Federal Foreign Office

GIGA
German Institute for Global and Area Studies
Leibniz-Institut für Globale und Regionale Studien

©MF3d

Workshop

Cyber Resilience in Asia and Latin America

21 May 2025

10:00–11:30 a.m. &

3:00–4:30 p.m. CET

in English & hybrid

Venue: German Federal Foreign Office

In this workshop, we will explore evolving challenges of cyber resilience in Asia and Latin America, focusing on AI governance, digital authoritarism, and cyber security alliances. Scientists of GIGA's Digital Transformation Lab (DigiTraL), together with experts in the regions, will discuss how cyber threats, misinformation, and regulatory frameworks can be addressed, and how Germany and the EU can engage in meaningful digital partnerships in Asia and Latin America. Through case studies and cross-regional discussions, we aim to identify policy recommendations and opportunities for international collaborations in the digital sphere.

Closed workshop upon invitation only and Chatham House Rules apply

Programme

10:00 a.m. | Welcome Address

Representative of the Policy Planning Unit,
German Federal Foreign Office
Dr. Iris Wieczorek, Senior Research Fellow, Head of DigiTraL, GIGA

10:10 a.m. | Cyber Resilience Against AI-enabled Digital Authoritarianism and Disinformation: Lessons from South and Southeast Asia

Dr. Sangeeta Mahapatra, Research Fellow, GIGA

10:30 a.m. | Discussant: Expert from Asia

Prateek Waghre, Public Policy (Technology) Researcher;
formerly: Executive Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation,
Researcher at the Takshashila Institution

10:45 a.m. | Discussant: Expert from Asia

Andreas Dorner, Head of CCC Asia, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Singapore

11:00 a.m. | Q&A

11:30 a.m. | Lunch Break

3:00 p.m. | Digital Resilience in Latin America: Disinformation Trends and Cybersecurity Policy Build-Up

Jesus Renzullo, Research Fellow, GIGA

3:20 p.m. | Discussant: Expert from Latin America

Prof. Leon Hernandez, Journalist, Researcher at the Andres Bello Catholic University (UCAB), Coordinator of the Venezuelan Observatory of Fake News

3:35 p.m. | Discussant: Expert from Latin America

Lilian Georgieva-Weiche, Strategic Advisor within the Cyber Foreign Policy Staff, German Federal Foreign Office

3:50 p.m. | Q&A

4:20 p.m. | Concluding Remarks

German Federal Foreign Office, GIGA

4:30 p.m. | End of the Workshop

Moderation & Organisation

Dr. Jens Waibel (German Federal Foreign Office, Policy Planning Unit, 02-01@auswaertiges-amt.de)
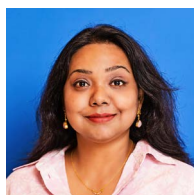Dr. Iris Wieczorek (Head DigiTraL, GIGA, iris.wieczorek@giga-hamburg.de)

Presentations & Speakers

Cyber Resilience in Asia

Cyber Resilience Against AI-enabled Digital Authoritarianism and Disinformation: Lessons from South and Southeast Asia

In her talk, Dr. Sangeeta Mahapatra focuses on the strategies and tactics of cyber resilience adopted by governments and civic actors in South and Southeast Asia against AI-enabled digital authoritarianism and disinformation. She identifies the major risks, proposes a redefinition of cyber resilience based on the emerging threat landscape, and provides cross-learning insights for Germany. Her talk ends with recommendations for potential areas for cooperation between Germany and countries like India and Singapore on cyber resilience against these threats.

©GIGA/Claudia Höhne

Dr. Sangeeta Mahapatra

is a Research Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), working on AI and Internet Governance, Digital Authoritarianism, Disinformation, and Cyber Resilience. She was a doctoral Fullbright Fellow at Mershon Center for International Security Studies (USA), and holds a PhD from Jadavpur University, India.

More

Discussants

©Prateek Waghre

Prateek Waghre

is a technologist-turned-public policy researcher and fellow at Tech Policy Press. Formerly: Executive Director at Internet Freedom Foundation and researcher at The Takshashila Institution; he transitioned from a decade in the CDN industry. His work focuses on technology's impact on democracy and digital rights.

©Andreas Dorner

Andreas Dorner

is part of the IT-Team of the Federal Foreign Office, currently stationed in Singapore as Head of the Cyber Control Centre Asia. Previous roles included upscale project management and intergovern-mental IT-framework coordination at FFO.

Cyber Resilience in Latin America

Digital Resilience in Latin America: Disinformation Trends and Cybersecurity Policy Build-Up

In his talk, Jesus Renzullo explores disinformation campaigns in Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Venezuela, analysing how political actors and state-backed groups manipulate digital platforms. The study investigates organisational structures, objectives, and government pushback against computational propaganda. It highlights the role of fact-checking initiatives, digital literacy, and policy interventions in countering disinformation. The discussion will also focus on cybersecurity alliances in Latin America, examining how governments, civil society, and international actors—such as the EU—can strengthen regional cyber resilience. Recommendations will address policy gaps and explore Germany's role in fostering international cooperation on digital security and governance.

©Jesus Renzullo

Jesus Renzullo

is a Research Fellow at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA). His research interests include cybersecurity in Latin America, geoeconomics of the energy transition, supply chains and climate change, climate-conflict nexus, climate policy and international affairs.
More

Discussants

© Leon Hernandez

Prof. Leon Hernandez

is a journalist with an MA in Organizational Communication. Professor and Researcher at the Information and Communication Research Institute at UCAB. Partner of Medianálisis, founder of the Venezuelan Observatory of Fake News. Member of the Editorial Board of "Comunicación" academic journal. Coordinator of the Chapultepec Index of Freedom of Expression and of the Press of the Inter-American Press Association.

© Lilian Georgieva-Weiche

Lilian Georgieva-Weiche

is a Strategic Advisor within the Cyber Foreign Policy Staff at the German Federal Foreign Office. Specifically, her focus is on advancing cyber capacity building, cyber diplomacy and underrepresented states and actors' engagement in cyber security. Simultaneously, she is working for the German development agency (GIZ) on implementing projects aimed strengthening international partnerships in cybersecurity in the Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans and Africa. She previously worked at the German Informatics Society on the intersection of Human Rights and Technology as well as the Council on Foreign Affairs (DGAP) on foreign policy.

D I G I T R A L

GIGA's Digital Transformation Lab (DigiTraL), funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, analyses the political drivers and real-world consequences of the digital transformation taking place around the world. The Global South in particular is an important actor in and shaper of this transformation. The project concentrates on the following questions in its current phase: Where do individual countries and regions in the Global South stand with regards to digitalisation? Where are the points of contact for (tech)partnerships with Germany? Where are new developments arising (e.g. emerging threats from digital disinformation; related reactions and interventions in the Global South)? What cooperative relationships exist in the field of digitalisation in the Global South, and how can the German government and other stakeholders in Germany best respond to this?

For more information, please have a look here.