

CONCEPT PAPER ON PROPOSED ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORKSHOP ON PRINCIPLES OF BUILDING SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTS IN THE NATIONAL CONTEXT

Background

As the global economy becomes increasingly digitised and integrated, security in the use of ICTs has gained importance as a key enabler for economic progress, and for the development of a secure and vibrant digital economy that will improve living standards. This is because threats and attacks related to ICTs constitute an increasingly sophisticated and growing challenge to the peace and stability of the global security landscape and digital economy.

2. Given the cross-cutting nature of security in the use of ICTs, the potential for a successful attack on supranational critical information infrastructures (CIIs) to debilitate essential services such as banking and finance and telecommunications, thereby creating disproportionate and knock-on effects across the region and the world, is real. To build confidence and capabilities in the use of ICTs for continued economic prosperity, countries need to put in place cohesive principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context so as to defend themselves in time of crisis. Having principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context greatly facilitates coordination, which is necessary for effective collaboration among the relevant Ministries and stakeholders, and guides efficient resource allocation.

3. This topic is also relevant to the ARF platform as dialogue on principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context would enhance global and regional awareness of countries' core principles, priorities and best practices in security in the use of ICTs, thereby building mutual understanding and trust while fostering cooperation.

Proposal

4. In view of the critical importance of having principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context, Singapore proposes hosting a workshop to guide participants through the various approaches towards conceptualising and developing such principles that best suit the needs of each ARF Member State.

Objectives

5. The proposed workshop aims to:

- a) Enhance the regional confidence and readiness in security in the use of ICTs by equipping ARF Participating Countries with a holistic understanding of the approaches towards principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context. Such understanding will contribute towards ARF Participating Countries' efforts to develop effective principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context that will put their countries, and by extension the region, in a better position to handle ever-evolving and transboundary threats related to ICTs; and
- b) Facilitate dialogue among participants towards better understanding of the principles of building security in the use of ICTs in the national context of ARF Participating Countries through greater awareness of their respective priorities, principles and approaches towards security in the use of ICTs.

Co-Chairs

- 6. Singapore is currently in the process of securing a non-ASEAN Co-Chair for this Workshop.

Participants

- 7. All ARF Participating Countries are invited to send up to two senior security experts on the use of ICTs who are involved in shaping policies related to security in the use of ICTs in their respective Countries to participate in this workshop.

Date and Venue

- 8. The proposed workshop will take place sometime in Q4/2018 or Q1/2019 in Singapore.

Administrative Arrangements

- 9. The co-chairs will share the administrative costs of the workshop, including the venue, course materials, meals, ground transport, collaterals and hospitality (airfare and accommodation) for trainers. International travel, accommodation and other related costs necessary for workshop participation will be borne by the respective participants.

Please direct comments or questions on this proposal to:

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