

Message of the Executive Director COMSATS

5th International Workshop on 'Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards'

(September 14-18, 2015, Ankara, Turkey)

On behalf of the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS), I am pleased to extend my warm felicitations to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO); the Inter Islamic Network on Information Technology (INIT); the COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT), Pakistan; and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Turkey, for joining hands with COMSATS to organize the 5th International Workshop on 'Internet Security: Enhancing Information Exchange Safeguards'. It is my pleasure to thank the eminent experts and participants of the workshop, who have gathered to share their knowledge and expertise related to information and internet security.

With the ever-increasing use of computers, laptops and smart phones, connected to the Internet, by general public for performing daily life activities, came fraudulent activities that range from system hacking to identity theft and cyber stalking. Internet security has, therefore, become exceedingly important for individuals, organizations, and businesses in order to ensure that their identities, documents and passwords are not compromised. The afore-stated threats can only be encountered through collective action by the governments, IT experts and organizations of the world.

The current event is fifth of the series of workshops that are being jointly organized by COMSATS, ISESCO and INIT in order to enable the IT professionals to collectively address relevant issues and challenges related to information and internet security. The first four events of this series were held in Syria (2011), Jordan (2012), Tunisia (2013) and Tanzania (2014), respectively.

COMSATS, having 22 Member Countries and a Network of 20 renowned International Science and Technology Centres of Excellence, including the TUBITAK Marmara Research Centre (MAM) in Turkey, is committed to develop and strengthen linkages among the countries of the South for the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge. Since its inception, COMSATS has made strenuous efforts towards the capacity-building of S&T organizations in its Member Countries through organizing and sponsoring over 200 scientific capacity building seminars, workshops, conferences and meetings, in the areas most relevant to their scientific needs.

Cooperation between COMSATS and ISESCO dates back to 2004, which includes joint activities in various fields of science and technology. COMSATS and ISESCO have, jointly, organized several international capacity building events in the areas of interest to the common Member Countries. Moreover, COMSATS and ISESCO launched the Islamic-world Science Net (IWSN) web-portal in 2006-07, which is being sponsored by ISESCO's Centre for Promotion of Scientific Research (ICPSR). The web-portal is serving as a platform for the researchers and scientists to interact with each other and share their knowledge and experiences. COMSATS and ISESCO have recently launched a joint Research Grant Scheme for supporting the activities of young scientists and researchers in the developing countries. COMSATS is also collaborating with INIT since 2011, mostly for organizing joint capacity building events in the areas of internet security, applications of ICTs, and national innovation system and intellectual

property. COMSATS gratefully acknowledges the consistent support of ISESCO and INIT towards its programmes and activities in the common Member States.

In the end, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to ISESCO, INIT, CIIT and SESRIC, for collaborating with COMSATS to organize this five-day international workshop, and providing an opportunity to the young IT professionals and scientists, from various developing countries, to upgrade their knowledge and skills related to internet security. I would like to express my gratitude to the organizing committees of the collaborating institutions for their tireless efforts. I am especially thankful to the eminent experts who have spared time from their busy schedules and travelled long distances to conduct this important workshop and share their knowledge and expertise with the local and foreign participants. I am certain that the lectures of the subject experts as well as tutorials and practical exercises will be fruitful for achieving the overall objectives of this workshop.

I wish you all a pleasant and fruitful event.