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THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CYBERCRIME HOST 1st WOMEN IN CYBER SUMMIT

Members of the UNODC Africa Women in Cyber (AWIC) networking group attended the UNODC "Women in Cyber" (WIC) Summit in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 26-28, 2022. This Summit, a first of its kind organized by the Global Programme on Cybercrime brought together women from diverse professional backgrounds in Africa and Southeast Asia. Approximately 60 women working in cyber-related professions from both the public and private sectors including law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary, cybersecurity, cyber policy, child protection, anti-money laundering amongst others, as well as mentors and observers,
participated in the 3-day summit. The Summit aimed to provide a platform for exchange between women from Southeast Asia and Africa and improve female involvement in the cyber field. It aimed to have them share their experiences as women working in cyber, empower each other, as well as create a new network for career growth across continents.

WIC SUMMIT 2022: AN INTEGRATED PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGE AND NETWORKING

For its first Women in Cyber Summit, the Global Programme on Cybercrime took an integrative approach to the event. Participants had an active role to play in the different interventions as panelists, moderators and even mentors.

The Summit covered several topics through panel discussions and mentoring sessions including:

- Challenges for women in cybersecurity and counter-cybercrime work;
- National Cyber Policies: Adopted policies, progress and setbacks in gender mainstreaming;
- Mentorship Session on Cryptocurrencies;
22 dynamic women, through the different panels, shared their experiences in working in cyber in both the private and public sectors. This method gave the women an opportunity to share their personal experiences and provided a space for dialogue on the challenges women face in cyber, as well as find common ground and work towards solutions together.

**CALL-TO-ACTION: A PARTICIPATIVE APPROACH FOR ACTION**

Day 3 of the Summit provided an opportunity for participants to map a plan to elevate others and become leaders. Women created their own action plans that prioritize actions they want to put into action in the coming year. They were encouraged to develop ideas they could implement in their communities or workplaces that will empower other women around them to join the cyber scene or grow professionally in the field.

The women from the African Women in Cyber (AWIC) Networking Group got to develop plans that they aim to accomplish within the coming year. Some of these plans included creating mentoring groups for young girls studying cyber-related disciplines to developing brown bag events for female colleagues. The presence of women from different backgrounds enriched and inspired the process.
UNODC’s Global Programme on Cybercrime recognizes the importance of providing mentoring to young female professionals. With the goal to build a strong network of confident women countering cybercrime, UNODC invited some successful women professionals at the highest level of their careers to share their stories; career paths, the challenges they faced and how they overcame them. These women advised participants on career growth strategies based on their own personal experiences in working in cyber and mentored them on how to network at different career stages.

MENTORSHIP TO REDUCE THE GENDER GAP IN COUNTER-CYBERCRIME PROFESSIONS

Other plans elaborated included:

- Contributing to an inclusive, equitable, and gender-sensitive digital ecosystem.
- Mainstreaming the gender dimension among all cybercrime professionals for the advancement of women in the field.
- Establishing a strong network that demonstrates how to implement inclusive governance and women leadership in cybercrime and cybersecurity.

In Focus: Words from some 2022 WIC Summit Mentors

"Women have a critical role to play in stopping cybercrime and the exploitation of women and children online. It requires a partnership of legislators, law enforcement, private sector companies, non-profit groups and educators. Conferences such as the Women in Cyber Summit 2022 are essential to the establishment of this network."

Hon. Deborah Smith
United States Magistrate Judge
“For better networking, it is important to know yourself, how to make the most of professional meetings and networking. That's why summits like this one are important.”

Amanda Wick
Founder
Association for Women in Cryptocurrency

“Determination is something that helps you grow in your career. Trust in yourself and be kind to people, you never know where an opportunity might turn up. This too is part of networking.”

Valentina Pancieri
Law Enforcement Expert, UNODC

UNODC INTRODUCES NEW TRAINING FOR AWIC MEMBERS "CYBER 101 SESSIONS"

The Global Programme on Cybercrime is pleased to introduce a new professional training series called Cyber 101 Sessions for its Africa Women in Cyber (AWIC) Networking Group members. During the past year, the Programme introduced the Cyber Café sessions and Cyber Diva Bootcamp coaching sessions for AWIC members with the aim to provide a platform for exchange and coaching respectively, that will be beneficial in the professional growth of AWIC members.

The Cyber 101 sessions have been developed to provide AWIC members with basic knowledge and skills on certain concepts in cybercrime and cybersecurity that can be beneficial to them at an individual and organizational level. It also aims to provide the members with some basic hard skills that can help propel their careers in this digital age.

The first Cyber 101 session will be held under the theme “Securing yourself and your organization” on Wednesday, 30 November at 16:00 UTC.

Upcoming events

- Cyber 101 Sessions - 30 November 2022. Theme: “Securing yourself and your organization”