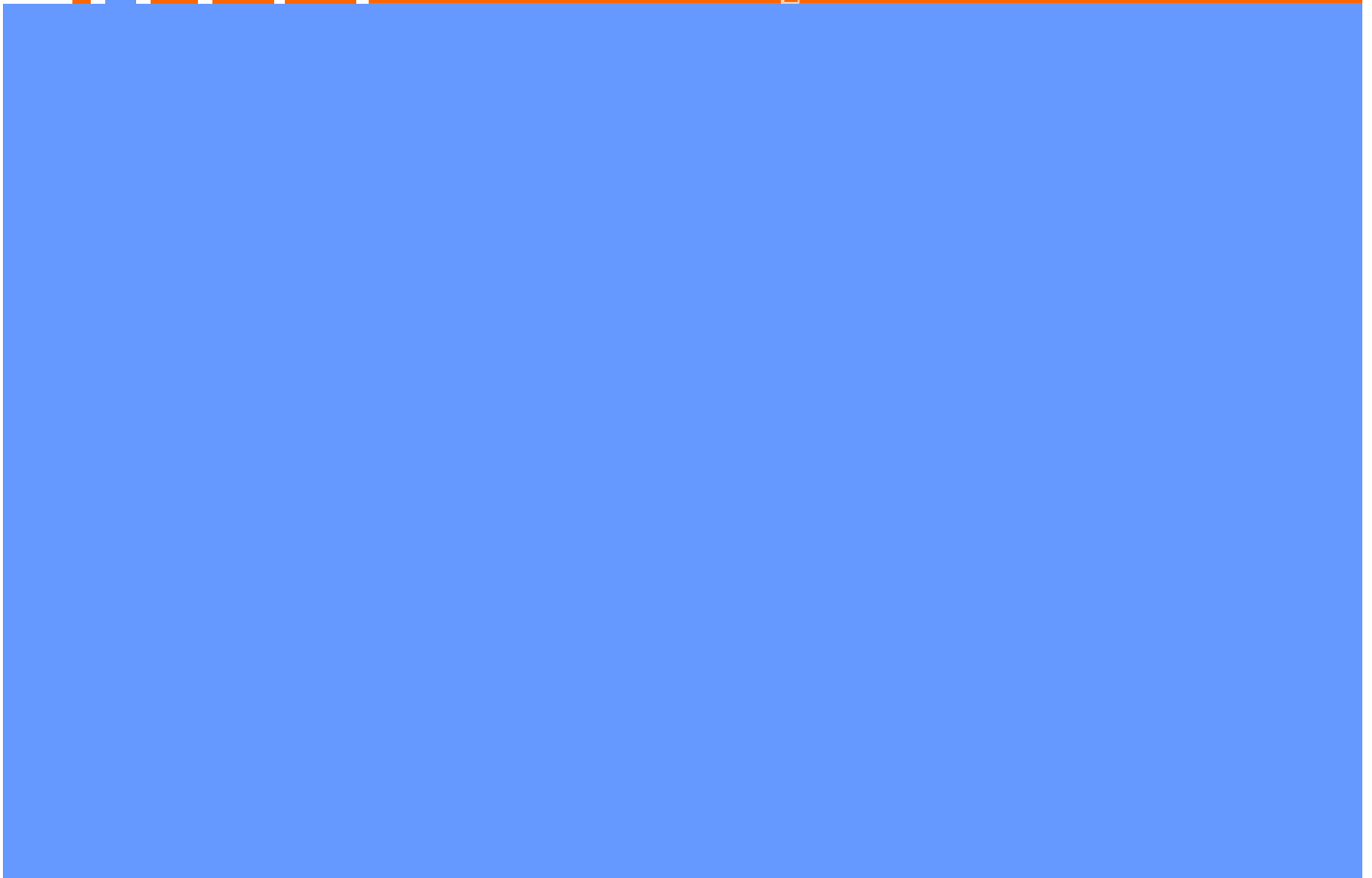


**STUDY GROUP ON  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**



As part of its capacity building activities, SDPI has been hosting this Study Group since the past ten years. This group contributes to improvement of the information telecommunication infrastructure at the national level. It provides a platform for consultants, scientists, academics, economists and other stake holders to create awareness in public and private sectors to exploit useful information resources, address existing difficulties in this respect, and foresee future developments which might impact the national economy and society at large. The group also undertakes the preparation of policy and planning recommendations that could subsequently be pursued by the relevant agencies.

The group meets quarterly to discuss and evaluate current developments in the rapidly evolving fields of telecommunications, computers, data processing, networking, mass media, etc., related to the generation, processing, management and use of information. SDPI, not only hosts and organizes the discussions of this expert group, but has substantially participated in the deliberations and provided useful comments in the meetings.

### 54<sup>th</sup> STUDY GROUP MEETING

Available technologies integrated with information superhighways now connect million of computers. These technologies also facilitate economic espionage, support assault on the personal, corporate and global privacy and confidentiality. Organized gangs of cyber criminals are able to infiltrate information systems, manipulate data and block computer networks. In the absence of comprehensive policies and appropriate legislation, hackers, cyberpunks, sniffers, computer terrorists and information warriors can inflict significant damage on individuals, corporations and countries.

The Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) has done considerable work in acquiring

the technology and the capacity to identify and counter cyber crimes. The Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoIT) has drafted cyber laws, which will be processed for Parliamentary action. Unfortunately, there is lack of awareness on the risks and remedies. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Study Group was hence organized on November 23, 2006 chaired by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani to discuss *Cyber Criminology: Risks, Pakistan's Present Capability to Counter, Policy Issues, Appropriateness of Legislation, Future Outlook*. The following speakers gave presentations as mentioned against each and initiated the discussion:

Speakers	Topic
Mr. Ammar Jaffri, Project Director, National Response Center for Cyber Crimes, FIA	Cyber Criminology: Risks, Present Capability to Counter and Future Outlook
Barrister Zahid Usman Jamil Jamil and Jamil Barristers-at-Law, Karachi	Policy Issues: Appropriateness of Legislation

### Recommendations

The Study Group, after in depth discussion, made the following recommendations for consideration by the Government:

- To curb ever rising cyber crime, a comprehensive policy on cyber security should be formulated and laws should be legislated.
- National information security framework so formulated should include best practices/laws adopted by advanced countries and the UN.



- The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), presently dealing with cyber crime related issues should organize systematic awareness campaigns in collaboration with the MoIT.
- Capacity building programs for stakeholders, like government departments, banks, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), the police and defence services should be planned and implemented.
- Cyber crime being a global phenomenon, effective liaison and cooperation should be established with regional and international cyber security organizations.

Networks to share cyber security information between relevant organizations should be established. Arrangements like key public infrastructure and computer forensics need to be considered.

- Reporting of cyber crime cases should be made mandatory.
- Laws should be made to force ISPs to retain customer information for a set period and on demand share it with FIA and the police.
- The Draft Electronic Crime Bill 2006 prepared by the MoIT should be widely disseminated for stakeholders' comments and feedback.