



Closing Remarks 25 September 2009

ITU Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Asia-Pacific - Connecting the World Responsibly -¹

Hyderabad, India
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Mr. R.N. Jha, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications,
Distinguished Guests, Delegates, Speakers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon. I am very impressed by the way and degree of attentions and interests demonstrated by all the participants for the last three days. We have 133 participants from 24 countries, of which 57 delegates are from 21 Member States, and 42 representatives are from 8 Sector Members, while the other 34 participants are from our partners and other organisations.

As we have re-confirmed from this Forum, cyber-threats or cyber-crimes have become increasingly sophisticated since the early 1980s, when the first known case of a computer virus was reported, along with the development and evolution of ICT. Today, cybercrimes became an organized and underground economy reaping vast financial rewards using sophisticated software tools, which threaten not only simple users but also information infrastructures per se in all countries regardless of the level of development.

As experienced by the advanced countries like Korea, which ranks the world number one for the fixed broadband and leads in various advanced ICT services and applications, the more advanced ICT infrastructure and services, the more sophisticated cyber crimes and attacks. Indeed, the issues emerged and related to the cybersecurity are not merely technical, legal, regulatory or policy alone but comprehensive from various aspects involved by across sectors and multi-stakeholders.

¹ See the ITU Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Asia Pacific website at: www.itu.int/ITU-D/cyb/events/2009/hyderabad/

Thus, our Asia-Pacific regional office has been organizing a series of Regional Cybersecurity Forum for the last few years in close collaboration with sub-regional and regional organizations as well as national administrations like the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy (DBCDE) of Australia, the Department of Telecommunication, India, and many others in order to raise the awareness of cybersecurity and encourage our members in our region to prevent from and combat the cyber treats or crimes at the early stage in line with the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) launched by the ITU HQs.

Bearing in mind that, this Forum has been carefully designed to discuss and identify together to ensure the national framework for cybersecurity and critical information infrastructure protection (CIIP) as the significant first step in addressing the challenges arising from globally interconnected ICT infrastructures, services and applications; to promote innovative public-private partnership for safer cyber space for all including vulnerable groups; and to foster regional and international cooperation since cybercrimes can't be tackled by a single nation any longer taking into account the nature of cybercrimes across national borders in real time.

Dear participants,

We have heard again and again before and during this Forum the need of a collaborative approach to ensure cybersecurity. As you see, ITU has created global platforms for cooperation and collaboration among Members and all stakeholders. For instance, the Child Online Protection initiative, which is a framework of an international collaborative network to address legal, technical, organizational and procedural issues of our future generations. The ITU-IMPACT initiative is another one. As has been demonstrated to you today this initiative aims at assisting countries in fighting against cyber threats. These platforms, however, will yield an optimum benefit to all only when we are working together and fully make use of them. Therefore I, again, bring to your attention importance of your continuing support and contribution to the initiatives and ITU's resources.

At regional level, we recognized importance of a Forum like this as a means to exchange knowledge and experiences. We are also making an effort to accommodate the need of direct assistance at national level, in which capacity building will be one of key activities while raising public awareness is another. It is interesting to learn from our speakers here that in spite of several campaigns and education programmes, cybersecurity is still being practiced to a limited extent and even proficient ICT users still have some misunderstandings about cyber threats. Among people who need to be educated are legislators, judges, parliamentarians, police, and government officials as far as cyber-legislations and law enforcement are concerned.

Another challenge having been shared in this Forum is the need of partnership particularly Public-Private Partnership. While the industry is encouraged to work together with government authorities to ensure cybersecurity, profit-making organizations are reluctant to join the effort not only because of financial burden, but also due to a lack of trust between the parties. Therefore, we have to find a win-win solution to address the challenge and hence make everyone act responsibly since cybersecurity is not just somebody's issue, but it has a wide and wider impact to the society as far as ICTs have more become part of lives. As raised at this Forum, with regards to the role of ITU, we – ITU – will endeavor to ensure that the outcomes from this Forum to be shared and implemented, as and when appropriate, through close collaboration and partnership with all the stakeholders and our Members in particular.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I do sincerely hope that the discussions and information shared at this Forum help you to identify the ways to prepare for appropriate policies, regulations, legislations and mechanisms at your countries as well as to build networking each other for innovative partnership for the common goals: i.e., make safer and better world for all in the people-centred information society.

Before closing the Forum, on behalf of the ITU, I would like to express my warmest appreciations to: 1. The host government, DOT, India, for the kind hospitality and excellent arrangement for all to enjoy not only the Forum itself but also the stay in India, while looking forward to visiting again the same venue for the WTDC-2010; 2. The Government and various ICT circles of Andhra Pradesh for their generous support and cooperation; 3. Mr. R.N Jha, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and his team, Mr. Kochar in particular, for their efforts and supports, without which we wouldn't be able to have the productive Forum with outcomes, that we have just reviewed and agreed. 4. All the moderators, speakers, and panels with such high caliber of expertise from various organizations and countries, especially from our sister UN agencies like United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and from the partner like the IMPACT; 5. All the technicians for ensuring all the logistics and IT facilities as well as KUONI Destination Management for their logistic service; 6. And, of course, my colleagues from the HQs, Mr. Marine and Ms. Sund, and Bangkok Office, Mr. Wisit, and Ms. Wachira, for their tireless efforts and hard works for many months. 7. Last but not the least, you yourselves, participants, who made this Forum happen to move forward the next phase.

Wishing you a very pleasant journey back,

I look forward to meeting and working with you again in the future.

Thank you for your kind participation, contribution and attention.