



MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY

SOMALILAND ICT CONFERENCE 2022 REPORT

BORAMA, SOMALILAND



#SLICT2022



www.somalilandictconference.com





Cyber security, Innovation and Future Connectivity

Introduction:

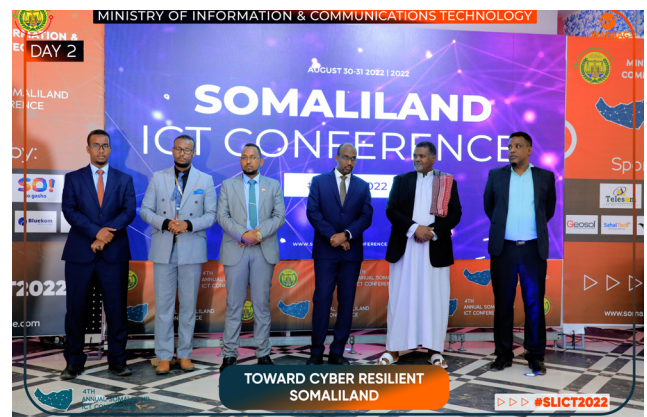
The Somaliland ICT conference is an annual conference organized by the Somaliland Ministry of ICT in collaboration with sector stakeholders including the big telecom giants who annually sponsor the conference. It is a two days conference that attracts ICT scholars, Leaders and practitioners from around the regions and cities in Somaliland in addition to tech entrepreneurs and established tech companies.

This year the conference attracted around 300 participants from all around the six regions of Somaliland Including Diaspora Community, in addition to 15 companies who directly participated in the conference exhibition held at Borama City.

Organizing this conference for the fourth consecutive years, the conference focuses on topical issues around the ICT sector development each year. This year the conference focused on Cyber security under the theme: "Towards cyber resilient Somaliland". To deep dive on the theme of the event, the conference this year featured 20+ renowned technology and telecom speakers from around the region and globe with more than 10 thought provoking sessions on a wide range of topics including: Cyber Security, operator strategies, ICT ecosystem security, regional interconnectivity, rural networks, Innovation and regulatory frameworks.

What makes this year's conference unique was the fact that the conference is taken out of the capital city for the first time and has been hosted by the city of knowledge-Borama, Awdal region.

In a nutshell here are our key takeaways from this insightful event, in three clusters: Cyber Security, Innovation and Future Connectivity.





Cyber Security:

The Somaliland ICT Conference 2022 with the theme of Cyber resilience brought together thought leaders from across government, industry and academia to discuss cyber strategy and how to bolster your organization's security in an evolving cyber threat landscape where no one is immune from attacks particularly in these turbulent geo-political times.

Reports of attacks on organizations are on the increase as criminal gangs continue to upgrade their "businesses".



Mr. Mubarik Dirie

The Conference examined recent breaches and the impact of an attack on Governments, company's business and its reputation, as well as why it is important for companies to break the taboo of speaking out about attacks and outages. One of the takeaways included learning how to defend governments and organizations against the onslaught of increasingly more sophisticated attacks. The Conference will act as a platform for experts to share the latest insights, best practices and global trends covering themes including defending our national infrastructure, lessons learnt from recent attacks, emerging threats and how collaboration and knowledge sharing between government and industry is crucial in preventing cybercrime and identifying threats.





Somaliland moving towards a cyber resilient country invited top notch presenters for the conference hence making the conference one of the best in the years. One of the speakers included Mr. Mubarik Dirie who is the Director of Deloitte Cyber Security Consultancy who in his presentation elaborated on the current attacks and how easy it would be to overcome them, in the future, among the cases discussed included threat actors evolving over the last 20 years from a hacker in his basement to a sophisticated organization of hackers working as big institutions organized to destroy and collect ransom. Among other cases included Bangladesh Bank Cyber Heist in February 2016, thirty-five fraudulent instructions were issued by cybercriminals via the SWIFT network to illegally transfer close to US\$1 billion from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York account belonging to Bangladesh's Central Bank. Five of the thirty-five fraudulent instructions were successful in transferring US\$101 million, with US\$20 million traced to Sri Lanka and US\$81 million to the Philippines. This hack would have been made more difficult with basic network security equipment, and security steps to segregate and monitor network traffic.





