

Track 3(b) Room 305

International Law Enforcement

(Summary by Chair: Pablo Hinojosa)

The International Law Enforcement panel had 16 participants and around 10 following it remotely. Sharil Tarmizi, from the Malaysian Communications and Communication Commission, suggested an image that can be well used to describe this session. It is an image of three blind men in front of an elephant. And how they shared their different impressions about the elephant from different angles.

Sharil Tarmizi spoke about “International Law Enforcement” from the angle of a governmental agency at the frontline of enforcing the law when faced with cyberthreats. Prof. Hong Xue, from the Beijing Normal University, dealt with the topic from an academic point of view. Jordan Carter, Policy Advisor of Internet New Zealand gave an informed example about copyright protection in his country.

A second dimension to the debate was the approach. Sharil described common cyberthreats, from phishing, pharming and grooming; to threats to critical infrastructure. Prof. Hong Xue talked about cross-border enforcement mechanisms via Internet intermediaries. And Jordan Carter elaborated an example of copyright protection in New Zealand.

A third dimension was the mechanism of enforcement. Sharil Tarmizi shared the example of ITU-IMPACT, the first example of a multistakeholder approach to cybersecurity within the UN. Prof. Hong Xue said law can be enforced at multiple levels, including at the legal/policy level or at the service provider/application level. She said that Internet intermediaries can support enforcement through provision of information, assistance to an investigation or applying enforcement measures. Jordan Carter explained how recent amendments to the Copyright Law in New Zealand may help to remove infringements to intellectual copyright holders.

As the subject of “International Law Enforcement” got described from different angles, a discussion started on how to connect national law with cross-border enforcement. Sharil pointed out that a risk in trying to bridge differing laws through informal exchange of cybercrime information is that such information isn’t always legally admissible when prosecuting the offenders.

Sharil also provided a further example of a law enforcement challenge across borders and it is related to illegal music downloads. This started another discussion around the topic of copyright: strangely, members of the audience agreed on two contradicting statements: they like to download music without paying; but also agreed that artists should be remunerated for their work. This session made progress in understanding the subject by looking into it from a multi-stakeholder approach, and different dimensions were discussed.