



Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding Workshop

Conference Report

7 December 2023, Online

ITUEvents

Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding workshop

09:00-17:00 Thailand Standard Time (GMT+7)
7 December 2023
Virtual meeting

<http://itu.int/go/O3MO>
www.itu-cop-guidelines.com

The banner features a young girl wearing headphones, smiling, with her arms resting on a stack of books. The background is orange and includes various icons: a globe with a lock, a shield with a checkmark, a fingerprint, a laptop with a lock, a password field with asterisks and a lock, a person with a checkmark, and a small ITU logo in the bottom right corner.

Organized by: International Telecommunication Union



ITU Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Website

Contact Us

itu-ro-asiapacific@itu.int



Twitter URL:

<https://twitter.com/ITUAsiaPacific>

Official Twitter account:

@ITUAsiaPacific



Official LinkedIn account:

ITU Regional Office

for Asia and the Pacific

List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APAC	Asia-Pacific
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
ASEAN	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
COP	Child Online Protection
CSEA	Offline Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
CSR	Corporate social responsibility
DITRDCA	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
FGDs	Focus Group Discussion
FIA	Federal Investigation Agency
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
GICT	Girls in ICT
ICT	Information, Communication, and Technology
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LMIC	Low- or Middle-Income Country
MDDC	The Ministry of Digital Development and Communications

MoITT	Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication
MoWECP	The Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection
NCA	The National Cybersecurity Authority
NCSA	National Cyber Security Agency.
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OCSEA	Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PIPL	Personal Information Protection Law
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module
UN	United Nations
UNRCO	UN Resident Coordinator Office
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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1. Background of the Child Online Protection Programme

[The Child Online Protection \(COP\) programme](#) is an initiative which was established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in November 2008 within the framework of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda. The initiative was supported by the United Nations Secretary-General, states, and several international organizations. ITU's COP initiative is an international collaborative network to protect children worldwide against cyber threats by assisting the countries and stakeholders with legal, technical, and organizational measures and empower them to fully benefit from the opportunities of the online environment.

ITU and the Government of Australia, represented by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, and the Arts (DITRDCA), funded a project on COP for the Asia-Pacific region in June 2019. This project aims to strengthen the COP framework(s) in selected Asia-Pacific countries with special emphases on providing guidance, developing and disseminating guidelines, building human and institutional capacity, enhancing stakeholders' engagement and increasing awareness. The beneficiary countries include Bhutan, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Thailand and Cambodia.

As the project was concluded at the end of 2023, ITU organized a concluding workshop to bring together key stakeholders, experts, and beneficiaries from the Asia-Pacific region. The workshop was a crucial platform for reviewing project achievements, exchanging insights and sharing experiences, and engaging in constructive discussions to ensure that the knowledge gained, and outcomes achieved during the project's implementation continue to be applied beyond its completion in December 2023.

2. Overview of project implementation

[The Child Online Protection \(COP\) for Asia-Pacific](#) has successfully undertaken a series of impactful activities aimed at strengthening child online protection in the Asia-Pacific region.

The key activities and outputs include:

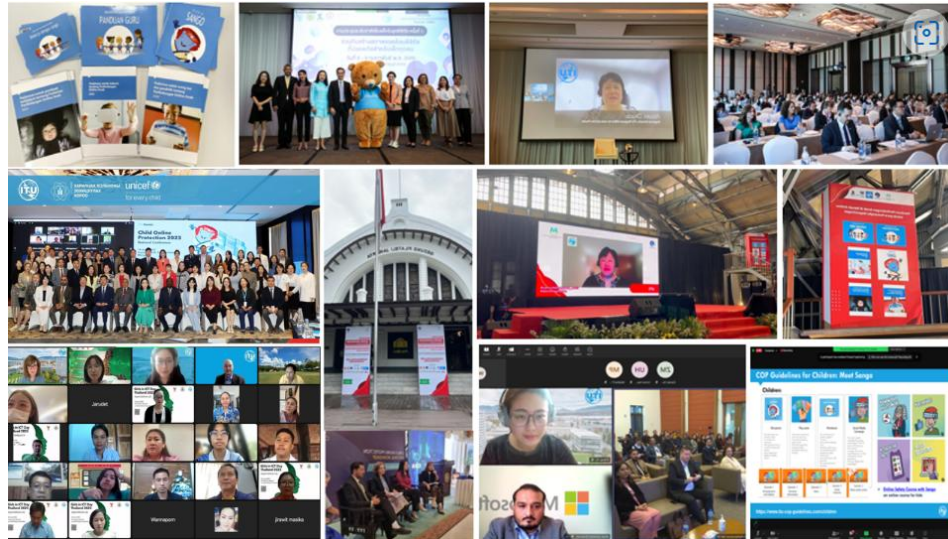
a. Development of translated and localized ITU COP Guidelines:

ITU COP Guidelines were translated into local languages, including Indonesian [Bahasa](#) language, [Mongolian \(including sign language\)](#), and Thai language, and developing tailored and localized national COP guidelines for Bhutan and Cambodia. These activities ensured that critical child protection information was accessible and disseminated widely, strategically reaching diverse communities in the region.



b. Organization of national COP conferences, Focus Group Discussions, workshops and trainings:

A series of regional and national COP conferences, focus group discussions methodology protocol, task force meetings, and COP trainings were undertaken and conducted as per the COP Asia and Pacific [website](#). These initiatives aimed to raise awareness, build capacity, share newly obtained knowledge, and enhance collaboration among stakeholders. As a result of these events, policymakers, educators, parents, industry partners and children were equipped with the necessary skills and tools to address online risks effectively.



c. Production of COP national assessment reports:

The project undertook the crucial task of producing COP national assessment reports for Bhutan, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Thailand. These reports have been reviewed by the beneficiary country focal points, UNICEF Country Offices and provided valuable insights into the state of child online protection in each country, provided the need assessment and gap analysis, along with policy recommendations to improve and strengthen existing COP mechanisms. These National Assessment Reports will serve as valuable roadmaps for ongoing efforts to strengthen child online protection in the country, demonstrating the tangible impact of collaborative initiatives in safeguarding the digital well-being of children.

d. Development of COP national strategies or roadmaps:

ITU made significant contributions to the development of comprehensive national strategies, policy briefs, and action plans in the COP beneficiary countries, to the Presidential Child Online Protection roadmap of Indonesia. These strategic frameworks provide clear pathways for coordinated efforts and sustainable initiatives to protect children in the digital space.

The project has yielded remarkable outcomes and impressive results, fostering and contributing to a safer digital environment for children across the Asia-Pacific region.

The overall outcomes of this project are:

- a. **Strengthened capability** of stakeholders from the 6 beneficiary countries (Bhutan, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia, Mongolia and Cambodia) in building safety and security for protecting children online, including parents and educators, policymakers, industry partners and children themselves.
- b. **Increased awareness** at regional and national level on the importance of child online protection in the accelerated development of the digital society and digital economy.
- c. **Improved engagement** of stakeholders and cooperation amongst the government and academia, international organizations, industry and media, civil society, and parents and educators.

In general, the above-mentioned project has resulted in **tangible and significant progress towards protecting children online in the Asia-Pacific region**. By **developing localized COP guidelines, conducting capacity-building events, producing assessment reports, and formulating national strategies**, the project has fostered a more informed and empowered community of stakeholders.

The collaborative efforts have paved the way for a safer and more secure digital environment for children, and the project's activities will continue to have a lasting impact in the region's ongoing commitment to child online protection.

3. Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding Workshop

The ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific successfully organized the Child Online Protection Regional Concluding Workshop on 7th December 2023, to review and highlight project achievements, share experiences and lessons learned, and foster collaborative partnerships with a total of 50 participants actively joining the event online. The workshop featured panel discussions with UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations, government representatives, industry and children's rights stakeholders, academia members, and ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoys. The beneficiary countries' representatives from Mongolia,

Bhutan, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia, Cambodia and The Philippines interactively showcased their national COP regulations/strategies and good practices as well as delivered their appreciation for the support from ITU and the government of Australia to make the COP localized work a big success. UNRCO Thailand, UNICEF, UNODC, ILO, APT and ECPAT as the key partners with ITU in the field of COP also presented during the opening and the panel discussions.

Workshop outcomes

The collaborative discussions centered around enhancing the safety and well-being of children in the digital age. The following key outcomes emerged:

- **Regional Challenges and Trends:** Participants collectively identified and discussed prevalent challenges faced by children online, including cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content, and privacy concerns. An overview of emerging trends in online activities among children in the Asia and the Pacific region was presented.
- **Policy and Legislative Frameworks:** Robust discussions focused on the need for harmonized regional policies and legislative frameworks to address online child protection effectively. Participants emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts among countries to create and enforce comprehensive regulations.
- **Educational Initiatives:** The workshop highlighted the significance of digital literacy and educational initiatives to empower children, parents, and educators. Best practices and successful case studies in implementing educational programs for online safety were shared and discussed.
- **Industry Collaboration:** Representatives from the tech industry engaged in dialogues on responsible business practices and the development of age-appropriate design standards. The workshop emphasized the pivotal role of industry players in creating safer online environments for children.
- **Cross-Sectoral Partnerships:** Stakeholders emphasized the need for strengthened collaboration among government agencies, industry, academia, and civil society. The

workshop encouraged the formation of cross-sectoral partnerships to develop and implement effective child protection strategies.

In summary, the workshop outcomes reflect a collective commitment to advancing child online protection in the Asia and the Pacific region. The insights gained and actionable points identified during the workshop will serve as a foundation for ongoing collaboration and initiatives to safeguard the digital well-being of children.

