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VANGUARD

CTO signs MOU with Impact on cybercrime

By Emeka Aginam

To further promote of international cooperation against cyber crimes eating deep into the socio-economic fabrics of nations of the world , the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) and the Malaysia-based International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU)

The document, signed at the just concluded Cybersecurity forum held in London, paves the way for two organisation to work towards the facilitation of information flow and resources, capacity building and the setting up of robust cybersecurity frameworks for protection against cyber crime.

Under the agreement, both organizations will share and exchange knowledge and information on cybersecurity to enhance each party's knowledge base.

The MOU will also see the cross promotion of capacity-building activities aimed at the public sector, private sector and the civil society, with the objective of finding and exemplifying best practices in cybersecurity.

Apart from capacity building, the MOU will see both organisations provide joint assistance for projects and programmes that will improve cybersecurity, particularly in the less-endowed countries, as well as joint representation to policymakers and regulators to achieve common goals.

With this initiatives, both organisations intend to operationalise strategies and activities that pave the path to minimising risks in an increasingly interconnected online world.

Meanwhile, the MOU exchange was represented by Dr. Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, Chief Executive Officer, CTO and Philip Victor, Director of Training Skills Development & Outreach, IMPACT.



Endorsing the agreement, CEO of CTO, Dr Ekwow Spio-Garbrah said, "This MOU is yet another step towards a safer cyber space. Security experts from both the public and private sectors agree that with the advantages of the Internet come a number of threats which require international collaboration to deal with, and at CTO we believe that such MOUs help stakeholders to pool their resources together to help contain these threats."

According to him, the agreement will also enable IMPACT to potentially use training services of the CTO, including its seminal Programme for Development and Training (PDT) as a delivery channel.

With over forty regional training workshops conducted per year, the PDT will open new vistas for IMPACT to broaden its stakeholder engagement.

"This strategic alliance enables both parties to jointly enhance the global cooperation in defending against cyber threats, which have proven to be pervasive in nature, spiking in numbers on a second-by-second basis," Mr. Mohd Noor Amin, Chairman, Management Board, IMPACT, added.

Mr. Amin said that IMPACT, through its capacity-building programmes, aims to help constituents of CTO improve their skills to better respond to the dynamic nature of cyber threats.

The International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber Threats (IMPACT) is the world's first comprehensive global partnership against cyber threats.

As an international not-for-profit organisation, IMPACT is a politically neutral platform, bringing together governments, academia and industry experts to enhance the global community's capacity to prevent, defend against and respond to cyber threats.

IMPACT is the pioneer forum that enables all partner countries to collectively take a global leadership role in the interest of their national cybersecurity. Located in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, IMPACT's Global HQ has been named as the physical and operational home of the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA). This landmark collaboration provides ITU's 191 member states with IMPACT's expertise, facilities and resources to effectively address the world's most serious cyber threats.

With a history dating back to 1901, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) is an international development partnership between the Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth governments, businesses and civil society organizations. CTO provides the international community with effective means to help bridge the digital divide and achieve social and economic development, by delivering to developing countries unique knowledge-sharing programmes in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).



Meanwhile, statistics from IMPACT's Global Response Centre saw the number of detected global malware attacks rise from about 7 million attacks in January 2008, to almost 35 million attacks in December 2009, an increase of 400%.

Malware attacks – short for malicious ware – often try to mine pertinent information from end-users or servers for financial gain. Not surprisingly, networks and computers in the financial services industries were the most targeted, at 71 per cent of globally detected attacks.