

CERT

Centre for Responsible Technology

Responsible Technology Conference

Progressive Childhood
in the Digital Age

[PROGRAMME]

15 June 2026 | 0930-1615
Hilton Kuala Lumpur



About

Centre for Responsible Technology

The Centre for Responsible Technology (CERT) is an autonomous research centre established by the Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia with the foundational support of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission. CERT's mission is to provide government and key stakeholders with the knowledge and insights needed to shape technological development guided by the principle of responsibility, ensuring that such development prioritises public interest, human rights, accountability and effective regulation.

CERT's research mandate is intersectional, focusing on the relationship between technology and four primary domains: society, sustainability, safety and security. Through research, dialogue and stakeholder engagement, CERT contributes to informed policy discussions on emerging technologies and their societal implications, working at the intersection of academia, industry and government.

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

The Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia was established on 8 April 1983 with a mandate to advance Malaysia's strategic interests. As an autonomous research organisation, we focus on foreign policy and security; economics and trade; social policy and nation-building; technology and cyber; and climate and energy.

We actively conduct track-two diplomacy, promoting the exchange of views and opinions at the national and international level. We also play a role in fostering closer regional integration and international cooperation through various forums, such as the Asia-Pacific Roundtable, ASEAN Institutes of Strategic & International Studies network, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, Pacific Economic Cooperation Council, Network of East Asian Think-Tanks, Network of ASEAN-China Think-Tanks and ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Dialogue.



Programme

0830-0930	Registration
0930-0945	Welcoming remarks Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah Executive Chairman Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia
0945-1015	Keynote address Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hasnah binti Dato' Mohammed Hashim Chairman Online Safety Committee
1015-1030	Break
1030-1130	Session 1: Making online spaces safer for children
1130-1230	Session 2: Socialising in the age of AI companions
1230-1400	Lunch
1400-1500	Session 3: Evaluating technology in the classroom
1500-1600	Session 4: Designing technology for the public good
1600-1615	Closing remarks Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah Executive Chairman Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia



Profiles



Datuk Prof Dr Mohd Faiz Abdullah

Executive Chairman

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Faiz provides high-level counsel to the government on geopolitics, defence and security, as well as the evolving landscape of global geoeconomics. At ISIS Malaysia, he spearheads policy innovation and leads strategic track-two diplomacy. He is the Malaysian representative to the ASEAN Regional Forum Experts and Eminent Persons, and co-chair of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. He is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Good Governance and a distinguished adjunct professor of the International Islamic University of Malaysia.



Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hasnah binti Dato' Mohammed Hashim

Chairman

Online Safety Committee

Hasnah was the 13th Chief Judge of Malaya. As a judicial leader with more than four decades' experience in the judicial and legal service, she is currently leading Malaysia's efforts to strengthen online safety governance, responsible technology and child protection online.

Session 1

Making online spaces safer for children



Children are spending more time online, which increases their direct and indirect exposure towards risks and harms. In response, decisive regulatory action has been taken through the introduction of the Online Safety Act 2025 and its Child Protection Code. This moves the needle away from reactive measures towards proactive approaches, creating duties and obligations for platforms, including the need to protect child users. Six months since its coming into force, has ONSA resulted in an increase in safety standards and protection for children online? How does the proposed delay in children accessing social media platforms until they turn 16 fit into this larger puzzle? And what about other activities online – such as gaming – which do not fall within ONSA’s ambit?

Moderator



Harris Zainul

Director of Research

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Harris directs the institute’s research to advance Malaysia’s strategic interests. He works on the interplay between technology, human rights and democracy, with a focus on the governance of large technology companies and online safety. He is also the co-founder of CERT.

Speakers



Ali Imran

Special Functions Officer to the
Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reform)

Ali advises on legislative, constitutional and institutional reform initiatives and supports the development of key government policies and legislation. His work encompasses parliamentary affairs, stakeholder engagement and inter-agency coordination on major national reform agendas. He is a former deputy public prosecutor, who played an active role in the formulation and drafting of several significant legislative reforms, including Malaysia's Online Safety Act 2024, which establishes a regulatory framework to enhance online safety and address harmful online content.