Mr. Abdelkarim Hussein the Network and Information Security Manager of Telesom elaborated on the role of MNOs in regard to social economic growth since mobile is used for most of the transactions within the country, them as one of the largest telecom companies have invested a lot in the security and education of the risks of cyber attacks in the private sector and hence touched on the collaboration of government and private sector to achieve the Cyber Resilience as a country.

In general, the outcomes of the Conference tackled what Somaliland must do to become Cyber resilient. The public and private sectors to move in locksteps, in addressing these threats by Develop a common, aligned approach across the public and private sector, based on international standards. So that all sections of society and business benefit from being digitally safe and secure.

- ◆ The establishment of national Cyber security centre managed by Ministry of ICT. The center will have Cyber Security Oversight Team to provide effective oversight of the Somaliland government's management of cyber security risk, to support the nation's safety, security and economic resilience. Defining policies, standards, frameworks and guidance.
- ◆ To develop a National Cyber Incident Response and Disaster recovery Plan.
 - A national approach to dealing with cyber incidents; defining the important roles that the private sector, state and local governments play in responding to incidents and how the actions of all fit together for an integrated response.
 - Running annual cyber incident simulations, incorporating lessons learned from exercises, real world incidents and updating policy accordingly.
- ◆ MICT to introduce a Data Protection law next year.
- ◆ With the support from Telesom & SO Gasho the ministry will conduct Training of 110 Students from across the country to be part of the experts who will protect the data and systems of the government and also advice the any other institutions that need the support.



Mr. Abdelkarim Hussein



Innovation:

Economic growth is a tool for measuring the development and progress of countries, and technological innovation is one of the factors affecting economic growth and contributes to the development and modernization of production methods. Therefore, technological innovation is the main driver for economic growth and human progress. From this premise, this year's ICT Conference put the emphasis in giving platform to young local talent to express those talents:

Senior graduate students from both Amoud and Eelo universities were given slots in the program to showcase those innovative tech talents. Both teams produced different solutions that goes at the heart of pressing social issues:



- Third Eye solution from Amoud University ICT graduates:
A smart stick that makes a sound when the blind person is close to objects was introduced by the team from Amoud.
- Social media App from Eelo ICT Students:
A comprehensive social application which has a marketplace features as well was showcased by Eelo university students.

Along with these initiatives to give platform to the young entrepreneurs, the Conference made tangible outcomes regarding the sector.

These are the areas the conference pledged to work on:

- Establish an innovation zone in Borama, hosting city of the conference this year. This innovation zone will be similar to the existing one in Hargeisa, in that it will provide training, mentorship, coworking space and funding to the youth & entrepreneurs of Borama. The Ministry will establish this with the support from So Gasho Company.
- Develop an innovation fund: where private and public cooperate to provide needed seed money to youth innovators of Somaliland.



Future Connectivity:

This theme was particularly important since the platinum sponsors were all ISP companies that put great effort in improving connectivity through the country.

The conference was particularly pleased to welcome **Bluekom** and **Soltelco** to its growing sponsors list. These two newly created companies are telecom operators dedicated to furthering Somaliland's Internet connectivity.

On the other hand, Somtel chief corporate affairs Officer **Adnan Adami** teased the audience on his company's plan to roll out 5G networks as early as next year.

While So Gasho Chief Technical officer **Mr. Abdirahman Mahad** touched on the fast-growing customers of his company thanks to the fiber optic technology they introduced in Somaliland.

