

Welcome Remarks by AiSP EXCO Lead for Ladies in Cyber Ms Judy Saw at AiSP Ladies in Cyber Symposium

30 August 2024, 7.05pm

1. Good Evening

- a. Ms. Rahayu Mahzam, Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information, and Ministry of Health
- b. IHL Lecturers
- c. Students and Distinguished Guests,
- d. Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. I am thrilled to welcome you to the third annual Ladies in Cyber Symposium. This is my first symposium as the EXCO Lead for the Ladies in Cyber charter and it is my honour to join all of you this evening in our ladies in cyber symposium that stands at the forefront of empowering women within the cybersecurity field.

3. Our vision at Ladies in Cyber is to foster an environment where women can flourish and advance in cybersecurity careers through support, education, and recognition. Our mission is to build and nurture a community that empowers women by providing them with the necessary tools, opportunities, and platforms to succeed in this dynamic industry.

4. Today, we gather not only to share knowledge and insights but also to celebrate International Women in Cyber Day on 1st September—a movement that has significantly contributed to increasing the visibility of women in our field and inspiring more to join. It underscores the importance of what we do here:

elevate the profiles of women in cybersecurity, discuss the pressing issues we face, and strategize on overcoming them.

5. This year, we are particularly honoured to have Ms Rahayu to grace the event as our Guest of Honour. Your presence signifies the importance of government support in advancing gender diversity in technology sectors. Thank you for taking time out despite your busy schedule to be with us.
6. I also want to extend a warm welcome to our esteemed panelists and speakers who have joined us today: Your insights and experiences are invaluable, and I am confident that your contributions today will inspire and challenge us all.
7. A big thank you to our partners, who have prepared engaging booth activities. These interactions are vital for fostering connections and learning about the latest innovations and opportunities within our industry. In no particular order, they are

Cyber Security Agency of Singapore

Digital for Life Movement

ITEL Learning

Ping Identity

Mendaki

MINDEF Security and Intelligence Division

National Youth Council

NTUC U Associate

NTUC Women and Family

SG Her Empowerment (SHE)

Singapore Institute of Technology

SINDA

Tech Talent AssemBly

Last but not least Wissen International

8. In celebration of International Women in Cyber Day and to further our commitment to practical and continuous learning, we are thrilled to announce the following:

Just 2 weeks ago, AiSP together with 15 other women associations did a pledging with NTUC Women and Family and SG Her Empowerment in the pledging to support the Friendship Circles to organise at least two mentorship circle sessions over two years. Friendship Circles, a mentorship programme designed to build networks and communities among women. The friendship circles is based on the concept of mentoring circles, the many-to-many programme leverages the expertise of women mentors to foster a supportive environment where women can share experiences, discuss strategies, address common challenges, and receive guidance from mentors across various industries. We will aim to do the first session in December 2024 and the second session during the International Women Day Celebrations.

Today, we will also be launching our "Cyber Queens: Bug Bounty Challenge" programme. This initiative aims to empower women

in cybersecurity—students, professionals, and enthusiasts alike—by providing them with opportunities to test their skills in real-world scenarios, continuously improve, and earn rewards for identifying and resolving vulnerabilities.

Our goal of the program aims to not only help participants enhance and validate their technical skills but also to develop the crucial investigative soft skills that are equally important in the cybersecurity field. By encouraging more women to take on the role of bug bounty hunters, we are contributing to a more secure cyber world. We believe that security should be in the hands of everyone, not just specialized penetration testers. Through this program, we hope to inspire and support more women to step into the exciting and impactful role of bug bounty hunting.

9. As we move forward with today's program, I invite each of you to engage fully — ask questions, network, and take full advantage of the opportunities to learn and grow.
10. Finally, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and partners. Your belief in our mission and your commitment to supporting diversity in cybersecurity help make this symposium a success.
11. To everyone here, thank you for coming. I hope you find the symposium enlightening and enjoyable. Let's continue to work together, break barriers, and build a more inclusive and secure digital world.
12. Thank you, and let the symposium begin!