia's commitment to protecting and empowering children through policies and programmes aligned with CRC principles – survival, protection, development and participation – and emphasised integrating child rights into digital policy. She pointed to strengthened collaboration across government agencies and civil society to promote digital literacy, build cyber safety awareness and improve mechanisms to prevent online harm and exploitation. A consistent theme was meaningful child participation: children are not only technology users, but active digital citizens whose voices should help shape the solutions.

The Minister noted the significance of the Forum coinciding with the launch of Malaysia's updated National Child Policy and Plan of Action, described as a strengthened roadmap across the four CRC pillars, supported by 141 actions under 16 strategic priorities, including a focus on children most at risk. She also referenced ASEAN's progress through regional frameworks on violence against children and online exploitation and abuse, and previewed key Forum topics, including mental health and wellbeing, inclusion for children with disabilities and neurodiverse conditions, co-creating technology with children, and emerging issues around AI, data protection and cross-border crime. She closed with a call to action: no single country can manage digital risks alone, but collective effort can shape a safer digital future so every child can learn and connect without fear.

YAB Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

The Deputy Prime Minister framed child online protection as a matter of urgency and shared conscience, warning that digital harm is often invisible, moving through screens, algorithms and private channels, and escalating quickly before adults or systems can respond. He noted that as technology expands children's opportunities to learn, create and connect, the same innovations, particularly AI-enabled deception and manipulation, are reshaping the risk landscape, alongside persistent harms such as cyberbullying and wider exposure to damaging content. He underscored Malaysia's core principle of protecting children without limiting their potential.



Rather than disconnecting children from technology, he argued that the goal is to empower children to use digital services safely and confidently, while ensuring systems hold those who design and operate online environments accountable.

The Deputy Prime Minister then outlined a whole-of-government approach, emphasising practical measures: strengthening cybercrime-related laws and enforcement capability, investing in digital forensics, embedding digital literacy earlier in schooling, and equipping parents and teachers to guide children's online lives. He also stressed that national action cannot succeed in isolation because online harm crosses borders at speed, and urged ASEAN to match its strong regional foundations (the Declaration and RPA) with faster, more operational cooperation.

To support this, he proposed three concrete regional priorities:

- an ASEAN child-protection information exchange network to enable faster alerts, coordination and response;
- a shared digital forensics protocol to streamline cross-border investigations and evidence exchange; and
- an ASEAN digital guardianship curriculum to strengthen digital resilience, ethics and safe behaviour through schools.



The Deputy Prime Minister concluded with an official launch of Malaysia's National Child Policy and National Child Action Plan, positioning them as national vehicles for stronger legal protections, improved forensics and enforcement capacity, protection in school settings, support for families, partnerships with industry, and wider community mobilisation. He closed with a clear call for decisive action and formally opened the Forum.

Setting the scene: Objectives of the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum

Mr Miguel Musngi, Assistant Director, Poverty Eradication & Gender Division, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat



Mr Miguel Musngi outlined the objectives of the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum as a practical step in strengthening a collective ASEAN movement to prevent and respond to online child exploitation and abuse. He emphasised the Forum's role as a constructive platform for exchange, bringing stakeholders together to share the latest research and evidence on emerging risks and drivers, highlight what is working in prevention and response, and showcase progress and promising practices across ASEAN Member States. He also underscored the importance of hearing directly from young people to ensure regional action reflects lived realities.

Looking ahead, he framed the Forum as part of preparation for implementation of the extended Regional Plan of Action to 2030.

Accelerating Action for Child Online Protection in ASEAN

H.E. Wan Noraidah binti Wan Mohd Zain, Chair of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) for the year 2025



H.E. Wan Noraidah re-emphasised that the Forum sits at an important transition point for ASEAN's agenda. She noted that national reviews across all Member States have clarified progress and implementation gaps, creating a stronger foundation for priorities for the past several years. She stressed that the RPA extension is intended to future-proof the regional response and avoid narrow interventions, and highlighted strengthened focus on: earlier disruption and prevention of harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s (including stronger research and trauma-informed responses), strengthened education and awareness, especially through schools, and deeper private-sector engagement guided by minimum standards and backed by law. She also reinforced that children and young people should be treated as partners and leaders in shaping safer digital spaces.

Plenary session. Restricting access for online protection and wellbeing? Global, regional and national perspectives

Opening remarks

Dr Chew Han Ei, Head (Governance and Economy), Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore



Dr Chew opened the first thematic session of the Forum by positioning it as a reality check on the current wave of "minimum age" and access-restriction debates. He noted that rising concern about children's online lives often produces highly visible policy responses because they signal decisiveness and reassure anxious adults. However, he cautioned that when policy is driven by moral panic rather than evidence, it can become reactive and overly simplistic and risks crowding out the harder work of designing safer online environments.

At the same time, Dr Chew acknowledged that harms are real and escalating, and that doing nothing is no longer an option. His core argument was about how governments act: restrictions may have a role, but they should be treated as one tool within a broader package. He urged participants to test proposals against likely consequences that the follow-up panel would unpack in practice: whether children are pushed towards less regulated spaces; whether age and identity checks exclude some children or create new privacy and equity harms; and whether headline restrictions distract from platform accountability, safety-by-design, and workable reporting and support systems In short, he framed the task as moving from "symbolic" regulation to rights-respecting, enforceable, and proportionate measures, paired with the education, family support, and safer product design that both youth and regulators argue are essential.

Ms Julie Inman Grant, Australian eSafety Commissioner

The eSafety Commissioner thanked organisers and outlined Australia's multi-layered approach to child online safety, combining regulation, enforcement, education and systemic reform. She focused on implementation of Australia's social media minimum age obligation, described as a major global development in online safety regulation. From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media services must take reasonable steps to prevent children under 16 from holding accounts. She stressed this is a delay, not a ban, raising the minimum account age from 13 to 16, placing responsibility on platforms rather than children or parents, with no penalties for users.

She explained that regulation will be dynamic, with services reassessed as technology changes rather than relying on a static platform list. eSafety has issued regulatory guidance and begun assessing services against the new law. Platforms may choose their own compliance methods; eSafety does not mandate a specific technology or fixed accuracy threshold. Instead, she recommended a layered "waterfall" approach to age assurance, applying different measures across the user journey and backed by clear review mechanisms

Privacy safeguards were a central theme. She noted that platforms are not required to collect government ID and are prohibited from compelling users to use government or digital ID for compliance; alternative reasonable methods must be offered. She referenced an independent age assurance trial commissioned by the Australian Government, which found age assurance technically feasible and provided insights across tools, and noted an academic advisory group supporting transparent evaluation of outcomes.



Beyond the minimum age measure, she highlighted Australia's complaint and removal schemes that provide direct assistance to people experiencing online harm, alongside enforceable industry codes and standards requiring services across multiple sectors to detect and address harmful and age-inappropriate content, including child sexual abuse material, with emerging expectations for risks linked to AI-driven services.

Ms Inman Grant closed by emphasising whole-of-society responsibility and international cooperation, noting eSafety's leadership in the Global Online Safety Regulators Network and the importance of research to inform policy. Citing national survey findings showing high exposure to harmful, sexual and violent content, she urged platforms to treat safety as a baseline expectation and stressed that cross-border harms require shared action.

Rethinking restrictions through young people's eyes. Reflections from children and young people

2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group

- *Ms Thu Trang Ha*
- *Mr Lance Balungcas*
- *Ms Allyzsa Zahril*

Representatives of the Young Person Advisory Group opened the session by situating "screen time" in today's reality: digital devices are tightly woven into learning, social life, work, and emotional support, so online use is not simply "for fun". They shared personal screen-time examples and a mini-survey showing heavy daily use is now normal for young people, driven in large part by education and learning needs. They also described how the digital ecosystem has changed rapidly. Short-form video, always-on social platforms, online classrooms, and mobile games that function as social spaces make it harder to separate "online" from everyday life.



A strong thread in the youth reflections was that policy debates often focus on the user's behaviour, while overlooking the systems that shape behaviour, especially algorithms and engagement-driven design. Youth highlighted risks such as filter bubbles and hyper-personalised feeds that maximise attention, and raised concerns about new AI-enabled experiences (including AI companion tools) that can become highly engaging for young people experiencing loneliness. They argued that if restrictions are introduced without addressing design and incentives, young people will often find workarounds (for example, shifting to anonymous services or using VPNs), sometimes ending up in less regulated spaces.

Rather than “simple bans”, youth called for ASEAN to move from restriction to resilience, anchored in age-appropriate design and safety-by-design. They illustrated this with a practical framing: younger children may need more protected “walled garden” experiences, while teenagers need tools, literacy, and safer defaults, not only access limits. They emphasised that these approaches will only work if youth are included as “expert users” from the start.

The youth remarks ended with a direct call to action. They urged policymakers to implement the Regional Plan of Action through formal, funded pathways that embed youth co-design in national digital safety laws, and urged tech companies to establish meaningful youth participation mechanisms to shape product design and safety decisions. The core message was: children are not only people to protect, but essential partners in building a safer digital future.

Lessons learned in design and implementation of legislation regulating access for online safety in ASEAN and beyond

Moderator:

- *Ms Maha Balakrishnan, Research Fellow, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Asia Headquarters*

Speakers:

- *[remote] Ms Mediodecci Lustarini, Secretary of Directorate General of Digital Space Monitoring, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Indonesia*
- *Dr Chew Han Ei, Head (Governance and Economy), Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore*
- *Ms Hazel Bitaña, Deputy Regional Executive Director, CRC Asia*
- *Ms Malina Enlund, Head of Safety Policy APAC, Meta*



This plenary discussion examined what regulation can realistically achieve in a diverse region, and what must sit alongside legislation to protect children online.

From an implementation perspective, Ms Mediodecci Lustarini shared early lessons from Indonesia's child protection governance regulation for electronic system operators (PP TUNAS/GR No. 17 of 2025). She described the regulation's intent to strengthen platform accountability in response to high levels of child internet use and online exploitation risks, while stressing that legislation alone will not deliver protection without education and broader multi-sector action. She highlighted progress through a structured mapping of seven risk areas, spanning contact and content harms, privacy and data risks, addiction-related concerns, and mental and physical wellbeing indicators, and emphasised the need for clearer operator responsibilities, public awareness, age-appropriate digital experiences, digital literacy, and cross-sector coordination.

She also flagged practical constraints that complicate implementation, including balancing protection with digital opportunity, uneven digital literacy, cultural diversity, variable industry readiness, and the need for clearer operational guidelines.

In discussing a more multi-layered approach, Ms Lustarini emphasised complementary measures that sit alongside regulation, including strengthening parent-child communication and home "supporting policies", promoting balanced offline activities, improving parental controls and complaint mechanisms, and requiring platforms to embed child-protection features. The emphasis throughout was that workable implementation depends on cooperation across ministries, industry, schools, civil society and communities, with stronger support for children, parents and teachers.

Ms Hazel Bitaña brought a child rights and youth perspective, arguing that children are not asking for digital spaces to be taken away; they are asking for safer platforms, meaningful moderation (including in private and harder-to-see spaces), and reporting pathways that are responsive enough to build trust and help-seeking. She emphasised that children's evolving capacity requires nuance rather than one-size-fits-all thresholds, and highlighted the importance of prevention that addresses root drivers,

including harmful gender and social norms Drawing on youth survey findings conducted from October to November 2025, she noted that many young respondents favoured a minimum account age of 13, and anticipated negative impacts from a blanket minimum age of 16, reinforcing calls for age-appropriate design, co-creation with children, and stronger implementation of the Regional Plan of Action by all stakeholders.



