



**OFFICE of the
REGULATOR**

**CYBER SMART
SAMOA MATA'ALA
ROADSHOW**

SAVAII

DATE : 1ST AUGUST – 4TH AUGUST 2023

Introduction

The Office of the Regulator (OOTR) took part in a pivotal initiative led by the Ministry of Communication Information and Technology (MCIT) from August 1st to August 4th, 2023. This initiative, known as the Samoa Mata'ala Cyber Smart Roadshow, was conducted across the island of Savaii under the theme "Samoa Mataala," meaning "Samoa Be Vigilant."

The roadshow aimed to enhance awareness of cybersecurity and online safety among secondary schools and communities. It was a collaborative effort involving key organizations such as SamCERT, CERT NZ, Cyber Safety Pasifika (CSP), Netsafe, and the Samoa Police Prisons and Corrections Services (SPPCS).

The primary objective of the roadshow was to address the growing concerns surrounding cybersecurity threats, particularly those affecting vulnerable people including, children and young people.

The roadshow provided a platform for educating the public about the risks associated with online activities, including the dangers of exposure to sexually abusive materials and other harmful online content.

Key Highlights of the Roadshow

The roadshow traversed the length and breadth of Savaii, reaching **all** secondary schools and numerous communities. The sessions were carefully structured to engage participants of varying ages and backgrounds, ensuring that the message of online safety resonated with everyone.

The presenters were: SamCERT, OOTR, CERT NZ, SPPCS

School Visits

During the school visits, representatives from MCIT, SamCERT, and other partnering organizations delivered interactive presentations designed to educate students on safe Internet practices. These presentations emphasized the importance of being vigilant while online, recognizing the signs of cyber threats, and knowing how to report suspicious activities. The students were encouraged to take proactive steps in protecting themselves from online predators and to understand the implications of sharing personal information on the Internet.

A significant focus was placed on educating students about the dangers of child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) online. The OOTR developed the CSAM policy in 2016 with inputs from the Attorney General’s Office and the National Prosecution office. The said policy is available on the OOTR website at regulator.gov.ws

. Students were informed about the legal ramifications and the psychological impact of such content. The sessions also underscored the importance of reporting any encounter with such material to trusted adults or authorities.



Community Engagement

In addition to the school visits, the roadshow extended its outreach to the wider community through public forums and workshops. These sessions provided a broader perspective on cybersecurity, covering topics such as data privacy, the risks of cyberbullying, and the importance of securing personal devices. The involvement of local community leaders played a crucial role in reinforcing the message and ensuring that it reached every household.

The collaboration with CSP and Netsafe added an international dimension to the discussions, offering insights into global best practices in cybersecurity and online safety. The OOTR and CERT NZ contributed technical expertise, guiding participants in safeguarding their digital footprint and responding to cyber incidents.



Feedback and Impact

The roadshow received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, particularly for its' focus on protecting children from the dangers of the Internet. Many parents expressed their gratitude for the initiative, noting that it provided them with the knowledge needed to guide their children in navigating the digital world safely. Teachers and school administrators also praised the program for its timely and relevant content, which complemented the existing curriculum on digital literacy.



Conclusion

The roadshow's success in Savaii underscores the critical importance of ongoing efforts to promote cybersecurity awareness in Samoa. The positive reception from the community highlights the need for continuous education and engagement to keep Samoa vigilant against the evolving threats of the digital age. The MCIT, along with its' partners, remains committed to building a safer online environment for all Samoans, with plans to expand the roadshow to other parts of the country in the future.

Key Outcome

A key outcome of the Samoa Mataala Cybersecurity Roadshow is a comprehensive report detailing the findings and feedback gathered during the event. This report is expected to play a crucial role in shaping the future of Samoa's cyber legislation. It will support the development of enhanced incident-handling processes and provide a framework for addressing cybersecurity issues more effectively at the national level. The report is scheduled to be presented to members of parliament during their session on Monday, August 7th, 2023.

The Samoa Mataala Cybersecurity Roadshow succeeded in its mission to draw attention to the importance of vigilance in the digital age. By reaching out to schools and communities across Savaii, the initiative has helped to foster a culture of awareness and responsibility among Internet users. As Samoa continues to embrace digital technology, the lessons learned from this roadshow will be instrumental in ensuring that the country's citizens are better equipped to navigate the online world safely and securely.



End.