Eneng Faridah Iskandar Sastrawidjaja

Deputy Managing Director
Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC)

Eneng Faridah is entrusted with overseeing key sectors encompassing infrastructure development and connectivity; quality of service; project monitoring; new technologies and innovation; and industry development. With more than 25 years at MCMC, she has had held pivotal roles that contributed to the growth and governance of the communications and multimedia industry in Malaysia.



Saskia Blume

Chief of Child Protection
Unicef Malaysia

Blume leads efforts to strengthen systems to prevent and respond to violence against children across sectors, including in the digital environment. In Malaysia, she and her team work closely with government, civil society and private sector partners to advance legal and policy reform, generate evidence and provide technical guidance, drawing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, other global normative standards and international best practice.

Session 2

Socialising in the age of AI companions



AI is no longer confined to back-end technical processes and research labs. Its applied use in the form of AI-powered chatbots are designed to simulate companionship for millions of users. As conversational and in some cases emotional partners, prolonged use of these chatbots can result in dependency and displacement of traditional social connections. For children, what does this synthetic connection mean for their ability to form relationships in the real world? What happens when the messiness of real interactions is optimised for sycophantic affirmation? How should regulators and parents approach the topic of children using AI-powered chatbots for companionship and is there any lesson we can draw from previous experiences with Big Tech?

Moderator



Tan Heang Lee

Fellow

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Tan heads the Social Policy and National Integration programme. With a background in gender and public health, she is currently studying how technology impacts on loneliness among youth. She is a former research associate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and head of campaigns at the Women's Aid Organisation.

Speakers



Dr Chua Sook Ning

Founder
Relate Malaysia

Chua is the founder of Relate Malaysia, a non-profit mental health organisation where she works as a clinical psychologist and public mental health practitioner. She is also a member of STRIPED's international expert advisory panel at the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. She works to advance access to mental healthcare and strengthen the recognition of mental health as a basic human right.



Prof Fu Hongyu

Director
Alibaba Research Institute

Fu oversees the AI Governance Centre and Data Economy Centre of Alibaba Research Institute and is head researcher of the Alibaba science and technology ethics committee. He is a member of the Working Group on Data Governance of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development. He is an adjunct associate professor of the School of Public Administration, University of Electronic Science and Technology of China; and a researcher at the Centre for Industrial Development and Environmental Governance of Tsinghua University.



Mediha Mahmood

Chief Executive Officer
Communications and Multimedia Content Forum

Mediha is a regulatory and legal professional with more than 20 years' experience in law, public policy and content governance. She led the Communications and Multimedia Content Forum's rebranding and nationwide revamp of the content code. She has held senior legal and regulatory roles at PwC Malaysia, Astro and AirAsia Digital. She champions digital wellbeing through initiatives on online safety, digital literacy, suicide prevention and inclusive content practices.



Selvi Supramaniam

Child Protection Specialist
Unicef Malaysia

Selvi is a child rights advocate and policy specialist. She brings more than 20 years' experience across the humanitarian, human rights and development sectors, with a strong focus on child protection, migration and displacement. At Unicef, she works at the intersection of child protection and technology, advancing efforts to strengthen online safety, promote platform accountability and integrate child rights into digital governance frameworks.

Session 3

Evaluating technology in the classroom



Technology was touted as the great equaliser for education, simultaneously increasing the quality of learning materials, allowing for personalisation and improving accessibility. To realise this potential, the government invested heavily in “edutech” – with resources allocated to building up and deploying both software and hardware. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated this trend, which shows no sign of abating with the mainstreaming of AI in education. But has all this resulted in greater learning outcomes for children in the classroom? How does the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2026-35 balance between technological adoption and risks, such as cognitive offloading and stunting? And how can children truly benefit from edutech while mitigating risks?

Moderator



Calvin Cheng

Director

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Cheng heads the Economics, Trade and Regional Integration programme. His research interests span issues in applied economics, centring on jobs, social protection, economic development and the design of social-transfer programmes.

Speakers



Aniza Kamarulzaman

Director of Educational Resources and Technology Division
Ministry of Education

Aniza's division works to integrate technology into education, enhancing learning for the digital age. She leads various digital initiatives, contributes to technology policies and collaborates with global organisations to adopt best practices. Under her leadership, the ministry launched nationwide digital programmes and training for educators. Her vision is to drive digital transformation in Malaysian education, ensuring that pupils and educators are equipped with the skills, resources and innovative practices needed to thrive in the digital age.