From an industry standpoint, Ms Malina Enlund emphasised that inconsistent standards across apps can undermine safety outcomes. If only some services are regulated or expected to provide age-appropriate experiences, children may migrate to less safe platforms She urged governments to involve industry early in policy design and highlighted Meta's efforts to shape "teen" experiences through default settings and protections aligned with common parent concerns that include contact risks, content risks, and time spent. She also noted that parental guidance remains important for these measures to work as intended.

The discussion converged on the need for layered safeguards that combine governance and enforcement with platform accountability, privacy-preserving approaches to age assurance, clear scope and definitions, cross-sector coordination, and continuous evaluation and adaptation.

Speakers repeatedly returned to the importance of regulation that is both enforceable and equitable, avoiding approaches that inadvertently exclude children who cannot complete age checks, while still shifting responsibility toward the services that shape children's online environments.

Resources:

- Building a Digital World Designed with Youth and Children
- Online Survey for Children on Social Media Age Restrictions
- Rethinking restrictions through young people's eyes

A1. Children's mental health in an always-on world

Moderator:

- *Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Thailand Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC*

Speakers:

- *Dr Andrew Yee, Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University*
- *Ms Marie-Eve Nadeau, Head of International Affairs, 5Rights Foundation*
- *Dr Nurulwafa Hussain, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Hospital Melaka*
- *Ms Shun Lae Pyae Zaw, 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group*

This panel explored the evidence on how digital technology shapes children's mental health and wellbeing, and what actions are needed beyond simple restrictions. Dr Andrew Yee highlighted that research increasingly shows impacts depend on how social media is used (type of content, type of use, and the design of platforms) rather than time spent online, which is becoming less meaningful as so much of daily life is now digital. He pointed to emerging concerns such as "goal misalignment" (where platforms pull children away from what they intend to do) and displacement of time from activities linked to healthy development. Dr Nurulwafa grounded the discussion in clinical practice, sharing examples where online interactions escalated anxiety and distress (including panic attacks triggered by harmful comments), and where lack of guidance around device use contributed to sleep and concentration problems and intense emotional reactions when devices were removed.



Ms Shun Lae Pyae Zaw described how young people experience social comparison pressures and anxiety, noting that many are aware algorithms shape what they see and how they feel. She explained that young people try to take control, for example, by unfollowing or seeking more positive content, but remain constrained by platform defaults, peer resharing, and recommendation systems

Ms Marie-Eve Nadeau underscored the commercial incentives behind engagement-based design and described risk-by-design features including social validation loops and "fear of missing out", dopamine/anticipation dynamics, and seamless interfaces such as endless scrolling that undermine self-control and make it hard to disengage. She cautioned that "parental control" tools can create a false sense of security if the wider system is engineered to keep children online.



In the discussion on collective action, Dr Nurulwafa emphasised parenting and relationships – being present, building connection first, and supporting children to develop internal self-regulation – alongside integrating digital literacy and ethics into education and including harmful internet use in school mental health screening. Dr Yee called for research to move beyond deficit narratives and focus on mechanisms and features that cause harm, including more representative data that does not over-rely on well-connected populations. Ms Shun Lae reinforced the need to include marginalised groups (including rural communities and LGBTQ young people) and highlighted that social media can also be a lifeline where mental health stigma is high.

Key takeaways reinforced shared responsibility, safety-by-design expectations for industry, addressing inequalities in access and agency, strengthening support systems around young people, and ensuring young people's voices shape solutions.

Resources:

- Risky by Design – Children's mental health in an always-on world
- 5Rights Foundation. Disrupted Childhood. The cost of persuasive design
- Understanding the Mental Health Impact of Global Challenges on Gen Z. UNICEF Perceptions of Youth Mental Health Report 2025

A2. Finding the right balance in implementing social media age restriction. Policy and technology

Moderator:

Ms Vaishnavi J, Founder, Vyanams Strategies (VYS)

Implementation of the Social Media Minimum Age law

Ms Sarah Fox, Manager International Engagement, eSafety Commissioner

Learnings from the Australia Age Assurance Technology Trial

Mr Tony Allen, Chief Executive, Age Check Certification Scheme



This session examined practical and policy questions behind minimum age approaches for social media, with a focus on implementation realities. Ms Sarah Fox outlined the Australian model for "world-first" social media age restrictions. As mentioned by the eSafety Commissioner during the plenary session, from 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms must take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from creating or keeping an account, with enforcement responsibility placed on platforms rather than children (and no penalties for under-16s who attempt to access age-restricted services).

Ms Fox explained that the restrictions target risks associated with logged-in use, including design features that increase time spent on platforms and the potential exposure to harmful content affecting health and wellbeing. Finally, she highlighted how scope turns on service classification: in general, age restrictions apply where a service has online social interaction as a sole or significant purpose, allows users to link to or interact with other users, and allows users to post material. This is subject to exclusions set by legislative rules (made in July 2025), which exclude categories such as online gaming and standalone messaging apps, while leaving open inclusion for messaging services with social-media-style interaction features or messaging accessed through age-restricted social media accounts.

Shifting to implementation of policies like Australia's social media minimum age, Mr Tony Allen positioned age restriction as a familiar regulatory concept (comparing with other age-limited goods and services), while discussion with participants quickly moved to operational issues: what happens to existing under-16 accounts; how monitoring and evaluation will work (including periodic checks and platform self-reporting); and how to manage unintended impacts such as migration to other services.



During the follow-up discussion, questions were raised about bias (including age, skin tone, and race), affordability, and who certifies/validates tools. The session noted the need for credible accreditation schemes and practical guidance for companies (including clarity on “who verifies” and feasible options, especially for smaller services). The discussion also flagged interoperability challenges and whether these systems can work across multiple domains and platforms A final strand was feasibility in lower-resource contexts, with a suggestion that burden and costs should not sit with individual families, including potential approaches that shift obligations and costs towards industry.

Resources:

- Learnings from the Australia Age Assurance Technology Trial
- Age Assurance Technology Trial. Final Report
- eSafety Commissioner – Social media age restrictions hub

B1. Online safety, wellbeing and rights for children with disability and neurodiversity

Moderator:

- *Prof Kenneth Poon, Singapore Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC*

Voices of Young Persons with Disabilities

- *Ong Zi Kin*
- *Waffi Izzuddin bin Adam Pang Khong You*
- *Siti Bayu binti Mohd Ridzuan*

Speakers:

- *Mr Puay Tiak Lim, Chair, ASEAN Disability Forum*
- *Dato' Dr Amar-Singh HSS, National Early Childhood Intervention Council (NECIC)*
- *Ms Sarah Fox, Manager International Engagement, eSafety Commissioner*
- *Mr Khong You Pang, Youth Representative*

This session aimed to deepen understanding of the distinct online safety, wellbeing and rights needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergent children, and to identify inclusive approaches across technology design, policymaking, and service delivery.

Opening youth remarks framed accessibility and online safety as a rights issue under the CRC, emphasising that "technology is not advanced unless it is inclusive". Youth contributors drew on focus groups and survey work with children and young people with disabilities across ASEAN, highlighting persistent barriers such as inaccessible tools and reporting mechanisms, alongside discrimination and misrepresentation online that can contribute to isolation and negative self-perception.



They identified three recurring risk clusters affecting children with disabilities: harmful threats (including impersonation and grooming), toxic culture (bullying and discrimination), and digital permanence (harmful content that remains online).



A core thread was why reporting often fails. Youth findings suggested low confidence in existing systems: respondents cited processes being too long or confusing (27%), and a belief that they would not be taken seriously (24%).

The notes also reflected that some children and young people with disabilities are turning to AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) for support because they feel more private and less judgemental, raising both opportunities and the need for safeguards.

Prof Kenneth Poon shared research insights on digital media use among students with special educational needs, noting high and variable weekly use (0-38.5 hours; around 11-12 hours on average), early introduction to digital media (around ages 2.5-3), and that parent engagement is one of the strongest protective pathways. He also noted that maternal education predicted screen time more strongly than child characteristics in the referenced research, and that digital use was primarily for play.

Speakers reinforced that inclusion must be designed in, not retrofitted. The youth representative, Mr Khong You Pang, highlighted everyday accessibility gaps (including how images and language are not designed for users with disabilities) and argued that accessibility-by-design is dynamic and requires continual improvement. Ms Sarah Fox noted eSafety's efforts to design reporting tools that better serve users with disabilities. Mr Puay Tiak Lim emphasised that ASEAN progress remains



uneven and that many countries still need greater space and capacity to advance disability rights in practice. Dato' Dr Amar-Singh highlighted risk factors such as trust, limited access and poverty, and proposed practical actions: safety-by-design that accounts for accessibility, stronger parent support networks, behaviour-change approaches (including stories and simulation exercises), and education for parents and children (including safeguards for AI-enabled tools).

The session concluded with three action pillars: Protect (advocate for comprehensive online safety laws that work for children with disabilities), Educate (integrate digital literacy into curricula), and Collaborate (improve reporting systems, ensure inclusive design, and involve young people with disabilities as co-creators).

Resources:

- Brief insights from research on Digital Media Use among students with SEN
- Online safety, wellbeing and rights for children with disability and neurodiversity
- Voices of Young Persons with Disabilities
- eSafety Commissioner – People with disability

B2. Raising children in a digital world. Empowering and supporting parents and educators

Moderator:

- *Ms Bryanna Mariñas, Founder, Global Youth-Led Movement on Ending Violence Against Children, 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group*

Evidence & practice panel

Speakers:

- *Ms Rachel Harvey, Regional Adviser, Child Protection, UNICEF EAPRO*
- *Dr Becky Pham, Assistant Professor, Temple University Japan*
- *Mr Mohd Daud bin Mohd Arif, Deputy Secretary General (Strategic), Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development*

Private sector panel

Speakers:

- *Ms Anthea Ow, Manager, Government & Public Affairs APAC, LEGO Group*
- *Ms Ying Ma, Director of Customer Service, Minors Protection Centre, Tencent*
- *Mr Jeff Wu, Co-founder, k-ID*
- *Ms Madeline Shepherd, Digital Safety Lead – Asia, Microsoft*



This session explored the widening gap many parents and educators feel between children's fast-changing digital lives and the tools adults have to guide them. Participants noted that when caregivers feel unsure, responses often swing to two unhelpful extremes: disengagement ("I don't know what to do") or heavy restriction driven by fear, both of which can reduce trust and make it harder for children to seek help when problems arise.

The evidence discussion highlighted a key programming challenge: while many digital parenting initiatives exist, relatively few have been rigorously evaluated for whether they change parenting behaviours linked to online safety (rather than only improving knowledge), and evaluation can lag behind the pace of platform change.

Dr Becky Pham emphasised that digital parenting approaches are not "one size fits all" and that strategies that work in one context may fail in another because culture, family dynamics and norms shape technology use and expectations. She argued for locally informed solutions, built through ongoing dialogue between parents, educators, policymakers and technology providers.

Offering an example of such a locally informed solution, Mr Mohd Daud bin Mohd Arif described a government programme evaluated in low-income communities that showed promising outcomes (including reduced child maltreatment and behavioural issues and improved parental confidence), with lessons used to inform national scale-up.

In the private sector portions of the session, Ms Ying Ma began by describing how Tencent's minors protection work responds to high volumes of help-seeking and is grounded in addressing psychological needs and strengthening parent-child relationships. She described scaling support through a service app for parents and children, supported by volunteers, and noted collaboration with UNICEF through a Service Centre under the "Family Guardian Initiative".



Mr Jeff Wu discussed the burden on families of managing multiple platforms and devices and pointed to the need for more unified approaches, describing k-ID's work on dynamic "permissioning" that adapts as children grow. The session also surfaced concerns about business models built on data monetisation and the importance of privacy-by-design as age assurance tools expand.

Ms Madeline Shepherd highlighted the escalating reality of peer-to-peer harms, including cyberbullying and the creation and circulation of sexualised images of classmates, and noted Microsoft's efforts to ban and disrupt such content and strengthen responses.



