

APAC Cyber Security Fund

APAC Cybersecurity Fund Project Inception Workshop

Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme for MSMEs in India
Tuesday, November 05, 2024 • Hotel Hindustan International, Kolkata

The rapid adoption of digital technologies has the potential to significantly boost the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing better access to markets and opportunities. However, such greater digital integration of the economies exposes MSMEs to increasing cyber threats. According to National Crime Records Bureau records, cybercrime cases have increased by 24.4% between 2021 and 2022. Therefore, there is an urgent need to build a stronger cybersecurity ecosystem by building the capacities of economic actors, especially MSMEs, to understand cybersecurity challenges and adopt countermeasures.

Against this backdrop, The Asia Foundation with support from Google.org is launching the APAC Cybersecurity Fund (ACF) Project in India. The ACF Project aims to strengthen the Asia-Pacific region's cybersecurity ecosystem by equipping micro and small businesses, nonprofits, and social enterprises with skills to navigate the Internet safely and confidently. Through training, the project works to improve the targeted sectors' awareness and knowledge of basic cyber hygiene.

CUTS International as an implementation partner will organise the training sessions in ten Indian states, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Rajasthan, Nagaland and West Bengal with a target of imparting training to 20,600 MSMEs. The training programme aims to enhance the cybersecurity resilience of MSMEs by providing comprehensive training and promoting the adoption of cyber-resilient practices.

To kickstart the training programmes, an Inception Workshop of the project will be held on Tuesday, 5 November in Kolkata.

The **objectives** of the Inception Meeting will be to

- Discuss pertinent issues relevant to cybersecurity aspects of MSMEs;
- Disseminate information about the training programme among relevant stakeholders and the public at large; and
- Build a network of experts that would include officials from relevant departments and agencies of the Government of India and respective states where training would be held.

The participants of the Inception workshop will include state-level MSME departments, MSME DFO, Medium Enterprises and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C- CAD), Chambers of Commerce, MSME associations, Cyber Security Experts, CSO's, and Media.

The **expected outcomes** of the Inception Meeting are

- A forum for enriching discussions on issues that affect the cybersecurity of MSMEs and corresponding solutions;
- Outreach beyond the immediate stakeholder base, e.g. through media articles, and word of mouth;
- A well-established network of government officials, MSME associations, chambers of commerce and other stakeholders, which in turn would facilitate the implementation of the training programme.

AGENDA

09:30-10:30 hrs	Registration
10:30-11:15 hrs	<p>Introduction of the theme: Manvi Tripathi Programme Officer, The Asia Foundation, Delhi</p> <p>Welcome Address: Bipul Chattopadhyay, Executive Director, CUTS International</p> <p>Opening Address: Nandita Baruah, Country Representative in India, The Asia Foundation, Delhi</p> <p>Launch of Project Web Portal Deepmala Ghosh & Sobhon Guha</p>
11:15-11:30 hrs	Tea Break + Networking
11:30-12:15 hrs	<p>Technical Session:</p> <p>Existing Cyber Security Challenges for MSMEs in India and Importance of Creating Mechanisms to Build Cyber Resilient Eco-System.</p> <p><i>Cyber-attacks are an emerging problem in the MSME sector in India. It is gradually increasing, especially after the COVID pandemic, when most businesses move online, cyber threats also increase rapidly. Apart from inadequate preventive measures, the main problem is the lack of awareness among MSMEs about this cyber security. As a result, in many cases, MSME businesses are facing financial losses through cyber-attacks, which are adversely affecting the business.</i></p> <p><i>Our efforts to conduct capacity building programs in cyber security for MSMEs are expected to positively impact the MSME sector and create a cyber resilient ecosystem. Officials of MSME Departments, Chamber of Commerce, MSME Association, CSO representatives along with all the distinguished guests present in this session are invited to express their views on the existing challenges of cyber security for MSMEs and how this programme will benefit them. They are requested to give valuable suggestions which we will incorporate in our programme.</i></p> <p>Special Remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Lalzirmawia Chhangte (IAS), Secretary, Commerce and Industries Department, Government of Mizoram • Dr Mou Sen, Joint Director, MSME Department, Government of West Bengal • Mr Hendry Rupini, Principal, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tripura • Ms Chimila Sherpa, Assistant Director, Commerce & Industries

	<p>Department, Government of Sikkim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shri Sanjay Kumar Das, W.B.C.S (Exe.), Managing Director, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited • Ms Sonal Kamal, OSD (R & D), C- DAC, Patna
12:15-13:00 hrs	<p>Open floor discussion (Q&A session) & Vote of Thanks</p> <p><i>Facilitated by:</i></p> <p>Sanchita Chatterjee, Fellow, CUTS International</p>
13:00-14:00 hrs	Lunch