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RYOJI IHARA TO MAKE CYBERSECURITY IN JAPAN A MAJOR FOCUS OF THE PCI SECURITY STANDARDS COUNCIL

TOKYO, 14 November 2018 – The [PCI Security Standards Council](#) (PCI SSC), a global standards body for the payment card industry, has announced Ryoji Ihara will lead its Japan outreach efforts to educate and promote the importance of the PCI Security Standards within the country.

Ihara will serve as Associate Director, Japan and will be responsible for driving awareness and adoption of the PCI Security Standards for payment card security within Japan. He will work closely with merchants, acquirers, financial institutions, security practitioners, law enforcement and other key stakeholders across the Japanese payment eco-system.

“We are delighted to have Ihara-san leading our efforts in this important market,” said Jeremy King, International Director of the PCI Security Standards Council. “Ihara-san’s deep insights into the payment business in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region make him the ideal person to be leading our efforts to promote good, sound payment security standards within Japan. Having Ihara-san join our team continues our momentum in Japan following the highly successful PCI SSC Asia-Pacific Community Meeting in Tokyo earlier this year.”

“I am delighted to have this exciting opportunity and look forward to continuing my work in the highest levels of payment security with the PCI Security Standards Council,” said Ryoji Ihara. “The PCI Security Standards are considered the ‘gold standard’ within the payment card industry. Cybersecurity is critical to Japan’s economy, especially as we prepare for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics / Paralympics Games and beyond. Japan’s e-commerce market is worth an estimated \$95.3 billion and is the third largest in the world, making Japan a major target for data theft by international cybercriminals from around the globe. With PCI SSC making Japan a top priority, we have the unique opportunity to provide security standards, education and training to help guard against the cybercriminals who would do us harm.”

“Ihara san’s background with AEON and Visa in Japan gives him a unique perspective into the security challenges facing Japan today and into the future,” said Lance J. Johnson, Executive Director of the PCI Security Standards Council. “He has extensive understanding of the data security needs in Japan and his expertise will be a valuable asset to the PCI Council.”

Earlier this year, the PCI SSC hosted its annual Asia-Pacific Community Meeting in Tokyo, Japan, which drew payment security stakeholders from twenty different countries around the globe.

Ihara holds a bachelor’s degree of Engineering, System and Computer Engineering from Meiji University. He is fluent in Japanese and English.

About the PCI Security Standards Council

The [PCI Security Standards Council](#) (PCI SSC) leads a global, cross-industry effort to increase payment security by providing industry-driven, flexible and effective data security standards and programs that help businesses detect, mitigate and prevent cyberattacks and breaches. Connect with the PCI SSC on [LinkedIn](#). Join the conversation on Twitter [@PCISSC](#). Subscribe to the [PCI Perspectives Blog](#).

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