Ms Anthea Ow framed LEGO's approach through play as a protective and connective tool, noting evidence that play can strengthen parent-child communication and understanding (with a reported 91% of parents agreeing it helps them understand their children better).

Across both panels, speakers converged on a few practical priorities: support parents with non-judgemental, usable guidance; build digital literacy for both adults and children; keep communication open and trust-based; and push for safer product design that supports children's confidence, creativity and wellbeing, not only risk management.



Resources:

- Raising children in a digital world. Empowering and supporting parents and educators
- Parenting for the Digital Age: Strengthening Parenting Programmes for Preventing Technology-Facilitated Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- On Digital Media Risks, Intensive Parenting, and Glocal Tensions: Public Discourse and Parents' Experiences in Viet Nam

C1. Smart tools, tough choices. Demystifying content moderation on digital platforms

Facilitator:

ASEAN Industry Working Group on Child Online Protection

Supported by:

Ms KahnJi Siriprapa Weerachaising, Outreach & Partnerships Manager, TikTok

This workshop used a structured simulation to show what content moderation looks like in practice: decisions made fast, with incomplete context, and with competing priorities (child safety, expression, consistency, and feasibility). Participants moved through a "build-moderate-lead" flow to illustrate how early product and policy choices shape downstream safety outcomes.

It opened with "Your Platform, Your Rules", where groups designed a new ASEAN social platform, drafted three community rules, and selected only two basic safety features from a limited menu (e.g., report button, block/mute, basic filters, "think before posting" prompts). The constraints mirrored real start-up trade-offs and highlighted how early decisions become structural limits.

In Round 1, groups acted as moderators, deciding in two minutes to allow, remove, or escalate each scenario, with escalation deliberately rationed. Debrief focused on the usability of rules, the importance of language and cultural nuance, and how limited tools narrowed feasible actions.



In Round 2, groups became "platform leadership" and used limited tokens designed to represent finite financial resources to invest in stronger interventions (e.g., behavioural risk detection or regional language/context expertise). Leadership scenarios introduced regulator pressure (including expectations for enforcement reporting and possible consequences such as age-gating) and partner/

funder pressure (reputational and sustainability risk). A “surprise event” then simulated Trust & Safety capacity collapse – stress leave, resignations, backlog and rising error rates – forcing groups to confront that capacity and staff wellbeing become core safety issues if not addressed and not considered from the start.

The facilitators closed with four lessons: moderation requires constant trade-offs; design and tooling drive outcomes; escalation is a real bottleneck; and moderation is often reactive, after harm has already spread. Overall, the session reinforced that content moderation is a systems problem, shaped by product design, resourcing, workflows, language/context capability, escalation pathways, and duty-of-care for Trust & Safety teams, alongside clear standards and credible accountability.

C2. From digital principles and industry due diligence to impacts on children's online safety and privacy

Moderator:

- *Ms Mediha Mahmood, Chief Executive Officer, Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia*

Speakers:

- *Ms Pichamon Yeophantong, Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights*
- *[remote] Ms Chrissy Martin Meier, Policy Director, Digital Impact Alliance*
- *[remote] Ms Gayatri Khandhadai, Head of Technology and Human Rights, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*
- *[remote] Mr Dio Herdiawan Tobing, Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Obviously Sustainable*
- *[remote] Ms Josianne Galea Baron, Child Rights and Business Specialist, UNICEF*



This session focused on translating core principles like human rights, digital development principles, and children's rights into operational practice, especially through human rights due diligence (HRDD) and benchmarks. Ms Pichamon Yeophantong explained that as regulation advances globally, companies increasingly need to implement HRDD aligned with the UN Guiding Principles, both to prevent harms and to avoid legal and reputational costs. She stressed that transparency in AI models is a central challenge: without "unpacking" systems, it is hard to assess risks and impacts. She highlighted practical steps to embed children's rights in HRDD, including engaging children and youth in consultations, improving grievance mechanisms that are often adult-centric, and taking a long-term view of how algorithms and data practices affect child development.

Ms Chrissy Martin Meier reflected on the evolution of Digital Principles and how newer emphasis areas – do no harm, inclusion, local ownership, data governance, and interoperability – need practical guidance tailored to different stakeholders. Ms Gayatri Khandhadai argued that alignment is growing but still insufficient given the scale and severity of harms affecting children, and stressed the limitations of voluntary approaches alone, advocating a "smart mix" of voluntary and mandatory measures supported by fair, consistent rules. She also noted global asymmetries where many implicated companies are headquartered in the Global North while impacts are concentrated in the Global South. Mr Dio Herdiawan Tobing emphasised the role of benchmarks in clarifying expectations, driving healthy competition, and enabling public accountability, noting that commitment indicators may improve faster than safety outcomes if child protection remains weakly measured or deprioritised.

Ms Josianne Galea Baron linked the discussion to practical risk typologies (the "5Cs") and reiterated that time spent online is a weaker predictor than exposure to harmful content. She referenced existing guidance and tools (including child rights-based approaches to business responsibility and risk assessment toolkits) and the need to integrate children's views into HRDD.

Offering an input from the audience, Mr Wu Dingping, representing China Federation of Internet Societies, described a lifecycle approach to child protection (design through deployment), combining AI, big data, and human review, and noted regulatory approaches that strengthen protections around children's data, including guardian consent, encryption, and limits on internal access.



The session concluded that principles must translate into concrete action: transparency and accountability (particularly for AI), child-rights integration (including redress), and regulatory approaches that blend mandatory and voluntary measures, with benchmarking as a driver of continuous improvement.

Resources:

- Benchmarking, standards-setting, and the role of regulation to strengthen Tech's performance on child protection and digital safety
- From digital principles and industry due diligence to impacts on children's online safety and privacy
- Corporate responsibility and the 5Cs framework – Existing tools and guidelines for business

D1. Co-designing technology and apps for children with children

Opening remarks:

Ms Yanti Kusumawardhani, Indonesia Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC

Facilitator:

Dr Kruakae Pothong, Visiting Research Fellow, London School of Economics

This workshop examined how meaningful child participation can be embedded in the design of technology and apps for children, so that digital products reflect children's rights, safety, and lived experiences, not just adult assumptions about what children need.



In her opening remarks, Ms Yanti Kusumawardhani highlighted that inclusivity remains a persistent challenge, particularly for marginalised children. She stressed that participation needs to be built into systems and processes, not treated as a one-off consultation, and noted that case management and programme approaches should integrate children's perspectives from the earliest stages.

Speakers also identified structural barriers that can undermine participation, including weak coordination, tokenistic approaches, and harmful traditional mindsets, and emphasised the need for stronger efforts to reduce tokenism and strengthen accountability. A further theme was the value of regional alignment: participants discussed the importance of harmonisation and shared standards to support child-





sensitive policies across sectors, and referenced the proposed development of an ASEAN framework on meaningful child participation, with an endorsement pathway through ASEAN mechanisms

During the workshop synthesis, participants discussed how emerging technologies, particularly AI and robotics, may shape children's relationships, learning and social development. A consistent message was that technology should support children's development and connection, rather than replace or undermine essential human relationships. Several groups also raised strong concerns about privacy, including the need for clear consent processes, strong safeguards for children's data, greater transparency, and ethical AI use in child-centred contexts. Participants recommended that language and content should be accessible for children, so they can understand digital systems and participate meaningfully in decisions that affect them.

The workshop concluded with a call to integrate these insights into child rights-based guidance and practical design expectations, and to keep children's participation ongoing and influential so that digital environments become safer, more inclusive, and more empowering for all children.

Resources:

- Co-designing technology and apps for children with children
- 5Rights Foundation – Playful by Design Toolkit

DAY 2

Plenary session

Opening remarks:

- *Ms Dinorah Granadeiro, ACWC Representative for Children's Rights and President INDDICA, Timor-Leste*

Moderator:

- *Ms Rachel Harvey, Regional Adviser Child Protection, UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific*

Panellists:

- *Ms Amanda Paton, Practice Lead, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia*
- *Prof Patrick O'Leary, Chief Investigator, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Griffith University*
- *Prof Michael Salter, Director, Childlight East Asia and Pacific Hub, University of New South Wales*
- *Mr Iain Drennan, Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance*

Ms Dinorah Ximenes Granadeiro welcomed participants and framed the plenary as part of ASEAN's shared responsibility to strengthen child online protection through coordinated, practical action. Speaking as Timor-Leste's ACWC Representative for Children's Rights and President of INDDICA, she reaffirmed national commitment to advancing this agenda with partners.

She noted that the ASEAN Declaration and the Regional Plan of Action (RPA) provide essential foundations and guidance for national efforts, and that the Forum is a key space to exchange learning and accelerate implementation. Building on the 2024 Forum, she highlighted two linked priorities now strengthened in the extended RPA: the intersections between violence against children and gender-based violence, and the rise of harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s.

Ms Granadeiro closed by emphasising that the discussion is intended to inform implementation of the extended RPA and ASEAN guidance on harmful sexual behaviours, including through the subsequent breakout session.

Beyond words. The role of online gender narratives in the abuse of children and gender-based violence, including by under-18s

This plenary explored how online gender narratives can influence children's experiences of harm and shape pathways into abusive behaviour, including peer-to-peer and under-18 harmful sexual behaviours. The panel grounded the discussion in the idea that online harms are not only about individual choices, but also about the norms, narratives, and incentives that digital environments amplify, and the gaps that arise when children lack safe, trusted guidance offline.

Ms Amanda Paton opened the evidence-focused discussion by framing sexual behaviours as existing on a continuum: some are developmentally expected, while others become concerning or harmful depending on consent, mutual respect, coercion, and context, both online and offline. She emphasised that vulnerability is rarely "one factor", and often reflects an interaction between individual characteristics (such as social difficulties or learning delays) and contextual factors (including family environment).

She also highlighted how children's exposure has shifted dramatically: instead of limited, occasional encounters, many children now face persistent and high-volume sexualised messaging, which can distort expectations and contribute to the normalisation of harmful attitudes.

Building on this, Prof Patrick O'Leary highlighted the complex overlap between victimisation and perpetration, cautioning against simplistic labels that treat under-18 harmful behaviour as purely "offending" without considering trauma histories and unmet needs. He stressed that gender stereotypes, misogyny, and homophobia can shape behaviour and peer dynamics, and that prevention requires engaging constructively with boys and young men, supporting healthier identity formation and respectful relationships. A recurring theme was the "conversation gap": when adults avoid difficult topics, young people often turn to the internet for sexual information, increasing the risk that they learn from distorted or harmful sources rather than reliable guidance.



Prof Michael Salter focused on how harmful narratives function as part of perpetration dynamics and online cultures. He described recurring messaging that minimises or reframes harm, and highlighted how masculinity norms can be tied to performing dominance or sexual entitlement. He also discussed how networked communities can reinforce harmful beliefs and share problematic material, and noted that popular culture and online subcultures can blur boundaries for adolescents. The panel flagged the growing complexity created by emerging technologies, including synthetic sexual content, which can accelerate harm and complicate response.

Mr Iain Drennan linked these insights to implementation realities and under-reporting. He emphasised stigma, blame, shame, and peer pressure as persistent barriers that keep harm hidden. He also noted that responses are often fragmented, particularly where gender-based violence and child protection systems operate in siloes, leading to reactive approaches that miss prevention opportunities. He stressed that prevention must be culturally grounded, explicitly rights-based, and designed for the reality that a significant share of sexual violence and related harms involve peers, not only adults.



Overall, the plenary reinforced that effective prevention needs to combine:

1. age-appropriate, relationship-and consent-focused education;
2. stronger alignment across GBV and child protection systems;
3. constructive engagement with boys and men;
4. better region-specific evidence (especially beyond high-income contexts); and
5. clearer expectations for platforms and services to disrupt harmful narratives and reduce exposure pathways.

