

**International Conference – Assessing the Threat of Cyber Crimes**  
**26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015 – Colombo Sri Lanka**

- Good Morning. A very warm welcome to SL to all our foreign guests.
  - Hon. Ajith Perera – Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Hon. Eran Wickramaratna – Dy. Minister of Highways & Investment Promotion
  - Hon. Justice Priyasanth Dep – President’s Counsel
  - H.E. Ambassador David Daly – Head of the European Union Delegation to Sri Lanka
  - H.E. the Ambassador for Japan in Sri Lanka
  - Justice Vijith Malalgoda – President, Court of Appeal
  - Ms. Kamalini De Silva - Secretary to the Ministry of Justice
  - Mr. Alexander Seger – Head of the Cyber Crime Division of the Council of Europe
  - Mr. Suhada Gamlath - Solicitor General
  - Mr. Upul Jayasuriya - President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka
  - Mr. Gamini Navaratna - Senior DIG
- Distinguished Guests, friends and my colleagues from ICTA & SLCERT
- A warm welcome to all of you to this international conference on “Assessing the Threat of Cyber Crimes”, organized by the Council of Europe and the European Union.
- On behalf of the Board of Directors of ICTA I would like convey my appreciation to the Council of Europe for having given ICTA the opportunity of co-hosting this event together with our subsidiary SLCERT.
- The significance of this event is amply demonstrated by the fact that we have over 90 Government officials and industry experts from 17 countries gathered here today.
- ICTA is the apex ICT institution of the Govt. and was established in 2003 under the stewardship of our Prime Minister Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe, who was the Prime Minister at the time.
- In terms of the Information and Communication Technology Act No. 27 of 2003 ICTA has been mandated to take all necessary measures to implement the Government’s Policy and Action Plan in relation to ICT.

- A key mandate of the ICTA was the implementation of the e-Sri Lanka Development Programme which leveraged on ICT for the social and economic development of the Country. It sought to re-engineer government processes making it more accessible to people, empower rural communities, develop the IT/ BPO industry and create an enabling environment through ICT Policy and legal reforms.
- The Cabinet decision of October 2004 further enhanced ICTA's legal mandate by authorizing ICTA to recommend to the Cabinet of Ministers the appropriate Policy and Regulatory framework to support ICT development in Sri Lanka.
- It is based on this mandate that the ICTA embarked on a series of Policy Reform initiatives which led to the adoption of several important legislation, - the Electronic Transactions Act, the Computer Crimes Act as well as the Payment and Settlements legislation. These key Statutes are vital not only for the ICT sector but also for our national economic growth.
- ICTA Legal division has been working closely with the Cyber Crime Division of the Council of Europe over the years and we are delighted by the recent announcement made by the Council of Europe inviting Sri Lanka to join the Budapest Cyber Crime Convention.
- I am told that this international conference and Sri Lanka's inclusion as a priority country of the Council of Europe Project "Global Action on Cyber Crimes" (GLACY), are a direct result of Sri Lanka being invited to be part of this very important global Convention.
- While thanking Alexander Seger and his team from the Council of Europe for bringing Sri Lanka as well as ICTA within its global framework, I wish to acknowledge our appreciation to the European Union for hosting this event in Colombo.
- I wish this conference all success and hope that it will pave the way for even a better cooperation between participating countries. Perhaps you will be able to spare sometime to enjoy our 'endless beaches, timeless ruins' and the warm hospitality of our people.
- Finally congratulations to the organizers of the conference for a great job.