

Code of Conduct

Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT)

Document Control: APCERT Code of Conduct							
Version	Owner	Custodian	Approval Authority	Classification	Review Date	Approval Date	Next review
0.1	APCERT Steering Committee	APCERT Secretariat	APCERT Steering Committee	TLP: Clear	09/07/2026	14/09/2026	09/07/2031

APCERT CODE OF CONDUCT

Overview

This Code of Conduct (Code) sets out principles that guide behavior of APCERT Members and Partners.

The Code is to be applied fairly and objectively.

This Code is a policy document in support of, and referenced by, the APCERT Operational Framework.

The APCERT Steering Committee will investigate and address any breaches of this policy according to the process described in the APCERT Operational Framework.

1. General conduct

- The primary responsibility of an APCERT participant is to manage and respond to cyber incidents for its designated constituency, as defined within the APCERT Operational Framework.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall not behave in a way which is likely to bring discredit to APCERT or the wider CERT community.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall follow the procedures established through the APCERT Operational Framework.

2. Honesty and integrity

- APCERT Members and Partners shall:
 - i. avoid being improperly beholden to any person or institution; and
 - ii. conduct their duties with honesty and integrity.
- It is essential that the international community maintains confidence in the honesty and integrity of APCERT Members and Partners.

3. Fairness and tolerance

- APCERT Members and Partners shall act with objectivity and impartiality while engaged as an APCERT Member or Partner. This includes treating everyone with courtesy and respect.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall avoid favoritism toward any individual or group, and all forms of victimization or discrimination towards an individual or group.

4. Abuse of Trust

- APCERT Members and Partners shall never knowingly abuse the trust placed in them by virtue of their membership in, or partnership with, APCERT.

5. Performance of duties

- APCERT Members and Partners should be conscientious and diligent while performing their duties.
- APCERT Members and Partners should maintain and, where possible, enhance their professional knowledge and competence.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall conduct their duties in a way that does not bring disrepute to the APCERT community.

6. Lawful orders

- APCERT Members and Partners shall obey all lawful orders according to their economy's jurisdiction and abide by the regulations of their organization.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall support their colleagues in the lawful execution of their duties, and oppose any improper behavior, reporting it where appropriate and where legally required.
- APCERT Members and Partners will also remain aware that lawful execution of duties may vary from the jurisdiction of one economy to another and take into consideration any differences.

7. Confidentiality

- Information obtained by an APCERT Member or Partner should be treated as confidential and shall not be used for personal benefit or disclosed to other parties except in the proper course of duty.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall respect the confidentiality of information relating to the policies and operations of other APCERT members, unless authorized to disclose it.
- APCERT Members and Partners shall not make comments that could damage public confidence in other APCERT Members, Partners and/or organizations.

8. Cooperation and partnership

- APCERT Members and Partners should cooperate with and assist other members of the CERT community, as well as relevant mandated entities, in the prevention, detection, response to and recovery from cyberattacks, where possible.

9. Sanctions

- When sanctions for misconduct are considered, the APCERT Steering Committee will assess the degree of negligence or intent, as well as the nature and circumstances of a Member's or Partner's conduct through the process outlined in the APCERT Operational Framework.