110 TELECOM WORLD 2009 In Review

Mr Sawada, NEC, argued that more security functions are also needed in the network infrastructure to reduce the risk of cyber-attacks. With the growing dependence on cloud-based technology, there is also an additional layer of complexity added to securing the system. Cloud computing is easy for system operators to manage but unfortunately also easy for hackers to crack in. Mr Sawada recommended that the provider be responsible for building in security to the system. Currently cloud technology has the same level of security as Windows 1999.

Mr Carlos Moreira, argued that security is mistakenly becoming increasingly end user-focused, instead of integrating security elements into the system. Consumers no longer accept to buy a car without an airbag so why should the consumer accept to buy software or hardware without safety mechanisms? Why can't Telcos integrate a digital ID into the SIM card? He also noted that the web was not originally designed to support the massive amounts of connections that it enables today. By 2020 it is expected that there will be 50 billion connections. We need national legislation inspired by international standards. Mr Moreira also floated the idea of developing a World Responsibility Index for cyber-threats.

Mr Shihab introduced IMPACT, the operational arm of the ITU's Global Cybersecurity Agenda, which provides global threat intelligence and an early warning system for national governments. It has 20 industry partners and provides a collaborative platform for experts, law enforcement, regulators and policy-makers. The system also allows countries to communicate during emergencies.

The idea was floated for an "Internetpol", along the lines of Interpol but dedicated solely to cyber-crime.

Many questions were raised during the session including: is security itself becoming an industry? How can developing countries afford the right security mechanisms? Are there success stories about successful legislation? Are we facing the end of the Internet as we have known it: creative, chaotic, new ideas? Should we have an internet government which regulates? Pros? Cons? How to balance security and internet rights and freedoms?