Cyber Drill, Crucial in Refining Incident Response Mechanism, to Counter the Lightning Evolution of Cyber Attacks

Montevideo, 28 August 2013 – The first UN-Backed Applied Learning for Emergency Response Team (ALERT) cross border cyber drill in the Americas – a joint initiative by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) – has garnered positive feedback from participants and observers.

The majority of the participants, who are members of the National Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT), found the drill both stimulating and challenging. “Our skills and knowledge were put to the test and this has helped us to not only gauge the level of our capabilities but also pushed us to improve,” said Ernesto Pérez Estévez, an officer with Computer Security Incident Response Team (Csirt) for the Ecuadorian Consortium for Advanced Internet Development (CEDIA) in Ecuador.

ALERT was part of a three-day Regional Cybersecurity Forum held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 26-28 August, in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC), the host, and the Agency for the Development of Information Society and Electronic Government (AGESIC), the co-host.

The forum saw the participation of national CIRTs from nine regional countries, including Peru, Ecuador, Barbador, Paraguay, Bolivia, Columbia and Chile, as well as observers from the State Department of the United States and cybersecurity experts from other countries. This event was supported by ITU-IMPACT’s strategic partners ABI Research and The Cyber Guardian as well as supporting partner, Bitdefender, who conducted specialised workshops, in line with ITU-IMPACT’s mission of ensuring continuous enhancement of skills and knowledge for a more effective fight against cyber threats.

“More than ever before, we live a life that’s wired to gadgets, systems and networks,” said ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun I. Touré. “The cyber network that provides seamless connection around the globe is what makes us truly global. The far-reaching cybersecurity efforts initiated by
ITU and IMPACT are to ensure that the networks that keep us connected globally are not destroyed by cyber criminals."

Dr Touré added that it is crucial that cybersecurity initiatives are not seen as efforts to control the Internet but as measures to ensure that the global community’s faith in cyber networks are not eroded by the damage caused by the unrelenting and destructive work of criminals in the cyber world.

ALERT, which kicked off on 26 August, was in session for one and a half days, followed by workshops that addressed key topics such as mobile security, Child Online Protection and the Global Cybersecurity Index. These workshops also provided a forum for analysis and discussion on the most current cybersecurity issues.

The exercise in the Americas region was the fourth in ITU-IMPACT’s series of ALERT cross border cyber drills, after South East Asia, the Arab States and Europe.

“It is commonly accepted that cyber drills help refine incident response mechanisms in order to create a more effective system in combating threats. It also pushes CIRTs to challenge themselves, and cross border cyber drills like ALERT, re-emphasise the need for regional cooperation and cohesion in the fight against cyber threats,” said the Chairman of IMPACT Datuk Mohd Noor Amin.

He went on to say that as cyber criminals are becoming more innovative and with threats evolving into more virulent forms at an increasing pace, security practitioners have no choice but to evolve at a similar or faster pace to catch up and out run these criminals. “Cyber drills are among the many methods that can be used to step up the fight against cyber criminals,” said Datuk Noor Amin.

ITU-IMPACT brings together governments, academia and industry experts to enhance the global community’s capabilities in dealing with cyber threats. ITU-IMPACT’s global partnership today sees over 200 industry, academia and international organizations together with 145 partner countries spanning all continents. The global coalition seeks to strengthen global cybersecurity measures and help nations to develop worldwide strategies against cyber threats. -End-
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About IMPACT

The International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) is the cybersecurity executing arm of the United Nations’ specialised agency - the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). As the world’s first UN-backed comprehensive alliance against cyber threats, IMPACT brings together governments, academia and industry experts to enhance the global community’s capabilities in dealing with cyber threats. Based in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, IMPACT is the operational home of ITU’s Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA). IMPACT provides ITU’s 193 Member States access to expertise, facilities and resources to effectively address cyber threats, as well as assisting United Nations agencies in protecting their ICT infrastructures. For more information, please visit impact-alliance.org. Follow us on 🌐🌐🌐.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The ITU is the United Nations specialized for information technology and communication - ICT. Attributed ITU radio spectrum and satellite orbits worldwide, develops technical standards that foster seamless interconnection of networks and technologies, and strives to improve access to ICTs in underserved communities worldwide. The ITU is committed to connecting the entire world population wherever they live and whatever the means available. Through his work, protects and supports the fundamental right of everyone to communicate. The ITU has members from both the public and private sectors. Thus, apart from its 193 Member States, ITU members have the status of ICT regulatory bodies, academic institutions and some 700 private companies.

About the ITU- IMPACT initiative

In 2008, IMPACT signed an MoU with the ITU to operate its Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA, for its acronym in English). An essential part of the agenda is the search for international cooperation through specific programs and exercises Ciberdrill coordinated between countries.

About the Internet Address Registry for Latin America and Caribbean (LACNIC)

LACNIC is an international non-governmental organization established in Uruguay in 2002. It is responsible for the allocation and management of Internet number resources (IPv4, IPv6), Autonomous System Numbers and Reverse Resolution, among other resources for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is one of the five Regional Internet Registries in the world. LACNIC contributes to the development of the Internet in the region through an active policy of cooperation, promoting and defending the interests of the regional community and helping to create the conditions for the Internet to be an effective instrument of social inclusion and economic development for all countries and citizens Latin America and