

CALL FOR PAPERS

AFI-BNM Policy Forum “Cybersecurity: Safeguarding the Future for Innovative Financial Inclusion”

Date: 1-2 August, 2017

Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) and the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) are pleased to invite research papers for the Policy Forum “**Cybersecurity: Safeguarding the future for innovative financial inclusion**”, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 1-2 August, 2017.

“Most people are starting to realize that there are only two different types of companies in the world: those that have been breached and know it and those that have been breached and don’t know it”, Ted Schlein a venture capitalist once said in an interview on cybersecurity trend. The issue of cybersecurity will matter a great deal for policymakers and regulators with financial inclusion mandates, for several reasons. Bringing more people into the formal financial system through digital financial services could create more opportunities and incentives for cyber-attacks. Low financial and technological literacy among some consumers and providers could translate to greater vulnerability to cyber threats. In some cases, cyberbreaches have the potential to cut access to essential financial services that the poor so depend on and even wipe out little wealth that they have.

The Policy Forum provides an opportunity to delve into relevant issues at the intersection of cybersecurity and digital financial inclusion. On this occasion, AFI would like to invite interested researchers to present the highlights and learning of their papers related to the theme of the conference on 1 August. Topics of the papers could include, but are not limited to:

- Empirical assessment of cyber risks in a financial sector, for a specific demographic group, financial product, country, or region.
- Effective and proportionate policy & regulatory responses to cybersecurity threats, that do not stifle innovation for financial inclusion
- Impact of policymakers’ and regulators’ effort to promote financial inclusion on cybersecurity threats, or vice versa
- Effective collaboration among policymakers/regulators, private sectors, and other stakeholders to combat cybersecurity threats in a financial sector
- Effective awareness or financial literacy initiatives to reduce cybersecurity breaches
- Roles and adequacy of global Standards by financial Standard-setting Bodies (SSBs) in dealing with cyber risks

AFI will use the following criteria to select papers for the presentation at the Forum:

- The paper should touch on both the issues of cybersecurity and financial inclusion, preferably examining the interplay or linkage between the two issues
- Priorities will be given to empirical papers backed by solid data, as opposed to theoretical papers
- The paper should offer practical recommendations for policymakers, regulators, financial services providers, or SSBs.

Interested individuals should submit their advanced draft papers including one-page synopsis to prad.kerdpairoj@afi-global.org by 14 April 2017. The synopsis should contain no more than 600 words. Authors of selected papers will be notified by 21 April 2017 and will receive invitations from AFI to present the papers at the Forum. Invited authors will then have an opportunity submit the final version of the paper by 15 June 2017.

For additional queries, please contact Prad Kerdpairoj at the above email.