

## Ensign InfoSecurity and AiSP Partner with Cyber Youth Singapore to Engage and Mentor 3,000 Youths in Singapore, Enabling Them to Pursue Cybersecurity Careers in the Future

*New collaborations to provide more tailored programmes to help students develop their capabilities based on their digital skills proficiency, paving the way for more youths to enter cyber defence industry*

**Singapore, 24 March 2021** – Ensign InfoSecurity (Ensign), Asia's largest pure-play cybersecurity firm; the Association of Information Security Professionals (AiSP); and Cyber Youth Singapore (CYS), a youth-run nonprofit organisation that focuses on cybersecurity, signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) to provide more targeted skill-appropriate training and development opportunities for students in Singapore.

These two MoUs will also give rise to more programmes that will pair the right industry mentors with youths who are interested in cybersecurity and might pursue it as a career. Additionally, there will be new initiatives designed to better prepare youths for the future cybersecurity workforce by equipping them with the pre-requisite skills and knowledge and giving them greater clarity on whether pursuing a cybersecurity career is the right move for them.



**Ensign – CYS MoU signing**

*From left: (1) Ms Sherin Lee, Head, APAC Marketing, Brand & Communications, Ensign; (2) Ms Tammie Tham, Ensign; (3) Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information & Ministry of Health; (4) Mr Ben Chua, CYS; (5) Mr David Chua, Chief Executive Officer, National Youth Council.*

The push to get more cybersecurity professionals employed will intensify as the pandemic accelerates digitalisation across the nation and organisations continue to leverage digital technologies to position themselves for the future. These two MoUs will foster greater

collaboration between these organisations as they work towards the common goal of inspiring, identifying, and nurturing Singapore's future cybersecurity professionals.

"The demand for cybersecurity talents will continue to grow as organisations reinforce their digital capabilities and lean on technology to capture the new opportunities emerging from the recovery of the economy. Our partnership with CYS is part of Ensign's greater commitment to nurture future cybersecurity leaders, ensure our nation's cyber defence can keep pace with its evolving digital ambitions, and enable our people to capitalise on the job prospects in this burgeoning sector," said Ms Tammie Tham, Chief Executive Officer of Ensign InfoSecurity.

### Customising engagement programmes according to youths' cybersecurity proficiency level

Most youth engagement activities today are organised based on students' education level rather than the level of their cybersecurity knowledge and competencies. Under these two MoUs, AiSP, Ensign, and CYS will be adopting a new approach and develop new initiatives that will cater to students' varying cybersecurity and digital skill levels and their specific interest in the cybersecurity industry.

Programmes under the two MoUs will be split into three board categories:

- **Beginner** – Activities here are focused on raising students' cybersecurity awareness and giving them opportunities to explore the industry by exposing them to different cybersecurity roles. AiSP's [Student Volunteer & Recognition Programme \(SVRP\)](#) is one example which allows participants to broaden their horizon through volunteering.
- **Intermediate** – Programmes here are focused on students with good cybersecurity knowledge and technical skills. Activities, such as capture-the-flag competitions, are developed to test and hone industry-relevant skillsets. There will also be mentorship opportunities that can pair students with specific interest and skills, such as penetration testing of cyber defence, with a matching industry mentor.
- **Advanced** – Initiatives here are typically designed for students with good cybersecurity fundamentals. Students can participate in training programmes focused on subjects such as cybersecurity strategy and threat hunting. This will expose them to more real-world scenarios and deepen their experience while allowing them to acquire more industry-relevant expertise.

### Ensign-CYS MoU: Enhancing employability in the growing cybersecurity industry for tertiary school students

This first MoU, signed by Ensign and CYS, is focused on enhancing tertiary school students' cybersecurity literacy and providing them with opportunities to gain industry knowledge and develop relevant, practical skills that will increase their employability in this sector.

Ensign aims to tap on the CYS member base and its network of tertiary institutions to engage more youths who are passionate in cybersecurity and help them further develop their professional capabilities and technical skills through a series of activities - including training curriculum, workshops, and learning journeys - that cater to students with different digital competency levels.

As a key member of the Singapore cybersecurity community, Ensign is committed to grow the local talent pool for the industry and expose our youths to the promising opportunities a career in cybersecurity offers. To that end, Ensign will also be offering on-the-job learning experiences through internship and work placement programmes for CYS members looking to pursue a career in this sector. Ensign is looking to take on at least 15 interns in 2021, including these CYS members.

These internship opportunities can give students a better understanding of cybersecurity operations in the real-world and the different types of roles available in the industry. This allows them to consider where their interests and talents lie before they join the workforce. The experience and skillsets these individuals acquire as interns can also give them a head-start in their career in this sector. The growing importance of digital in enabling our economy makes cybersecurity an essential requirement and a career in the sector can be very rewarding.

### **Ensign committed to achieve greater female representation in cybersecurity sector**

Besides expanding its youth engagement activities, Ensign is also looking to foster the next generation of cyber talents and expand the cybersecurity talent pool by encouraging more young women to consider cybersecurity as a career.

Ensign aims to hire females for at least 50% of its internship positions in 2021. Together with AiSP Ladies in Cyber charter, Ensign also has plans to hold a learning journey event in June 2021, designed to spark female students' interest in pursuing a cybersecurity career. Both organisations will also organise a youth symposium in November this year to connect female students with industry professionals. This gives them the chance to interact with their role models and find mentors that match their interest.

### **AiSP-CYS MoU: Igniting greater interest in cybersecurity among secondary school students**

The second MoU between AiSP and CYS will facilitate closer collaboration between the two organisations to jointly develop education programmes and outreach activities and increase the number of volunteers from secondary school students.

By leveraging the CYS network, AiSP is aiming to spark the curiosity in cybersecurity among youths at an even younger age, and then sustain their interest throughout their education journey with a wide range of other engagement programmes. This will help encourage more students to choose cybersecurity as an education pathway and eventually as a career when they enter the workforce.

Additionally, many of the cybersecurity engagement initiatives targeting youths with intermediate or advanced cybersecurity skillsets are focused on students in tertiary institutions. With this partnership, AiSP also aims to evolve the way they engage youths and help them develop their competencies by tailoring their programmes to youths' specific interest and proficiency levels, instead of their age group.

"When it comes to digital skills, especially for cybersecurity know-hows, we can no longer try to train students based on their education level. A secondary school student could be even more skilled in hacking and coding than a university student. Hence, customising training and development opportunities as well as pairing them with the most suitable mentors needs to be the approach the industry takes when nurturing the next generation of cyber defenders for our nation," said Mr Freddy Tan, Association of Information Security Professionals EXCO Lead for Student Volunteer Recognition Programme.

"CYS is excited about these new partnerships with AiSP and Ensign, and the opportunities they can provide in helping youths discover their aptitude and calling for cybersecurity. They can also benefit much more from programmes customised to their different interests and proficiency levels. This enables them to accelerate their development as well as acquire and improve practical skills that are more relevant to the future professions they are working towards, allowing them to better prepare themselves before we enter the workforce", said Mr Ben Chua, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cyber Youth Singapore.

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**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](http://www.ensigninfosecurity.com) or email [marketing@ensigninfosecurity.com](mailto:marketing@ensigninfosecurity.com)

**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.

**About Cyber Youth Singapore**

Cyber Youth Singapore, a nonprofit youth organisation run entirely by youth. With a focus on cyber security, the organisation seek to empower youth in Singapore with a platform to safely and responsibly explore their interest in technology alongside their peers.

For more information, visit <https://www.cyberyouth.sg>.

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