

PRESS RELEASE

Critical threats to cyber security in the Caribbean tackled in EU-funded workshop

Port-of Spain: 10 June 2016

There has been significant growth in Cybercrime in the Caribbean - Government websites have been hacked, child online exploitation has infiltrated schools and the increasing use of crypto currencies to fund criminal activities are but a few of the manifestations of criminal activity in cyberspace impacting the region. These activities point to the existence of significant cyber security vulnerabilities of persons, possessions and privacy. Critical national infrastructures such as water, telecommunications, energy and health systems are also at risk of being targeted. Cybercrime could have a devastating impact on national security and, if not addressed urgently, could severely hamper the social and economic development of our Caribbean States.

In an attempt to address these critical cyber threats, twenty-four participants have taken part in a European Union funded cyber security in crisis response workshop geared towards enhancing their skills in identifying and analyzing critical cybersecurity threats.

Regional experts from CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS); and its two sub-agencies – the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC) and the Joint Regional Communication Centre (JRCC) along with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Jamaica Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, the Regional Security System (RSS), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), together with the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, various arms of the Ministry of National Security of Trinidad and Tobago and the Organization of American States (OAS) converged in Trinidad and Tobago for five days (6-10 June) to analyse trends and statistical data in cyber security and to examine tools which triage cyber security information into crisis response procedures.

The workshop was organized by the Global Crisis Response Support Programme (GCRSP), a two-year programme financed by the European Union to the tune of 2.6 million euros. The GCRSP aims to strengthen crisis response and early warning capacities in Latin American and the Caribbean and to improve the interconnectivity between crisis response centres within the region as well as strengthen cooperation with the EU Situation Room and other EU institutions in the field of crisis response and early warning. Activities include training and coaching sessions covering risk and scenario analysis, early warning, conflict analysis, leadership and strategic planning, information management and other related topics.

The course was conducted by the Organisation of American States/Cyber Security Program of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE/OAS) together with the Information System Authority of the Republic of Estonia (RIA). This activity continues the collaboration already established between CARICOM IMPACS and OAS/CICTE to tackle potential cybersecurity threats in the region.

For more information please contact:

GCRSP

Gema Redondo

Email: gema.redondo@gcrsp.eu

Phone: +1 (246) 269 8261

CARICOM IMPACS

Email: secretariat@carimpacs.org
Phone: +1 (868) 625 4441; 623 7924

OAS CICTE USA

Cybersecurity Program

Email: cybersecurity@oas.org

Phone: +1 (202) 370-4674

Or visit: www.gcrsp.eu