4. Participants' Contributions

The concluding workshop comprised of government officials, representatives from UN agencies, civil society organizations, the education sector, industry, law enforcement officials, parents, children and youth, academia, and media representatives in the Asia-Pacific region. The full workshop agenda is in the Appendix of this report.

4.1. Opening Segment

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Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding workshop

Opening segment

09:00-09:30 Thailand Standard Time (GMT+7)
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Welcome Remarks
Dr. Atsuko Okuda
Regional Director, ITU
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Special address
Ms. Pauline Ross
Acting Assistant Secretary, Online Safety Branch, Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Special address
Ms. Ayako Kaino
Deputy Representative,
UNICEF Mongolia

Special address
Mr. Masanori Kondo,
Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity APT

Special address
Mr. Guillaume Landry
Executive Director, ECPAT International



Speakers for Opening Segment

4.1.1 Welcome remarks

Welcome remarks of the COP concluding workshop were delivered by **Dr. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, ITU**. She opened the workshop by expressing the sincere appreciation to ITU's esteemed partner, **the Government of Australia, Ms. Pauline Ross, Acting Assistant Secretary**, for joining the event, and expressed gratitude for the continued support and collaboration of the Government of Australia in promoting child online protection and well-being in the digital realm. Dr Okuda also expressed her gratitude to **Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity APT, Ms. Ayako Kaino, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Mongolia, and Mr. Guillaume Landry, Executive Director, ECPAT International as well as UNRCO Thailand, UNODC and ILO** who also joined the event, as well as to representatives from the ministries of Bhutan, Pakistan, Mongolia, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and the Philippines, and the industry sectors and children's rights representatives for being part of this important event.

Dr. Okuda emphasized to the audience that young people are the driving force of the global connectivity, with 75% of 15 to 24-year-olds online in 2022, compared with 65% for the rest of the world's population and that the advancement of ICTs has created unprecedented opportunities for children and young people, while posing significant challenges and threats. She provided a brief overview of the ITU's COP initiative as an answer to these online risks and threats and shared some highlights of the journey in the last 4 years. Dr. Okuda acknowledged that these achievements stand as a testament to the collaborative spirit and commitment to safeguarding children within the digital landscape.



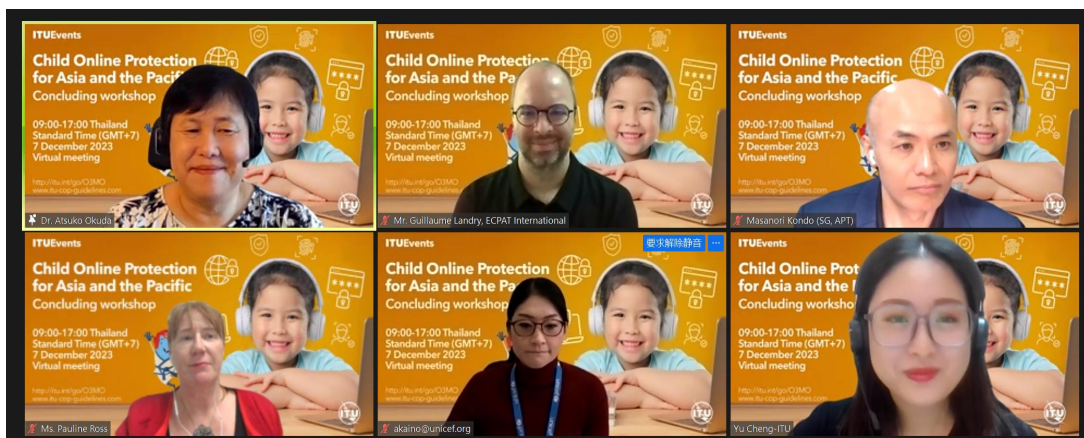
She concluded her opening remarks that the **COP workshop is not only the way to celebrate the accomplishments, but also to ensure that the knowledge gained, and partnerships established continue to thrive beyond the project's completion.**

4.1.2 Special address

In the special address segment, **Ms. Pauline Ross, Acting Assistant Secretary, Online Safety Branch, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts** is one of the key actors from the Government of **Australia** in promoting child online protection. She stressed that Australia supports the ITU Child Online Protection Initiative to strengthen online child protection frameworks in the Asia Pacific region. E-Safety Commissioner operates as an independent regulator and educator for online safety in Australia, she said, and with a range of statutory functions that broadly contribute to the promotion of online safety for Australians through research, education programs and raising awareness of online risks and harms including supporting parents, carers and educators. Under the Act, the E-Safety Commissioner helps to prevent and deal with cyberbullying and its impacts through the provision of information, education and resources. She closed her addressing stating that Australia remains committed to closely monitoring global efforts to mitigate online harms and foster collaborative partnerships with other countries, with the aim of exchanging ideas and building strong working relationships worldwide.

Ms. Ayako Kaino, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Mongolia, stated that Mongolia Country Office is proud to report that together with partners including the government ministries and agencies, industry professionals, social workers and psychologists, they were able to successfully organize the National Conference on Child Online Protection in June 2023. The conference brought together over 212 participants, both in person and virtually. It provided a valuable platform for stakeholders to share information and knowledge, enabling participants to seize opportunities for collaboration and learning. She said that the outcome of the discussions and recommendations of the conference have been documented to feed the National Child Online Protection Framework. In addition, the ITU Child online Protection guidelines were translated into Mongolian. She closed her addressing that the UNICEF Mongolia will continue working with all the partners to strengthen those policies for prevention and protection of children from CSEA and cyber bullying, and to increase capacity of

professionals for provision of prevention and support services for children who have been sexually abused and exploited online and who have experienced cyberbullying.



Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, APT acknowledged this groundbreaking project initiated by the ITU and Australian government. He said that this workshop not only signifies the culmination of the collaborative efforts, but also marks a pivotal moment in ongoing commitment. These national conferences, forecast discussions, and training sessions have played a critical role in raising awareness and enhancing the capacity of various stakeholders, as highlighted by the speaker. The impact of these initiatives extends to policymakers, parents, educators, and even the children themselves. He stressed that this concluding workshop is more than a conclusion: **it is a springboard for future action**. He concluded that we must continue to foster strong partnerships, innovate in our approaches and remain fast in our mission to protect our most vulnerable citizens in the digital world.

Mr. Guillaume Landry, Executive Director, ECPAT International, highlighted the extensive reach of the organization he represents. ECPAT is a global civil society movement operating in over 105 countries, with 126 member organizations. Furthermore, these member organizations play a crucial role in the impact movement within all seven countries listed as part of this initiative. He said that from the data documented millions of children have experienced serious sexual harm online just within one year, specifically in 2021, and the magnitude of this challenge is unspeakable in many ways. He acknowledged ITU's great tools highlighting their critical importance and expressed excitement about the localization and translation of these

tools into local languages so they can really have an impact with the practitioners that are working in each of those countries. The commendable initiative of the ITU for Child Online Protection in Asia and Pacific has been providing support. He concluded with a hopeful tone, expressing a desire for open and profound discussions that could serve as a stepping stone towards sustainability and continued progress in similar endeavours within the region.

4.2 Session 1: Panel Discussion with the UN Agencies and Intergovernmental organizations on “Overview of Child Online Protection”

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Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding workshop

Session 1:
Panel Discussion with the UN Agencies and Intergovernmental organizations on “Overview of Child Online Protection”

09:35-10:35 Thailand Standard Time (GMT+7)
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 Virtual meeting

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www.itu-cop-guildlines.com

Moderator
Mr. Puji Pujiono
 Senior UN Coordinator Specialist, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Keynote speech
Ms. Yu Cheng
 Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Panelist
Mr. Thamand Lekprichakul
 Development Coordinator and Data Management Officer, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand

Panelist
Dr Mark Kavenagh
 Child Protection Consultant, UNICEF

Panelist
Ms. Alexandra Souza Martins
 Coordinator, UNODC Global Programme End Violence against Children at United Nations

Panelist
Ms. Fei Wang
 Junior Professional Officer, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO

ITU

Speakers for Session 1

This session focused on sharing experiences with multiple child protection stakeholders regarding the growing risks and harm children face in the online world and exchange the prevention mechanisms for the identified challenges and showcase the solutions to strengthen national COP frameworks.

Session moderator was **Mr. Puji Pujiono, Senior UN Coordinator Specialist, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**, and he welcomed participants on a panel discussion with UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations on the topic of “Overview of Child Online Protection.”

The focus of this session was to share experiences and insights, discussing the growing risks and harm that children face in the online world.

He introduced the keynote speaker, **Ms. Yu Cheng, Project Officer at the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**, who delivered an inspiring **keynote speech**, and gave an overview for what ITU has successfully undertaken a series of impactful activities aimed at strengthening child online protection in the Asia-Pacific region.

4.2.1 Keynote address

The keynote speech of the COP concluding workshop was delivered by Ms. Yu Cheng, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Ms Yu Cheng presented the Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative in Asia-Pacific region with the major outputs from the beneficiary countries Bhutan, Thailand, Mongolia, Indonesia, Pakistan and Cambodia.

These include **Translated versions of the ITU COP Guidelines** (Bahasa Indonesia, Mongolian and Thai); **Bhutan localized version of the ITU COP Guidelines**; A series of **national COP conferences, focus group discussions (FDGs) workshops and training, and 4 COP National Assessment Reports** with policy



recommendations for Bhutan, Mongolia, Pakistan and Thailand. Support the development of the presidential COP Roadmap in Indonesia.

For each beneficiary country, she shared the major highlights. Collaborating with the Govtech **Bhutan** and UNICEF Bhutan, ITU kicked off the first National Workshop in April 2022, and the 1st COP task force meeting was organized in Sep 2022. Till now, a total of 10 Focus Group Discussions were conducted with 60 participants to gather insights and qualitative data from five key stakeholder groups, including children, parents, educators, industry representatives, and policymakers, to assess children's online behaviors, and identify opportunities and risks.

