

## English Version

The Lebanese Information Technologies Association (LITA), The ministry of Justice in Lebanon, The Faculty of Law- St. Joseph University, Interdisciplinary Centre for Law and ICT (ICRI) – K.U.Leuven – Belgium, the Agence National de la Sécurité Informatique (ANSI) – in Tunisia, the Higher Council for Sciences and Technology – Jordan, the Ministry of State for Administrative Development– Egypt, The ministry of Justice- Kuwait, The Association Internationale de lutte contre la cybercriminalite- Paris, in cooperation with Annahar newspaper, the interior forces security, bureau of intellectual property and cybercrime, and the Microsoft- Lebanon, are preparing for a regional conference under the title of:

### **“Cyber security issues: Personal data, intellectual property, and national security protection”**

The event is sponsored by Microsoft Lebanon

#### **Objectives:**

Our main objective is to increase awareness about the importance of security and its implications as well as to highlight the importance of security’s management strategies and policies, especially by respecting international norms and standards and using genuine trustful applications and products.

Moreover we intend to establish a collaborative approach to protect and advance security culture in cyberspace and particularly in the Arab world, under all its aspects: educational, social, economic, legal, and cultural ones.

Also, we do target supporting a suitable legal and regulatory frame that can enhance Intellectual Property Rights Protection, freedom of expression and privacy online, human rights, children and youth’ protection online, cultural identity and the right to access information.

This conference seeks also to create a working group in the Arab world that can take care of providing a practical framework for business, human rights groups, the investment community, and academia to work together in order to advance human rights principles and the rule of law governance.

Last but not least, we aim to contribute to the efforts made to develop credible systems of accountability to assess implementation of democratic systems supporting better understanding of ICT’s potential.

#### **Background:**

Information and communications technologies (ICT) provide tremendous opportunities to enhance human development as well as integration in Information society. They also support wider access to knowledge and education, as well as the protection of human rights, enhancing democracy and rules of law governance, particularly through use of the internet. On the professional level, the technology revolution has made digital proficiency a standard expectation today.

Nevertheless, all government and societies fear the negative impact ICTs can have on their own citizens regarding the potential dangers it carries. In this context, a special attention has been given by governments by trying to impose some pressures on

Information & Communications Technology (ICT)'companies. Nevertheless, complying with domestic laws and policies may easily conflict with the internationally recognized human rights of freedom of expression and privacy as well as with many other rules and regulatory texts that touch Intellectual property and national security.

Hence, many voices have been made heard in the Arab world as to convey their concern about the lack of convenient and suitable regulatory and legislative environment that can support this needed integration.

Consequently, many governments admit that Authorities shall take care of finding the way to prevent and punish illegal and criminal activities be it in their traditional forms such as: cheating, using of falsified documents, or in their new forms such as: ICTs' crimes where we find computer-based assault.

### **Targeted audience:**

Private sector enterprises including SMEs, civil society organizations (NGOs) and professional business associations (Syndicates, Orders, etc...), investors, business administrators, legal professionals, and academics concerned with freedom of expression and privacy in the ICT sector.

A special attention is given to the participation of students at the two Faculties of Law and ICTs in public and private sector

### **Participants:**

Information technology and communications experts, legal professionals and academics, high profile administrative staff, decision makers in the public and private sectors, universities, and NGO's, from many Arab and European countries, like France, Belgium and Germany.

### **Topics to be tackled**

The program will ensure participation of cyber law experts and academics to share their knowledge and experience with concerned professionals and students about the following themes:

#### **1. Applications, technologies and security:**

- Data mining
- Tracking internet users and profiling
- Hidden information and merging of information
- Norms and international standards of data and systems protection
- Spying and vulnerabilities

#### **2. Human Rights, democracy and ICT**

- Access to information
- Freedom of speech
- Special risks (educational systems and digital education)
- Exposure to cross cultural issues
- Democracy and legal systems

### **3. Intellectual Property (Copyright and Neighboring Rights)**

- Civil and Anglo-Saxon systems
- Economic implication of piracy
- Methods of evidence collecting and assigning in cases of copyright and neighboring rights violation

### **4. Protection of Personal and Sensitive Data**

- Legal regulations and economic implications
- Social implications of data protection
- E-security and E-health
- Privacy and access to personal data
- Conservation of data

### **5. E-Government, e-services and e-defense**

- The unified identity
- Infrastructure and social security
- The unified portal
- Citizens and government's security
- National security (terrorism, money laundering,)
- Democracy and citizenship
- Digital divide and political stakes
- Social and political movements on the internet

### **6. Protection of some groups online**

- Harmful content
- Exposure of children for dangers
- Legal and Technical Tools for protection
- Awareness: Methodologies and Policies
- Best Practices: Successful Governmental and civil society efforts (Cooperating with civil authorities)
- Creating a safe environment for children and young people;
- Making prompt and effective response to complaints

### **Date:**

The conference will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2009, in Beirut under the patronage of (the H.E. Minister of Justice).

The venue is still to be decided but most probably at the USJ (University St. Joseph).

## **Participation:**

The registration to the conference will be open to all legal and informatics universities' students and professors, as well as for professionals in the field of human and systems resources' management, particularly those working in informatics and legal consultancy.

All the lectures, the presentations and discussions will be opened for participants.

The conference will cover several topics, all related to cyber security, be it at the technical level or at the legal one, in order to enlighten the importance of coordination and cooperation among different stakeholders in ensuring convenient environment for Information society development.

## **Media Plan**

The publicity coverage is to be assured by Annahar newspaper, as well as by other local and regional Arabic newspaper. Also, we are planning for press release and TV interviews to announce and introduce the event, through many broadcasting companies like the LBC, the MTV and The future.

## **Languages**

Arabic and English are the working languages of the conference. Simultaneous translation from English to Arabic, and vice-versa, will be provided during plenary session.

## **Organizing committee:**

### **Lebanese Information Technology Association (LITA)**

**Mona Al-Achkar Jabbour**

[moacja@ul.edu.lb](mailto:moacja@ul.edu.lb)

cell: +961 3 253732

**Fadia S. Nassif**

[fadiasmassif@hotmail.com](mailto:fadiasmassif@hotmail.com)

**Aly Harakeh**

[Aly.harakeh@microsoft.com](mailto:Aly.harakeh@microsoft.com)

## **Scientific committee:**

**Hesham A. Auda**

[auda@un.org](mailto:auda@un.org)

[abarbar@aust.edu.lb](mailto:abarbar@aust.edu.lb)

Aziz Barba