

ITU-ASEAN WORKSHOP INSIGHTS

DEPED INITIATIVES

In promoting child online protection, there is a need to make parents, teachers, and students aware of the rights and current situation. The **Department of Education** has taken actions against child online abuse by issuing memorandum on the **Promotion of Online Child Protection and Prevention of Cyberbullying**. Together with **Stairway Foundation**, we've launched the first ever CyberSafe project. This project gives thousands of public school teachers in the Philippines an access to the **CyberSafe portal**. They can also download online modules/lesson plans to implement in the classrooms. We've also produced '**CyberSafe**' **Manuals** that discuss about online privacy and the risks the students face online. These individual lesson plans target grades 5 to 6 pupils and junior high school students. The goals of these manuals are to prevent online child abuse and bullying, enhance students' capacity to stay safe from online child abuse, and educate teachers and parents about online safety.

The creation of Cybersafe portal and manuals wouldn't be possible without the help of non-government organizations like the **Stairway foundation**. That's why coordination of different agencies and NGOs is very essential. Also, stakeholders from criminal justice systems, law enforcement, health, social welfare, information and communication technology sectors, and civil society can work together to formulate, implement, monitor, and evaluate policies.

To further protect children against abuse, the Department of Education has ordered all elementary and secondary schools to create **Child Protection Committees** to ensure that cases of child abuse are monitored closely at school level. It adheres to the goal of effective implementation of a zero tolerance policy for any act of child abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, bullying and other forms of abuse. It is responsible for assessing reports and complaints.