Shaping online narratives and interrupting pathways to harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s – perspectives from Southeast Asia

Moderator:

- *Ms Selvi Supramaniam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Malaysia*

Panellists:

- *Ms Shamala Do Gopalakrishnan, Principal Psychologist, Senior Assistant Director, Home Team Psychology Team, Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore*
- *Mr Francesco Cecon, Head of Programme: Child Protection and Gender, ECPAT International*
- *Mr Alastair Hilton, Child Protection Consultant, up! International, Cambodia*
- *[remote] Ms Boom Mosby, Founder & Director, HUG Project*
- *[remote] Ms Chanakan Wichit (Nine), Dek Tech to the Star Project, Young Rise Thailand & Representative of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) youth consultation on technology-facilitated gender-based violence*

This reflection panel brought together Southeast Asian perspectives on how online narratives and networked spaces can shape pathways to harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s, and what prevention and response look like when grounded in local realities. Across the discussion, panellists emphasised that online environments can increase access, speed, and scale: they enable rapid contact with many potential targets, can support coercive dynamics, and can normalise harmful beliefs through peer reinforcement and community “how-to” learning.



Ms Shamala Do Gopalakrishnan highlighted an observed “online-to-offline” nexus in practice, noting that harms seen online can translate into real-world behaviours, particularly when young people are exposed early and repeatedly to sexualised or violent content and messaging. She stressed that responses need to be holistic and age-appropriate, going beyond warnings to include emotional guidance and practical support for children. A repeated point was that many adults avoid sensitive conversations, leaving children to seek information online, so prevention must also equip parents, teachers, and professionals with a shared language and clearer standards on what constitutes harmful sexual behaviour, and what supportive intervention looks like.

Mr Francesco Cecon focused on the gaming ecosystem as both a risk space and an opportunity. He noted that gaming environments are often where boys and young men spend significant time, and where identity, power, and relationships are explored, making them important sites for either reinforcing harmful norms or promoting healthier ones. He argued that gaming companies need to act as child protection actors, not just content or community managers. Practical suggestions included developing guidance with gaming companies to strengthen sensitivity and practice, using storytelling and in-game design to challenge harmful norms, tailoring pop-up prevention messaging (including by age and gender), and strengthening cross-collaboration so industry teams draw on child rights, gender, and inequality expertise.



Mr Alastair Hilton shared service-delivery reflections from Cambodia, noting that practitioners are encountering concerning exposure and behaviours at younger ages than many systems assume, and that some opportunities to intervene are missed when adults do not ask deeper questions about children’s online lives and offline wellbeing. He highlighted capacity constraints such as limited focal points within schools and prevention policies that do not yet respond to the pace of change. He cautioned against “copy-and-paste” solutions and stressed the value of local adaptation, prioritising grassroots research and context-specific approaches that reflect children’s lived realities.

Ms Boom Mosby described patterns and concerns raised through the HUG Project’s work in Thailand, including how social media incentives (attention, popularity, monetisation) can motivate harmful image-sharing and reinforce harmful norms She highlighted major gaps in support provision, including limited child-friendly specialised services and uneven access to mental health support outside urban

centres. Her prevention message centred on engaging young people directly in training and creating space for open, developmentally appropriate discussions, rather than relying on fear-based or overly punitive messaging, and strengthening safeguards in digital environments that are currently under-addressed.



Ms Chanakan Wichit reinforced that technology-facilitated harms are changing quickly and affecting younger children, and that solutions cannot be one-size-fits-all. She emphasised co-creation with young people, stronger inclusion of online safety and literacy in school curricula, and more consistent teacher training and parent engagement (including through school and family structures). She also linked prevention to wider wellbeing supports, noting that recognising mental health and workload pressures on practitioners is part of a whole-society approach.

Key takeaways from the panel converged around:

1. prevention that is holistic, age-appropriate, and grounded in relationships and emotional development;
2. shared standards and common language for professionals, schools, and caregivers;
3. stronger youth participation and co-design;
4. investment in local evidence and research; and
5. more direct engagement with youth-dense services like gaming to embed safety-by-design and interrupt harmful narratives before they escalate.

Resources:

- ECPAT International – Nerfing gender roles and rigid masculinity: A practical guide to gender-sensitive game safety and design

A3. Exploring intersections of children's rights, regulation and AI

Moderator:

- *Ms Judith Hanan, T4D Regional Manager, UNICEF EAPRO*

Speakers:

- *Ms Chikako Masuda, Head of Intelligence Research, Digital Agency, Japan*
- *Ms Marie-Eve Nadeau, Head of International Affairs, 5Rights Foundation*
- *Ms Ana Lomtadze, Head of Communication and Information Unit, UNESCO*
- *Ms Zar Motik Adisuryo, National Representative of Indonesia, AI Safety Asia*

This panel explored how AI governance and regulation can protect children's rights while enabling responsible innovation. Ms Marie-Eve Nadeau stressed that children are early adopters of AI tools, making children's rights protections urgent and systemic, not an afterthought. She argued regulation should be grounded in human rights and the CRC, built around safety-by-design to prevent discrimination and bias, and supported by accountability across the value chain, independent oversight, and participatory processes that include children.



Ms Ana Lomtadze highlighted enforcement barriers, particularly power asymmetries between regulators and large technology companies and fragmented regulatory frameworks. She also referenced UNICEF's global guidance for digital platforms and stressed governance approaches that bring in civil society and clarify responsibilities across actors. Ms Chikako Masuda emphasised the risk of misrepresenting local contexts and noted AI is increasingly shaping social behaviour, reinforcing the need for ethical direction and context-aware governance. Ms Zar Motik Adisuryo framed regulation as a catalyst for good innovation, underscoring governance infrastructure (age-appropriate design, safety-by-default, and transparent risk assessment processes, including escalation methods).



In the Q&A, participants focused on what a workable regulatory framework needs: evidence, safety-by-design, multi-sector engagement, and stronger regional and international cooperation. The moderator's synthesis emphasised that "innovation vs human rights" is a false binary; AI has no borders; children must be recognised as active subjects; and guidance should reference children's rights standards (including General Comment 25), with privacy and data protection at the core.

Resources:

- UNICEF Innocenti–Children's perspectives on their best interests and AI. How do young people feel about the AI revolution? They told us
- 5Rights Foundation–Children & AI Design Code

A4. Building actionable and impactful industry standards to protect children and their rights in digital environments in ASEAN

Moderator:

- *Ms Karla Correa, Regional Child Rights and Business Specialist, UNICEF*

Overview of Focus Area 7 of the extended Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse 2026-2030:

- *Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Thailand Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC*

Concluding remarks:

- *Ms Irma Syafrida Abd Majid, Regulatory Policy Division/Policy Development Department, MCMC*

This workshop advanced discussions under Focus Area 7 of the extended Regional Plan of Action (RPA) by testing what "minimum expectations" for industry could look like in practice, and what should be reflected in forthcoming ASEAN-specific industry guidelines, a self-assessment tool, and a benchmarking framework. Moderated by Ms Karla Correa, the session was structured as a short set of framing inputs followed by facilitated group work designed to generate concrete, ASEAN-relevant recommendations for companies operating across different levels of maturity, from start-ups and local platforms to larger regional providers.

In opening remarks, Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit positioned Focus Area 7 as an area of strengthened emphasis in the extended RPA, reflecting both the scale of children's participation online and the reality that harms can emerge across a wide range of services, not only products explicitly designed for children. She noted that the extended RPA places greater weight on prevention and systemic, long-term solutions, and that Focus Area 7 now goes beyond periodic engagement with industry towards a clearer, more consistent regional approach that can support companies to take meaningful action. She highlighted the rationale for developing the region's first contextualised industry guidelines and an accompanying self-assessment approach: many ASEAN-based companies want to do the right thing but lack practical, regionally adapted tools that align with global standards while accounting for ASEAN's varied regulatory, linguistic and digital maturity contexts. The workshop was framed as the start of a broader consultation process to ensure these tools are pragmatic and usable.

To move from principles to practical measures, participants worked from a risk typology ("5Cs") to identify minimum expectations and recommendations by risk type. A guiding question focused discussion: what standards should ASEAN promote to protect children and their rights in digital spaces, and what elements should be included in regional guidelines and a benchmarking framework. Small groups developed recommendations across five tracks – content, contact, conduct, consumer, and cross-cutting risks – and reported back in plenary.

Recommendations shared back from groups converged around a small number of actionable expectations. For contact risks, participants emphasised safety and wellbeing by design, inclusive co-creation (including children in design processes), and stronger empowerment of children and caregivers through accessible, child-friendly reporting and support. The group also highlighted the need for multi-sector collaboration under ASEAN frameworks and safer default settings, with the

ability to adjust protections in line with children's evolving capacity. For conduct risks, discussion focused on the role of product design in reinforcing harmful norms, including "rabbit holes" and feedback loops that normalise unacceptable behaviour, and the need for clearer regional concepts, standard operating procedures and minimum principles that apply across company types and sizes. Practical suggestions included child-friendly explanations of terms and safety tools at onboarding, clearer and more transparent case-management processes, and approaches that respect privacy while still enabling identification and escalation of serious harm, particularly for smaller providers with limited internal capacity. For consumer risks, recommendations centred on limiting commercial exploitation and strengthening transparency: avoiding targeting and profiling of young users for advertising, minimising data collection and being explicit about data use, enabling parent-child account pairing, using pop-up reminders and screen-time controls, requiring parental consent for transactions, and adopting clearer labelling of AI-generated content, including watermarking approaches.



In concluding reflections, Ms Irma Syafrida Abd Majid underscored Malaysia's experience in combining government oversight with industry responsibility through the development and implementation of industry codes. She emphasised that, in child online protection, compliance alone is insufficient because digital environments evolve rapidly; progress depends on sustained collaboration, capacity-building and practical guidance that supports companies at different stages of maturity. She also called for coherence across borders and proportionality in standards – ambitious enough to shift practice, but realistic across different market and regulatory conditions. She highlighted the role regional regulators and statutory bodies can play in setting minimum expectations for content moderation, data protection and complaint handling, promoting safety-by-design among ASEAN-based technology companies, and exploring regional transparency and reporting mechanisms that strengthen trust between users, platforms and regulators.




Contact Risk

B3. Ensuring rights and protection in and through digital transformation of education

Facilitators:

- *Ms Haani Mazari, Asia Lead, EdTech Hub*
- *Ms Neema Jayasinghe, Researcher, EdTech Hub*

Speakers:

- *Dr Kruakae Pothong, Visiting Research Fellow, Digital Futures for Children Centre, London School of Economics*
- *2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group:*
- *Ms Allyzsa Zahril*
- *Ms Aisha Putri Safrianty*
- *Ms Antonia Mandry, Regional Education Specialist, UNICEF EAPRO*
- *Mr Khairul Anwar M. Zaki, CEO, Pandai*

Closing remarks:

- *Mr Zainal Abas, Deputy Director General of Education School Operational Sector, Ministry of Education, Malaysia*



Facilitated by Ms Haani Mazari and Ms Neema Jayasinghe, this session examined how rapid expansion of digital learning is creating new child protection risks, particularly as generative AI becomes increasingly embedded in education platforms The session framed digital learning as now integral to education delivery across the region, while noting that protections often lag behind adoption, especially in low-resource settings where children rely on shared devices, intermittent connectivity, and limited adult supervision. Using an applied, scenario-based format, the facilitators invited participants to test what “child rights in practice” looks like at the level of product design and implementation. A set of fictional learner profiles and platform scenarios (for example, school-based and independent learners) were used to surface concrete design tensions, including privacy and data practices, commercial influence, automated content flagging, opaque decisions that affect learners, and the need for accessible remedies when mistakes occur.