The insights derived from the FGDs have been incorporated into the National Assessment Report for Bhutan, which are crucial in informing the development of strategies, interventions, and policies to enhance child online protection in Bhutan. ITU is now working together with GovTech Bhutan and UNICEF Bhutan to finalize the localized Child Online protection guidelines. In particular, the Online Safety with Sango series will be broadcast on Bhutan’s dedicated TV Channel soon.

In **Thailand**, the UN2UN Agreement was fully signed between ITU and UNICEF Thailand to implement COP activities in the country. The first national conference on “Children in the Digital Age: Together for Safer Internet for Children in Thailand” was successfully organized from 8-9 February by UNICEF Thailand in partnership with ITU, ECPAT and the Ministries with 230 participants.

Besides, ITU and UNICEF Thailand have translated the Thai version of the COP Guidelines. In terms of the capacity-building activities, ITU has delivered a series of Child Online Protection trainings as part of the Girls in ICT Day Thailand 2023, with around 500 students and teachers were trained.

The National Assessment Reports for Thailand was developed which will serve as valuable roadmaps for ongoing efforts to strengthen child online protection in the country, demonstrating the tangible impact of collaborative initiatives in safeguarding the digital well-being of children.

The project has made significant strides in **Mongolia**, owing to the close collaboration between ITU, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, UNICEF Mongolia and the Communications Regulatory Commission of Mongolia. The first National Child Online Protection Conference was convened on 14 June 2023 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with 212 attendees. This conference served as a crucial platform for awareness raising and knowledge sharing around safe internet usage for children and young people.

Besides, the COP Guidelines were translated into Mongolian including the sign language. The printed guidelines will be distributed to the decision-makers, industry sectors, parents and educators. Sango materials will be distributed to the schools.

Moreover, the ITU COP National Assessment Report for Mongolia was also developed which will serve as valuable roadmaps for ongoing and further efforts to strengthen child online protection in Mongolia.

For **Indonesia**, the Honorable Minister for Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, Republic of Indonesia, officially launched the Indonesian version of the ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines on the occasion of Safer Internet Day in Jakarta on 8 February 2023. Subsequently, the Ministry invited ITU to join the drafting committee of a Presidential Regulation on the National Roadmap for Child Online Protection. ITU is pleased to note that the Inter-Ministerial Consultative Committee approved the draft, and it is now going through the legislative harmonization process. In addition, at the end of September, ITU supported the Ministry in organizing a regional dialogue on “Racing Against the Clock: Pushing Forward with Child Online Protection in the ASEAN Region” – Consolidating Regional Cooperation under the Indonesian ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023. ITU is encouraged and optimistic that this solid foundation will ensure the continuation of our cooperation in Indonesia, and more broadly in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region.

In **Pakistan**, ITU worked closely with the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Government of **Pakistan** to organize the first Digital Inclusion Week last December in Islamabad in 2023, where the COP national workshop gathered 100 participants to join. After the event, ITU delivered the national assessment report on child online safety to understand the nature and gaps of the national COP mechanism, and most importantly, to identify recommendations for stakeholders. Now, ITU together with the ministry is working on the establishment of the COP national working group. And, as part of the Girls in ICT Day Pakistan digital skills training program, ITU delivered a series of online safety for girls training.

Furthermore, ITU contributed to the Safer Internet Day Pakistan event organized by Telenor Pakistan at the panel discussion with a special emphasis on the Child Online Protection agenda in Pakistan on 15 February 2023.

In **Cambodia**, ITU assisted in the development of the Cambodia Child Online Protection Guidelines for the Digital Technology Industry. From 2022 to 2023, a series of **workshops** organized by the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. ITU was invited to these interactive workshops which shared the final draft of COP guidelines for industry in Cambodia, as well as comments and suggestions from different sectors. The ITU COP Guidelines for Industry was presented as an annex to the final draft.

Ms. Yu Cheng concluded with a brief overview on a set of online self-paced training courses on COP, geared towards the Parents and carers, educators, policymakers, social workers, the ICT industry, and children themselves. **All the training is accessible at the [ITU Academy](#).**

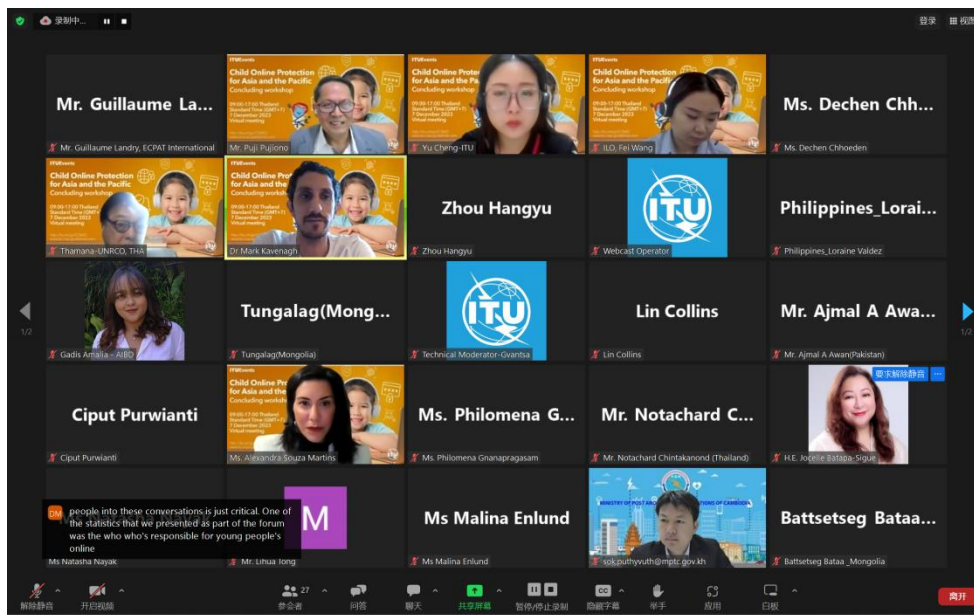
4.2.2 Session 1: Panel Discussion on “Overview of Child Online Protection”

The first session panel consisted of representatives from the UN and Intergovernmental organizations: Mr. Thamana Lekprichakul, Development Coordinator and Data Management Officer, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand, Dr Mark Kavenagh, Child Protection Consultant, UNICEF, Ms. Alexandra Souza Martins, Coordinator, UNODC Global Programme to End Violence against Children at United Nations, and Ms. Fei Wang, Junior Professional Officer, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, ILO. The following key insights emerged:

- Promoting transformative strategies and a systemic approach aligned with the SDGs to safeguard children online and advocating for improved collaboration and resources to address weak social development in child online protection.
- Providing an overview of the progress and priorities of Child Online Protection, with a specific focus on the ASEAN region, and advocating for a human rights-centered, evidence-based approach to policymaking for digital safety.

- Stressing the crucial role of law enforcement in preventing child exploitation and abuse online, emphasizing victim-centered approaches, collaboration with civil society and education sectors, and raising awareness.

Highlighting the importance of international labor standards, SDG Target 8.7, and collaborative initiatives in addressing child labor challenges in Asia and the Pacific, with a specific focus on different forms of child labor in the digital economy and their impact on children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The panel moderator, Mr. Puji Pujiono, posed a general question to all speakers. As the COP project for Asia and the Pacific concludes, ITU would like to ask panel speakers to share their valuable experiences and insights gained during their collaboration with the ITU. He was particularly interested in their summaries and key takeaways that can serve as valuable lessons learned. Moreover, he asked them to share their expectations for future cooperation, to guide ITU in shaping impactful initiatives as their insights will enrich the collective knowledge and drive towards a brighter future in the field of COP.



Mr. Thamana Lekprichakul, said that they are working on addressing the digital inequality. And ITU plays a crucial actor to boost and strengthen the community-based initiative, he said he is

excited to see that the initiative has been progressed so well in many countries and he feels excited to learn from the experience from various countries.

Dr. Mark Kavenagh pointed out that the COP guidelines for example in Cambodia (the industry guideline) was developed with the collaboration have been incredibly useful to deploy COP activities in the country, he stressed the need to have a multi-stakeholder approach to COP.

Ms. Alexandra Souza Martins, praised the guidelines available in multiple languages, targeting various stakeholders such as policy makers, the private sector, parents, educators, and children. She emphasized that in the face of increasing digitalization and the misuse of technology for criminal purposes, the mandates of ITU and UNODC are complementary and interconnected. She expressed her desire to enhance future cooperation and expand beyond the existing areas of fruitful collaboration, particularly regarding the COP initiative for protecting children through online participation. UNODC strategies will prioritize coherence and consistency, and work in collaboration with other UN entities, including ITU, to prevent and respond to crime and violence against children.

Ms. Fei Wang stated while ILO have not directly collaborated with ITU on child labour, child rights protection online, but they have already observed that this emerging trend in child labour. Child rights violations related to the cyber or digital world are indeed significant and aligned with our broader mandate she said, and her key takeaways is focus on the growing incidence of child rights violation in digital spaces and their link to child labour. She sees an opportunity for collaboration with the ITU in establishing stronger safeguards in the online world through policy recommendations and awareness campaigns that address the nuance the expect of online child labour. She ended that she is looking forward to any potential collaboration in the future towards the achievement of the SDG target 8.7.

