CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia

Providing Security Training and Facilitating the Creation of a Trusted Information Sharing Platform

Cyber threats have no borders – similar incidents happen around the world, with global attacks occurring in seconds. Therefore, cyber security is becoming equally borderless in order to cope. It has long been agreed that complex problems can be solved more quickly and effectively when Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) collaborate and share information nationally and internationally.

The wider deployment of eduroam® and eduGAIN™ services throughout the global Research and Education community works on the assumption that the NREN (or similar organization) supporting these services was also responsible for the operation of a CSIRT. While this is the case in Europe, where TF-CSIRT (the task force promoting collaboration and coordination between European CSIRTs) supports over 70 Research and Education CSIRTs, the situation in Asia Pacific is very different. Most NRENs in the region do not have a CSIRT team and the collaboration between those that have teams could be better facilitated and improved.

To bridge the gap, the Asi@Connect project has committed to funding the CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia project. This aims to facilitate CSIRT co-ordination, development, training and information sharing within Asia-Pacific by organising a series of major events, to be held throughout 2018 and 2019. This project is in line with Asi@Connect's objectives and strategy, especially around bridging the digital divide and increasing global cooperation.

The CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia Events are co-located with APAN conferences, and are made of up of two parts – meetings and trainings.

MEETINGS	TRAININGS (TRANSITS I)
Sharing information, experiences and knowledge	Operational
Presentations	Organisational
Discussions	Technical
Demos	Legal

Activities of Year 1

- 2 events were held at APAN45 Singapore and APAN46 New Zealand
- 4 CSIRT in Asia knowledge and experience sharing sessions took place
- 35 participants took part (24 funded + 11 unfunded)
- 4 trainers led sessions and events
- 14 territories represented: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand

Results of Year 1

Asi@Connect funding for the project was crucial in ensuring participants from partner organisations in developing countries were able to attend and get an opportunity to not only learn from experienced trainers from Europe and Australia, but also from each other's local experiences. There were multiple noteworthy results that go beyond what was expected in the first year of the project:

- PERN (Pakistan) established a CSIRT team to locally support their higher education institutions. They initiated the process of becoming members of FIRST & APCERT, which is a very important achievement in the region as it puts PERN's cyber security efforts on the world map. Global cooperation has a significant importance to Asi@Connect's strategy and the project funding has allowed the key members of the newly set up CSIRT team to get the necessary training and build contacts with other CSIRT teams globally.
- A CSIRT team was created at LEARN (Sri Lanka) as a result of attendance at the first CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia event in March 2018. Furthermore, LEARN organised a remote training session for their institutions on the importance of CERT activities. This was led by APNIC trainers, who were first introduced to LEARN at a CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia event. Cyber security will now become a part of all NREN training, and this approach was shared as best practice at the CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia event in August 2018.
- BdREN (Bangladesh) and MYREN (Malaysia) are in the process of creating an NREN CERT, which will be supported by the project and other Asi@Connect activities. Participants from both countries will be funded to attend at least two more CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia training sessions and meetings, providing them with the knowledge needed to build and run a CERT team, as well as to widen their international network to foster further collaboration.
- After attending TRANSITS at APAN45, Universities Islam Indonesia created a CERT team and are working on reviving the Indonesia ACAD-CSIRT. Successful national collaboration between these CERT teams is the first step towards working with other teams, both regionally and globally.

What is Next?

In 2019 (Year 2 of the project) at least two more CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia events will be organised, co-located with APAN conferences. Around 30 more funded participants from the Asia-Pacific region will therefore be able to gain operational, organisational, legal and technical knowledge that will help them successfully fulfil CSIRT functions at their home organisations, as well as to share their experiences with their peers. Some of the initially identified beneficiary countries, such as Mongolia, Laos and Vietnam, have not yet nominated attendees for these events, so more effort will be

put into getting the partner organisations from those countries involved and networked with the region.

Another focus area in the second part of the project will be encouraging further collaboration and information sharing between the organisations, who have already attended 2018 events. A mailing list and a wiki page have been created and all past and future attendees of the CSIRT Capacity Building in Asia events will be using these as a platform for information sharing, with the aim of building an active CSIRT network in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asi@Connect