**Trends and Challenges in Cyber-Crime in Sri Lanka**

In Sri Lanka, there have been number of cyber-crime complaints reported to the Sri Lankan Computer Emergency Readiness Team and Cyber-Crime Unit in Sri Lankan police for a year.

According to the past records crimes such as, Phishing, abuse privacy, malware, e-mail harassment, fake accounts (Facebook), and intellectual property cases reported to the Sri Lankan Computer Emergency Readiness Team has increased with the time. In Sri Lanka, there have been four main acts which used in cyber-crime prevention with the intention of mitigating the computer crimes and upgrade the quality of internet usage . 1997 computer crime act was really important. In this act, it covers a broad range of offences. The second Act is Property Act 36 of 2003. The third act is Electronic Transaction Act facilitates to formation of contracts, the creation and exchange of data messages, electronic documents, and electronic records. Amendment and Evidence (special provisions) Act (No. 14 of 1995) is also used to prevent these computer crimes. Apart from all these acts and regulations government has implemented many other security precautions such as monitoring the accessing locations and IP addresses if any violation happen and to prevent the misuse of internet.

Not only that, but also government has taken many steps such as:

(1) Introducing personal data protection act;

(2) Reform defamation laws and introducing cyber defamation laws;

(3) Awareness about new media literacy by using main 3 languages;

(4) Internet safe guard method introduced especially for the parents;

(5) Motivate to complain cybercrimes as soon as they happen;

**Conclusions**

In Sri Lanka, it is a challenge to preventing cyber-crime. The growth of network-based crime has been raised difficult issues in respect of appropriate balance between the needs of those investigating and prosecuting such crime, and the rights of users of **such** networks, so there is a need to empower the legal process. Responsible parties must take necessary steps to aware the users about the correct and effective way of using internet for their daily purposes.