

IMSciences conducts panel discussions on Cybercrime vs. Cybersecurity

IMSciences, Peshawar on Thursday conducted panel discussion sessions in its Research & Seminars Block on the growing bane of cybercrime in Pakistan and the importance of cybersecurity to keep citizens safe from being targeted by cybercrime. IMSciences' own students as well as students and guests from other institutions visited IMSciences to attend the panel discussions. The mega scale event was organized by Dr. Muhammad Nawaz, faculty member at IMSciences.

The event started with the Director IMSciences, Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan welcoming the guests, faculty and students for the panel discussions. He thanked everyone for taking interest in the important topic of cybercrime and cybersecurity.

The President of Pakistan Information Security Association (PISA) and former DIG FIA, Mr. Ammar Jaffri also gave a welcome note to the audience. He said that the private sector cannot be expected to share sensitive information with the government when the government does not take it into confidence. Hence, a greater collaboration needs to take place between the two sectors to better combat the threat of cybercrimes.

Next came Mr. Akhtar Ali Shah; former IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), who reflected that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) ought to be given credit for combating cybercrime in Pakistan. However, they lack human resource, which is crucial for overcoming cybercrime in Pakistan. There are hardly 10 FIA offices in the entire country. He further said modern day terrorism revolves around cybercrime. Resultantly, cybersecurity is gaining greater importance.

Thereafter came Dr. Rafi us Shan; Chief KPCERC. He said modern day colonization revolves around data colonization. Whoever controls data in the modern world will be the modern day colonizer and power wielder. However, it is important to be careful of people's rights when it comes to cybersecurity.

Finally, Mr. Farooq Nayyar; CISO ORION, gave his talk. He said Pakistan should have cybersecurity as its top priority. He reflected on the poor performance of Pakistan in terms of cybersecurity since it is rated as the second or third worst prepared country against cybersecurity.

After the welcome notes by all the speakers, a shield distribution ceremony took place, whereby all the speakers were presented with shields by the Director IMSciences; Dr. Muhammad Mohsin Khan.

The next segment of the event was the panel discussion. The focus of the discussion was on contemporary issues of cybersecurity and cybercrimes. The panellists belonged from different sectors of the industry, ranging from academicians to corporate individuals working in Canada, sharing their insights. The greatest part of the discussion also involved the comparison of laws and regulations being implemented across the world and how Western and Eastern sides were reacting to these issues.

Thereafter, a total of 3 technical talks took place thereafter. The first technical talk was kicked off by Mr. Babar Akhunzada, Co-founder Security Walls. The topic of discussion was “Hacking for profit and fun”. The second technical talk was “Privacy vs. Security”, moderated by Mr. Mubashar Sargana, CTO, PISA CERT, and the third technical talk was “Career paths in cybersecurity”, moderated by Mr. Mujtaba Hussain; course instructor, KPCERC.

At the end of the event, the President of PISA and former DIG FIA Mr. Ammar Jaffri distributed shields among all the panellists and speakers.