Serendipity Knowledge Program (SKOP) on Digital Transformation: Cybersecurity & Data Protection for Digital Economy Development
Lotus Ballroom, Shangri-La, Colombo, 15 October 2025

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.

AGENDA

09:00 – 9:30	**Registration**
09:30 – 09:40	**Welcome Remarks** Ms. F. Cleo Kawawaki, Director General, Sectors Department 2, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
09:40 – 09:50	**Opening Remarks** Dr. Hans Wijayasuriya, Advisor to the President / ICTA Chair
9:50 – 10:40	**Session 1: National Cybersecurity Framework for Resilient Digital Transformation**
09:50 – 10:05	**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	**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.
	• 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 (SLCERT)
	• Mr. Chamath Rathnasekara, Head of Threat Intelligence at Scybers
	Moderated by Masatake Yamamichi, ADB
10:40 – 11:00	**Questions and Answers**
11:00 – 11:45	**Session 2: Creating a Digital Security and Privacy Mindset: Capacity Building Needs for a Digital Society**
11:00-11:15	**Malaysian Government experience:** Ms. Syamimi Farhana binti Muhamaed A. Aziz, Legal Advisor, Personal Data Protection Department, Ministry of Digital, Government of Malaysia
11:15-11:45	**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**
	• Ms. Syamimi Farhana binti Muhamaed A. Aziz, Legal Advisor, Personal Data Protection Department, Ministry of Digital, Government of Malaysia
	• Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike, Chairman, Data Protection Agency (DPA)
	• Ms. Avanthi Colombage, Country Manager, Visa
	• Prof. Rohan Samarajiva, Founder, LIRNEasia and Chair of Sarvodaya
	Moderated by Antonio Zaballos, Director, ADB
11:45 – 12:10	**Questions and Answers**
12:10 – 12:15	**Participant Feedback**
12:15 – 12:30	**Closing Remarks** Mr. Takafumi Kadono, Country Director, Sri Lanka Resident Mission, ADB Representative from National Planning Department (NPD); Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Government of Sri Lanka
12.30-	**Lunch**