

1. Introduction

This paper summarizes the result of the RAISS Forum Workshop on ISO/IEC 17799:2005 (E) conducted on 27 June, and the key outcome and follow-up actions identified and agreed during the second RAISS Forum meeting. It includes the notes taken during the panel discussion held before the close of the meeting, and was co-chaired by Mr Koji Nakao (Japan) and Mr Meng-Chow Kang (Singapore).

During the panel discussion, confirmation was sought from the delegates on the follow-up actions as highlighted in the summary notes that were published in the proceedings of the inaugural meeting, and review the objectives and terms of reference of the RAISS Forum. Suggestions for areas of ongoing/future collaboration and improvement were also encouraged and discussed.

The delegates confirmed acceptance of the action items in the summary notes, and no further comments on the objectives and terms of reference as documented in Appendix B of this proceedings.

The key highlights of the panel discussion and follow-up action identified for considerations in subsequent meetings are detailed below. The focus of these discussions centered on two areas, namely, (1) Forum activities and projects; and (2) planning related suggestions for the next meeting.

2. Result of the Workshop on ISO/IEC 17799:2005 (E)

This is a one-day workshop co-organized by the RAISS Forum, IT Standards Committee, Singapore and the Security Chapter of the Singapore infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF). Conducted by Mr Ted Humphreys and Dr Angelika Plate, the Convener of SC 27/WG 1 and Co-editor of ISO/IEC 17799:2005, respectively, this workshop aims to inform the local industry on the differences between the 2000 edition and the new edition of this information security management standard.

The 63 participants of this workshop were equipped with the knowledge on the history and background information on the revision of the ISO/IEC 17799 standard, a gap analysis of

the clauses between the 2000 edition and its revised edition, inclusive of an overview of the future ISMS world. Feedback from the participants were encouraging as most of them felt that they have gained from this workshop by understanding this standard better and have a timely update on the changes in the edited version.

This workshop was co-sponsored by Microsoft (Asia Pacific) and PSB Certification Pte Ltd.

3. Forum Activities and Projects

The discussion on the Forum activities and projects centered on the projects proposals from Thailand and Singapore. In addition to the papers that were presented and published in this proceedings, Japan has also proposed during the meeting that a project be initiated to look into the security management aspects of biometric information, since biometric systems are increasingly being used in critical business areas/systems for authentication purposes.

Table 1 depicts the list of projects suggested and members' preference for participation in these projects.

Projects	Australia	Chinese Taipei	Japan	Korea	Malaysia	Singapore	Thailand
1. Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery	X		X			X	
2. Risk Assessment Tools for Network and System Administrator		X					
3. Application Security Standard Framework		X	X	X		X	X
4. Biometrics Security	X		X				
5. Mutual Recognition of ISMS Certification	X		X	X			
6. Security Standard Toolkit	X					X	

Table 1: Preference of Projects by Respective Members

Mr Kang also expressed to extend the outreach of this Forum to include economies like India, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

4. Plan for Next Meeting

Malaysia has agreed to host the 3rd meeting, and the date of the meeting has been scheduled on 12 November 2005. This will be immediately after the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 meeting in Kuala Lumpur. A half-day meeting is tentatively scheduled, to focus on discussing projects proposed by the members, with the aim of establishing the respective working groups to follow-up on the selected projects.

The meeting adjourned at 1815 hours on 28 June 2005.

Meng-Chow Kang

1. Introduction

Although ISO/IEC, ITU, and other international standards bodies have been in operation for many years, regional economies in Asia, except for a few developed nations like Australia, Japan, and Korea, have mainly been the adopters of international security standards. As many regional economies are also new in the security standards arena, and not in the main or core participants or contributors to the development of existing international security standards, they all face unique challenges in various aspects of adoption, and deployment.

Regional economies also face challenges in establishing security standards bodies, cultivating industry involvement and participation, and promulgating knowledge and use of international security standards within their economy, especially when there is limited local security expertise that is familiar with security standards, as well as standards development and deployment.

There are potential benefits or values that we could develop and share across the region, if regional economies begin to share their knowledge, expertise, and more importantly experiences in the area of international security standards adoption and deployment. Emerging economies and new security standards bodies could immediately benefit from the experiences, and eliminate wastages in terms of repeating mistakes and errors that other more matured bodies have gone through previously. Similarly, from a regional perspective, the aggregated learning and experiences could potentially be useful for identifying new directions and needs in security standards development in the international standards communities.

2. Objectives

The Regional Asia Information Security Standards (RAISS) Forum is therefore proposed to reap the potential benefits and values through regional security standards bodies' participation and collaborations.

