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APCERT Nailed Down Online Underground Economy in the Annual Regional Drill Exercise

04 December 2008 -- The Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT) has successfully completed its APCERT Drill 2008 today. A scenario of cyber attacks by the professional cybercriminal groups targeting at the Asia Pacific economies was simulated to put pressure on the participating teams in APCERT to test their response capability in addressing cyber threats.

The APCERT Drill 2008 focused on how to effectively mitigate the impact of cyber attacks involving large scale attacks and malicious programs propagation. The simulated attacks were themed to be deployed by the professional cybercriminal groups who trade stolen data or malicious online service in the underground economy. The online underground economy is growing and the cybercriminal groups are becoming organized and scattered across border, impairing the healthy economic activity and political stability.

The exercise, which lasted from 2300 GMT to 0800 GMT across five (5) time zones, challenged the participating teams' incident response capability in dealing with large scale cyber attacks involving both local and international scenarios.

The participating teams include 14 teams representing 13 economies in the Asia Pacific regions, namely Australia, Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia,

Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. The objective of the drill is to prepare, test and evaluate procedures and processes within and across the Computer Emergency Response Teams.

The APCERT Drill 2008 was planned and coordinated by the Malaysian Computer Emergency Response Team (MyCERT), CyberSecurity Malaysia, in collaboration with the Australian Computer Emergency Response Team (AusCERT).

"The APCERT Annual Drill has been held since 2005. This year's exercise is to test the participating teams' communication capability, particularly in its ability to communicate and relay information across physical borders and time zones, to enable effective decision making and to coordinate swift response with the aim to assist neighbouring economies to reduce the impact of underground cyber attacks. Cybercriminal groups can hide behind legitimate service provider to add hurdles to investigation and taken down of attacks. Strong networking and local presence among national CERTs help to improve information sharing among trusted parties in curbing online crime", said Husin Jazri, the Chair for APCERT.

"We believe the APCERT Drill has reinforced the collaboration among the participating economies and further streamlined the communication framework. Our hope is that the teams will benefit in terms of testing or proving their procedures in meeting the objectives set for the drill," he added.

About APCERT

APCERT was established by leading and national Computer Security and Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) from the economies of the Asia Pacific region, aiming to improve cooperation, response and information sharing among CSIRTs in the region. APCERT consists of 21 CSIRTs from 15 economies.

Further information about APCERT can be found on www.apcert.org.