Chan Soon Seng

Chief Executive Officer
Teach For Malaysia

Chan joined the inaugural Teach For Malaysia Cohort in 2012 and like many other fellows and alumni, the experience had a profound impact on his worldview. As a teacher in a low-income community, he was deeply moved by the challenges his pupils faced and how it was the lack of opportunities rather than ability that typically prevented pupils from realising their potential. He is also the deputy chair of the National Education Reform Study 2024-26.



Danial Azizan

Country Director
Google for Education

Danial has more than 12 years' experience in driving digital transformation, executive-led engagements and large-scale operational growth across the Asia-Pacific region. He has acted as a strategic adviser to C-suite and government officials, consistently translating high-level vision into measurable institutional outcomes. At Google, he heads education leadership for Malaysia and Brunei while advocating its investments and partnerships in expanding access for teaching and learning and arming the next generation of leaders with AI future-ready skills.

Session 4

Designing technology for the public good



As digital technologies increasingly shape civic life, questions of how they serve – or undermine – the public interest have become more urgent. Policymakers face growing pressure to respond to online harms, yet some regulatory approaches have led to harmful externalities. Based on his work in partnership with Jonathan Haidt and the Anxious Generation team, Ravi Iyer will discuss various regulatory approaches that have or have not worked to mitigate harms, with a particular focus on children’s online safety. He will also show how product design, platform architecture and incentive structures can be reoriented towards social value and how thoughtful regulation can measurably facilitate this process, including in the Malaysian context.

Moderator



Farlina Said

Director

Institute of Strategic & International Studies (ISIS) Malaysia

Farlina heads the Cyber and Technology Policy programme. Her research focuses on cyber stability, Malaysia’s national interests in emerging technologies as well as peaceful and meaningful use of cyber and digital tools. She has facilitated workshops on cyber norms and chaired the CSCAP study group on international law in cyberspace. She is a former Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada research fellow and has contributed to key policies in the region, such as the ASEAN Cybersecurity Cooperation Strategy 2026-30.

Speaker

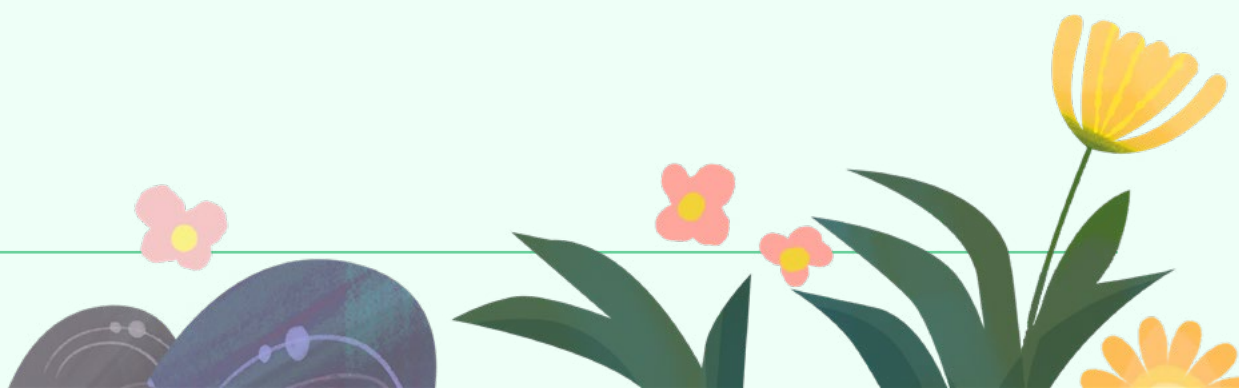


Ravi Iyer

Managing Director

Neely Centre for Ethical Leadership and Decision Making

Ravi led data science, research and product teams towards improving the impact of social media on both society and individuals in his previous role at Meta. He has co-authored numerous articles on the psychology of values and wellbeing. He co-founded Ranker and continues to work at the intersection of academia, civil society and the technology industry. He currently advises the UK Office of Communications, as well as governments on how to improve the societal impact of technology.





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