The panel discussion continued with the presentation by **Mr. Thamana Lekprichakul**. He briefly presented on some of the indicators of the weak social development in correlation with child online protection and then used the model of Prisoners' Dilemma in Game Theory to decode the dilemma faced by the weak child protection emphasizing that the improved collaboration,

enhances resources and building trust are crucial. He concluded that transformative strategies and systemic approach of safeguarding children online could be accomplished through SDGs. He finished the presentation emphasizing that by adopting a community-based strategy and aligning with the SDGs, we can work toward the future where every child can learn on potential risks.

Dr. Mark Kavenagh, presented on the current progress and priorities regarding Child Online Protection (COP). UNICEF prioritizes protecting children from violence globally and regionally, guided by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and General Comment 25 on children's rights in the digital environment. He highlighted the progress made in the ASEAN region, including the implementation of a regional framework to combat online exploitation and abuse. This framework focuses on strengthening law and policy, enhancing law enforcement, establishing specialist units, providing victim support, improving data collection and reporting, promoting education and awareness, and engaging with the private sector. Moreover, UNICEF has acted as a convenor for the ASEAN Industry Working Group on Child Online Protection, facilitating dialogue between tech companies and civil society on child rights and technology. Dr. Mark also shared recommendations from the 2nd ASEAN ICT Forum, emphasizing the importance of human rights-centered, evidence-based, and multi-stakeholder approaches to digital safety policymaking. He concluded by highlighting the relevance of the ASEAN guidelines on national legislation against online child exploitation and abuse, as well as guidelines for support services for child victims and those in contact with the law.

Ms. Alexandra Souza Martins discussed the role of law enforcement in preventing child exploitation and abuse online. UNODC is developing a new cybercrime convention and hopes it will complement existing standards. Law enforcement agencies play a critical role in apprehending offenders and bringing them to justice. It is important for them to adopt a victim-centered approach. Beyond criminal justice, prevention of child exploitation and abuse requires thinking outside the box. An expert group meeting was convened in June 2023 to address the removal of child sexual abuse materials, leading to the adoption of a call to action signed by 75 member states. Collaboration with civil society, education, and child protection sectors is vital

to raising awareness and adopting victim-centered approaches.

Ms. Fei Wang discussed child labor and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. She highlighted that not all work performed by children qualifies as child labor, but rather work that deprives them of their childhood, potential, dignity, and harms their physical and mental development. She mentioned various forms of child labor in the digital economy, including creating digital content, cyberbegging, influencer labor, online gaming, online gambling, online commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking and smuggling, illicit activities, and hazardous work. These practices disproportionately affect children from lower socio-economic backgrounds, worsening societal inequalities. She emphasized the importance of international labor standards, SDG Target 8.7, Alliance 8.7, the Singapore Statement, National Action Plans, ASEAN Roadmap, and the Durban Call to Action in addressing this challenge in Asia and the Pacific.

4.3 Session 2: Panel Discussion with the Government on “National strategies/regulations and good practices on Child Online Protection”.

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Session 2:

Panel Discussion with the Government on “National strategies/regulations and good practices on Child Online Protection”

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Moderator
Ms. Philomena Gnanaprasam
Secretariat-Director, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development

Panelist
H.E. Battsetseg Bataa
State Secretary Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC) of Mongolia

Panelist
Ms. Ciput Eka Purwianti
Assistant to the Deputy Minister for Special Protection for Children from Violence, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia (MOWECP)

Panelist
H.E. Mr. Puthyuth Sok
Secretary of State - Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia

Panelist
Mr. Ajmal Anwar Awan
Member of International Cooperation, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

Panelist
Ms. Dechen Chhoeden
Deputy Chief ICT Officer, GovTech Agency, Bhutan

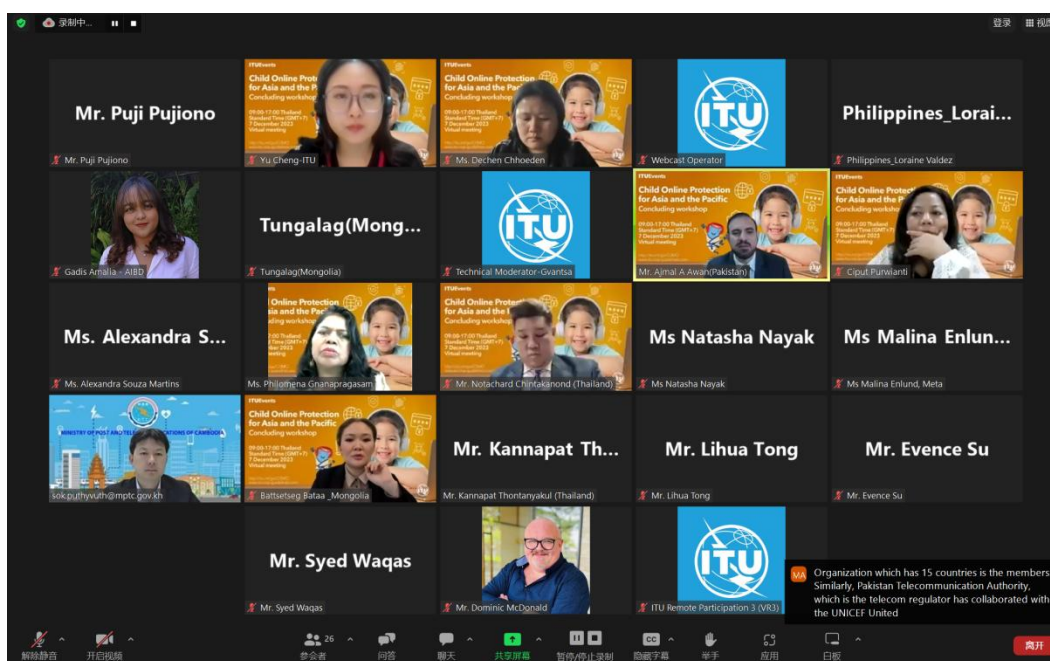
Panelist
Mr. Notachard Chintakanond
Executive Director of the International Affairs Bureau, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand

Panelist
H.E. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue
Undersecretary, ICT Industry Development, DICT, The Philippines

Speakers for Session 2

This session focused on the nature of online violence against children in Asia and the Pacific, how children's online rights are protected by the constitution and legislation; and the importance of the use of correct terminology when addressing violence against children online, reporting and responding mechanisms available from the national level to help the child victims of online violence. Session moderator was **Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, the Secretariat-Director of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development.**

The moderator asked guests about the valuable experiences and key takeaways from the national level throughout their partnership with the ITU as well as their expectations for future cooperation with ITU to keep implementing the Child Online Protection initiative in their respective countries.



H.E. Battsetseg Bataa, State Secretary Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC) of Mongolia provided an overview of Mongolia's COP initiative both digital and technological aim that creating safer online environment for children. She stressed the concern online when children aged 15 and below the age create and utilize Facebook accounts, stating that this demographic is the elevated risk of compromising their privacy, facing exposure to online harassment, discrimination and potential cybercrimes, primarily due to lack of the

awareness, regard to profit privacy settings. She added that positive changes in legal framework are evolving significantly, it signifies commitment to bolstering the overall framework dedicated to safeguarding that the world being and rights of children. In recent years, Mongolia has witnessed the surge digitalization initiatives aimed at the foster robust and inclusive digital ecosystem, and the government has undertaken ambitious projects to enhance digital literacy, connectivity and accessibility across the country. Within the framework of digitalization, the special attention has been devoted to ensuring the inclusion of children in the teach the landscape. She said that Mongolia is empowering its youth to thrive in an increasingly digitized system, simultaneously addressing the challenges associated with the online safety. Complementary to the online child protection measures, Mongolia has implemented comprehensive digital literacy programs as well.

Ms. Ciput Eka Purwianti, Assistant to the Deputy Minister for Special Protection for Children from Violence, Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia (MOWECP), said that they have been greatly supported by ITU teams especially since the beginning of the year 2020. The Honourable Minister for Women's Empowerment and Child Protection, Republic of Indonesia, officially launched the Indonesian version of the ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines on Safer Internet Day in Jakarta on 8 February. The Ministry invited ITU to join the drafting committee of a Presidential Regulation on the National Roadmap for Child Online Protection. This collaboration also goes along with UNICEF and ECPAT Indonesia as well as other organizations in Indonesia. It was emphasized that during the process ITU Asia and the Pacific Regional Office provided the significant technical assistance and support.

H.E. Mr. Puthyvuth Sok, Secretary of State - Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia, stressing that the government developed action plans to prevent, and respond to online child sexual exploitation as well as national guidelines especially as children are growing up in a digital world and there is a need to have some urgency and priority on this topic. Cambodia has taken great steps in the field of Child Online Protection; significant efforts are being undertaken with multiple stakeholders. In the meantime, COP involves creating awareness and digital literacy in the country.

Mr. Ajmal Anwar Awan, Member of International Cooperation, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan, said that there are a lot of steps and engagements that Pakistan has undertaken together with the ITU as online child abuse has time and again been recognized as a global problem. He said that the Pakistan government is working at the national level for technology capacity building and entrepreneurship and other skills development, and it realizes the need for protecting our children from the online harm. And Pakistan is taking several steps to tackle these challenges.

National Commission on the Rights of Child, an independent statutory body established by the government of Pakistan serves for the promotion protecting and fulfilment of children right in Pakistan. He said that there are other organizations supporting Pakistan Like UNICEF in Pakistan. Recently there was a consultative meeting that was convened by the National Commission on the Rights of Child in Islamabad and Pakistan to share the findings and analysis and recommendations of policy brief on child online protection in Pakistan. In regard to the ITU collaboration, he said that digital inclusion week was the first ever in Pakistan and was organized with the support from the ITU. Overall, we had around 400 to 450 participants from different organizations. Pakistan has set up a working group, and sub working group working on COP. He finished his intervention with that working group which they are forming, obviously ITU will be a major part with its support.

