

Pacific Cyberdrill

8 - 10 December 2020

3 am Bangkok

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Good morning to you all!

Thank you for joining us today at this “Pacific Cyberdrill”. I believe that we could not have chosen a more relevant exercise for the sub-region, which is coping with the enormous challenges of undergoing rapid digitization of economy and society under the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the arrival of several submarine cable systems, satellite services and access and availability of LTE (4G) in the Pacific Island countries, cybersecurity is more important than ever. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has increased reliance on ICTs for learning, healthcare, business, agriculture and various government services. Such increased reliance on ICTs has also posed significant challenges to cybersecurity with increased cyber threats and incidents.

Effective mechanisms and institutional structures at the national level are necessary to deal with cyber threats and incidents. In this context, the National Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRT) plays an important role. ITU is working with Member States to build the necessary capacity at national and regional levels, deploy capabilities, and assist in establishing and enhancing CIRTs. To date, ITU has completed CIRT assessments in 76 countries and established or enhanced CIRT in 14 countries. Here in the Pacific we have assisted Tonga, Samoa, PNG and Vanuatu with CIRT Assessments while supporting Solomon Islands and Kiribati on drafting the National Cybersecurity Strategies. ITU is currently assisting Fiji with the review of National Cybersecurity Strategy.

In this context, cyberdrills are conducted to improve cybersecurity readiness, protection, and incident response capabilities of member countries. ITU has conducted over 28 cyberdrills involving more than 100 countries so far and there is a strong demand from countries to continue regional and national cyber drills. This year, ITU has carried out global as well as regional CyberDrills, in-person and online training for cooperation, information sharing, and discussions on current cybersecurity issues, and provides hands-on exercise for national CIRTs.

This Pacific CyberDrill is a capacity building event which aims to enhance the communication and incident response capabilities of participating teams and promote collective efforts by national Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs). As part of the Cyber Drill 2020, this Pacific

Cyberdrill provides a unique platform for technical and managerial personnel from the cybersecurity ecosystem to share their experience in addressing cybersecurity issues.

Through a capacity development platform, such as this, and concerted efforts among all of us, I believe that cyber incidents can be minimised, prevented, and mitigated faster. Enhanced cybersecurity and the protection of critical infrastructure are the foundation to ensure inclusive and sustainable digital transformation in a safe and secure digital environment.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues here in Bangkok and Geneva to organize this Cyberdrill at 3AM Bangkok time and 9PM Geneva time and demonstrated our unwavering commitment to support the Pacific countries in this exercise.

I look forward to a lively and interactive Pacific CyberDrill 2020.

Thank you.