



For Immediate Release

Straits Interactive and UTCC School of Law enter Memorandum of Agreement to professionalise data protection in Thailand

Programmes developed in partnership with the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC), one of Thailand’s leading universities, aim to help operationalise Thai data protection law and establish high standards for data protection careers

Bangkok, Thailand, 20 September, 2022 – Straits Interactive and the School of Law, UTCC, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to deliver data protection programmes in Thailand.

The Institution will also join the Data Protection Excellence (DPEX) Network, a professional community where organisations, institutions of higher learning, and certification bodies actively promote the advancement of data protection and privacy in Asia.

The data protection courses at the School of Law, UTCC, will focus on the practical and operational aspects of data protection to support compliance with Thailand’s Personal Data Protection Act, which came into force fully on 1 June 2022.

Mr. Atip Bijanonda, Vice Chairman, Board of Trade of Thailand, said, “The PDPA is very new in Thailand. Since there has not been a clarification from a trustworthy source or relevant organisations, fear of non-compliance arises among people and business organisations when the information about PDPA is incorrectly communicated and interpreted. In order to prepare organisations for compliance and prevent data breaches from occurring, which can lead to complaints or litigation filed by a data subject, as well as to prepare organisations in an area of data security, this hands-on programme is focused on an operational perspective, which will provide course attendees with comprehensive skills to comply with the law from an operation’s point of view.”

Assistant Professor, Dr Natharika Chan, Dean, School of Law, UTCC, further added, “Data protection is fast becoming a business culture in Asia. Our aim is to ensure that those whose jobs mean that they are responsible for companies complying with the law undertake these courses so that they are well-equipped to deliver data protection operational compliance. The courses will be comprehensive, covering the operational aspects of data protection from a local as well as global perspective.”

Today, Asia is fast progressing in data protection and privacy laws. China's Personal Information Protection Law came into force in November 2021, and Japan and Korea have both been enhancing their data protection laws in the last year or two. Thailand's PDPA coming into force is consistent with regional developments.

Within the ASEAN region, all five founding members are expected to have a data protection law (majority with requirements to appoint a data protection officer) in place within the next year. Thus, with these new data protection laws being implemented, the shortage of trained and experienced data protection officers (DPOs), professionals who are well-versed in data protection and privacy, will become apparent.

Said Kevin Shepherdson, CEO, Straits Interactive, "The DPEX Network covered five data protection trends for 2022 in the beginning of the year with one trend predicting that DPOs would be in great demand this year. With Thailand's law now in force, we anticipate demand for DPOs there to also be on an upward trend. UTCC's long history of focusing on business and adult education, as well as its association with the Thai Chamber of Commerce, makes them an ideal partner to deliver this foundational data protection course. We're excited to be collaborating with UTCC to extend data protection knowledge within the Thai market and look forward to working together to bring more certification courses in data protection to Thailand."

Courses at the School of Law, UTCC, will commence 23-25 November 2022. Further information about the courses can be found on the School of Law, UTCC website, <https://go.dpexnetwork.org/ueYsy>.

In addition to UTCC within the DPEX Network, supporting organisations include the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), of the Philippines; SMU Academy; EITSC Philippines; European Data Protection Law Review (EDPL); EXIN; the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP); and the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM).

More information about DPEX Network, Asia's largest community of DPOs and data privacy professionals, can be found at www.dpexnetwork.org.

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About

School of Law, UTCC

UTCC, is a private university in Bangkok, Thailand, operated by Thailand Chamber of Commerce (TCC). UTCC is the oldest private non-profit higher education institution offering degrees in Business Administration, Accounting, Economics, Humanities, Science, Communication Arts, Engineering, Law, etc. It is a place where academic theories and business experiences are integrated to produce graduates who can successfully meet today's business challenges.

School of Law, UTCC was founded in 1996. Our mission is to be a leader in teaching, research, and study of business law. Through our teaching, we strive to produce graduate

students who will become future business lawyers at the highest quality and integrity. Through our research and study, we have partnered with the government and private sector in taking on challenging and timely problems. By utilizing our knowledge and excellence in teaching, we provide consulting, training, and research services to ensure our students acquire practical skills for success.

Straits Interactive

Straits Interactive delivers sustainable data governance solutions that help organisations create trust in today's data-driven world. As trusted advisors to SMEs, MNCs and data protection authorities in the region, we provide comprehensive competency, consulting and capability roadmaps in data protection and governance. We enable these competencies by partnering top universities in the region and international certification bodies to provide advanced diplomas, degrees and certification courses. Our hands-on advisory services, combined with our software-as-a-service solutions, help reduce risk and create value from data to help businesses achieve their digitalisation and innovation objectives.

Media:

School of Law, UTCC

Asst.Prof. Dr. Apinya Bunditwuthisagul

Programme Co-ordinator

Email: apinya_bun@utcc.ac.th

Straits Interactive Pte Ltd

Ms Angela Schooling

Marketing & Communications Director

Telephone: (65) 98222625

Email: angela@straitsinteractive.com