

*The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) is a leading global service agency, headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, working around the world to advance child protection and to safeguard children from sexual abuse, exploitation and abduction. Through research-based advocacy, training, technical assistance and a collaborative approach to addressing these issues, ICMEC empowers and equips global partners – in government, academia, law enforcement, private industry and the NGO community – to make the world a safer place for children.*

*In addition to the worldwide headquarters in Northern Virginia, we have a regional office for Asia-Pacific in Singapore, and regional representation for Latin American and the Caribbean based in Brazil.*

## BACKGROUND BRIEF

The Internet has created an exciting, new world of information and communication for anyone with access to online services. While this technology offers unparalleled opportunities for children and adults to learn about the universe in which we live, it has also had an immeasurable impact on the sexual exploitation of children.

The Internet has enabled instant access to child pornography by thousands and possibly millions of individuals around the world. Child pornography is a lucrative worldwide industry, whose victims are treated as commodities in this illegal trade. While there is limited research on the scope of the problem, there are clear indications from the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE) 2014 statistics<sup>1</sup> that the number of child abuse images being created and shared is increasing exponentially, victims are increasingly of a younger age and the transactions are becoming progressively more transnational in nature. Consumers are able to use traditional payment methods, such as credit cards, as well as new, alternative payment schemes, to purchase such material on the Internet.

In 2014, INHOPE analysts processed over 1.5 million reports of illegal content, of which 83,644 reports were assessed to contain unique URLs of child sexual abuse material, where 81% of child victims were female and 7% of the child victims were infants. There is also evidence that the commercial child pornography industry that comprises 9% of the total in 2014, is been dependent upon the use of the credit card, other mainstream payment systems and more recently digital currencies.

### The Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography: A Global Mission

Initially launched in the United States in 2006, the Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography<sup>2</sup> (FCACP) is a groundbreaking alliance between private industry and the public sector in the battle against commercial child pornography. The FCACP is made up of leading banks, credit card companies,

<sup>1</sup> INHOPE 2014 | Facts, Figures & Trends : <http://www.inhope.org/tns/resources/statistics-and-infographics/statistics-and-infographics-2014.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> ICMEC - Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography: [http://icmec.org/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_X1&PageId=3064](http://icmec.org/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_X1&PageId=3064)

electronic payment networks, third party payments companies, and Internet services companies. It is managed by ICMEC and its sister organization, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). The mission of the FCACP is to follow the flow of funds and shut down the payments accounts used by these illicit enterprises. In the U.S. the FCACP has had a significant impact on the problem demonstrated by a sharp decline in the number of commercial child pornography websites being reported into the CyberTipline<sup>3</sup>, an Internet hotline managed by NCMEC.

Commercial child pornography is a global problem that requires a global solution. ICMEC's vision is to create several regional Coalitions which will coordinate their efforts, thereby creating a worldwide network.

### Asia Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography

Following the success of the U.S. Financial Coalition, ICMEC set-up the Asia Pacific Regional office to widen the fight against online child sexual exploitation and abuse, forming the Asia Pacific Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography (APAC-FCACP) in August 2009. Drawing on the U.S. FCACP experience, the APAC-FCACP has been actively mapping out priorities and work streams, as well as expanding engagement with multiple stakeholders. The APAC-FCACP is made up of leading credit card companies, electronic payments networks, Internet companies, industry associations, NGOs, regulatory bodies, and law enforcement from across the region. APAC-FCACP include, among others: ABACUS Australian Mutuals, Allen & Overy LLP, American Express, ANZ Bank, Australian Cards Risk Council, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Australian Federal Police, Child Wise Australia, Citi Asia Pacific, ECPAT International, ECPAT Child Alert NZ, eftpos Australia, Facebook Inc., Google, G2 Web Services, MasterCard, Microsoft, New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs, PayPal, Philippines Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking, Safe Childhoods Foundation-Indonesia, Standard Chartered Bank, Singapore, Terra des Hommes-Netherlands, Thai Bankers Association, Trend Micro, Trustwave, Twitter, Uniting Church in Australia, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Veri-Site, Visa, Westpac New Zealand, Xoom.com and Yahoo! Inc.

