

# **Covid-19 and Cybercrime: Country Study Philippines**

07 March 2022

Colombo, Sri Lanka

# Introduction

- Context of broader Asian study
  - PHL country study for focus and example
- Summary of findings
  - Common issues
  - Features
- Assessment on cybercrime landscape
  - Legislative framework and agencies
  - Covid19 impact on cybercrime
  - Criminal justice challenges and responses

# Country profile

- Historical perspective
  - 1960's to early 2000's – crime-centered laws
  - 2001 - initial cooperation with COE
  - 2000 to 2010's – first cybercrime laws – comprehensive 2012, privacy
  - At present – cybersecurity and misinformation laws
- Only ASEAN country member of BCoC

# Covid-19 Impact on Cybercrime

- Increased internet and social media use
- General decrease in focus crimes volume, marked increase in cybercrime
- Proliferation of apps and services and rise of abuses
- Specific forms of crimes
  - lending companies
  - major corruption case

# Challenges

- Competing concerns/prioritization over cybersecurity and cybercrime
- Collaboration and cooperation issues among government agencies, with private sector and with citizenry
- Development of various agency portals and apps and consequent increase in vulnerabilities

# Challenges

- Lack of integrated approach or systematic updating - laws, regulations, policies and operations not integrated or duly revised
- Continuous need to build capabilities to respond to new and emerging threats

# Recommendations

1. Development and implementation of National Cybercrime Plan in the context of cybercrime strategy aligned with international standards
2. Re-design of training curriculum and re-thinking of delivery modes
3. Increased national, regional and international cooperation and collaboration

# Conclusions

Review and revision of legislation and policies in view of evolving technologies and their abuses towards national and regional harmonization based on international standards built upon an integrative and collaborative platform for criminal justice stakeholders