Cybersecurity: Mauritius Hosts 3rd ITU ALERT

GIS- 5 April, 2016: The 3 ITU ALERT (Applied Learning for Emergency Response Teams), a five-day Regional Cyber Security Drill for the African region to enhance coordination to fight against cyber incidents, was inaugurated yesterday by the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation, Mr Etienne Sinatambou, at Le Méridien Hotel in Pointe aux Piments.

The cybersecurity event, which Mauritius is hosting for the first time, is organised by the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and international and local stakeholders. Around 20 African countries as well as several ITU partners are attending.

The ITU ALERT has as objectives namely: to enhance communication and collaboration among participating partner countries; build capacity and improve the incident response capabilities of participants; gauge and improve the preparedness of member States in the identification, response, prevention and resolution of computer incidents; demonstrate Mauritian organisations capabilities in evaluating the security posture and level of emergency preparedness in resisting and dealing with cyber security incidents.

The programme during the five-day event comprises the following:

- One-day workshop on current cybersecurity issues;
- Two-day Cyber Drill exercise; and
- Two-day Capacity Building sessions.

Speakers are from PricewaterhouseCoopers, EMTEL, Secure Services Mauritius Ltd, SILENSEC, INTELium and IBM. Presentations are focusing on: Cyber Intelligence, Emtel's commitment to Information Security, Combating Shadow IT, the Evolution of Network Security Monitoring and How to Stay Ahead of the Hacker's game, Communications with Stakeholders: A Critical Activity for National CERTs, and Cybersecurity and Incident Response.

The absence of institutional structures to deal with cyber incidents and attacks is a genuine problem in responding to cyber threats. It is against this backdrop that the ITU is helping countries to establish their National Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT), which serves as a national focal point for coordinating cybersecurity incident response to cyberattacks in the country.

The ITU ALERT has been organised in Zambia and Rwanda in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

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