Dr Kruakae Pothong reinforced the child rights implications of GenAI in education through evidence from recent work in Thailand, highlighting both perceived benefits (particularly for learning support and accessibility) and persistent risks associated with inaccurate, biased or misleading outputs and uneven access to reliable, local-language tools. A child-rights lens was emphasised throughout, including the implications for equity, privacy, safety and wellbeing when AI-enabled learning tools are deployed without adequate safeguards, transparency, or accountability.

A youth perspective was provided through contributions from the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group, Ms Allyzsa Zahril and Ms Aisha Putri Safrianty, including a video featuring peer interviews. The youth contribution highlighted that digital education can widen inequalities when connectivity is unstable, devices are shared, or learning tools are designed for "ideal" users rather than real contexts. It also underscored that many young people are confident using technology but are not consistently supported to verify information, understand privacy implications, or navigate risks safely. Examples of youth-led approaches to strengthening media and information literacy were used to illustrate how protection and empowerment need to be treated as joint goals in digital education, not as separate agendas.

From a systems perspective, Ms Antonia Mandry situated the discussion in the broader obligation to ensure children's rights to education and protection from harm are realised together, and that education systems require practical guidance on safeguarding, responsible procurement and implementation, and child-friendly reporting and support pathways in digital learning environments.

Mr Khairul Anwar M. Zaki contributed an industry perspective on the role of EdTech providers in operationalising safety and trust, reinforcing that learner protection cannot be treated as an "add-on" and must be built into product choices, user experience, and organisational practice.

In closing, Mr Zainal Abas reaffirmed the importance of ensuring that digital transformation in education is accompanied by safeguards that are practical for schools and inclusive for all learners.

The session concluded with a consistent message across speakers: protecting children in digital education requires clearer expectations for EdTech providers, stronger system-level capacity in schools, and design and governance approaches that treat privacy, safety, inclusion and learner agency as core requirements of quality digital learning.

Resources:

- UNICEF – Child Protection in Digital Education. Policy Brief and Technical Note
- Pothong, K. (2025). RIGHTS.AI: Children's Experiences of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Thailand

B4. Supporting victim identification and disclosure in cross-border online exploitation

Moderator:

- *Prof Elizabeth Aguiling-Pangalangan, Philippines Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC*

Opening remarks:

- *Ms Natalie Chia, Director (Research), SHE*

Speakers:

- *SAC Siti Kamsiah binti Hassan, Principal Assistant Director, Sexual, Women and Children Investigation Division (D11), Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Malaysian Police Headquarters*
- *Federal Agent Jarryd Dunbar, Liaison Officer–Kuala Lumpur, International Command, Australian Federal Police*
- *Ms Michelle Anne Lapuz, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice, Philippines*
- *Mr Nick Mays, Leader, Financial Intelligence Unit Asia Pacific / Middle East at Western Union*

This session examined why identification, disclosure, and support for children affected by cross-border online sexual exploitation and abuse can be slow and inconsistent and what practical changes could make responses safer, faster, and more child-centred. The discussion reinforced that "disclosure" should not be treated as a single moment when a child speaks up; rather, it depends on whether systems can recognise signals, act quickly, and coordinate across borders, including when children are undocumented, misidentified, or moved between countries and platforms

In her opening remarks, Ms Natalie Chia shared findings from a 2023 study on online harms in Singapore, highlighting survivor experiences and recovery. She described common barriers to help-seeking, including the deep toll of harm (and its impact on trust and relationships), limited awareness of where to go for help, the "invisible" nature of online harm (including anonymity), and being silenced by blame or normalisation. Her key message was the need for a person-centred approach that prioritises dignity, safety and recovery, and treats online harm as a broader community and systems issue, not only an individual or family issue.



The panel then moved into operational realities. Federal Agent Jarryd Dunbar emphasised that law enforcement's goal is to arrest offenders, but that the biggest barrier is often triaging a "wealth" of digital information quickly enough for it to translate

into rescue and arrest. He highlighted the increasingly cross-border nature of cases and stressed the importance of clearer protocols around what information can be shared and what must remain confidential, so agencies can cooperate rapidly while protecting children's privacy. He also underscored the value of using shared goals (child safety) to strengthen cooperation with counterparts and industry partners.

Ms Michelle Anne Lapuz reflected on findings from Disrupting Harm and other national insights, noting systemic barriers that can prevent timely rescue and support. She stressed the need to engage communities and build awareness so that early warning signs are recognised and acted on, and highlighted the importance of strengthening frontline capacity beyond major cities down to provincial levels. She described a whole-of-society approach as shared responsibility across sectors, particularly because victims can move between countries, platforms and communities.

SAC Siti Kamsiah binti Hassan highlighted that cross-border cases are increasingly becoming the norm. She described the operational steps required for rescue: verifying identity and location, assessing capacity to act quickly, and deploying multidisciplinary teams that include trained cyber-investigators. She noted the importance of cooperation mechanisms, including channels for sharing information and, for high-impact operations, support through INTERPOL systems She also flagged technical challenges that can slow investigations, such as incomplete or inconsistent metadata (including timestamps across time zones) and the need for stronger preservation of metadata.



Mr Nick Mays explained how financial institutions can contribute through internal detection and reporting, while also noting constraints: companies can investigate internally and file reports, but do not control what actions follow once information is shared. He emphasised the importance of partnerships and the need to scale prevention and collaboration, including working with other industry actors. Across the discussion, financial intelligence was repeatedly framed as a key "early signal" pathway, especially where OCSEA intersects with livestreaming, sextortion, and other financially mediated exploitation.

Audience questions focused on practical coordination challenges (including inter-agency reporting mechanisms and school-linked response), barriers in victim identification when guardians are unwilling to cooperate, early signal detection constraints (including legal limits on data sharing), how agencies can share relevant information with industry partners, and investigative approaches involving cryptocurrency. Panellists emphasised that coordination mechanisms exist but often need strengthening in practice, and that scaled collaboration requires clear legal parameters, trusted channels, and agreed protocols.

Moderator's synthesis and key takeaways highlighted persistent structural barriers across justice, welfare, immigration, and industry cooperation, and stressed the need to make identification and disclosure pathways safer and more child-centred. The session closed with priority recommendations: standardised cross-border reporting and referral protocols; stronger operational liaison networks among ASEAN police units; expanded public–private collaboration (including financial intelligence where feasible); and privacy-by-design embedded into child protection mechanisms

Resources:

- Survivor Experiences with Online Harm
- 404 Help Not Found – Lived Experiences of Online Harms Survivors

C3. Preventing and responding to harmful sexual behaviour by children and adolescents in ASEAN

Moderator:

- *Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Thailand Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC*

Facilitator:

- *Ms Amanda Paton, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia*

This workshop aimed to build shared understanding and identify practical steps to prevent and respond to harmful sexual behaviour among children and adolescents. Dr Prapaporn opened by positioning harmful sexual behaviour by under-18s, especially its intersection with online environments, as a clear emerging priority for ASEAN. She noted that ACWC has identified this as an area requiring deeper focus in the next phase of regional work, and acknowledged that it is both necessary and challenging.

She also noted that Ms Amanda Paton, who would lead the discussion for the remainder of the session, has been commissioned to develop a background document to inform the development of ASEAN guidance, and emphasised that participant inputs from the workshop would be integrated into that work.

Ms Paton set out a clear definition of HSB as behaviour outside what is developmentally, socially, and culturally expected, that may cause harm to self or others, occur online or offline, and may involve lack of consent or coercion. She emphasised a continuum of behaviours and the importance of context in identifying what sits in the "concerning to serious" range. She also described a shift from linear "pathway" thinking to understanding contextual vulnerabilities, including hyper-sexualised and violent online environments, gender beliefs, peer influence, monetisation of sex, weak supervision across settings, and normalisation of sexual violence alongside individual vulnerabilities such as trauma, exploitation, poverty, disability, and isolation.



Breakout discussions surfaced recurring regional gaps: limited social work and mental health capacity, weak inter-agency coordination, inconsistent referral pathways, and uneven prevention education. Participants stressed the need for age-appropriate, gender-informed education (including reproductive health and digital literacy) starting early, and for peer support systems that address shame and stigma barriers to disclosure. Groups also highlighted the importance of not criminalising developmentally inappropriate behaviour (for example, youth sharing images) while still responding firmly to coercion and abuse. Several discussions emphasised that companies can be incentivised to treat HSB-related risks as their responsibility through clearer principles, compliance expectations, easier reporting pathways, and more structured dialogue between ASEAN stakeholders and industry.



In closing, Dr Prapaporn described the discussion as rich and energising, and confirmed that the session was intended to initiate a longer process to develop ASEAN guidance on HSB. She outlined the next steps: establishing a small expert group with members from across the region, and convening an online regional consultation to review and validate the draft guidelines once prepared. She thanked participants for active engagement and the facilitation team for guiding the session, and then transitioned the group to lunch and the afternoon breakout sessions.

Resources:

- Preventing and responding to harmful sexual behaviour by children and adolescents in the ASEAN

C4. Talking to the machines. Rethinking children's rights and online safety in the age of AI assistants

Facilitator:

- *Ms Vaishnavi J, Founder, Vyanams Strategies (VYS)*

2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group:

- *Ms Thu Trang Ha*
- *Mr Lance Balungcas*

Contributors:

- *[remote] Jeff, Senior Internet Content Analyst, Internet Watch Foundation*
- *[remote] Ms Caroline Masboungi, GBV Specialist (Technology & Innovation), UNICEF*



Facilitated by Ms Vaishnavi J, this session examined AI assistants and "AI companions" as designed social systems rather than neutral tools, focusing on how product choices shape children's trust, attachment, and exposure to harm. The discussion highlighted that these services are often built to simulate relationship-like interaction—always available, personalised, and emotionally responsive—which raises distinct child rights and safeguarding questions around consent, emotional development, privacy, and accountability.



Youth contributions from the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group (Ms Thu Trang Ha and Mr Lance Balungcas) grounded the session in lived experience. Ms Ha shared her personal experience using a chatbots for exploration and learning (for example, testing feedback from a "university admission essay reader" bot), while noting how easily an empathetic, human-like tone can create over-trust. The reflection raised core concerns about who trains these systems, where personal data goes, and how "support-like" interactions may draw in younger or more vulnerable users seeking emotional comfort—sometimes sharing highly personal information. The youth input also highlighted the developmental risk of misinformation and bias: when AI confidently presents inaccurate or skewed information, younger users may absorb it without questioning, shaping beliefs in subtle ways.

From an enforcement and harm landscape perspective, a representative of Internet Watch Foundation highlighted how generative AI is accelerating the creation and circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), including through tools that are easy to find and use, and can be misused even by young people who may not understand the harm involved. He noted that, while AI-related material still represents a small share of overall IWF caseload, image and video quality has improved rapidly, and IWF has already seen instances of large-scale production and distribution. He also warned that AI chatbot ecosystems are being actively exploited by adults seeking to simulate sexual scenarios involving children, and that enforcement can be constrained where services rely on non-image interactions or where content falls into legal "grey zones". A key operational concern was the speed with which harmful services can change appearance, migrate hosting, and continue operating, often without age gates, while monetisation incentives encourage persistence. He concluded that protecting children online requires attention not only to "mainstream" child-facing chatbots, but also to the wider ecosystem of services that normalise and facilitate sexual interest in children, alongside stronger cross-sector mechanisms to detect, disrupt and prevent re-emergence.

