

Communications Authority of Maldives Meeting Minutes

Date : June 22nd, 2010

Time : 14:30 hrs

Venue : CAM Meeting Room, Postal Building.

Participants

1. Malika Ibrahim, CAM
2. Iliyaz Ahmed, Cheif Executive, CAM
3. Anuj Singh, IMPACT
4. Yusuf Abdulla Shunan, MOSS
5. Ibrahim Sobah, MOSS
6. Ihsan Sadiq, MOSS

Proceedings

- Meeting started at 14:30 hrs.
- Mr. Iliyaz gave a brief introduction to the purpose of the meeting, and requested Mr. Singh to start the meeting off.
- Mr. Singh's introduced himself followed by his mandate and tasks/goals of the project;
 - IMPACT (International Multilateral Partnership Against Cyber-Threats; Mr. Singh's company) specializes in Cyber Security (CS) related enterprise and government solutions, and are based in Malaysia.
 - The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is collaborating with IMPACT to provide ITU membership with the expertise, facilities and resources to effectively address CS-threats; Maldives is a member of ITU.
 - The ITU has been given the 'banner' (figuratively) of CS initiatives through its Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA).
 - GCA seeks to harness the power of multi-stakeholder collaboration in order to arrive at global strategies to enhance CS.
 - Government is working with IMPACT in conducting an exercise to create a better CS framework (technical, legal and policy aspects) for Maldives.
 - Through this exercise, the possibility of establishing a national level Cybersecurity Incident Response Team (CIRT) will be looked into as the main focus, followed by a CS framework for the Country.
 - Mr. Singh will be meeting with different stakeholders in the ICT industry in the Maldives during his visit.
- Meeting was opened up for a free-flow discussion;
 - MOSS members voiced their opinions and concerns, and provided ideas on what needs to be changed in order for a CIRT to effectively function in the Maldives.
 - It was noted by MOSS that the CIRT should be an independent body (to avoid any political influences from the Government), but should be funded by the Government in the initial stages.
 - Question was raised by Mr. Singh whether that it is asking too much out of the Government (CIRT be independent BUT financed by the Gov); MOSS responded by saying the Government should decide what is in their best interest and prioritize accordingly.
 - Questions as to how much 'power' the CIRT will have was answered by Mr. Singh; the basic idea is that CIRT will have enough say in everything.

- Mr. Singh noted that the idea of a CIRT will take years to fully materialize to a mature level, respective to that found in other countries. He gave a brief vision of how a CIRT should function/mature (3 stages involved) and their current idea of the organizational structure (a technical manager, with two analysts). CIRT has the potential to mature itself as a self financed body, in an ideal model.
 - MOSS requested that there should be a way for related ICT bodies (such as MOSS) to proactively contribute in the CIRT function.
 - It was understood by all that there are enough resources here in Maldives to kick-start such an initiative.
 - MOSS raised concerns on how effective a CIRT would be if there are no legal frameworks to back things up; Mr. Singh informed that part of his mandate also includes to give guidelines on the policies and standards to implement along with the core functionality.
 - MOSS raised concerns whether there might be any situations where CIRT itself would be considered a threat.
 - MOSS presented an idea that a steering committee overlooking (upto some level) CIRT should be established, which should have representatives of all the stakeholders, so that stakeholders will get a sense of ownership in the decisions and policies CIRT produces.
 - Ideas were shared regarding the timeline; MOSS presented that, during the time leading up to the CIRT being materialized, the Government should look into the existing professional and successful solutions being practiced in the Country (such as Dhiraagu), to aid in making the timeline shorter and effectively help in localizing the GCA policies.
- Mr. Iliyaz wrapped up the meeting after briefing the Governments views on this exercise.
 - Concerns were raised by MOSS whether the findings / reports of Mr. Singh would be shared with the society before the Gov. comes to a decision on how to proceed with a CIRT; Ms. Malika gave affirmation that if ITU does not specifically request of them to keep it confidential, then they would disclose it, hence aligning with the transparency this Government practices.
 - Meeting adjourned at 16:00 hrs.