

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: CYBERSECURITY & DATA PROTECTION FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

15 OCTOBER 2025

09:00 AM – 12:45 PM

11:30 AM – 03:15 PM

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COLOMBO TIME

MANILA TIME

ZOOM REGISTRATION

ABOUT THE EVENT

The “Serendipity Knowledge Program” (SKOP) is ADB’s knowledge program dedicated to Sri Lanka, designed to respond effectively to the country’s needs in line with the vision of ADB as a knowledge solutions bank. SKOP seeks to share knowledge on issues relevant to Sri Lanka and facilitate discussion among stakeholders.

The latest SKOP event will be on Digital Transformation Cybersecurity & Data Protection for Digital Economy Development. The development of a secure and trusted digital economy is critical for Sri Lanka’s ongoing economic transformation and growth. With the government’s prioritization of digital transformation which will enable whole-of-government digitalization, and in the wake of increasing cyber and data privacy threats on citizen data, it is imperative that cybersecurity and data protection safeguards are embedded by design and by default into Sri Lanka’s digital systems.

This SKOP event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to discuss and share best cybersecurity and data protection practices, challenges, and opportunities in building a resilient digital economy. Renowned experts in cybersecurity, data protection, digital policy, and economic development will share international experiences and innovative solutions to foster a secure and trustworthy digital ecosystem. The event will bring together a diverse group of participants, including senior government officials, leading private sector representatives, think tanks, development partners, civil society organizations, and ADB staff.



**F. CLEO
KAWAWAKI**

Director General
Sectors Department 2
Asian Development Bank (ADB)



**HANS
WIJAYASURIYA**

Chief Advisor to the President
and Chair, ICTA



**YUKI
NARUSE**

Director
Office of the Director - General for
Cybersecurity, Ministry of Internal Affairs
and Communications, Government of Japan



**SHARIFFAH RASHIDAH
BINTI SYED OTHMAN**

Commissioner of Personal Data Protection
Department of Personal Data Protection
Ministry of Digital, Malaysia



**TAKAFUMI
KADONO**

Country Director
Sri Lanka Resident Mission
ADB



**THILAK
PATHIRAGE**

Chairman
Sri Lanka Computer Emergency
Readiness Team



**RAJEEVA
BANDARANAIKE**

Chairman
Data Protection Agency



**AVANTHI
COLOMBAGE**

Country Manager
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**LASANTHA
PRIYANKARA**

Security Architect
Sysco LABS



**CHAMATH
RATHNASEKARA**

Head of Threat Intelligence
at Scybers



**ROHAN
SAMARAJIVA**

Founder
LIRNEasia and Chair, Sarvodaya



**ANTONIO
ZABALLOS**

Director
Digital Sector
ADB



**MASATAKE
YAMAMICHI**

Digital Technology Specialist
(Cybersecurity and Data Privacy)
ADB



**SUNARI
DANDENIYA**

Chief Information Security Officer
Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC



**SAVITHRI
RODRIGO**

MC


[ZOOM REGISTRATION](#)

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: CYBERSECURITY & DATA PROTECTION FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT

Program MC: Ms. Savithri Rodrigo

09:30 - 09:40 AM **Welcome Remarks**
Ms. F. Cleo Kawawaki
Director General, Sectors Department 2,
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

09:40 - 09:50 AM **Opening Remarks**
Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya
Chief Advisor to the President and Chair, ICTA

09:50 - 10:05 AM **Session 1: National Cybersecurity Framework for Resilient Digital Transformation**
Japanese Government Experience
Ms. Yuki Naruse
Director, Office of the Director-General for Cybersecurity,
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan

10:05 - 10:40 AM **Panel discussion - exploring importance of cybersecurity and data protection for digital economy development, challenges of enforcement, public-private collaboration, protection of rights, and international cooperation.**

Panel members

Ms. Yuki Naruse
Director, Office of the Director-General for Cybersecurity,
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government of Japan

Mr. Thilak Pathirage
Chairman, Sri Lanka Computer Emergency Readiness Team

Ms. Sunari Dandeniya
Chief Information Security Officer, Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC

Mr. Lasantha Priyankara
Security Architect, Sysco LABS

Mr. Chamath Rathnasekara
Head of Threat Intelligence, Scybers

Moderator: Mr. Masatake Yamamichi
Digital Technology Specialist (Cybersecurity and Data Privacy), ADB

10:40 - 11:00 AM **Question & Answer Session**

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Session 2: Creating a Digital Security and Privacy Mindset: Capacity Building Needs for a Digital Society

11:00 - 11:15 AM

Malaysian Government Experience:

Ms. Shariffah Rashidah binti Syed Othman

Commissioner of Personal Data Protection, Department of Personal Data Protection
Ministry of Digital, Malaysia

11:15 - 11:45 PM

Panel discussion - focusing on the need for a security-first and privacy-respecting culture from schools to workplaces, including in government, challenges, opportunities and priorities

Panel Members

Ms. Shariffah Rashidah binti Syed Othman

Commissioner of Personal Data Protection, Department of Personal Data Protection
Ministry of Digital, Malaysia

Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike

Chairman, Data Protection Agency

Ms. Avanthi Colombage

Country Manager, Visa

Prof. Rohan Samarajiva

Founder, LIRNEasia and Chair, Sarvodaya

Moderator: Mr. Antonio Zaballos, Director, Digital Sector, ADB

11:45 - 12:10 AM

Question & Answer Session

12:10 - 12:15 PM

Participant Feedback

12:15 - 12:30 PM

Closing Remarks

Mr. Takafumi Kadono

Country Director, Sri Lanka Resident Mission, ADB

Representative from National Planning Department

Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of Sri Lanka