Ms Caroline Masboungi added a protection and service-delivery lens drawn from experience with chatbots in GBV and humanitarian contexts. The discussion acknowledged that chat-based tools can expand access to information and support where services are hard to reach, but also stressed that they can introduce serious risks if treated as substitutes for human support. Key safeguards highlighted included trauma-informed design; strong privacy and security protections for sensitive disclosures; clear boundaries on what the chatbot can and cannot do; robust escalation pathways to human assistance; testing and monitoring for harmful outputs; and co-design approaches that reflect real user needs, including local languages and low-resource contexts.

Across the conversation, participants returned to a consistent set of practical implications for ASEAN policy and industry standards:

- Design for reduced over-trust (clear cues that users are speaking to AI; limits on anthropomorphic or dependency-inducing features, especially for minors).
- Stronger privacy-by-default (data minimisation, transparent retention, limits on profiling and secondary use of intimate disclosures).
- Guardrails for misinformation and harmful advice (risk-sensitive response rules, uncertainty signalling, and safe redirection where content touches on high-risk topics).
- Child-friendly reporting and remedy (simple in-product reporting, transparent outcomes, and escalation pathways that children can actually use).
- Accountability and assurance (provider responsibility for user-generated bots and model behaviour, with ongoing evaluation rather than one-time compliance checks).

The session closed by reinforcing a central principle: as AI becomes more "friend-like" and emotionally persuasive, the standard for responsible design and governance must rise accordingly—so that children can benefit from innovation without being exposed to invisible data harms, biased influence, or unsafe reliance.

Resources:

- AI Companions for Youth
- UNICEF, Safer Chatbots. Implementation Guide
- Quire, by VYS – AI companions for children: Managing what we can't undo
- Spencer SW, Masboungi C. – Enabling access or automating empathy? Using chatbots to support GBV survivors in conflicts and humanitarian emergencies
- Internet Watch Foundation – 'Disturbing' AI-generated child sexual abuse images found on

hidden chatbot website that simulates indecent fantasies

- UNICEF Innocenti – The risky new world of tech's friendliest bots. AI companions and children

D3. Caring for carers: Supporting health and wellbeing of frontline workers

Moderator:

- *Ms Bindu Sharma, Vice President Global Policy & Industry Alliances, ICMEC*

Contributors:

- *Ms Catherine Burke, Policy Manager, WeProtect Global Alliance*

Police Senior Superintendent Huntal Tambunan, Director for Police Services, ASEANAPOL

- *Dr Mark Charoenwong, Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General of Thailand*
- *Ms Luei Jia Qi, Medical Social Worker, Malaysian Association of Social Workers*
- *Federal Agent Jarryd Dunbar, Liaison Officer–Kuala Lumpur, Australian Federal Police*
- *Ms Michelle Anne Lapuz, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice, Philippines*

Ms Sharma began the session by introducing ICMEC's work on employer responsibilities for roles exposed to distressing content, highlighting the need for trauma-informed policies that protect workers while strengthening the quality and sustainability of moderation and investigative functions. The discussion emphasised that many staff would benefit from clearer, earlier expectations of what the work involves so people can make informed choices before entering high-exposure roles.

From a research perspective, Ms Burke noted that digital frontline responders face both individual stressors and organisational pressures, and that tools and workflows are most effective when they are designed with responders, not simply "added on" later. Participants reflected that technology can reduce exposure and improve triage, but it cannot replace skilled humans or substitute for organisational care, recognition, and adequate working conditions.

Dr Charoenwong described the specific stress points faced by prosecutors working on technology-enabled child protection cases: complex cross-border processes, admissibility and handling of digital evidence, encryption challenges, and the overwhelming scale of data per case. He argued for shifting the framing from "self-care" to organisational accountability for staff wellbeing, including professional networks and structured support systems that normalise help-seeking.



Federal Agent Dunbar shared practical elements of the AFP approach, emphasising that this work should be treated as an "opt-in" pathway with deliberate screening, staged exposure, and psychological support at entry. He highlighted routine check-ins (including periodic sessions with psychologists), team debrief norms, and operational techniques (such as hash-based triage) that can reduce unnecessary exposure while maintaining investigative effectiveness.

Ms Luei Jia Qi described day-to-day pressures faced by social workers, including high caseloads, constrained staffing, and persistent stigma around mental health support within workplaces. She noted that even where basic mechanisms exist, lack of anonymity and workplace culture can discourage people from using them, reinforcing burnout and professional fatigue.

Ms Lapuz reflected on the Philippines' experience, including the importance of addressing vicarious trauma as a human sustainability issue across systems responding to violence against children. She also welcomed the value of an ASEAN-level discussion on frontline wellbeing as a pathway towards shared learning and stronger professional community across sectors.

In closing, the moderator synthesised a shared message across professions: stigma remains a major barrier to accessing care, and organisations should move from optional to structured, routine support (including normalised counselling and trauma-informed practices), especially where budgets are tight and workload pressures are rising.

Resources:

- Caring for carers. Supporting health and wellbeing of frontline workers
- The Health and Wellbeing of Frontline Responders to Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE)
- WeProtect – Health and wellbeing of frontline responders
- ICMEC – The First Line of Defence in Online Child Protection: A Model Framework for Employers of Content Moderators

Moving from Paper to Action for the extended Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse 2026–2030

The final session of the Forum focused on translating the extended RPA from an agreed framework into practical, prioritised action for 2026-2030. Drawing on the end-of-term implementation review, insights from a regional Youth Foresight process, and an overview of proposed new provisions in the extended RPA, the session reinforced that acceleration will depend on clearer minimum expectations, stronger implementation supports, and more systematic cross-sector accountability.

Reflections from the implementation review of the Regional Plan of Action 2021-2025

Drawing on a desk review, ASEAN Member States' self-assessments and national consultations, Ms Alexandra Chernyavskaya summarised key findings from the RPA end-of-term review, emphasising that these are high-level observations and that implementation varies significantly across Member States and across the different focus areas of the RPA, with more detailed findings captured in country reports and a unifying regional synthesis report due to be released in 2026.

The review found evidence of meaningful progress across ASEAN, including growing uptake of victim-centred and trauma-informed justice approaches, such as child-friendly interview rooms and adapted investigative procedures, and expanded safeguarding and support services, underpinned by clearer inter-agency coordination. At the frontline level, more countries have introduced practical case management protocols to strengthen identification, referral and support for children affected by sexual violence online and offline. Progress was associated with enabling factors such as political commitment, cross-sector partnerships, and the expansion of specialised capabilities.

At the same time, the review highlighted persistent gaps, including uneven resourcing and authority for specialised units and coordinating mechanisms; limited national data systems to track prevalence, trends and case outcomes; and inconsistent integration of prevention education (including OCSEA and cyberbullying) into school curricula.

Youth Foresight Workshop on Child Online Protection in ASEAN

Ms Alexandra Maria Odelia Tobi Casimero Lopes (2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group) presented reflections from the Youth Foresight exercise, which was designed as a forward-looking input to the Forum and the extended RPA, recognising that emerging technologies and shifting online behaviours can outpace reactive policy responses. The exercise engaged a group of youth aged 15-24 from 10 countries (Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam) through two workshops that used future-oriented methods to "future-cast" children's digital lives and identify practical priorities for the years ahead.



In her synthesis, Ms Lopes underscored that online harms are inseparable from offline vulnerabilities and exclusion, and described a "crisis of trust" that reduces help-seeking through formal systems due to fear of blame, concerns about confidentiality, and reliance on peers as a first line of response. She highlighted how youth participants analysed system failure across layers, from visible harms (including cyberbullying, scams and AI-generated deepfakes) to deeper drivers (weak safeguards and privacy protections) and underlying norms (including prioritising profit over safety and the normalisation of hateful or abusive behaviour).

Looking to 2030, she emphasised young people's call for an integrated ecosystem of care and formal mechanisms for meaningful youth participation, including stronger co-design expectations, alongside practical measures such as "wellbeing modes", mandatory labelling of AI-generated content, improved local-language capability in safety systems, and accessible "no wrong door" reporting pathways.

Regional Plan of Action 2026-2030

Ms Rachel Harvey (Regional Adviser, Child Protection, UNICEF EAPRO) outlined proposed updates to the extended Regional Plan of Action 2026-2030. The proposed extension is intended to strengthen and refresh the framework in light of updated evidence (including on prevalence and drivers), emerging risks (including generative AI), and evolving normative guidance (including CRC General Comment No. 25). The overview highlighted a shift towards a more holistic approach that integrates safety, wellbeing and rights, alongside updates to definitions and terminology and expanded attention to emerging harms such as online sexual harassment and harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s.

Key proposed additions across the focus areas included:

- **Focus Area 1** (Law and Policy): stronger alignment with ASEAN guidance on harmonised legislation; explicit inclusion of AI-facilitated exploitation; strengthened attention to monitoring digital payment systems to support OCSEA detection; clearer legal expectations for private sector wellbeing and safety-by-design; and more explicit integration of the needs of children with disabilities in policies and programmes.
- **Focus Area 2** (Law Enforcement and Judicial Capacity): new provisions recognising and mitigating vicarious trauma among justice actors routinely handling OCSEA-related cases.
- **Focus Area** 4 (Prevention): stronger emphasis on reducing pathways to offending, including a preventive public health approach for children displaying harmful sexual behaviours, and development of regional guidance on prevention and response for under-18s.
- **Focus Areas 5-6** (Reporting, Referral and Education): clearer child-friendly reporting options and national referral protocols; expanded education provisions covering online exploitation, abuse, rights and wellbeing; future-proofing through social-emotional learning; inclusion of tech-facilitated GBV and data protection; strengthened teacher guidance and training; and a proposed regional standard module on digital safety and wellbeing.
- **Focus Area 7** (Private Sector Engagement): more routine, continuous engagement mechanisms; further formalisation of the ASEAN ICT Forum and ASEAN Industry Working Group; stronger integration of child rights, safety and wellbeing by design; clearer minimum requirements for digital products; more systematic use of child rights impact assessments and due diligence reporting; a regional industry framework, including self-assessment tools; and explicit child participation in industry-led discussions.

The session concluded with a country and sector "deep dive" exercise, inviting ASEAN Member States, industry, and young people to identify priorities for accelerating implementation and to provide rapid "lightning" recommendations for ASEAN and ACWC support in the 2026-2030 cycle.

Closing remarks

Closing reflections from the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group

The Young Person Advisory Group (YPAG) closed by thanking organisers and participants for the opportunity to co-create the Forum and to lead and engage across sessions over the past two days. They noted that participating in high-level discussions is a privilege, and that they sought to carry the voices and lived experiences of other children and young people into the room.



YPAG shared six key reflections, grouped as three “Es” and three “Ss”:

- **Empathise**: They appreciated that discussions did not focus only on risks, but also took young people’s realities seriously, recognising their motivations, interests and emotions. This made them feel genuinely heard and validated.
- **Educate**: They called for education tailored to different “digital citizens” and their roles: digital literacy and emotional resilience for young people; practical guidance and tech awareness for parents; up-to-date digital pedagogy for educators; and accountability-focused training for platforms and policymakers.
- **Empower**: They emphasised that children and young people are agents of change, with the capacity and courage to contribute to safer online communities when given meaningful opportunities and support.
- **Solidarity**: They stressed the importance of standing with all children and young people, with strong representation and inclusion, so that youth voices on online harms are consistently respected and valued.
- **Systems**: They underlined that child online protection requires a systems approach, calling for coordinated action across government, industry, schools, communities and families.
- **Sustainability**: They closed by emphasising that protection efforts must be sustained and future-facing, so safeguards keep pace with rapid technological change.

