



Media Release

## **Four courses offered by SMU Academy and Straits Interactive aligned with PDPC's DPO Competency Framework & Training Roadmap**

*Singapore, 18 October, 2019* – SMU Academy and Straits Interactive Pte Ltd, the largest curriculum provider for data protection courses in ASEAN, today announced that starting from 2020, SMU's data protection curriculum that is delivered by Straits Interactive will be aligned to the nine competencies that form the DPO Competency and Training Roadmap recently announced by the Personal Data Protection Commission (PDPC). This is in support of the Singapore Government's strategy to position the country as a regional hub for data protection as well as to meet the shortage of data protection professionals.

SMU Academy's current data protection curriculum comprises 11 data protection modules that are part of its two advanced certificates which together, lead to an advanced diploma in data protection. From 2020, two new modules - "Software Applications: Integrating Design Thinking with Data Protection Requirements" and "Data Governance and Ethics" – will be added to the data protection curriculum. As a result of this alignment, all new course participants who join the advanced diploma programme from 2020 and complete all 13 modules satisfactorily would have covered all the competencies that form the roadmap.

**Dr Lim Lai Cheng, Executive Director, SMU Academy, said,** "We are making an effort to ensure that all our curriculum align with the key competencies identified by the PDPC that are needed for a Data Protection Officer. In doing so, we will be able to provide a full competency roadmap to anyone attending our courses. As the largest curriculum provider of data protection courses, we are happy to be doing our part and contributing to Singapore's endeavour to become a regional hub offering best practices and courses in data protection."

The four courses that have been given mapping approval under the PDPC's DPO Competency and Training Roadmap are:

1. A Practical Approach to Data Protection for DPOs
2. Data Protection Framework and Standards: ISO 29100, Nymity Accountability and APEC Privacy Framework
3. Advanced Data Protection Techniques: Data Protection by Design, DPIA & DPTM
4. Data Protection Management Programme (DPMP)

**Kevin Shepherdson, CEO of Straits Interactive and Head of the Data Protection Excellence (DPEX) Centre, said,** “Integrating the DPO competencies as outlined in the PDPC’s DPO Competency Framework and Training Roadmap for all the courses that we deliver for SMU Academy allows us to also provide a regional benchmark for DPO competencies needed in ASEAN, where many of the countries data protection laws are relatively new. Many organisations in the ASEAN countries are new to data protection, and look for thought leadership in data protection practices from Singapore, where our PDPA is relatively more mature. We hope to add value to the ASEAN privacy framework.”

Information about the PDPC’s DPO Competency Framework and Training roadmap can be found at [www.pdpc.gov.sg/dp-competency](http://www.pdpc.gov.sg/dp-competency) while information about the range of data protection courses can be found at [www.dpexcentre.com](http://www.dpexcentre.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 DPOinBox and Governance, Risk & Compliance System (GRACIAS), 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).

### **About Singapore Management University**

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU’s mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and to produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. SMU’s education is known for its highly interactive, collaborative and project-based approach to learning

Home to over 10,000 students across undergraduate, postgraduate professional and post-graduate research programmes, SMU, is comprised of six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law, and School of Social Sciences. SMU offers a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in the disciplinary areas associated with the six schools, as well as in multidisciplinary combinations of these areas.

SMU emphasises rigorous, high-impact, multi- and interdisciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance. SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities around the world, as well as with partners in the business community and public sector. SMU’s city campus is a modern facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with business, government and the wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

### **About SMU Academy**

Launched in April 2017, SMU Academy is the professional training arm of the Singapore Management University. With its pillars of Financial Services; Human Capital Management & Leadership; Technology & Intelligent Systems; and Service, Operations & Business Improvement; the Academy leverages SMU’s reputation and linkages to prepare our workforce with the competencies, skills upgrading and career resilience required for the future economy. <http://academy.smu.edu.sg>

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