Ms. Dechen Chhoeden, Deputy Chief ICT Officer, GovTech Agency, Bhutan, worked very closely with the ITU in recent times and, this work is enhancing cybersecurity and child online protection in Bhutan as the focus is localized COP strategy. She said that ITU helped with the first launch of COP Guidelines in April 2022, followed up with several task force meetings and focus group discussions with all the stakeholders. She said that key takeaway from the national COP assessment was made along the findings from the focus group discussions and all the key takeaways with recommendations are in the current localized document. Also, she stressed that they have been working on distributing the online safety with Sango posters and flyers to all the schools in Bhutan and as well as we are working on producing localized videos in local language.

She ended with gratitude to ITU for all the support towards developing the guidelines and looking forward to continued cooperation with ITU.

Mr. Notachard Chintakanond, Executive Director of the International Affairs Bureau, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand, said that it has been created a good awareness in digital areas in Thailand, and it's clear that the ITU take it very seriously when it comes to Child Online Protection in the country. There's a good partnership and cooperation between Thailand and ITU, it also provided the platform for girls and young women in the digital world, such as Girls in ICT Day. And he said that we witness how valuable of digital skills and digital literacy that many girls and boys are inspired. There is a digital skill track in Thailand which the main objective is to develop digital skills in ICT such as digital network, cybersecurity, new emerging technology. He continued that cyber risks are issue that nobody can deal with it alone. Thus, it is support from all of us to achieve meaningful connectivity where everyone especially children can have a safe and productive online experience, he said. He also mentioned that one of the challenges in Thailand is the widespread online scams in the country which often link to financial fraud and personal data breach.

He concluded the necessity for education to enhance digital skills and digital literacy have never been more crucial, and it requires a holistic approach that interests, integrate legal, technical and educational and organizational measures altogether in order to keep up with online threat and risk.

H.E. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue, Undersecretary, ICT Industry Development, DICT, The Philippines said as far as the Philippines is concerned, they are really inspired about the emphasis that the ITU was given to COP and she shared how Philippines scaled up and mainstream the strategy for child online protection through legislative means and policies stating in last August, the Philippine government declared a [“war” on online sexual abuse and exploitation of children](#), primarily by outlining and pushing for legislations to be passed in the Philippine Congress to address the issue. this is a set of comprehensive national policy strategy to address the issue and to really institutionalize a whole of national approach. She added that the lead for this law

is the Department of Justice, and a work of social welfare and development department, interior and local government. Department which takes care of over a thousand 600 local government units around the Philippines and closely work with Philippine National Police. She added they have the Cyber Crime Prevention Act of 2012 which addresses offenses in anti-child pornography, and they are working closely with internet service providers. To adopt the measures in the educational level, they are working closely with department for education to come up with materials.

As inspired also by ITU and other colleagues that will specifically address online protection and empower children, the Philippines is happy to announce that this year they are about to release national cybersecurity plan, she informed the audience, for 2022 up to 2028. These are just some of the national strategies that they use to address child online protection, she concluded.

4.4 Session 3: Panel discussion with Industries on “Preventative measures on protecting children online.”

ITUEvents

Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding workshop

Session 3:
Panel discussion with Industries on “Preventative measures on protecting children online”

11:45-12:45 Thailand Standard Time (GMT+7)
7 December 2023
Virtual meeting

#ITUCOP
<https://itu.int/go/O3MO>
www.itu-cop-guidelines.com

Moderator
Mr. Syed Waqas
Director ITU/United Nations, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

Panelist
Ms. Natasha Nayak
Senior Policy Manager, APAC GSMA

Panelist
Mr. Evencsu
Huawei Asia Pacific Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Officer

Panelist
Ms. Malina Enlund
Safety Policy Manager APAC, Meta

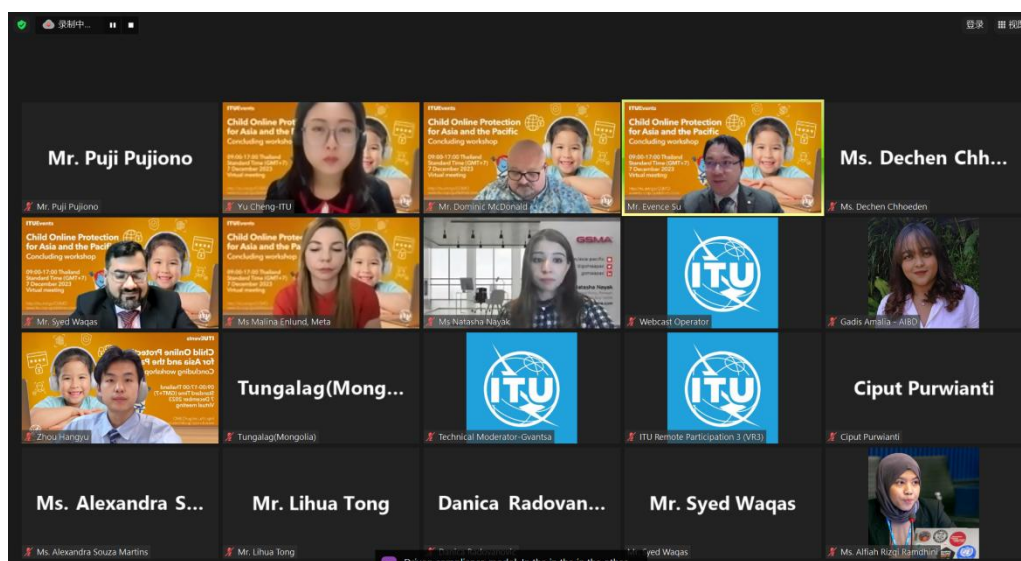
Panelist
Mr. Dominic McDonald
Chief Executive of ULAP Networks



Speakers for Session 3

This panel discussion with representatives from various industries addressed the topic of “Preventative Measures on Protecting Children Online.” The moderator was **Mr Syed Waqas, the Director ITU/United Nations, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan.**

In this session, the focus was on exploring how industry sectors can proactively engage in preventive efforts to protect children while they are online. It is crucial that we collectively address the challenges and work towards creating a safer online environment for our children.



Ms. Natasha Nayak, Senior Policy Manager, APAC GSMA, started off by introducing that the GSMA is a member of the ITU’s Child Online Protection Initiative for a while and has worked to share its knowledge and experience of mobile phone safety into the industry guidelines produced by ITU. She said that the use of ITU platforms to highlight good practice is also valuable as new players come into the market and as the markets and services evolve. She emphasized that in addressing safe and responsible use of mobile by children and young people, the best approach is through multi-stakeholder efforts and collaboration is key and she hopes to continue to partner with ITU in the future on this through some similar initiatives.

She added that governments need to have an appropriate legislation in place, and law enforcement must be equipped and empowered to investigate all aspects of online child sexual

abuse starting from grooming to sharing of child sexual abuse content and national hotlines for reporting child sexual abuse must be put in place. GSMA has over a decade of experience working with its members and key external stakeholders including UNICEF on safeguarding children.

She said that GSMA recommends to their members the baseline steps as a set of good practices. One is assigning an executive responsible for children's issues, including child safeguarding within each market-based operating country and to ensure that a single leader is accountable for all activities, processors and partnerships related to child safety in each market. The second is to provide website information or links on safe and responsible mobile internet use. It's important that operators are able to guide parents or guardians towards sources of information on children's safer use of mobile forms. The third is to support and work with expert partners including child helplines that protect young people.

Finally, she concluded that collaboration is key. In conclusion, the overall mobile devices and services enhance the lives of young people. The perspective needs to be embraced, encouraged and better understood by all stakeholders to ensure young people reap the benefits of mobile technology.

Mr. Evence Su, Huawei Asia Pacific Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Officer, provided slide power point presentation where he showcased the cutting-edge technology development, especially for the recently very hot topic like a generated AI, and the content generated by GenAI may pose new threats and challenges to children's safe Internet access. He presented 4 areas to strengthen digital security and education through multi-stakeholder consultation and enhance cyber security inclusion (children, women, remote areas, etc.): the user centric security and the protection, Empowering Education, Collaborative Defence, and Local, National, Regional and International Cooperation. He also presented the Huawei Privacy Compliance Framework Based on GDPR, China PIPL, and 10 Privacy Standards, as well as Huawei's excellent practices of implementing "Children Privacy by Design and Default" for the benefit of children and parents. The company also promotes Empowering Education.

Huawei Thailand cooperates with NCSA to provide cyber security awareness training for 940 primary school students in remote southern provinces, especially to handle with phishing and social engineering attack by scam gangs for romance scam, cyberbullying and fake news through the Digital Bus CSR project. He finalized the presentation by stressing the relevance of continuous investment in technology and application innovation to improve children's online protection approach: research, development and technological innovation, as well as secure product development and excellent user experience, all serving as essential investment factors for enhancing security and privacy protection in the digital space.

Ms. Malina Enlund, Safety Policy Manager APAC, Meta, talked on how they prevent, protect and remove online content related to the sexual exploitation of children from its platform. Meta collaborates both with the government and NGOs. She focused on online safety pillars such as the policies and the tools, stating that the Meta platform has policies that are there to keep children safe. The policies that protect children are designed for people across the globe. She highlighted the challenge of designing and implementing policies that must apply equally across regions spanning from Asia to Latin America to Africa. That's why Meta collaborates with NGOs and governments to ensure that the policies not only protect children at the local level, but also can be effectively implemented on a global scale.