The APAC-FCACP continues to take a region-wide approach, with a recent focus on country-specific efforts. The APAC-FCACP hosted the first country-specific Roundtable in Auckland, New Zealand in September 2013, followed by one in Sydney Australia in May 2014 with the next one planned in Hong Kong in July 2015. The roundtables bring together member companies and a wider group of stakeholders to discuss collaboration across sectors to both understand the commercial business model/s of illegal merchants involved in the sale, access and distribution of child sexual abuse images and to design preventive action based on what is learned. The coalition initiative provides the platform for extensive engagement between law enforcement and private industry on an ongoing basis to understand and effectively respond to disrupting newer business model/s of illegal e-commerce as they evolve.

The APAC-FCACP Technology Challenges Working Group<sup>4</sup> has published two best practices papers under the **Confronting New Challenges in the Fight Against Child Pornography** space:

January 2014: [Considerations for Protecting Children & Your Company's Reputation When Engaging with Digital Businesses](#)

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<sup>3</sup> CyberTipline: <http://www.missingkids.com/CyberTipline>

<sup>4</sup> The APAC-FCACP Technology Challenges Working Group includes Dropbox, Facebook, PayPal, ICMEC, RapidShare, Trend Micro and Veri-Site.

October 2013: [Best Practices to Help File Hosting and File Sharing Companies Fight the Distribution of Child Sexual Exploitation Content.](#)

In addition, the U.S. FCACP published a series of best practice papers that can be found on following link: [Financial Coalition](#) .

### ***Benefits for Companies***

The APAC-FCACP offers benefits to companies, particularly for security/risk, compliance, and brand management practices. These benefits include access to:

- ❖ Valuable data/trends for monitoring internal systems.
- ❖ Recommended tools and vendors that “crawl” the web for potential violations associated with a particular brand.
- ❖ Enhanced dialogue with law enforcement.
- ❖ Constructive channel of communication with other industries.
- ❖ Solid, real-time intelligence on where the business of child pornography is headed.

### ***Guidelines for Participation***

As the APAC-FCACP continues with its country-specific efforts, the following guidance is offered about how companies can participate. It is important to note that these are not strict requirements, but rather recommendations based on experience. The specifics of a company’s involvement depend on its role in the financial services industry or Internet services sector.

At a minimum, be prepared to assign one expert from your company from one of a variety of corporate functions that are represented on the APAC-FCACP. They include: Corporate Security, Risk Management, Compliance, Government Relations, Brand Protection, and Legal. Your representative(s) should be authorized to participate in APAC-FCACP activities, which include conference calls, meetings, and research. On average, a representative is asked to dedicate four to seven hours a month to do the following:

- ❖ Join one or two of the APAC-FCACP’s Work Streams to share expertise and knowledge. Areas of focus include: fighting financial crimes such as money laundering; examining trends in Internet commerce such as webhosting; and exploring relevant legal issues in both the civil and criminal arenas. Every Work Stream meets via conference call. Schedules depend on the Work Stream’s mandate.
- ❖ Participate in the full APAC-FCACP meetings, which take place a few times a year in Singapore. (Teleconference is an option.)
- ❖ Provide expertise and content for best practices documents and other thought-leadership pieces.

Companies also provide support to the APAC-FCACP in the following ways:

- ❖ Help recruitment efforts by contacting banks, Internet services, and others to join the initiative.
- ❖ Authorize use of your company’s name in public documents.
- ❖ Contribute live credit card accounts and other relevant payment tools for law enforcement investigative purposes.
- ❖ Although not required as a condition of membership, financial contributions toward the APAC-FCACP’s operations are welcome.

For more information about the APAC-FCACP, please contact:

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