H.E. Danielle Heinecke, Australian High Commissioner to Malaysia



In her remarks during the closing ceremony, H.E. Danielle Heinecke congratulated Malaysia for hosting the 2025 Forum. Her Excellency expressed Australia's pride in supporting the Forum, with assistance provided by the eSafety Commissioner, the Attorney-General's Department, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She cited data from eSafety for Australia and from the Internet Watch Foundation for the UK showing high proportions of children accessing harmful online content and the rapid uptick in generated child sexual abuse imagery. She emphasised the need to build a safer, more inclusive digital future for children, and society as a whole. Collaborative, international partnerships and working with the tech industry are key.

Her Excellency shared the value to Australia of the important opportunity the Forum provides to deepen collective understanding of child online protection, and highlighted specific interventions from the eSafety Commissioner and the Australian Federal Police. She welcomed the efforts of industry and the need for products and services to be developed and implemented with a 'safety-by-design' approach, and highlighted the need for global cooperation, citing the important milestone of the UN Convention on Cybercrime – the first global treaty to address cyber-dependent crimes including OCSEA.

Her Excellency closed by recognising the efforts of ASEAN, especially the RPA for OCSEA, and calling for a safer digital environment for all, especially children.

YB Datuk Seri Dr Noraini binti Ahmad, Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia



In closing reflections, the Deputy Minister reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment to strengthening child online protection through sustained regional collaboration and practical follow-through beyond the Forum. She emphasised that protecting children online is not solely a technical or regulatory challenge, but a shared responsibility that requires coordinated action across government, industry, schools, communities and families.

She underscored this message with a clear regional vision: building a digital environment where children can explore with confidence, learn without fear and grow safely – where technology empowers rather than endangers. She urged participants to treat the Forum's closing not as an endpoint, but as a call to collective action, noting that responsibility extends beyond ministries, policies and programmes and into everyday roles as parents, educators, mentors and community members. She closed by encouraging participants to carry the momentum forward as a shared ASEAN community committed to safeguarding children in the region, stressing that the work must continue together.

Annex 1. Forum agenda

DAY 1	
	Registration & safety briefing
8:45-9:00	**MC** – Muhammad Ammar Rafiq bin Ruslan, Assistant Secretary, International Relations Division, MWFCD **'Speaking the language' of young people online** 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group: Ms Aisha Putri Safrianty Mr Saw Lay Myint
9:00-10:00 Plenary	**OPENING** ASEAN Anthem Cultural Performance Recitation of Doa **Welcome remarks** Mr Robert Gass, UNICEF Representative to Malaysia, Special Representative to Brunei Darussalam [recorded] H.E. Dr Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN YB Dato' Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development YAB Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi, Deputy Prime Minister **Launch of the National Child Action Plan** **Group photo session of dignitaries and delegates**
10:00-10:30	**BREAK**
10:30-10:40 Plenary	**Setting the scene: Objectives of the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum** Mr Miguel Musngi, Assistant Director, Poverty Eradication & Gender Division, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department, ASEAN Secretariat **Accelerating Action for Child Online Protection in ASEAN** Highlights of the extended Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse 2026-2030 H.E. Wan Noraidah binti Wan Mohd Zain Chair of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) for the year 2025

10:45-12:45 Plenary	**Restricting access for online protection and wellbeing? Global, regional and national perspectives** **Moderator:** Ms Maha Balakrishnan, Research Fellow, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Asia Headquarters **Opening remarks:** Dr Chew Han Ei, Head (Governance and Economy), Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore [recorded] Ms Julie Inman Grant, Australian eSafety Commissioner **Rethinking restrictions through young people's eyes** Reflections from children and young people 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group: Ms Thu Trang Ha Mr Lance Balungcas Ms Allyzsa Zahril			
10:45-12:45 Plenary	**Lessons learned in design and implementation of legislation regulating access for online safety in ASEAN and beyond** Discussion panel [remote] Ms Mediodecci Lustarini, Secretary of Directorate General of Digital Space Monitoring, Ministry of Communications and Digital, Indonesia Dr Chew Han Ei, Head (Governance and Economy), Institute of Policy Studies, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore Ms Hazel Bitaña, Deputy Regional Executive Director, CRC Asia Ms Malina Enlund, Head of Safety Policy APAC, Meta			
12:45-14:00	**LUNCH**			
14:00-15:30 Parallel Sessions	**A1. Children's mental health in an always-on world** Discussion panel	**B1. Online safety, wellbeing and rights for children with disability and neurodiversity** Youth sharing & panel	**C1. Smart tools, tough choices. Demystifying content moderation on digital platforms** Workshop (limited availability, by registration)	**D1. Co-designing technology and apps for children with children** Workshop (limited availability, by registration)

Explore the evidence around the impact of digital technology on children's mental health and wellbeing, and identify collective actions that go beyond restricting access to foster resilience, connection, and safety online

Moderator:

Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Thailand Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC

Speakers:

Dr Andrew Yee, Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University

Ms Marie-Eve Nadeau, Head of International Affairs, 5Rights Foundation

Dr Nurulwafa Hussain, Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Hospital Melaka

Ms Shun Lae Pyae Zaw, 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group

Ms Ying Ma, Director of Customer Service, Minors Protection Centre, Tencent

Deepen understanding of the unique online safety, wellbeing, and rights needs of children with disabilities and neurodivergent children, and to identify inclusive approaches in technology design, policymaking, and service delivery.

Moderator:

Prof Kenneth Poon, Singapore Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC

Voices of Young Persons with Disabilities

Ong Zi Kin

Waffi Izzuddin bin Adam Pang Khong You

Siti Bayu binti Mohd Ridzuan

Speakers:

Mr Puay Tiak Lim, Chair, ASEAN Disability Forum

Dato' Dr Amar-Singh HSS, National Early Childhood Intervention Council (NECIC)

Unpack the realities of moderating user-generated content, especially CSAM, revealing the limitations of even the most sophisticated tools and highlighting the need for human judgment, ethical frameworks, and shared responsibility in creating safer digital spaces

Facilitator:

ASEAN Industry Working Group on Child Online Protection

Supported by:

Ms KahnJi Siriprapa Weerachaising, Outreach & Partnerships Manager, TikTok

Explore how meaningful child participation can be embedded in the design of digital products, and to demonstrate practical approaches for co-designing technology with children that prioritises their rights, safety, and lived experiences.

Opening remarks:

Ms Yanti Kusumawardhani, Indonesia Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC

Facilitator:

Dr Kruakae Pothong, Visiting Research Fellow, London School of Economics

	Mr Jeff Wu, Co-founder, k-ID Ms Madeline Shepherd, Digital Safety Lead – Asia, Microsoft	Ms Sarah Fox, Manager International Engagement, eSafety Commissioner Mr Khong You Pang, Youth Representative [remote] Mr Dio Herdiawan Tobing, Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Obviously Sustainable [remote] Ms Josianne Galea Baron, Child Rights and Business Specialist, UNICEF	
15:30-16:00	**BREAK**		
16:00-17:30 Parallel Sessions	**A2. Finding the right balance in implementing social media age restriction. Policy and technology.** Presentations + extended Q&A *Share insights and learning from the age assurance trial in Australia. Explore how age assurance technologies can be implemented in ways that protect children from online harm while respecting the privacy and data rights of all users, including children and individuals with varying capacities* **Moderator:** Ms Vaishnavi J, Founder, Vyanams Strategies (VYS)	**B2. Raising children in a digital world. Empowering and supporting parents and educators** Evidence, practice & impact discussion *Explore the evolving challenges parents and educators face in guiding children's digital lives, and to identify practical strategies, tools, and collaborative approaches that build adults' capacity to support children's safety, wellbeing, and resilience in increasingly connected environments.* **Moderator:** Ms Bryanna Mariñas, Founder, Global Youth-Led Movement on Ending Violence Against Children, 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group	**C2. From digital principles and industry due diligence to impacts on children's online safety and privacy** Knowledge panel *Provide practitioners with a concise overview of frameworks and practice that define minimum expectations for protecting children and their rights online. Beyond existing principles for digital development and human rights due diligence, the session will explore regulatory measures for industry accountability, practical tools and guidelines, corporate reporting, and digital benchmarks to inform a regional dialogue on industry minimum standards.*

Implementation of the Social Media Minimum Age law

Ms Sarah Fox, Manager International Engagement, eSafety Commissioner

Learnings from the Australia Age Assurance Technology Trial

Mr Tony Allen, Chief Executive, Age Check Certification Scheme

Evidence & practice panel Speakers:

Ms Rachel Harvey, Regional Adviser, Child Protection, UNICEF EAPRO

Dr Becky Pham, Assistant Professor, Temple University Japan

Mr Mohd Daud bin Mohd Arif, Deputy

Secretary General (Strategic), Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development

Private sector panel Speakers:

Ms Anthea Ow, Manager, Government & Public Affairs APAC, LEGO Group

Ms Ying Ma, Director of Customer Service, Minors Protection Centre, Tencent

Mr Jeff Wu, Co-founder, k-ID

Ms Madeline Shepherd, Digital Safety Lead – Asia, Microsoft

Moderator:

Ms Mediha Mahmood, Chief Executive Officer, Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia

Speakers:

Ms. Pichamon Yeophantong, Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights

[remote] Ms Chrissy Martin Meier, Policy Director, Digital Impact Alliance

[remote] Ms Gayatri Khandhadai, Head of Technology and Human Rights, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

[remote] Mr Dio Herdiawan Tobing, Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Obviously

Sustainable

[remote] Ms Josianne Galea Baron, Child Rights and Business Specialist, UNICEF

DAY 2

8:15-8:45 Morning coffee and networking

8:45-10:30
PLENARY

Beyond words. The role of online gender narratives in the abuse of children and gender-based violence, including by under-18s
Panel

Global perspectives on the role of negative social and gender norms and narratives across a range of online platforms in tech-facilitated harms, exploitation and abuse. What does evidence tell us?
Opening remarks: Ms Dinorah Granadeiro, ACWC Representative for Children's Rights and President INDDICA, Timor-Leste

Moderator:

Ms Rachel Harvey, Regional Adviser Child Protection, UNICEF East Asia and the Pacific

Panellists:

Ms Amanda Paton, Practice Lead, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia

Prof Patrick O'Leary, Chief Investigator, ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Griffith University
Prof Michael Salter, Director, Childlight East Asia and Pacific Hub, University of New South Wales

Mr Iain Drennan, Executive Director, WeProtect Global Alliance

Shaping online narratives and interrupting pathways to harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s – perspectives from Southeast Asia
Reflection Panel

Perspectives and examples from Southeast Asia on the role of different sectors in shaping the online narrative and preventing and responding to harmful sexual behaviours by under-18s

Moderator:

Ms Selvi Supramaniam, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Malaysia

Panellists:

Ms Shamala Do Gopalakrishnan, Principal Psychologist, Senior Assistant Director, Home Team Psychology Team, Ministry of Home Affairs, Singapore

Mr Francesco Cecon, Head of Programme: Child Protection and Gender, ECPAT International
Mr Alastair Hilton, Child Protection Consultant, up! International, Cambodia

[remote] Ms Boom Mosby, Founder & Director, HUG Project

[remote] Ms Chanakan Wichit (Nine), Dek Tech to the Star Project, Young Rise Thailand & Representative of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)youth consultation on technology-facilitated gender-based violence

