

AiSP Targets to Empower and Mentor 3,000 Aspiring Women Cyber Talents in Singapore by the end of 2023

AiSP marks its renewed commitment to promote greater gender diversity in the cybersecurity industry with the inaugural Ladies in Cyber Symposium

Singapore, 22 March 2022 – The Association of Information Security Professionals (AiSP) Ladies in Cyber Charter launched its first Ladies in Cyber Symposium this afternoon, aimed at encouraging more women to develop their passions and pursue a career in the cybersecurity and sector in the future.

The Symposium marks a new milestone for the Charter as it renews its commitment to increase women representation in the sector and sets its sights to empower and mentor 3,000 aspiring women cyber talents in Singapore by the end of 2023. This new target doubles the number of young women the Charter has engaged since its inception in November 2018.

More than 3,100 female students and 1,000 female non-cybersecurity professionals interested in joining this sector have participated in initiatives organised by the Charter since 2018. There are currently 40 female cybersecurity professionals volunteering their time to mentor female students interested in cybersecurity.



Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-Charge of Smart Nation and Cybersecurity, discussing with other women leaders on how female cyber talents will shape the future of cybersecurity (from left: Ms Sherin Lee, AiSP's Vice-President and Founder for AiSP Ladies in Cyber Initiative, Mrs Josephine Teo, and Ms Tammie Tham, Co-Chair of the AiSP Advisory Council and Group CEO, Ensign InfoSecurity)

Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information and Minister-in-Charge of Smart Nation and Cybersecurity, was the Guest-of-Honour for the event. She participated in

a dialogue session with more than 150 female tertiary students and young cybersecurity professionals. The other panellists included Ms Tammie Tham, Group Chief Executive Officer of Ensign InfoSecurity (Ensign) and Co-Chair of the AiSP Advisory Council, and Ms Teo Yi Ling, Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University.

The Symposium provided aspiring women cyber talents with insights on the cybersecurity industry in Singapore, potential employment opportunities and career paths, and how women can shape the future of this sector. The attendees also had the chance to learn more about the latest cybersecurity trends, including Artificial Intelligence in cybersecurity, Internet-of-Things security, and cybersecurity operations in the real world, through breakout sessions with AiSP Ladies in Cyber mentors.

“The Ladies in Cyber’s commitment to nurturing more female cyber talents reflects the rising need for cyber defenders to innovate and enhance their capabilities as cyber threats increase in sophistication and prevalence. We believe women have the potential to reshape the future of our industry as greater gender diversity can bring new thinking and fresh approaches to the table. This will allow us to enrich how we predict, detect, and protect against cyber threats and ensure our digital way of life stays protected,” said Ms Sherin Lee, AiSP’s Vice-President and Founder for AiSP Ladies in Cyber Initiative.

The Symposium is supported by partners from the government, industry and community such as, the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech), Ensign and Cyber Youth Singapore (CYS). It is part of the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA)’s SG Cyber Women X Series. The event is also organised as part of AiSP Cyber Wellness Programme which is supported under the Digital for Life (DfL) movement and Fund. Through the DfL movement, like-minded partners across private, public and people sectors work together to help Singaporeans embrace digital as a lifelong pursuit, so as to enrich their lives and build a safe and inclusive digital society for all.

Ensign is one of the Ladies in Cyber Charter’s longstanding and ardent industry partners. It has collaborated closely with the Charter to organise many events, learning journeys and mentorship programmes for young women over the years. This is part of Ensign’s greater commitment to nurturing future cybersecurity leaders. As a cybersecurity company, Ensign can provide real industry insights and practical career advice to aspiring cybersecurity professionals. This enables young women to better prepare themselves for the workforce by developing knowledge and honing skills that are relevant to their profession.

“Singapore’s cyber defence will play an increasingly critical role in enabling our nation’s next stage of growth as it ensures our digital economy remains vibrant, trusted, and protected from malicious cyber adversaries. By supporting more women to pursue a cybersecurity career, not only are we nurturing future cyber leaders and building a more robust and sustainable cybersecurity community, but also laying a stronger foundation for innovation through greater diversity. This allows us to continue to stay ahead of evolving cyber threats and safeguards our nation’s digital ambitions in the future,” said Ms Tammie Tham, Co-Chair of the AiSP Advisory Council and Group CEO, Ensign InfoSecurity.

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About AISP

The Association of Information Security Professionals (AISP) was registered with the assistance of the Singapore Computer Society (SCS) and the strong support of the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) in February 2008. It was officially launched on 17 April 2008 by Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports.

AISP aims to:

- To promote, develop, support and enhance the integrity, technical competence, management expertise, status and interests of information security professionals in Singapore.
- To promote the development, increase and spread of information security knowledge and of any related subject.

Please refer to www.aisp.sg or reach out to our media contacts for more details.

About the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore

Established in 2015, the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) seeks to keep Singapore's cyberspace safe and secure to underpin our Nation Security, power a Digital Economy and protect our Digital Way of Life. It maintains an oversight of national cybersecurity functions and works with sector leads to protect Singapore's Critical Information Infrastructure. CSA also engages with various stakeholders to heighten cyber security awareness, build a vibrant cybersecurity ecosystem supported by a robust workforce, pursue international partnerships and drive regional cybersecurity capacity building programmes.

CSA is part of the Prime Minister's Office and is managed by the Ministry of Communications and Information.

For more news and information, please visit www.csa.gov.sg.

