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Privacy International and LSE Research on Privacy and Asia

This briefing will provide you with the essential information on our research project on Privacy in Asia. In this initial phase we are seeking opportunities to engage with key policy experts and stakeholders across the region. Pakistan is one of the key countries for this project. We are working closely with Bytesforall, P@SHA and different other groups to best understand the privacy landscape in Pakistan.

Our research objectives

Privacy International and the London School of Economics and Political Science are conducting research on the policy environment in a number of countries in the region on the issue of privacy.

We would like to engage constructively with as many organisations and experts as possible. Doing so, we can learn from their experiences and expertise. We can also offer our own expertise in the area of privacy, through conducting briefing sessions and presentations on key privacy issues around the world.

Our goal is to understand the nature of the privacy discussions in India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand. We will do so by seeking answers to the following research questions:

- What are the policy dynamics around privacy? e.g. is there any interest in privacy, is it on the agenda, what is the current political environment?
- What are the potential drivers for privacy protections? e.g. some countries are creating laws for e-commerce protections, others to enable outsourcing from Europe, others because of consumer protection concerns, and some are doing it out of human rights concerns.
- Who are the leading experts and stakeholders?, e.g. if privacy seen as a consumer protection issue, then which consumer groups are working in this space? which Parliamentarians and government departments have taken an interest in privacy regulations? What are the views from the law enforcement communities?

About us

For over 18 years **Privacy International** has worked to advance the cause of privacy around the world. In particular, we aim to further the development of legal and technological protections for this most fragile right. You can see our range of activities at <http://www.privacyinternational.org>. Though PI is a campaigning group, we perceive education as one of our core campaigns. We regularly publish reports, give lectures at universities, and present to conferences around the world.

The London School of Economics and Political Science is one of the world's leading schools for the social sciences. The Policy Engagement Network, based out of the Information Systems and Innovation Group and the Department of Management, has participated in a number of policy processes over the years. We have led debates, informed decision-makers, and brought stakeholders together on issues as diverse as anti-terrorism policy, identity policy, internet governance, and constitutional change. We have advised international and governmental organisations around the world, and worked closely with parliamentarians and regulators, and alongside citizen groups and industry representatives.

Our project

We have been asked by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to conduct a stakeholder analysis on privacy issues in a number of Asian countries. In this first phase we hope to

engage with politicians and government officials, industry representatives, experts, consumer and human rights advocates in India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand.

To achieve this goal, our team will be traveling across the region in June and July 2008, and returning again in December 2008. Our engagement with legal and academic experts, organisations, and stakeholders will take the form of one-to-one meetings with the key institutions, groups, and experts; and when possible, we will run workshops and roundtable meetings to bring together people and groups from various sectors to promote discussion.

We will be running workshops in Manila and Islamabad, bringing together government officials, industry organisations, law and technology experts, and civil society to create an open forum to discuss pressing policy issues in the Philippines and Pakistan. We are also meeting with industry organisations, government officials, and civil society groups in Bangkok, Delhi, Kuala Lumpur, and Mumbai.

Our work in Pakistan

In Pakistan we are working with Bytesforall, P@SHA, CPDI-Pakistan and many other groups. These groups have played invaluable roles in Pakistan by raising privacy and security issues and the implications for IT policy and law.

Our upcoming activities in Pakistan will include an open forum in **Lahore, on July 11, 2008**, and a national workshop in **Islamabad, July 14, 2008**. The purpose of these meetings is to listen and understand the dynamics of privacy law and policy in Pakistan, to engage with key stakeholders, and when appropriate to build capacity on privacy.

Our team

Our team includes some of the world's leading experts and academics in the field of privacy.

- **Simon Davies**, Director of Privacy International and Visiting Senior Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Simon has been in the international privacy field for over twenty years, and is the leading campaigner on these issues. He is also a leading academic on technology policy matters, and has advised international organisations like ECOSOC, and national government agencies including the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.
- **David Banisar**, Deputy Director of Privacy International and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Leeds School of Law. David is the world's leading expert on open government and Freedom of Information law and policy. He is also a leading expert on privacy regulatory regimes. He regularly advises organisations including the Council of Europe (CoE), UNDP, and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- **Dr Gus Hosein**, a Senior Fellow with PI and a Visiting Senior Fellow with the LSE. Gus specialises in regulatory issues, identity policy, cyber crime and communications surveillance, anti-terrorism and border policies. He has previously advised the European Parliament, the OSCE, UNESCO and UNHCR. For more information please see <http://personal.lse.ac.uk/hosein>

For any further information please contact Gus Hosein, Visiting Senior Fellow the LSE, at i.hosein@lse.ac.uk. If we manage to achieve our goals in this phase, our longer-term goal is to conduct follow-up work that will involve more in-depth co-operation in the years to come with a greater number of experts, organisations, in even more countries across the region.

For more information about the two events in Pakistan or setup a meeting with the PI/LSE team, please contact:

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