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Child Online Protection
Assessment, Challenges, Opportunities & Way Forward for Vanuatu

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Content

- Concepts – To set the foundation for discussion

- Child Online Protection - Why is it Important?

- Vanuatu Cases

- Opportunities/Challenges

- Setting the scene of: Where do we go from here in a Vanuatu context?

Concepts

- **Cyberspace:** represents a medium of communication through the Internet

- **Cyberthreats:** threats to interconnected information and communication technology (ICT) systems that have deleterious effects

- **Cybersecurity:** encompasses all the necessary elements required to defend and respond to cyberthreats in cyberspace e.g. policies, guidelines, actions, remedies, training and risk management assessment

Concepts

Examples of Cyberthreats

- Spam
- Phishing
- Computer-related Fraud
- Computer hacking
- Identity theft
- Illegal access/interception of data
- Malware – virus, Trojans, spyware
- Adware, spoofing attacks
- Cyberbullying
- Inappropriate content to minors

Child Online Protection - Why is it Important?

Vanuatu has ratified* the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Child Online Protection <u>although not explicit in this Convention should be considered implicit!</u>

Our children:

- are our most precious asset

- are the most vulnerable members of our societies

- are more susceptible to being negatively impacted by the risks and threats of the Internet and ICT and the activities and connections they come across by being online

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Child Online Protection - Why is it Important?

Our children:

- may become victims of cyber risks and cyberthreats including:
    - bullying
    - sexual exploitation
    - online fraud
    - exposure to violent and pornographic images.
    - risks and lost opportunities when children become addicted to spending prolonged hours online
    - suffering psychological damage which may lead to physical symptoms and suicide and issues to be dealt with by EVERYONE

Child Online Protection - Why is it Important?

- ICT offers unprecedented opportunities for economic growth and social development for Vanuatu.

- Everyone, including children and young people in the World, and Vanuatu, live today in an information society that offers an <u>instant</u> digital and online world of unprecedented level of services and information:

  - Online chat rooms, games, education, shopping, social networks e.g. Facebook, and many more.

- This is their 'major' means of communication – and they do not differentiate their communications in the cyber world to that in the real world (e.g. speaking to each other)

- Accessibility by the Internet through a computer or a mobile device e.g. a smart phones or a tablets &/or a friend's mobile device. This leaves them vulnerable to harmful content, malicious and illegal online activities as well as the obvious ICT benefits.

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Child Online Protection - Why is it Important?

- Our children are our future!
- Our children will shape the future and all citizens will be impacted by their decisions as they mature and become adults
- Natural fit with Vanuatu's "An educated, healthy, wealthy Vanuatu" Policy, the Government's Universal Access Policy (UAP) and its National ICT Policy
- UAP:
  - Roll out to rural areas: 98% coverage AND Connecting Schools; Internet Cafes; Tablets for students programs
- National ICT Policy:
  - Reach community through education; children will educate the community with significant overall benefits,
  - ICT is the enabler and facilitator; however, more children will be exposed to harmful effects too!
- So we need safety net provisions, awareness and education

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Vanuatu Cases

- Vanuatu has received thousands of spam emails

- Various email accounts hacked into (e.g. Hon. PM Sato Kilman's)

- Identity theft – I have been a victim!

- Cyber bullying – e.g. Malapoa College student bullying/fights recorded and posted on Facebook

- Online defamation offences (e.g. Facebook-Yumi Toktok Stret)

- Pornography and obscene materials passed through smartphones

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DANGERS – example: (One of many!)

❑ Currently, residents in Vanuatu have little access to credit cards (although some debit cards provide some access and thus vulnerability) so some of the risks are ameliorated. This will change with further development in the country.

Challenges

Speed of ICT developments in the World and Vanuatu posing increasing problems:

- ❑ Current difficulty of prosecuting cybercrimes (inclusive of offences such as child pornography?)

- ❑ No legislation YET for cybercrime – but being developed

- ❑ Various initiatives through COP, but we MUST have harmonization and co-ordination to be effective and conserve precious resources and efforts!

- ❑ No national strategy or multi-stakeholder approach to COP – yet! TODAY is the opportunity!