About Government Technology Agency

The Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) is the lead agency driving Singapore's Smart Nation initiative and public sector digital transformation. As the Centre of Excellence for Infocomm Technology and Smart Systems (ICT & SS), GovTech develops the Singapore Government's capabilities in Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, Application Development, Sensors & IoT, Digital Infrastructure, and Cybersecurity.

GovTech supports public agencies to manage enterprise IT operations and develop new digital products for citizens and businesses. GovTech is the public sector lead for cybersecurity, and oversees key government ICT infrastructure, as well as regulates ICT procurement, data protection and security in the public sector. GovTech is a Statutory Board under the Smart Nation and Digital Government Group (SNDGG) in the Prime Minister's Office.

For more information, please visit www.tech.gov.sg.

About Info-communications Media Development Authority (IMDA)

The Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) leads Singapore's digital transformation with infocomm media. To do this, IMDA will develop a dynamic digital economy and a cohesive digital society, driven by an exceptional infocomm media (ICM) ecosystem – by developing talent, strengthening business capabilities, and enhancing Singapore's ICM infrastructure. IMDA also regulates the telecommunications and media sectors to safeguard consumer

interests while fostering a pro-business environment, and enhances Singapore's data protection regime through the Personal Data Protection Commission. For more news and information, visit www.imda.gov.sg or follow IMDA on Facebook IMDAsg and Twitter @IMDAsg.

About Digital for Life movement

The Digital for Life (DfL) national movement, launched by President Halimah Yacob on 8 February 2021, aims to galvanise the community to help Singaporeans embrace digital as a lifelong pursuit, and to enrich their lives through digital. At the same time, President Halimah also launched the flagship DfL Fund to support projects and activities promoting digital inclusion, digital literacy and digital wellness.

Learn more about the DfL movement at www.imda.gov.sg/digitalforlife

About Ensign InfoSecurity

Ensign InfoSecurity is the largest, pure-play end-to-end cybersecurity service provider in Asia. Headquartered in Singapore, Ensign offers bespoke solutions and services to address their clients' cybersecurity needs. Their core competencies are in the provision of cybersecurity advisory and assurance services, architecture design and systems integration services, and managed security services for advanced threat detection, threat hunting, and incident response. Underpinning these competencies is in-house research and development in cybersecurity. Ensign has two decades of proven track record as a trusted and relevant service provider, serving clients from the public and private sectors in the Asia Pacific region.

For more information, visit www.ensigninfosecurity.com or email marketing@ensigninfosecurity.com

About Cyber Youth Singapore

Cyber Youth Singapore is a youth-led non-profit organisation made up of approximately 100 youth volunteers in its management committee and with 1,300 youth members on its online communication platform, Discord. The idea for an open platform and community for youths to explore their cybersecurity interest was conceptualised when a group of 10 youths came together to set the foundations of this community.

The advancement of technology in recent years has seen Singapore coming up with government-led programmes to generate interests amongst youth to enter the tech scene. Interests peaked but it led to a problem - there were no permanent avenues for interested youths to further develop and grow their interests in tech. Hence, Cyber Youth Singapore was founded to be the permanent avenue for youths to hone and develop their interests in technology.

This secular and apolitical community serves only to provide youths with a safe environment to responsibly explore their interest in cybersecurity while giving back to society through public education. At the end of their fruitful journey in Cyber Youth Singapore, youths would not only have been developed and nurtured in their technical skills but also in terms of soft skills. A holistic and all-rounded experiential journey, covering self and leadership discovery is how Cyber Youth Singapore is envisioned to be. The value this would bring to youths in Singapore fuelled the creation of this community.

Over the past two years since its inception, CYS has impacted and reached more than 3,000 youths across Singapore. Through monthly meetups, workshops, seminars and programmes aimed at youth empowerment, CYS has been able to value add the development of the local youth in tech community.

More information about CYS can be found on our website at www.cyberyouth.sg



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Annex – Additional Quotes

Ms Lim Bee Kwan, Assistant Chief Executive for Governance and Cybersecurity, GovTech said: “GovTech believes a diverse workforce and an inclusive work environment are crucial factors to be innovative and user-centric, as we fulfil our mission of 'Engineering a Digital Government, Making Lives Better.'”

Today, GovTech has various outreach & engagement efforts towards early and professional female talent while we actively support industry initiatives, including the AiSP Ladies in Cyber Symposium.

As a female tech leader, I am encouraged by the growing interest in cybersecurity among current and upcoming female tech talent. I urge the industry to continue working together closely so we can make greater strides in achieving better gender diversity in tech as a whole. “

Ms Gwenda Fong, Assistant Chief Executive for Policy and Corporate Development, Cyber Security Agency of Singapore said: “Cybersecurity is a team sport, and we need to grow a robust, competent and diverse talent pipeline – consisting of both men and women of varied backgrounds – to support Singapore’s cybersecurity needs and our digital defence.

This event complements CSA’s SG Cyber Women initiative which is aimed at encouraging greater female participation in the cybersecurity industry. A career in cybersecurity is a rewarding one. We are happy to see women professionals step forward to share their insights and offer their guidance to women and girls aspiring to join this exciting and fast-growing profession. “

Ms Dawn Low, Cluster Director for Digital Readiness, IMDA said: “AiSP’s inaugural Ladies in Cyber Symposium showcases the positive changes to society by leading Singapore women in tech. Their efforts inspire fellow women to embrace digital knowledge and skills, and to pursue their aspirations in cybersecurity and beyond. This resonates with the Digital for Life (DfL) movement where Singaporeans embrace digital to thrive in Singapore’s digital future. We are pleased to support this important industry effort by AiSP, our DfL partner, and welcome more to join us in building a digitally inclusive society.”