

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SECURITIES MARKETS

PRESS RELEASE dated October, 4 2021.

LAUNCH OF THE CERTIFICATION COURSE ON CYBER SECURITY

The Digital world is growing in leaps and bounds and every industry including the Financial Industry is embracing it to create integrated solutions to make smooth customer experience from on-boarding to Delivery of Services. Digital Technology, while is very convenient and efficient, is fraught with cyber security risk. During the Covid affected days, mutual funds, broking firms, Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) which together manage countries financial wealth have adapted digital platforms for their business transactions. While such digital platforms are very convenient to the investing public, intermediaries and MIIs, it is necessary to ensure financial security of investors, integrity of the transaction and prevent their identity theft on the web by securing the web platforms against any cyber security threats.

One of the important ingredients of cyber security and protection of data is to create awareness amongst all the users irrespective of their domain of specialisation. In order to spread this awareness and educate all users, NISM in collaboration with ISEA, CERT-In/ CSIRT_fin and C-DAC has launched a certificate course on “Cyber Security Foundation”. It will be a self-paced eLearning program covering the pillars of cyber security and cyber security management. Participants will be given a certificate after they pass a proctored test.

The course is launched by Sh. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, MeitY, Government of India and Sh. Ajay Tyagi, Chairman, SEBI. Dr Sanjay Bahl, Director General, CERT-In, GoI, Dr CKG Nair, Director NISM, Dr Jaideep K Mishra, Joint Secretary MeitY, Government of India, Mrs PR Lakshmi Eswari, Director, C-DAC and Mr Sunil Kadam, Registrar, NISM have also addressed the participants in the inaugural program.

Mr Ajay Prakash Sawhney said that on perusal of the content of the course offered, it is useful for everyone who is using internet resources just not only those in the financial sector. For those in financial sector, it is necessary to protect transactions and clients against the cyber threats to preserve trust. He said that right set of experts have come together to render this certification program. He said that this 60 hours' program may be developed into more advanced diploma of degree level over a period of time.

Sh. Ajay Tyagi, Chairman SEBI said that SEBI has been constantly stepping up its cyber security efforts, both internally within the organization and externally. From the external perspective, SEBI's cyber security measures relate to Market Infrastructure Institutions like stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories, SEBI registered intermediaries and Mutual Funds. Further, since SEBI receives and deals with a lot of sensitive and important data, SEBI has implemented a robust cyber security framework internally. While SEBI has not specified a specific cyber security framework for listed entities, the Risk Management Committee of the listed companies has been mandated to monitor and manage cyber security risks as one of its mandates. He said that it is heartening to note that NISM, CERT-In and C-DAC under the aegis of MeitY have jointly worked together towards launch of this cyber-security certification course. This course will help in understanding Cyber Security Framework based on the pillars viz. Identify, Build, Detect, Respond and Recover. In addition, the course dwells in detail about the cyber security advisories issued by SEBI from time to time. This course with features like self-paced e-learning, proctored test and affordable fee structure will encourage stakeholders in securities markets to learn and be aware of cyber security issues.

Dr Sanjay Bahl said that as the cyberspace continues to expand at a rapid pace, it is increasingly being recognized that "technological literacy" is a prerequisite to compete and thrive in the wired economy. Today there is a cyber-security skill gap across industries including the financial sector and that this course will reduce such gap. He also explained the role of CERT-In in providing various proactive services such as alerts and advisories on its website, early warning threat intelligence to organisations to mitigate advanced cyberattacks, daily notifications regarding malware infected systems & vulnerable services and free clean-up tools through its Cyber Swachhta Kendra, conducting cyber security drills, empanelment of auditors, training etc.

Dr CKG Nair said the course will be available for registrations from October 11, 2021. The fee is kept very low at Rs 2,950 (including GST) to make it affordable. The eLearning method of deliver of the course and affordable fee is expected to attract all users from intermediaries in the securities markets, listed companies and even investors to take this course and be well versed with cyber security management, an imperative in these times.

Dr Jaideep Mishra explained the initiatives taken by the Ministry in the areas of cyber security and creating awareness amongst stakeholders in securing cyber protection.

Mrs Lakshmi Eswari explained the detailed contents of the program. Mr Sunil Kadam while proposing vote of thanks listed out MIIs and Mutual funds that have sponsored their employees to take the program.

End of document.