

**`Welcome Remarks by AiSP President Mr Johnny Kho at
The Cybersecurity Awards 2023,
13 October 2023, 7.35 PM**

1. Good Evening

- a. AiSP Patron and Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information and National Development, Mr Tan Kiat How**
- b. AiSP Advisory Chair, Commissioner of Cybersecurity and Chief Executive of the Cyber Security Agency (CSA) of Singapore, Mr David Koh**
- c. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

2. Welcome to the Cybersecurity Awards 2023.

3. Firstly, I would like to thank SMS Tan for taking time to grace this event.

4. I am pleased to welcome all of you here this evening to The Cybersecurity Awards and Gala Dinner 2023! The Cybersecurity Awards and Gala Dinner 2023 is held this evening leading to the start of the Singapore International Cyber Week 2023 that will be happening next week.

5. This year marks the 6th year of the Cybersecurity Awards and it has grown to be an important platform to recognise cybersecurity professionals and organisations for their contributions to the borderless cybersecurity ecosystem. This is especially so, with the acceleration of digitalization which makes a robust cybersecurity ecosystem even more important to ensure the resiliency of the nation, enterprises as well as individuals.

6. **The 2023 Cybersecurity Awards was only made possible through the continual strong public-private-academic partnerships between AiSP, the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, the supporting organisations, the sponsors as well as many students, professionals and enterprises that have put themselves forward to be nominated for the awards showing our ecosystem resilience.**

7. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to firstly thank all our sponsors who not only make this event possible but are also active part of the various AiSP initiatives to promote a stronger cybersecurity ecosystem.

8. **Close collaboration from the supporting associations is key in the organisation of The Cybersecurity Awards and I want to acknowledge them as following in alphabetical order:**
 - a. **Center for Strategic Cyberspace & International Studies**
 - b. **Cloud Security Alliance Singapore Chapter**
 - c. **High Technology Crime Investigation Association Singapore Chapter**
 - d. **ISACA Singapore Chapter**
 - e. **(ISC)² Singapore Chapter**
 - f. **OT-ISAC**
 - g. **Singapore Computer Society**
 - h. **SGTech**
 - i. **The Law Society of Singapore**
 - j. **And, most importantly the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore as well as the Exco and Volunteers from the Association of Information Security Professionals.**

9. The awards is in the sixth year and this year we have over 60 professionals from AiSP and these supporting associations who have volunteered their personal time to contribute towards the organisation of this Awards. Many professionals from the various associations have taken time off from work from July to August to volunteer on the judging panels. Thus, I would like everyone to join me to thank all judges and multi-association members for their efforts.

10. Overall, across all categories, it is heartening to see that we received a 50% increase in nominations in 2023 compared to 2022. After rounds of evaluation by the various judging panels, 17 finalists were identified. My heartiest congratulations to all finalists and award winners. No matter what the outcome is, every one of us seated down here is a winner in recognition.

11. We live in a highly digitalized environment and with AI and Chat GPT as a hot topic and helping us in our work and personal life. In the age of digitalization, cybersecurity attacks have become rampant. Cybercrimes is constantly on the rise which stresses on the importance for cybersecurity and good cyber hygiene practices.

12. Great to know that many companies and individuals are passionate in joint efforts to combat adversaries and making cyberspace safer for all. Through collaborative efforts, AiSP has done outreach to more than 25,000 people on the importance of Cyber-wellness and Online Cyber Safe Practices. This was done through Roadshows at shopping malls, Community Centres and schools through various initiatives such as Digital for Life. AiSP was awarded the People Association Community Spirit Merit Award earlier this year in July 2023 for the strong advocacy of work through continuous efforts and

contributions in promoting good cyber hygiene habits and digital wellness to the masses. This will not be possible without our EXCO, our members, our student volunteers and of course our secretariat.

13. At this point, I would like to use this opportunity to reflect upon my own journey volunteering as the President for AiSP as this is my last term in office. 4 years may seem long and during this time, I am glad to see how the cybersecurity ecosystem have grown more robust and resilient. Together, we have fostered a very cohesive cybersecurity community in Singapore and taken these beyond with regional and global groups.
14. AiSP has grown in initiatives, that are carried out mainly by volunteers and supported by the secretariat. I believe that it is not only within AiSP, I am sure many of my peers from other associations have also spend significant amounts of their free time volunteering for the activities of their associations.
15. Not all contributions and achievements will be acknowledged openly or be celebrated like the awards presented tonight where not everyone will receive a nomination or award. Nevertheless, this should not undermine the significance of all the contributions, and I would encourage everyone to continue volunteering and contributing, as all our efforts matters collectively, to build a better cybersecurity ecosystem and also a better future for our next generation.
15. Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the following people:
 - AiSP Patron, Senior Minister of State Mr Tan Kiat How for lending your support in all the events and your advice and guidance for AiSP.

- AiSP Advisory Chair - Mr David Koh, AiSP Advisory Co-Chair – Ms Tammie Tham & Prof Chee Yeow Meng for your advice and guidance for AiSP through the advisory meetings.
- AiSP Immediate Past President, Prof Steven Wong
- All the AiSP EXCO Members & Management Committee for your support and walking with me for the past 4 years to bring AiSP to the next level.
- Most importantly, the AiSP Secretariat who spent countless of evenings and weekends for the events.
- This is not a goodbye, but a renewal of leadership and I hope that everyone can give whoever is the next President of AiSP the support, love and guidance you have given to me to he or she too.

16. With that, thank you and have a very enjoyable dinner and I looked forward to going to every table later to say hello and have a toast with you.