She emphasized that Meta's comprehensive policy on child sexual exploitation, abuse, and nudity is exemplified by two key features. Firstly, the implicit sexualization policy ensures that content portraying explicit sexualization is swiftly removed from the platform to prevent public visibility. Secondly, she pointed out that Meta's AI is highly effective, with only about 1% of inappropriate content slipping through the automated filters. Furthermore, she underscored the importance of ongoing collaboration with government agencies to stay informed about emerging terms and tactics used by perpetrators to ensure swift and effective detection and removal. Behavioural classifiers effectively identify flagged user accounts. Meta is continuously enhancing the reporting process for child sexual abuse, underscoring the importance of educating users on how to report such incidents given the frequency of this challenge. She

ended with the relevance of the educational part of learning to navigate the online space in a safe manner especially for children.

Mr. Dominic McDonald, Chief Executive of ULAP Networks closed this panel session with insightful ideas. He discussed digital transformation, emphasizing that it revolves around societal shift and adaptability rather than simply converting analogy to digital. Importantly, he highlighted the prevalent challenges of online protection in a digital environment. Drawing from his perspective and his company’s experience, he stressed the necessity of establishing trust networks and focusing on online safety education.

Industry also has the responsibility of educating customers in a way to ensure the safety of the community, which is a very difficult challenge. It comes to the rules of that data sovereignty, he emphasizes, which will go a long way of increasing child online protection. In regard to the ITU’s very comprehensive framework for child online protection, he concludes that we need to educate parents, as ultimately, they're the ones who drive the decisions on what their children do online.

4.5 Session 4: panel discussion on Child Rights in a Digital Era

ITUEvents

Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding workshop

Session 4:
Children's Rights in a Digital Era

14:00-15:30 Thailand Standard Time (GMT+7)
7 December 2023
Virtual meeting

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www.itu-cop-guidelines.com

Moderator
Dr Danica Radovanović
Child Online Protection Expert,
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Panelist
Ms Deborah Welsh
Executive Manager of Strategy, Engagement and Research,
eSafety Commissioner

Panelist
Mr. Qindee Shujaat
Executive Director, Obun2

Panelist
Mr. Lihua Tong
Distinguished Professor of Beijing Technology and Business University
Director of Beijinghicheng Law Firm & Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center

Panelist
Ms Haan Mazari
AsiaLead Digital Personalised Learning Focal Point, EdTech Hub

Panelist
Ms. Alfiah Rizq Ramdhini
ITU Generation Connect Asia Pacific Youth Envoys & Gender Champion (Indonesia)

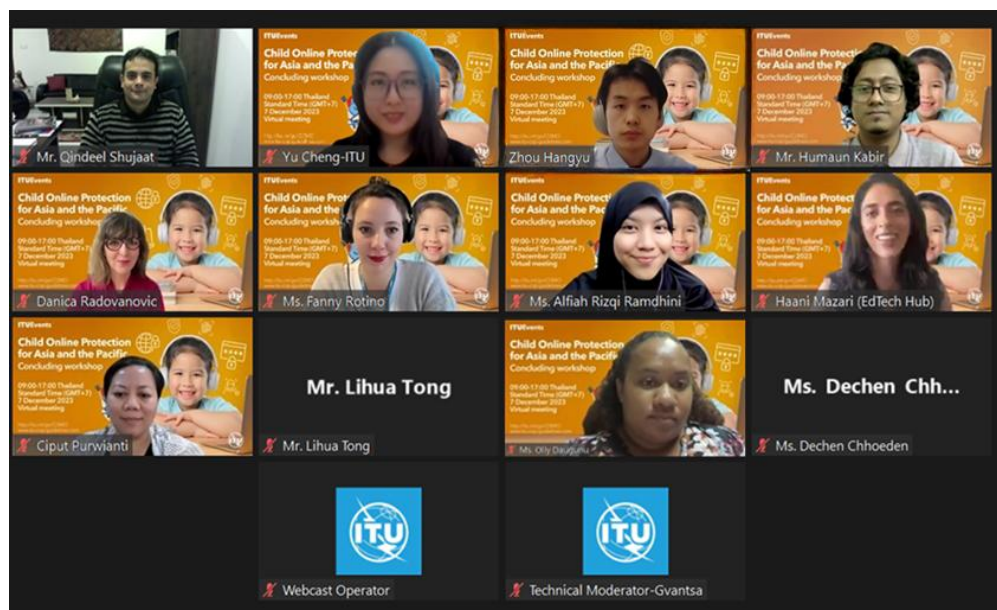
Panelist
Mr. A S M Humair Kabir
ITU Generation Connect Asia Pacific Youth Envoys (Bangladesh)

Panelist
Ms. Oly Daugunu
ITU Generation Connect Asia Pacific Youth Envoys (Fiji)

ITU

Speakers for Session 4

This session focused on children’s rights in the digital environment and youth engagement in Child Online Protection. **Dr. Danica Radovanović**, a Child Online Protection Expert from the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific was a session moderator for the panel discussion. She opened the panel with reminder that the ITU works to protect and empower children online, across the six regions, supporting relevant stakeholders to contribute to the protection of children's rights in the digital environment.



Ms. Deborah Welsh, Executive Manager of Strategy, Engagement & Research branch in the eSafety Commissioner, leading the area responsible for the Safety by Design initiative, Tech Trends, research and maintaining extensive stakeholder relationships within Government, industry, and international fora. Most recently she was acting as Assistant Secretary of Cyber Policy & Strategy in the Department of Home Affairs. The Branch was responsible for the delivery of Australia’s 2020 Cyber Security Strategy, including delivery of the Ransomware Action Plan and Quad Senior Cyber Group. **As Australia’s online safety regulator**, rregulating the online space for 8 years now, **she shared how online safety regulation can uphold and promote children’s rights**. It also coordinates online safety efforts across Australia in addition to playing an important international leadership role through targeted information sharing coordination, collaboration, and capacity building. And it also exercises regulatory powers in a

human right based and ethical manner to support an open secure stable, accessible, peaceful and safe digital ecosystem.

She reminded that governments and adults have extra responsibility to make sure that children can realize their rights and that an appropriate balance is struck between protecting children from harm while respecting their capabilities. eSafety agrees as the general comment recognises that human rights apply the same way to children in the digital world as they do in the physical world. Some rights were based frameworks in the digital environment have placed narrow focus on rights, such as the rights to freedom of expression and privacy.

It's important that governments, civil society tech companies respect the interdependence of the digital human rights with the best interest of a child at the forefront, she added, and by working together to build a holistic right respecting digital ecosystem. **The eSafety model functions under a holistic framework and it comprises of 3 pillars. Prevention, protection, and proactive and systemic change.** She quickly ran through how these pillars work to uphold and promote children's rights and create a safer online environment that enables digital human rights to flourish.

First pillar of prevention aims to build capability and resilience to prevent harm through evidence-based educational resources. Training community programs, information and awareness raising, which is why eSafety place a strong focus on prevention and education. In Australia, eSafety plays a leadership role in online safety, education, providing guidance, resources and support to states, territories and sectors, including schools, and our education and prevention resources. To ensure that rights to equality, access, participation online is respected, protected and fulfilled. Protection is the second pillar which is achieved through regulation, reporting schemes and the investigations. And under the Online Safety Act, eSafety operates several complaint schemes where all Australians, including children, can report online harms. These complaint schemes include child bullying scheme, serious adult cyber abuse scheme, image-based abuse scheme and our online content scheme, which deals with illegal and restricted content, including child sexual abuse material. ESafety support people

experiencing online harms by compelling the removal of abusive and harmful content, limiting the ability of perpetrators to continue their abuse. Organization promotes a shared responsibility to protect children and young people from serious online harms, she concluded. And finally, the third pillar is proactive in systemic change where the focus is on lifting the standards of online safety and ensuring industry minimises online harms by identifying emerging risks, undertaking research and collaborating to promote a safety by design approach.

She said that we need to see tech companies step up to fulfil their corporate obligations to respect the rights of users, especially children and young people. She concluded that they also have a non-regulatory initiative which we call safety by design. And it focuses on the importance of embedding safety measures from the start and through the design process.

Dr Danica Radovanovic asked Ms Deborah Welsch a follow-up question as eSafety works very closely with ITU COP Global Project, where does she see the future partnership with the ITU on COP, especially in the Asia and the Pacific Region. Ms Welsch said that they have a very strong working relationship with the ITU global project on child online protection.

She believes in the importance of information sharing, finding synergies in areas for cooperation, as well as identifying works and priority areas that strengthen the impact, we hope to achieve which is to protect the dignity, safety and privacy of our children on the internet. She said they have also considered how to incorporate the ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines into their work in Southeast Asia. She believes that strengthening partnerships across borders is an important process of creating a but vibrant rights respecting online environment, an online world were worlds safe for children. They have committed to regional cooperation where international counterparts and representatives share and exchange technical solutions, recommendations and initiatives related to child online protection, which only helps to strengthen children's digital rights.

In conclusion, she finished with that eSafety recognises that human rights abuse can occur through the production, distribution and consumption of illegal and harmful content online, and that a holistic and rights based regulatory framework of educating, protecting and driving

industry change, supports a nuanced child focus response to keeping children and young people safe online. By doing so, it ensures that the digital spaces in Australia are safe to children and young people to explore and thrive.

Mr. Qindeel Shujaat, Executive Director, Obun2, talked about COP situation in Pakistan and how CyberTipline receives cases about various forms of online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA). In Pakistan, there is the federal investigation authority, which is FIA and in FIA there is a cybercrime department which specializes in dealing with the cybercrimes including a child online protection. He said that in 2020 there was 1.2 million reported cases forward to the FIA. He stressed that they don't necessarily represent the actual numbers of the child abuse cases online as most of the cases are from the Facebook, Instagram, etc, adding that 70 to 80% content is not produced in Pakistan. It means that the victims are not from Pakistan, so it is difficult for FIA to handle those cases.

