

WMS-CUI Joint Seminar on "Threat of Cybercrimes: Growing Vulnerabilities of Societies"

Introduction:

In a dazzling symphony of intellect and insight, the symposium on the "Threat of Cybercrimes: Growing Vulnerabilities of Societies" took center stage at the vibrant COMSATS University Islamabad. This tech spectacle, orchestrated by the FDA in collaboration with the Federal Ombudsman, was more than an event – it was a voyage into the labyrinth of technology-induced challenges and opportunities. The event was held on November 30, 2023 at EE Auditorium Hall, COMSATS University Islamabad.

Opening Session:

The grand curtain lifted with Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, the maestro in charge of COMSATS University Islamabad Campus. Dr. Asghar set the tone, painting a vivid picture of the fifth industrial revolution's grip on our lives. His call for heightened awareness about cybercrimes, sexual exploitation, and child endangerment echoed through the hallowed halls, setting the stage for an unforgettable experience.



Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, the storyteller of our digital saga, took the audience on a journey through time. From the inception of the ombudsman in 1983 to the alarming surge in cybercrime complaints – 1,90,000 in 2023 – his narrative peeled back the layers of our evolving digital reality.



Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, the sage of HEC, added a philosophical touch. Gadgets, the modern talismans, can both bless and curse, he mused. Elders, the guardians of wisdom, must steer the youth through the digital tempest, for the ship of progress will not wait.



Documentary Screening:

As the lights dimmed, a cinematic odyssey unfolded. The documentary, a visual symphony from 1983 to 2023, showcased the Federal Ombudsman's heroic efforts in the cyber realm. Each frame was a testament to resilience, commitment, and the pursuit of a safe digital haven for the citizens of Pakistan.

Panel Discussion:

The grand finale, a panel discussion, brought together luminaries:

- Amb. Fauzia Nasreen
- Mr. Ayaz Khan
- Mr. Amar Jaffri
- Ms. Asma Majeed
- Maj (R) Muhammad Qasim
- Dr. Shabana Fayaz
- Mr. Muhammad Farooq



This stellar cast engaged in a verbal symphony, tackling the gamut of cyber threats with passion and precision.

Discussion Highlights:

The discussion unfolded like a thrilling plot:

- Madam Fauzia, the protagonist, championed children's rights, calling for media seminars as beacons of awareness.
- Dr. Qasim, the vigilant guardian, warned of the app permissions abyss, advocating for education on safe mobile usage.
- Ms. Asma, the cyber sleuth, cautioned against the alluring unknown, urging resistance to the siren call of shady links.
- Dr. Shabana, the wise sage, declared education as the ultimate weapon against cybercrime, with academia as its wielder.
- Mr. Amar Jaffri, the visionary, extolled the importance of AI and language mastery, a potent arsenal against the digital unknown.
- Mr. Farooq, the gatekeeper, revealed PTA's shield against unethical URLs, as he sounded the alarm on rising child abuse trends.

Conclusion:

In the final crescendo, the symposium concluded with a collective vow to combat cyber threats. The insights gained were not mere notes; they were the anthem of a resilient Pakistan navigating the digital storm. The event proved that in the face of evolving challenges, collaboration and awareness will be the guiding stars in our digital constellation. The symposium wasn't just an event; it was an ode to empowerment in the digital age.