- ❑ Lack of experts in the area on 'Online' protection – but we have a great opportunity after this week's Regional COP workshop to move forward

- ❑ Little or no formal education in COP in schools, homes – a key area of focus

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Challenges

- ***Use of the Internet*** – is growing! Popular or most commonly used Internet services here are Facebook, YouTube and File sharing.

- ***Security*** - assessment revealed so far that ONLY 21% of students use antivirus software. <u>That does not necessarily mean that the other 79% are careless</u>. Not all students & schools are using technical tools to prevent cybersecurity incidents. When it comes to teaching security, schools play an important role.

- ***Security Incidents Discovered*** – assessment revealed that students have encountered computer viruses, have been victims of cyberbullying, and 10% of students have been contacted by strangers through ICT.

- A study has shown that Vanuatu children are at risk of the threats and dangers of the Internet – just like other children in the World

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Opportunities

- To develop a policy framework encompassing Cybersecurity, Child Online Protection, Vanuatu's Vision, National ICT, and UAP Policies

- COP Workshop provides an impetus and stimulant – MUST build on this proactively and quickly!

- Multi-stakeholder approach to COP required

- Must co-ordinate efforts to get best effect and outcome

- We are here today to commence an approach that is fit for purpose for Vanuatu and its youth AND the community

Way Forward

- Legislation on Cybersecurity and COP required
- Must co-ordinate ALL efforts:
  - Develop a Vanuatu 'fit for purpose' approach
  - Draw from region, international experience
- Cybersecurity Policy & Objectives includes a COP Working Group within that policy framework as stated in Objective 5 of Goal 1 of the Policy
- To create a multi-stakeholder cybersecurity and COP task force for Vanuatu:
  - Enable all agencies/stakeholders to work together to ensure safe and responsible use of internet and ICT
  - Identify mechanisms to punish offenders
  - Educate, assist, protect and inform everyone:
    - Particularly parents, Chiefs, community leaders, teachers and, most of all, children

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Way Forward Must:

- Involve, respect and value children's input and views
- Ensure a multi-stakeholder approach to COP within Vanuatu is adopted and integrates and feeds into Regional approaches
- Ensure appropriate tools are put in place:
  - Adapt and/or Develop Online Child Protection Programs (Safe Internet Campaigns in schools and communities)
  - Implement Cybersecurity Policy – particularly for COP
  - Introduce Cybercrime Laws (new or link to existing laws to 'fit' Vanuatu's needs and aspirations)
  - Strengthening existing legal framework or creating new legal framework
  - Co-operative, focused and harmonized approach
  - Awareness and understanding of EVERYONE – a key element

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Way Forward

- Consumer awareness of cyberthreats, cybersecurity and cyberbullying AND benefits of ICT's – <u>TRR has a key role to play here</u>!

- Tailor mechanisms to suit 'everyone' – Government, industry, stakeholders, adults, children

- Ensure children's views are obtained, listened to and incorporated

- Consider the issues pertaining to territoriality and extraterritoriality for perpetrators and victims, and how these might be dealt with in Vanuatu and the region

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Some Useful links

- http://www.communications.gov.au/funding_and_programs/cyber_safety
- http://www.communications.gov.au/online_safety_and_security/cybersafetyhelpbutton_download
- http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/child.asp
- http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au/home_users/protect_your_children
- http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/69.%20Particular%20Privacy%20Issues%20Affecting%20Children%20and%20Young%20People/online-consumers-and-
- http://www.privacy.org.au/Resources/PLawsWorld.html
- http://www.theaustralian.com.au/technology/us-revamps-online-privacy-for-children/story-e6frgakx-1226540815582?nk=8a35bf26f3fe1cc6aad6c4c47b9db21b
- http://www.business.ftc.gov/documents/alt046-childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule-not-just-kids-sites
- http://business.ftc.gov/privacy-and-security/childrens-privacy
- http://business.ftc.gov/documents/bus84-childrens-online-privacy-protection-rule-six-step-compliance-plan-your-business
- http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/identity_theft/protect_yourself_from_identity_theft/protecting_your_childs_safety.htm
- http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/kids-online-safety
- http://www.amf.org.au

Thank you

*Vanuatu was a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 30th September 1990.   Ratified 7th July 1993

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