

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Nobuhito Hobo
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to
Sri Lanka**

at the International Conference on Assessing the Threat of
Cybercrime
26 March, 2015

- Hon. Ajith Perera, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs,
- Hon. Eran Wickremaratne, Deputy Minister of Highways and Investment Promotion,
- H.E. Mr. David Daly, Ambassador, Head of the European Union Delegation to Sri Lanka,
- Ms. Kamalini De Silva, Secretary of the Ministry of Justice,
- Mr. Alexander Seger, Head of Cybercrime Division, Council of Europe,
- Ms. Chitranganie Mubarak, Chairperson, ICTA,
- Mr. Jayantha Fernando, Legal Advisor, ICTA
- Excellences, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude for having the opportunity to attend the opening of this international conference held under the Global Action on Cybercrime (GLACY) Project and organized by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Information and Communication Agency (ICTA) of Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Computer Emergency Readiness Team (SLCERT).

As information and communication technology has become more widespread and advanced, and as its use and application has evolved, information and communication technology now provides a basis for all social, economic and cultural activities. Cyberspace, which arose from advancements in information and communication technology, has now become an essential platform to support national growth.

Cyberspace continues to expand across borders and has become widely used by various actors. However, along with such development, cyber risks are also expanding and globalizing. Cybercrimes and cyber attacks have become an imminent challenge that no single country can address by itself. According to the 2015 edition of the Global Risks report published by the World Economic Forum, “Data fraud or theft” and “Cyber attacks” are ranked in the top 10 risks in terms of likelihood over the coming 10 years. So, I believe that the participants of the conference and workshops today will take a key role in each country to tackle this global challenge.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to emphasize the following 2 points to counter cybercrime and construct a safe and reliable

cyberspace;

The first point is the importance of the Budapest Convention. This Convention is the proper basic standard on countering cybercrime and should be the basis of international norm. Japan, as the first Party to the Convention from the Asia region, has been rigorously encouraging especially other Asian countries to join the Convention. In this context, Japan highly welcomes that Sri Lanka was invited to join the Convention as the first country in South Asia, and would like to work with Sri Lanka to expand the number of Parties to the Convention in Asia.

The Second point is the necessity of capacity building. In a global cyberspace, vulnerable countries and regions are targeted as springboards for cyber attacks. In order for countries in the world to coexist in cyberspace and share its benefit to a

maximum extent, Japan is strongly committed to actively strengthening cooperation in the cyber field, especially the capacity building field such as providing assistance through international organizations and holding a workshop. The European Union and the Council of Europe have the rich expertise in this respect and Japan is in full support of the GLACY project. I hope that the participants will have a fruitful discussion and valuable input from this project.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and respect to organizers' effort, and hope to further enhance international cooperation in the cyber field.

Thank you very much.

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