

# ASEAN AUSTRALIA CODETHON

## INNOVATING NATIONAL SECURITY

### TRANSCRIPT

**Speaker 1 – Leanne Fry (Chief Innovation Officer, AUSTRAC)**

I look after the innovation, information and analytics branch. We're the transformation branch in AUSTRAC. A key component of our innovation function is actually looking at events like this—new ways of doing things. Innovation has to be more than just a word for government. It's got to be more than just ideas. It's got to be outputs. There are a few drivers around that. There are things like the new platforms. So, we can't just rely on other people to tell us why blockchain might change the game.

**Speaker 2 – Dirk Hodgson (Managing Director, Accenture)**

It's no secret that the pace of technology is absolutely accelerating out there. All you have to do is look around and see what's happening around us with all of the devices, the Internet of Things, analytics, big data, artificial intelligence. In the case of this particular organization and this problem set, the volumes of data are expanding massively. They're

also fragmenting—going from very traditional means, where there are banks and exchanges to all sort of things such as cryptocurrencies, dark web and the like.

**Speaker 1 – Leanne Fry (Chief Innovation Officer, AUSTRAC)**

Innovation is critical for potentially over-the-horizon kind of solutions. That's what we are seeking today. We'd love one of those teams to come up with that absolutely over-the-horizon solution that makes us go "whoa". So, innovation in government has to drive outcomes. It reduces the cost of regulations for industry, hardens the financial system and helps us with this cross-border movement of money, child exploitation and serious financial crime. We've got to get smarter at getting out in front of it. Criminals move fast. They're fleet-footed and they're continually changing. Shut down one area and they move somewhere else. And it's absolutely imperative that we as government and industry are

capable of not just keeping up but getting out in front of it. So, the benefit of this kind of event is that we really bring the private sector, fintech, rigtech, industry and consulting firms like Accenture together. Jointly, we're going to be able to solve this problem far more effectively than little AUSTRAC's three hundred people. Terrorism is an issue for us all. We've got family and friends and children impacted by the change in our worlds. So, solving this and making people feel safe is really, really important.

**Speaker 2- Dirk Hodgson (Managing Director, Accenture)**

National security has always been an area where technology and innovation is absolutely critical. As a result, we use innovation to try to gain asymmetric advantages to allow us to be able to preserve Australia's national security. So, when it comes to our role in that, we bring thought leadership and access to the latest, greatest technology and trends from out there in the industry, and work on bringing that into the national security domain.