UK-Kuwait Cyber Security Education & Research Conference (CERC2023)

Call for Abstracts

Conference Overview

The British Embassy in Kuwait and the UK Science & Innovation Network, in partnership with Kuwait's Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA), Kuwait University (KU), Kuwait College of Science & Technology (KCST) and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) announce the fifth annual UK/Kuwait Cyber Security Education and Research Conference, *CERC2023*.This year's event will be hosted at Kuwait University and is scheduled for the 15th – 16th of October 2023.

The theme for this year's conference is:

Digital Trust & Safety

Areas of focus will include:

- **Digital Trust Strategies**
  - Explore methods that organizations can use to raise user trust in the protection of consumer data and in the transparency in the way this data is stored and used.
  - Examine the trade-offs between supplying data-centric companies with private information for higher utility and the risk of a potential leak or mishandling of sensitive data.
  - Discussing privacy-related issues at the national and governmental level when dealing with social media and vendor-dependence.

- **Role of Artificial Intelligence in Security**
  - Highlighting concerns regarding the potential of using artificial intelligence (AI) by attackers as an offensive tool.
  - Exploring the ethical and privacy implications concerning the use of data in training large-scale AI models.
  - Building robust AI-based systems that are resilient against attacks, which exploit a model's weaknesses and disrupt its behaviour.

- **Cybersecurity Integration in Curriculums**
  - Exploring ways to integrate educational components on cybersecurity into primary & secondary schools to create a more privacy-aware society.
  - Examining methods for the motivation of students to participate in educational and training workshops.
  - Discussing ways to implement secure digital transformation techniques within academic institutes to facilitate a safe learning environment.

- **ICS/SCADA Systems**
  - Exploring the current standards and policies for the protection of critical infrastructure within government and/or private sectors.
  - Understanding the emerging Crime-as-a-Service business model and discussing ways to mitigate its proliferation.
  - Proposing mechanisms to secure major sectors in industry and government including transport, petrochemical, power grid (gas, nuclear, etc.), telecommunication networks, and geographic information systems (GIS).

Other topics covered by this year's conference include but are not limited to:

- Information security policy
- 5G, mobile, and wireless security
- Blockchains and Cryptocurrencies
- Internet of Things (IoT) security
- Big data and cloud computing security
- Smart city privacy technologies
- Post-quantum security and cryptography
- Formal security methods
- Social engineering attacks

The conference will incorporate government-to-government engagement, along with participation from industry and research sectors. The format for the conference will be set around a series of keynote talks, presentations and panel discussions from key UK and Kuwaiti stakeholders.

CERC2023 supports the Kuwait-UK Memorandum of Understanding on Cyber Security signed in 2018 which points to (amongst other areas) engagement in both education and research. The conference is a collaboration between UK government, led by the British Embassy in Kuwait, the UK National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and local partners across government and academia in Kuwait. Cyber security is a global issue and one that presents a threat to governments and industry alike. Kuwait and the UK are key strategic partners, and this conference will provide a platform to discuss bilateral areas of mutual interest and to identify scope for future collaborative activities.

The UK Government wishes to encourage UK researchers and industry sector leads to attend. Those wishing register an interested in presenting their research during the conference should include a **research abstract/presentation proposal** and **short biography** of the presenting applicant to British Embassy Projects Officer, Marwa Abul (email: Marwa.Abul@fcdo.gov.uk) or use the QR code below.

Applications to present at CERC2023 should be submitted by 30ᵗʰ July 2023.