He emphasized that Pakistan still doesn't have the access to the Interpol database, it is in the process to gain the access. He said that this is a challenge, and then there's serious human resource capacity problems at the FIA, they're very few people working on COP and there's no research being done, he added. It contributes to a serious knowledge gap and quality issues, and there is no child protection expert who would understand complexity of the problem that children-victims face or the deal or collaborate, very closely with the child protection agencies in Pakistan. He concluded with the hope that the government takes note of this issue as a priority.

The next panel speaker was **Mr. Lihua Tong, Director of the Beijing Children 's Legal Aid and Research Center**, Dean of the Global Governance and Digital Law Research Institute of Beijing Technology and Business University, serves as the Chief Supervisor of the Chinese Young Volunteers Association, Vice President of the Chinese Society for Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Research, President of the Beijing Law Society's Juvenile Law Research Association. As China State Council issued the regulations on protection of minors online, all these laws and regulations clearly specify the specific requirements for protection of children in the new digital

era as an expert who is deeply involved in these legislation reform, Mr. Tong shared the latest progress of China's legislation in Child Online Protection.

He said that they established child online protection model providing legal, direct legal data service to children while conducting empirical research. Also, by establishing a network of volunteer lawyers around China who are participating in legislation.

He reminded that in 2021 the number of internet users in China reached penetration rate of nearly 97%, more and more children spend more and more time in the cyber space and that has both positive and negative effects, he added. In October 2023, a law and then the regulation has established the basic legal system about the COP in China with emphasis on cultivating the internet literacy of children, protecting personal information and controlling internet addiction.

He concluded with the relevance of the cultivation of information digital literacy among children as important component in COP process in order to build a solid foundation for the healthy growth of children and the beautiful future of human society.

The next speaker was **Ms. Alfiah Rizqi Ramdhini**, a representative from the **ITU Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys & Gender Champion from Indonesia**, and she shared her concerns about digital safety regarding Child Online Protection and gender-diversity and youth engagement. Her perceptions as a youth representative are related to building a safe environment for youth and children on the internet. In developing countries, the gender equality and development are intertwined, and she added that youth engagement and leaderships are accelerating and sustaining progress on preventing and ending violence against women and girls, also promoting gender equality and transforming the social norms. Furthermore, she said according to the Institute of Development Studies between 16% of woman and girls have experienced technology facilitated gender violence, and that we need to empower women and girls to participate and lead in the technology sector to inform the design against violence. It is important to include youth engagement, the children, especially on online protection, and to get into more inclusive internet and social media environment.

She concluded that every child must be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse on the internet.

Another youth representative was **Mr. Humaun Kabir** of the **ITU Generation-Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys from Bangladesh** shared some good AI practices regarding Children's rights, and some perceptions of the AI applications and the use by children. He reminded us that the AI in education has been used for many years, with virtual chat, interactive boards, and various technologies being utilized in schools, transportation, healthcare, and other sectors. And they also produce some concerns about the children's rights and protection, he added.

He said that AI is being taken over by the students faster but not by the authorities and the teachers in terms of managing assignments and home tasks or the lessons and that can be good part and use of the AI in personalized learning like tutoring and evaluation of students. He added that something can happen along with the AI so the teacher will give opportunity to fairly use the AI or the generative chat to their students so they can ethically use for some of the tasks. We cannot exclude AI from their day-to-day life whether we should be the parental control, the policy and the transparency should be more implemented and well-informed today by students.

He added that the impact of AI is fascinated in education and some schools, and some policy makers are accepting it, and it is necessary for the school education system to incorporate in a new interactive way. He concluded that AI is merely a tool that can aid in accelerating high school education, while simultaneously providing protection for children against online violence, unethical use of data and privacy breaches, and other related issues.

Ms. Olly Daugunu, ITU Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys (Fiji), shared some online practices among children and youth in Fiji regarding the digital rights. She shared some data on digital rights concerns for social media usage of young people, including privacy issues, cyber bullying and exposure to inappropriate content. Online gaming is also a popular activity among youth in Fiji and it often involves multiplayer interactions and digital rights considerations include age-appropriate content online safety and potential addiction concerns. With the

increasing integration of technology in education students also use online platforms for learning and collaboration, she added.

The digital rights considerations around this are privacy and data security. In terms that in Fiji, an online safety commission was established to tackle and regulate issues around the sharing of information, cyber awareness and best practices. Effective online safety regulation involves a network of global regulators working together to make the online world a safer place for everyone. She pointed out that it is encouraging to see that in the spirit of the partnership Fiji's Online Safety Commission and Australia's Office of the E Safety Commissioner.

The gaps that she feels are related to the lack of digital literacy. Promoting digital literacy is essential to empower children and used to navigate the online world responsibly. We should implement awareness campaigns that specifically tackle issues such as online etiquette, misinformation, and digital citizenship at primary and high school levels. These campaigns should be integrated into the education curriculum. It is important to recognize that both teachers and parents play a crucial role in the successful implementation of digital education initiatives. She reminded us of digital divide in Fiji, among students. For Fiji, there is a huge gap in digital literacy between the students in urban areas compared to rural and outer island students, due to connectivity issues.

She concluded that there is a need for more active initiatives and more awareness from regulators to address online harassment, cyberbullying and harmful online content. Additionally, it's also important to review the constitutional provisions that pertain to privacy, freedom of expression, and other related rights.

The final panel speaker was **Ms. Haani Mazari, EdTech Hub's Asia Lead and Digital Personalised Learning Focal Point**. She works closely with decision-makers in South and Southeast Asia to support evidence-based approaches in the use of EdTech, and she shared **how can education design in low- and middle-income countries contribute to children's online safety and rights when online**. She said that along the lines of gender, where for example girls are likely to have limited access to the internet and digital media due to caregiver

attitudes, working with communities to cultivate the boundaries, the awareness and the responsiveness required to navigate the digital space. Through international partnerships EdTech hub finds prominent approach to translate online safety content in different languages. In high-income countries where online safety remains a concern, many parents have a high level of digital literacy and understand how to utilize web and content filters or monitoring tools. In contrast, parents in low to middle-income countries often lack basic literacy skills, let alone the digital skills necessary to support their children. This emphasizes the disparity in parental support for online safety between different socioeconomic settings. Thus, children will either enter digital spaces ill equipped, or their parents' concerns will prevent them from entering digital spaces at all. Adding to the challenge, **cultural context** plays a crucial role, she said. Online safety strategies that are effective in one cultural context might not seamlessly translate into another. Therefore, there is a risk that if we simply import online safety materials without considering cultural relevance, parents may struggle to relate to or apply the guidance in their own context. In addition to that, it might even make them more afraid of using the internet or having their child explore this.

In addressing these challenges, she underscored, it's imperative that education design considers the unique circumstances of parental and LMIC.

She provided example with some innovative approaches from EdTech implementers who were working in Afghanistan prior to the change in government in which there were still several barriers towards a girl's use of EdTech. In one implementation context, an EdTech implementer who is working in Kandahar, which is a more conservative part, they found that parents were afraid that if their girls use mobile phones, that they will be harassed by strange men over the phone. It wasn't about combating the parents' worldview. It was about acting and being responsive to this world view because this could be a reality that girls will face. So, what the implementer did was to remove all SIM cards from mobile phones to make sure that the device could only be used for learning itself.

She concluded that governments, NGOs, international organizations must **harmonize to create culturally relevant, linguistically acceptable and context specific online safety resources**. Because this approach ensures that parents aren't just equipped with the necessary digital literacy skill but also able to play an active role in fostering a safe online environment for their children.

4.6 Session 5: E-Training program on Child Online Protection

ITUEvents

Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding workshop

Session 5:
E-Training program on Child Online Protection

15.30-16:00 Thailand Standard Time (GMT+7)
7 December 2023
Virtual meeting

#ITUCOP
<https://itu.int/go/O3MO>
www.itu-cop-guidelines.com

Moderator
Hangyu Zhou
ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Speaker
Ms. Fanny Rotino
Child Online Protection Officer, ITU



Speakers for Session 5

The final session of the concluding COP workshop was session 5 “E-Training program on Child Online Protection.” The session moderator was Mr. Hangyu Zhou, representing the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. A distinguished speaker was **Ms. Fanny Rotino, the Child Online Protection Officer at the ITU** who presented the e-training programs and the role they play in ensuring child online protection.

In partnership with the National Cybersecurity Authority of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, ITU and partners launched a set of online self-paced trainings on COP, geared towards the following

target groups: Parents and carers, educators, policymakers, the ICT industry, and children themselves (aged 9-12, and 13-18).

Ms Fanny Rotino emphasized the relevance of COP capacity building and the reasons why it is important, such as raising awareness of opportunities and risks online, recognising risky situations, mitigating risk and avoid harm, awareness of reporting mechanisms, skills to build digital literacy and resilience, and to empower children and youth to exercise the full range of their rights online. She talked briefly about Global Programme “Creating a safe and empowering digital environment for children”, launched in 2021, in collaboration and with the support of the National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The related activities are:

- [The Game Sango's Adventures: discover online safety for younger children](#)
- [The App AskMe: Your online safety friend \(Beta\)](#)
- [Online training for children aged 9 to 12 years old](#)
- [Online training for children aged 13 to 15 years old](#)
- [Online training for children aged 16 to 18 years old](#)

She continued with learning objectives within these trainings, such as: gaining a comprehensive understanding of children’s Internet usage, identifying different types of online risks, comprehending safety measures for implementation, recognizing the role of stakeholders in protecting children online, knowing how to respond appropriately to and report online harm, developing a coordinated national strategy for child online protection involving multiple stakeholders, delving deeply into the issue of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, and advocating for and supporting children’s rights in the digital realm.

