

Media Release

**National Institute of Development Administration - NIDA and Straits Interactive
ink Memorandum of Understanding to help develop data protection
professionals in Thailand**

Hands-on Training Courses to meet shortage of data protection officers

Bangkok, Thailand, 16 January, 2020 – The National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) and the Data Protection Excellence (DPEX) Centre, the education and research arm of Straits Interactive (SI) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help develop data protection professionals in Thailand to comply with Thailand's new Personal Data Protection Act. The hands-on courses, expected to rollout in mid-2020, are targeted at both data protection officers as well as compliance, legal, and information security professionals.

NIDA will collaborate with Straits Interactive as well as other institutions in the DPEX Network, such as Singapore Management University, De La Salle University, Philippines and the International Islamic University of Malaysia to promote data protection excellence in ASEAN in a 'hands-on' and operational way.

Said Prof Dr Kamphol Panyagometh, President of NIDA, "NIDA is a higher education institution having professors' expertise in data protection. With the new Thai Data Protection law coming into full force in May, NIDA together with Straits Interactive and the DPEX Network in ASEAN will be ready to provide the data protection programs and international certification courses. We believe that this cooperation will achieve synergy that is advantageous to build data protection professionals and officers, and broaden specialist knowledge of data protection in Thailand."

The signing ceremony, held during the ACIOA Roundtable event on data protection included standing witnesses Dr Sak Segkhoonthod, Board of Director for BOT, PEA, Advisor to ETDA and Digital Transformation Advisor to ACIOA and Mr Chaicharearn Atibaedya, President of ASEAN CIO Association.

Dr Prapanpong Khumon, Associate Dean at School of Law, University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, and advisor to the Secretary-General of the Personal Data Protection Commission said, "The data protection landscape in Thailand is still in its infancy. The introduction of the Personal Data Protection Act and the requirement to

appoint a data protection officer in many cases to safeguard personal data means that there is going to be a shortage of this specific expertise. Particularly when we take account of the need for expertise in building and leading a data protection programme even in those cases where there is no specific mandate to appoint a data protection officer. The MOU between NIDA and Straits Interactive will help to professionalise data protection officers and other compliance professionals and those involved in helping their organisation to be compliant with our Personal Data Protection Act. ”

Based on research by the International Association of Privacy Professionals, there is a global shortage of up to 75,000 data protection officers (DPOs) worldwide. Research in Singapore predicts a shortage of 10,000 data protection professionals locally. Data protection skills are amongst the most sought after in many of the EU markets¹. LinkedIn has identified the DPO as one of the top 5 fast growing jobs across Europe especially in France, Germany, UK and Italy.

Kevin Shepherdson added, “We are proud to share our privacy expertise and work with NIDA in the forefront of developing data protection skills locally. Our joint hands-on and certification courses will help educate both organisations and individuals on how to comply with Thailand’s Personal Data Protection Act from an all-important operational perspective. ”

More information about the DPEX Network be found at www.dpexnetwork.com

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About National Institute of Development Administration

The National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) was established following His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s vision of advancing Thailand’s development through the establishment of an advanced educational institution to prepare people to become agents of change for national development. NIDA has now been expanded to encompass regional development in countries outside of Thailand, with the aim of producing advanced degree graduates who can serve in the public, business and non-profit sectors. At present, NIDA is a state-supported graduate institution with university status, and it is one of very few higher education institutions in Thailand that offer exclusively graduate degree programs.

¹ <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/12/linkedin-names-the-fastest-growing-jobs-across-europe.html>



DATA PROTECTION EXCELLENCE CENTRE



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About the DPEX Network

The Data Protection Excellence (DPEX) Network is the first of its kind facility in the ASEAN region whose aim is to provide leadership, best practices, training, research and support for all things surround data privacy from an operational perspective. This collaboration of partnerships comprise certification bodies, law firms, universities and organisations who provide professional services and technologies relating to data privacy. An ever-growing network, members currently include Straits Interactive, Singapore Management University, International Islamic University of Malaysia, De LaSalle University, Philippines, IAPP, EXIN, OCEG and Lexxion amongst others. More information about DPEX Network can be found at www.dpexcentre.com

About Straits Interactive

Straits Interactive delivers end-to-end governance, risk and compliance solutions that enable trusted business and responsible marketing, especially in the area of data privacy and protection. Recently Data Protection Trustmark (DPTM) certified, we help businesses achieve operational compliance and manage risks through a combination of cloud technology and professional services. Our quest for innovation has led to us being recognised and awarded Intercon's Top 50 Tech Companies (in recognition of the company's contribution to technology) and APAC Business Headlines' Company of the Year, 2019. Our software-as-a-service solutions include DPOinBox and Governance, Risk & Compliance System (GRACIAS), all of which are supported by professional services that include advisory services, audits, and training. More information about the company can be found on www.straitsinteractive.com.

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