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More teeth needed to fight e-crimes

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DUBAI - Participants of the 3rd Interpol's Group of Experts Meeting on IT Crime – MENA Region approved a strategy to fight cyber crimes, which includes establishment of an authority to receive complaints on all kinds of such crimes.

They also called for strengthening research on e-crimes and their economic impacts, ways to fight e-crimes, appointment of efficient experts in the field and specialised budget for purchasing latest forensic technologies.

Participants at the two-day meeting focused on exchange of information between Interpol offices in the Middle East. The participants recommended accepting the data from computer and mobile phone as evidence in cyber crimes and called for spreading awareness among the public. The meeting also exhorted the participating nations to establish efficient laws to handle cyber crimes. The UAE's establishment of special courts for cyber crimes and training of judges and prosecutors on forensic evidence were praised by the participants.

A. Jones, chairman of IT Security Programme at Khalifa University said that the UAE is one of the most targeted nations by computer virus attacks. He said most of the e-crimes occurring in the region are financial fraud by using internet.

In the UAE, the use of internet has been increased by 212 per cent and this also raises the chances of cyber crimes, he said. Dr Ibrahim Musa, Director of the Cyber Crimes Forensic Laboratory at Zayed University said that there is a difference between e-crimes by terrorists which needed military intervention and those committed against people, firms and properties which needed quick intervention.

Major-General Khamis Mattar Al Mazina, Deputy Commander in Chief of the Dubai Police, said that e-crimes have economical and social impacts and criminals can transfer huge money from others' accounts by just pressing a button or can blackmail people. The UAE and Dubai have established specialised teams to fight cyber crimes in 1996, in coordination with Economic Department, Dubai Customs and banks.

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