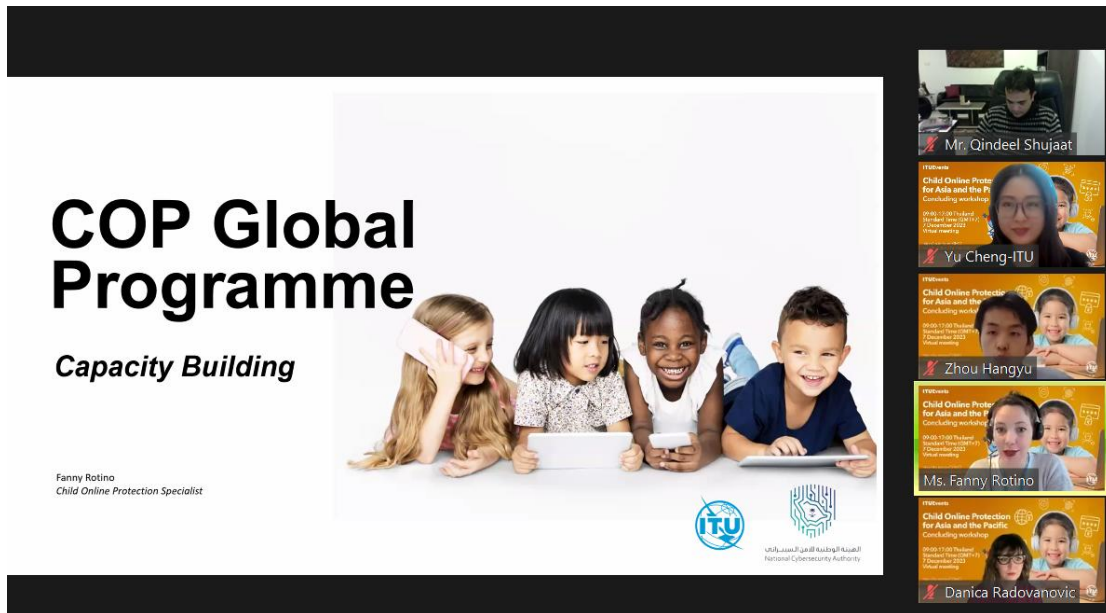
In addition, she disseminated information about the Training of Trainers (ToT), a face-to-face training aimed at fostering a secure and thriving online environment for children. The ToT program encompassed several learning objectives, including gaining familiarity with the ITU guidelines, acquiring a comprehensive understanding of child online protection, building a strong foundation in teaching, learning, and the essentials of delivering impactful training, as

well as honing advanced skills in designing replicable training sessions focused on child online protection.

She also highlighted the COP courses, which provide training for children in three different age groups: 9-12, 13-15, and 16-18 years old. These courses are structured into three modules that focus on priority areas such as Harassment, Privacy, and Mis/Dis information. They cover a wide range of topics, including exploring the various aspects of privacy, data protection, promoting safe online behavior, and more. The training content is carefully customized to suit the specific needs and developmental stages of each age group. Moreover, she introduced “Learn through Play,” which offers COP solutions in the form of engaging games and interactive apps designed for children. One notable product is “[AskMe - Your Online Safety Friend](#),” an interactive interface that allows users to initiate virtual conversations to learn about online safety. This platform includes a notification system that provides weekly advice, tracks learning progress, and informs users of new content. Furthermore, it features an online glossary of terms, additional resources, and access to child helpline numbers and associated websites. It is fully compliant with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and COPPA regulations. The web application is available on Apple and Android platforms, specifically in English.

She finished with the final aim of these trainings that through these solutions we expect children to:

- Know their rights online and the benefits of using digital technologies.
- Improve their critical thinking skills.
- Develop their knowledge on online safety and access resources.
- Increase their level of awareness on the risks they might face online.
- Develop their digital empathy and socio-emotional skills.
- Enhance their digital literacy and online resilience.



For more information about the COP Global Programme:

- <http://www.itu.int/cop>
- <https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/children>

4.7 Closing Ceremony: Summarization, Way forward and Wrap-up

Ms. Yu Cheng, the Project Officer from the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, wrapped up the workshop and thanked Dr. Atsuko Okuda, ITU Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific who made a summary of the discussions, presented the way forward, and lead us in the wrap-up of the session.

Dr. Atsuko Okuda thanked all participants in the Child Online Protection for Asia and the Pacific Concluding Workshop. She expressed the gratitude for the contributions and support. She said that throughout the workshop, all presents had the privilege of hearing from esteemed speakers who provided valuable insights into child online protection in the Asia-Pacific region and their perspectives and expertise have enriched discussions. Together, she noted, we have reviewed the achievements of the Child Online Protection (COP) project in the selected

countries, and we have shared insights, discussed challenges, and explored strategies for continued progress.

She finished her addressing with encouragement of each of participant to implement the knowledge gained from this workshop in their respective roles and organizations. She made a call for collaboration and working together, sharing best practices, and promoting international cooperation for a safer online environment for children.

5. Full Agenda of COP concluding workshop

Agenda	
Date: 7 December 2023	
08:30-09:00 (GMT+7) Bangkok Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration and event preparation • Testing and online networking on the online platform
09:00-09:30	<p>Opening segment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session moderator: Ms. Yu Cheng, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific <p>Welcome Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, ITU <p>Special address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Pauline Ross, Acting Assistant Secretary, Online Safety Branch, Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts • Ms. Ayako Kaino, Deputy Representative, UNICEF Mongolia • Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity APT • Mr. Guillaume Landry, Executive Director, ECPAT International
09:30-09:35	Group Photo Session
09:35-10:35	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Panel Discussion with the UN Agencies and Intergovernmental organizations on “Overview of Child Online Protection”</p> <p><i>This session will focus on sharing experiences with multiple child protection stakeholders regarding the growing risks and harm children face in the online world and exchange the prevention mechanisms for the identified challenges and showcase the solutions to strengthen national COP frameworks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session moderator: Mr. Puji Pujiono, Senior UN Coordinator Specialist, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific <p>Keynote speech:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yu Cheng, Project Officer, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thamana Lekprichakul, Development Coordinator and Data Management Officer, Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Thailand • Dr. Mark Kavenagh, Child Protection Consultant, UNICEF • Ms. Alexandra Souza Martins, Coordinator, UNODC Global Programme to End Violence against Children at United Nations • Ms. Fei Wang, Junior Professional Officer, Fundamental Principles and

	<p>Rights at Work, ILO</p> <p><i>Each speaker is to have 10 min max.</i></p>
10:35-11:45	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Panel Discussion with the Government on “National strategies/regulations and good practices on Child Online Protection”.</p> <p><i>This session will showcase the beneficiary countries’ guidelines and good practices in the field of Child Online Protection, how children’s rights are protected by the constitution and legislation; and the importance of the use of correct terminology when addressing violence against children online, reporting and responding mechanisms available to help the child victims of online violence.</i></p> <p>Session moderator: Ms. Philomena Gnanapragasam, Secretariat-Director, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Battsetseg Bataa, State Secretary Ministry of Digital Development and Communications (MDDC) of Mongolia • Ms. Ciput Eka Purwianti, Assistant to the Deputy Minister for Special Protection for Children from Violence, Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia (MOWECP) • H.E. Mr. Puthyvuth Sok, Secretary of State - Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, Kingdom of Cambodia • Mr. Ajmal Anwar Awan, Member of International Cooperation, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan • Ms. Dechen Chhoeden, Deputy Chief ICT Officer, GovTech Agency, Bhutan • Mr. Notachard Chintakanond, Executive Director of the International Affairs Bureau, Office of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, Thailand • H.E. Jocelle Batapa-Sigue, Undersecretary, ICT Industry Development, DICT, The Philippines <p><i>Each speaker is to have 10 min max.</i></p>
11:45-12:45	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Panel discussion with Industries on “Preventative measures on protecting children online.”</p> <p><i>This session will focus on how industry sectors get involved in preventive efforts to protect children when they are online.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session moderator: Mr. Syed Waqas, Director ITU/United Nations, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Natasha Nayak, Senior Policy Manager, APAC GSMA • Mr. Evence Su, Huawei Asia Pacific Cyber Security and Privacy Protection Officer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Malina Enlund, Safety Policy Manager APAC, Meta • Mr. Dominic McDonald, Chief Executive of ULAP Networks <p><i>Each speaker is to have 10 min max.</i></p>
12:45-14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:30	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Children’s Rights in a Digital Era</p> <p><i>This session will focus on children’s rights in the digital environment and youth engagement in Child Online Protection.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Danica Radovanović, Child Online Protection Expert, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Deborah Welsh, Executive Manager of Strategy, Engagement and Research, eSafety Commissioner • Mr. Qindeel Shujaat, Executive Director, Obun2 • Mr. Lihua Tong, Distinguished Professor of Beijing Technology and Business University, Director of Beijing Zhicheng Law Firm & Beijing Children's Legal Aid and Research Center • Ms. Haani Mazari, Asia Lead/Digital Personalised Learning Focal Point, EdTech Hub • Ms. Alfiah Rizqi Ramdhini, ITU Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys & Gender Champion (Indonesia) • Mr. A S M Humaun Kabir, ITU Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys (Bangladesh) • Ms. Olly Daugunu, ITU Generation Connect Asia-Pacific Youth Envoys (Fiji) <p><i>Each speaker is to have 10 min max.</i></p>
15:30-16:00	<p>Session 5</p> <p>Moderator: Hangyu Zhou, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>E-Training program on Child Online Protection</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fanny Rotino, Child Online Protection Officer, ITU
16:00-16:10	<p>Summarization, Way forward and Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, ITU