



For Immediate Release

**Straits Interactive to enhance competencies of Data Protection Officers in Hong Kong, India and ASEAN**

***CIPM Professional Certification training course now available in these locales to meet expected shortage of Data Protection Officers***

31 August, 2017 - Straits Interactive, a data privacy specialist announced the availability of the Certified Information Privacy Manager (CIPM) training course in Hong Kong, India and the ASEAN region. The objective is to enhance data protection competencies and meet the expected shortage of data protection officers (DPOs).

Research by the IAPP has shown that approximately 75,000 data protection officers will be needed worldwide in response to the EU's upcoming General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The GDPR requires public authorities in Europe, as well as companies engaged in certain data processing activities to have a data protection officer. This includes such companies located in the ASEAN region, Hong Kong and India that have European operations or that market to Europeans, as well as the ASEAN, Hong Kong and Indian subsidiaries of companies with their HQ in the EU. Singapore's Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) as well as the Philippine's Data Privacy Act (DPA) also mandate appointment of a DPO.

"The combined impact of the GDPR, and the mandatory appointment of DPOs in Singapore and the Philippines will require DPO skill sets that are currently lacking in the region. We project that Singapore alone will require over 10,000 professionals with data protection expertise over the next three years while the Philippines will require even more skilled DPOs given its population size and role in business process outsourcing," said Kevin Shepherdson, CEO, Straits Interactive. "This is expected to have a domino effect on organisations operating in the ASEAN region, in Hong Kong and in India as HQs in Europe, as well as regional subsidiaries start to impose GDPR requirements on their data processors and other outsourced vendors who 'touch' personal data."

Said Rona Morgan, Managing Director, IAPP Asia, "The CIPM, which provides the how-to of privacy management, is recognised as one of the world's premiere credentials for data protection officers. Since introducing the CIPM course with Straits Interactive in Singapore in 2014, the number of certified DPOs locally has seen an annual three-fold increase. The CIPM course is now available locally in India, where there are significant outsourced business processing activities, as well as in countries with data protection laws in the region such as Philippines, Malaysia and Hong Kong."

The availability of the CIPM course will coincide with a new body of knowledge from IAPP that takes into account the GDPR and includes more emphasis on enabling organisations to demonstrate compliance and accountability with the data protection laws to the respective data protection regulatory authorities.

To strengthen the hands-on component of the course, Straits Interactive will make available to course participants its popular DPMS (data protection management system) platform, so they can better perform their roles as a DPO with enhanced automation, collaboration and productivity in conducting privacy audits and data protection impact assessments as well as collating data inventory and flows.

More information about the courses in the region can be found at Straits Interactive's website, [www.straitsinteractive.com](http://www.straitsinteractive.com)

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#### About Straits Interactive

Straits Interactive delivers end-to-end governance, risk and compliance solutions that enable trusted business and responsible marketing, especially in the area of data privacy and protection.

Recently voted one of the Top 25 Compliance Solutions Providers in the Asia Pacific by Asia Pacific CIO Outlook magazine, we help businesses achieve operational compliance and manage risks through a combination of cloud technology and professional services.

Our software-as-a-service solutions include the Data Protection Management System (DPMS), Governance, Risk & Compliance System (GRACIAs) and the SpiderGate Do-Not-Call Management System, all of which are supported by professional services that include advisory services, audits, and training.

More information about the company can be found on [www.straitsinteractive.com](http://www.straitsinteractive.com).

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