The Forum is to act as an overall focal point for the Asian standardization community on information security issues by:

- Providing a platform for sharing of knowledge, exchange of ideas and dialogues on standards related issues, challenges, and directions, in particular, relating to the adoption, deployment, and implementation of ICT related standards in the region;
- Ensuring that the security-related standardization activities in Asia adequately reflect the requirements of the market constituents at a strategic level;
- Providing a mechanism that could be used to follow-up on Asia policy requirements on information security standards issues;
- Providing effective co-ordination between organizations of relevant standardization work programmes and their execution;
- Ensuring Asia requirements for standards and standards work in this area are correctly interfaced with international standards activity, and standards activity in other regions, to avoid conflict or duplication of effort; and
- Acting as a strategic communication interface between relevant standards authorities and agencies on international standardization related topics.

3. Initial Tasks

Initially, the RAISS Forum shall:

- Organize workshops & seminars for knowledge sharing and exchange of experiences and information relating to the adoption, deployment, and implementation of standards and promulgation of standards activities in the region;
- Establish liaison with the appropriate standards bodies or authorities/agencies interested in promoting or adopting international standards;
- Consider the implementation aspects of information security standards to Asia countries and other relevant Asia policy institutions;
- Consider appropriate proposals to improve Asia countries usage of international information security standards;
- Provide a common view where possible related to information security international standards;
- Create a mailing list for the members to share experience and knowledge in information security standards; and
- Establish a homepage/website for the forum where reports and recommendations are published.

4. Membership

The RAISS Forum shall be open to any Asian National Standards bodies/committees/ organizations and their relevant technical groups, and to additional interested parties as specified below.

The Forum shall invite participation of stakeholder interests, including individuals representing:

- Hardware and software manufacturers/vendors;
- Information society service providers;
- Telecommunication service providers;
- Regulatory authorities in Asia;
- Research centres; and
- Academia.

5. Liaison Activities

The Forum may appoint electronic or physical liaisons.

6. Working Methods

- The initial Chair and possibly a Co-Chair will be nominated by the founding members of the Forum. Further refinement of this Terms of Reference shall consider the period of service for the various appointments in the Forum, and future method of nomination. The current Co-Chairs for the RAISS Forum are Mr Meng-Chow Kang of Singapore, and Mr Koji Nakao of Japan.
- The Secretariat shall be provided by voluntary members of the RAISS Forum, either as a permanent appointment, or follows the terms of appointment of the Chair of the Forum. The current Secretariat is Ms Yean-Lan Thay of IT Standards Committee, Singapore.
- The Forum will work on a voluntary basis.

- Physical meetings may be held as required, but full electronic working facilities shall also be arranged.
- The Forum shall work by consensus; its approved outputs should document any minority views.
- The Forum should focus on adoption of existing international standards.
- The Forum may organize open meetings or seminars on specific topics.
- The Forum role is advisory; its recommendations shall not be binding on the participating organizations.
- The Forum members are encouraged to participate in relevant international and global standardization efforts.
- The Forum shall provide a report on its activities.

7. Conclusion

The terms of reference detailed in this paper are essentially a framework to guide the collaboration, coordination, and execution of activities to bring the RAISS Forum forward, and ensure that the underlying objectives of the Forum could be successfully achieved. It is important that participants and members of RAISS Forum continue to maintain and update this guide to ensure its relevance and adequacy to meet the changing demands of IT security standardization, as well as the evolving needs of the Forum as it matures. It would be a failure of the Forum if these terms become the showstoppers to execution and running of the Forum. Ultimately, the knowledge and experiences shared, and open dialogues in the Forum meetings are the key deliverables that would benefit contributing and participating members.

Participation by the various economies in Asia in the initial meeting held on April 22, 2004 in Singapore and the inauguration meeting held on 19 November 2004 in Tokyo have both shown the region's recognition of the needs for such a Forum. These needs have been further confirmed at the Panel Discussion session held in Tokyo, which identified future works required for moving forward with the objectives of the RAISS Forum.

8. Acknowledgement

This paper was developed in conjunction with the contributions provided by Mr Ariffuddin Aizuddin of National ICT Security and Emergency Response (NISER), Malaysia. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Mr Aizuddin for his support and contributions to make the RAISS Forum possible. Also thanks to the online members of RAISS Forum Online¹ who have also previously provided feedback to the earlier draft of the terms of reference, in particular, Mr John Snare of Australia, and Prof Jussipekka Leiwo of Singapore.

¹ The online discussion group was set up in MSN Group web site (<http://groups.msn.com/RAISSForum>) as an online forum for ongoing dialogues for coordination of RAISS related activities, as well as continuous discussion on topics relating to security standardization in the region. At the moment, membership to this online group is on invitation only.