In conclusion these were the outcomes from the conference in this area:

- Somtel Company donated telecom equipment worth of 1 million dollar to two leading universities in Somaliland: Amoud university engineering Faculty & Burco public University Engineering Faculty. This will help telecom students to have vital hands-on experience on industry standard equipment.
- Somaliland Government will implement a plan to use their share in the land mark fiberoptic agreement to connect all public places of Somaliland to a secure, fast network that's owned, managed and operated by the Somaliland Government.



TOWARD CYBER RESILIENT
SOMALILAND

Mr. Adnan Adami



TOWARD CYBER RESILIENT
SOMALILAND

Mr. Abdirahman Mahad

Statistics:

300+ Participants

14+ Companies

20+ Speakers

25+ Sessions

15+ keynotes

14+ solution show



Sponsors:





Presentations:

1. Cyber Security for Mobile Financial Services.

Abdikarim H. Elmi, Network Manager, Telesom.

2. Infrastructure Sharing: Getting Back The Spirit of Cooperation.

Shadia Khalif, Director of Telecom, MICT.

3. Connecting Homes Through Fiber.

Abdirahman Mahad, CTO, So gasho.

4. Factors Affecting Cyber Security Awareness in Somaliland.

Warsame Abokor, Associate Dean of ICT, Amoud University.

5. Cyber Security: Social Media Case.

Dr. Ahmed Nour, Cyber Security & Digital Forensic Expert.

6. Regulating the Cyber Space: Challenges & Opportunity.

Sahardid Ahmed, Director of ICT services, MICT.

7. The Role of Telecom Operators in Future Connectivity.

Adnan Adami, Corporate Business Manager, Somtel.

8. How to Secure Somaliland Digital Transformation.

Mubarak Deria, Manager at Deloitte Cyber Risk Services Unit.

9. Early Studying of OCT in Schools: Positive Impact.

Faisal Abdilahi- Principal at Taaj Schools.

10. E-government & Cyber Security.

Safa Yuusuf Gude. Deputy Director of Telecom, MICT

11. How Technology is Changing the Courier Industry.

Mahamed Ali- CEO of Sahal Transportation.



Official Communique from SLICT2022:

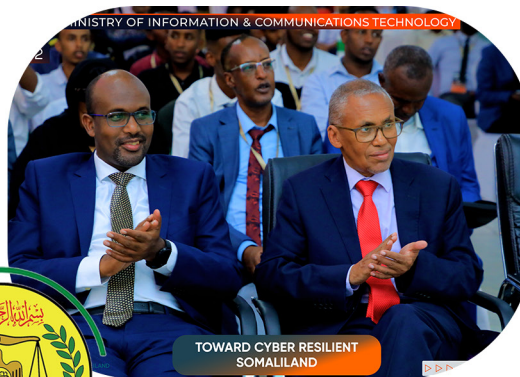
The Ministry of ICT:

1. Is commending the level of participation and knowledge from Borama youth in the Conference.
2. Will put forward Data protection and cyber security regulations.
3. Will lead the awareness battle against Cyber security risks.
4. Will work hard on digitalization of public services to reaches all districts.
5. In Collaboration with ICT Partners, Will establish "Cyber security Center'
6. Is commending the growth of local ICT market in the past few years.
7. Will lead introducing "Tech innovation fund" with ICT partners.
8. Will establish Innovation Zones across Somaliland regions, beginning with borama with support from Somacable.
9. Is commending the decision taken by big telecom companies to train youth from all region on Cyber security best practices.
10. Is encouraging in learning new technologies to combat climate change.





In Pictures: SLICT2022



TOWARD CYBER RESILIENT
SOMALILAND



TOWARD CYBER
RESILIENT
SOMALILAND



**SOMALILAND
ICT CONFERENCE
2022**



TOWARD CYBER RESILIENT
SOMALILAND





SOMALILAND ICT CONFERENCE 2022 REPORT

BORAMA, SOMALILAND



www.somalilandictconference.com