10:30-11:00	**BREAK**			
11:00-12:30 Parallel Sessions	**A3. Exploring intersections of children's rights, regulation and AI** Discussion panel *Provide an overview of emerging regulatory trends and their implications for child protection and digital rights, while identifying entry points for regional cooperation, policy influence, and multisector engagement.* **Moderator:** Ms Judith Hanan, T4D Regional Manager, UNICEF EAPRO **Speakers:** Ms Chikako Masuda, Head of Intelligence Research, Digital Agency, Japan Ms Marie-Eve Nadeau, Head of International Affairs, 5Rights Foundation Ms Ana Lomtadze, Head of Communication and Information Unit, UNESCO	**B3. Ensuring rights and protection in and through digital transformation of education** Discussion panel *Assess the risks and regulatory gaps in the use of EdTech platforms, and to explore how governments, education systems, and developers can ensure these tools are effective, safe, inclusive, and accountable to children's rights* **Facilitators:** Ms Haani Mazari, Asia Lead, EdTech Hub Ms Neema Jayasinghe, Researcher, EdTech Hub **Speakers:** Dr Kruakae Pothong, Visiting Research Fellow, Digital Futures for Children Centre, London School of Economics	**C3. Preventing and responding to harmful sexual behaviour by children and adolescents in the ASEAN** Workshop *Exchange between practitioners and sectors to identify practical steps for ASEAN Member States to prevent and respond to harmful sexual behaviour among children and adolescents, building on insights shared in Plenary.* **Moderator:** Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Thailand Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC **Facilitator:** Ms Amanda Paton, Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia *Supported by speakers from the Plenary session*	**D3. Caring for carers: Supporting health and wellbeing of frontline workers** Round table *Explore the mental and emotional toll faced by professionals in child protection, justice, and law enforcement. It will surface regional challenges, share global lessons, and identify practical steps governments and civil society can take to better support the wellbeing of those working to keep children safe.* **Moderator:** Ms Bindu Sharma, Vice President Global Policy & Industry Alliances, ICMEC **Contributors:** Ms Catherine Burke, Policy Manager, WeProtect Global Alliance Police Senior Superintendent Huntal Tambunan, Director for Police Services, ASEANAPOL

	Ms Zar Motik Adisuryo, National Representative of Indonesia, AI Safety Asia	2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group: Ms Allyzsa Zahril Ms Aisha Putri Safrianty Ms Antonia Mandry, Regional Education Specialist, UNICEF EAPRO Mr Khairul Anwar M. Zaki, CEO, Pandai **Closing remarks:** Mr Zainal Abas, Deputy Director General of Education School Operational Sector, Ministry of Education, Malaysia	Dr Mark Charoenwong, Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General of Thailand Ms Luei Jia Qi, Medical Social Worker, Malaysian Association of Social Workers Federal Agent Jarryd Dunbar, Liaison Officer–Kuala Lumpur, Australian Federal Police Ms Michelle Anne Lapuz, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice, Philippines
12:30-13:45	**LUNCH**		
13:45-15:15 Parallel Sessions	**A4. Building actionable and impactful industry standards to protect children and their rights in digital environments in ASEAN** Workshop *Examine current gaps and opportunities in minimum expectations for the tech industry to protect children and their rights online in ASEAN, including industry-led efforts, and to identify practical, context-specific guidelines, standards and practices–such as human rights due diligence, codes of conduct, child rights impact assessments, corporate reporting, safety-by-design, and other accountability measures*	**B4. Supporting victim identification and disclosure in cross-border online exploitation** Discussion panel *Examine the challenges posed by the cross-border nature of OCSEA, including grooming, live-streaming, trafficking-linked scams, and sexual extortion. Identify practical cross-sector (including justice, welfare, immigration, private sector) strategies to create safer, more responsive mechanisms for victim identification, disclosure and support* **Moderator:** Prof Elizabeth Aguiling-Pangalangan, Philippines Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC	**C4. Talking to the machines. Rethinking children's rights and online safety in the age of AI assistants** Evidence, practice & impact discussion *Examine the growing role of chatbots and conversational AI in children's digital lives. Discuss opportunities, risks and design principles that ensure these tools are safe, age-appropriate, and aligned with children's rights.* **Facilitator:** Ms Vaishnavi J, Founder, Vyanams Strategies (VYS)

13:45-15:15 Parallel Sessions	**Moderator:** Ms Karla Correa, Regional Child Rights and Business Specialist, UNICEF **Overview of Focus Area 7 of the extended Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse 2026-2030:** Dr Prapaporn Tivayanond Mongkhonvanit, Thailand Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC **Thematic workshop Concluding remarks:** Ms Irma Syafrida Abd Majid, Regulatory Policy Division/Policy Development Department, MCMC	**Opening remarks:** Ms Natalie Chia, Director (Research), SHE **Panel:** SAC Siti Kamsiah binti Hassan, Principal Assistant Director, Sexual, Women and Children Investigation Division (D11), Criminal Investigation Department, Royal Malaysian Police Headquarters Federal Agent Jarryd Dunbar, Liaison Officer–Kuala Lumpur, International Command, Australian Federal Police Ms Michelle Anne Lapuz, Assistant Secretary, Department of Justice, Philippines Mr Nick Mays, Leader, Financial Intelligence Unit Asia Pacific / Middle East at Western Union	2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group: Ms Thu Trang Ha Mr Lance Balungcas **Contributors:** [remote] Jeff, Senior Internet Content Analyst, Internet Watch Foundation [remote] Ms Caroline Masboungi, GBV Specialist (Technology & Innovation), UNICEF
15:15-15:45	**BREAK**		
15:45-17:10	**Moving from Paper to Action for the extended Regional Plan of Action on the Protection of Children from All Forms of Online Exploitation and Abuse -2026-2030** **Facilitated by ACWC and UNICEF** Reflections from the a) implementation review of the Regional Plan of Action 2021-2025 b) Youth Foresight Workshop on Child Online Protection in ASEAN Overview of proposed new provisions in the extended Regional Plan of Action 2026–2030 Working session Country, sector and private sector discussions on next steps for child online protection and implementation of the extended Regional Plan of Action		
15:45–17:10	**BREAK**		

CLOSING

17:10-17:30
Plenary

Closing reflections from the 2025 ASEAN ICT Forum Young Person Advisory Group

Closing remarks

H.E. Danielle Heinecke, Australian High Commissioner
YB Datuk Seri Dr Noraini binti Ahmad, Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Malaysia

Annex 2. List of participants

NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Omar Hj Khalid	Brunei Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC	Brunei
Dayang Hajah Suhana binti Haji Sudin	Attorney General's Chambers, Prime Minister's Office	Brunei
Syazwani binti Jumat	Attorney General's Chambers, Prime Minister's Office	Brunei
Nur Syamimi Suhaimi	Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry	Brunei
Hasdinah binti Juini	Authority for Info-communications Technology Industry	Brunei
Hajah Nur Amni Alyani Haji Abd Rahman	Royal Brunei Police Force	Brunei
Ramizah Haji Razali	Ministry of Education	Brunei
Nurhasimah Haji Awang Md Daud	Ministry of Education	Brunei
Pg Hamiosmera Pg Hj Othman	Ministry of Education	Brunei
Pg Ali Shafie Pg Hj Abas	Ministry of Education	Brunei
Nay Kodombotummea	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications	Cambodia
Chan Pheakdey	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications	Cambodia
Sodany Tan	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications	Cambodia
Panhaka Hay	Ministry of Post and Telecommunications	Cambodia
Vansoeun Nuon	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport	Cambodia
Sovansideth Kim	Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation	Cambodia
Kalyan Eng	UNICEF Cambodia	Cambodia
Piseth Nhem	Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE)	Cambodia
Vannak Neng	Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE)	Cambodia
Alastair Hilton	up! International	Cambodia
Yanti Kusumawardhani	Indonesia Children's Rights Representative to the ACWC	Indonesia
Ardi Findyartini	Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology	Indonesia
Fitra Andika Sugiyono	Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection	Indonesia
Masdalina Pane	Executive Director of COSTI National Research and Innovation Agency	Indonesia
Keumala Dewi Mala	Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA)	Indonesia

Fandy Zulmi Fandy	Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA)	Indonesia
Astrid Gonzaga Dionisio	UNICEF Indonesia	Indonesia
Dzulkifly Miraj Harbani Paruki	Indonesian National Police	Indonesia
Naila Fadilah	ASEAN Disability Forum	Indonesia
Azzahra Qubais	ECPAT Indonesia	Indonesia
Huntal Tambunan	ASEAN National Chief of Police	Indonesia
Nora Evriani	SEJIWA Foundation, Down to Zero Alliance Alliance	Indonesia
Khusnul Aflah	Down to Zero Alliance	Indonesia
Aisha Putri Safrianty	Young Person Advisory Group	Indonesia
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Su Shern New	Ratio:Cause	Malaysia
Jo-Ann Ding	Luminate	Malaysia
Graciely Estefanie Rodriguez O'Hara	National AI Office Malaysia	Malaysia
Siti Nurliza Samsudin	Sinar Project	Malaysia
Mohamad Fadzil Maszuki	YKN	Malaysia
Noor Zakiyah Isa	Ministry of Digital	Malaysia
Su Anne Lee	Child Protection Specialist	Malaysia
Maha Balakrishnan	UNSDSN	Malaysia
Vincent Steven	Asia Trend Consultancy	Malaysia
Syafiqah Fasiha Ahmad Safri	BHEUU, JPM	Malaysia
Jaya Kumar	ELC Systems	Malaysia
Selvi Supramaniam	UNICEF Malaysia	Malaysia

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Robert Gass	UNICEF Malaysia	Malaysia
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Saskia Blume	UNICEF Malaysia	Malaysia
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Jessica Sercombe	UNICEF Malaysia	Malaysia
Anis Mastura Iskandar	UNICEF Malaysia	Malaysia
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SAC Siti Kamsiah binti Hassan	Ministry of Home Affairs / Royal Malaysian Police	Malaysia
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Zainal Abas	Ministry of Education	Malaysia
Mediha Mahmood	Communications and Multimedia Content Forum of Malaysia	Malaysia
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YM Tunku Latifah Tunku Ahmad	Ministry of Communications	Malaysia
Muhammad Yusuf Kamal Buang	Ministry of Communications	Malaysia
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Katie Morrow	Attorney-General's Department (Australian Government)	Australia
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Hongliang Wu	UNICEF China	China
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Catherine Burke	WeProtect Global Alliance	Global
Iain Drennan	WeProtect Global Alliance	Global
Kruakae Pothong	Digital Futures for Children Centre London School of Economics and Political Science	Global
Marie-Eve Nadeau	5Rights Foundation	Global
Tony Iain Allen	Age Check Certification Scheme	Global
Neema Jayasinghe	EdTech Hub	Global
Haani Mazari	EdTech Hub	Global
Bindu Sharma	International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children	Global
Ana Lomtadze	UNESCO	Global
Nick Mays	Western Union	Global
Pichamon Yeophantong	UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights	Global
Malina Enlund	Meta	Global
Madeline Shepherd	Microsoft	Global
Katherine (Katia) Potapov	Tech Coalition	Global
Amber Hawkes	Tech Coalition	Global
Priscilla Koh	Apple	Global
Amirah Amir	Meta	Global
Syed Khairulazrin Syed Khairuldin	GSMA	Global
Anthea Ow	The LEGO Group	Global

Siriprapa Weerachaising	TikTok	Global
Aliff Zakaria	TikTok	Global
Candera Chan	TikTok	Global
Itsaraporn Daoram	ECPAT International	Global
Julieanne Marie Tabilog	ECPAT International	Global
Abbie Witkowski	Age Check Certification Scheme	Global
Becky Pham Thi Ngoc Bich	Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ)	Japan
Chikako Masuda	Institute of Administrative Information System	Japan
Wartwick McKee	New Zealand Police	New Zealand
Andrew Walker	New Zealand Customs Service	New Zealand
Elisabeth Rapp	Royal Norwegian Embassy	Norway
Kathrine Rose Yee	World Vision International -South Asia and Pacific	South Asia and Pacific
Sang Min Hong	Korea Communications Standards Commission	South Korea
Gahyun Lee	Korea Communications Standards Commission	South Korea
Ju Young Lee	Korea Communications Standards Commission	South Korea
Niklas Wiberg	Embassy of Sweden (Ambassador)	Sweden
Vaishnavi J	Vyanams Strategies (VYS)	USA











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