

MCI DIRECTS IMDA TO ISSUE ACCESS BLOCKING ORDERS TO EAST ASIA FORUM FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CORRECTION DIRECTION

Following East Asia Forum’s non-compliance with the Correction Direction issued on 13 September 2023 for falsehoods in its article “A Spate of Scandals Strike Singapore” (“**the article**”), the Minister for Communications and Information has today, directed the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) to issue Access Blocking Orders. The Access Blocking Orders require internet access service providers to disable access for end-users in Singapore to the East Asia Forum’s website, where the falsehoods are communicated.

2. The 13 September Correction Direction issued to East Asia Forum had required the facts to be juxtaposed against the falsehoods, so that end-users in Singapore can read both versions and decide for themselves. East Asia Forum did not comply with the Correction Direction. While East Asia Forum carried the Government’s response at the bottom of its article within the comment section, this was not done in compliance with the requirements of the Correction Direction for the respective Correction Notices to be situated at the top of the article and on the main page of the website. Should East Asia Forum subsequently comply with the full requirements of the Correction Direction, the Minister will cancel the Access Blocking Orders.

3. The Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office has also separately instructed the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA) Office to issue today, a Targeted Correction Direction¹ to Meta Platforms, Inc in light of East Asia Forum’s failure to carry the Correction Notice on its Facebook post linking to the same article. Meta Platforms, Inc will be required to communicate a correction notice to all end-users in Singapore who had accessed East Asia Forum’s Facebook Post.

4. For facts of the case, please refer to the Factually article “Corrections regarding false statements of fact in article and post published by East Asia Forum on 18 August 2023” (<https://www.gov.sg/article/factually130923-b>)

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
16 SEPTEMBER 2023

¹ A Targeted Correction Direction is a direction issued to an Internet Intermediary (“II”) whose service was used to communicate a falsehood. The direction requires the II to communicate a correction notice by means of its service to all users in Singapore who access the falsehood through its service. This is so that users who see the falsehood on a platform also see the correction notice on that platform.

