

**Department of Computer Science
Women in Research and IT (WRIT)
CHRIST, Bangalore 560029**

**Event Report on
Women's Leadership @ Cyber Security**

Name of the Event: Women's Leadership @Cyber Security

Objective: To empower women and shed a light on India-Israel relations, the opportunities for emerging leaders, the future of cyberspace in terms of law, crime and security.

Date, Time and Venue: Thursday, 15 March, 2018; 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 9th Floor, Central Block

Participating Classes: II, IV– MCA, BCA, B.Sc., and II M.Sc. Computer Science

Faculty in Charge: Dr. Anita H B, Faculty of Computer Science Department.

Organizing Committee: Dr. Anita H B, Dr. Sumitra Binu, Dr. Ummesalma and Dr. Bhargavi.

Resource Person Details: Ms. Dana Kursh, Consulate General of Israel ;
Ms. Deborah Housen-Couriel, Adv. B.A. (summa cum laude), LL.B., LL.M (cum laude), MC-MPA ; and
Ms. Latha Reddy (Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace)



L-R: Ms. Dana Kursh, Dr. Suniti Phadke Ms. Deborah Housen-Couriel, Ms. Latha Reddy

Event Highlights

Cyber Security is the key to a safe and secure environment in both digital and physical environments. Despite the fact that the cyber security industry is witnessing a major shortage of qualified professionals in the job market, managing to hit a zero percent unemployment rate, it appears that only 11% of the workforce in cyber security is women. In order to promote women leadership and motivate women, The Department of Computer Science, CHRIST in Collaboration with Consulate General of Israel, presented a talk on Women Leadership at Cyber Security on Thursday, 15 March, 2018. A stellar line-up of leading women experts from Consulate General of Israel joined for the day.

Ms. Dana Kursh, Consulate General of Israel was the first speaker for the day. She started the session with the stories of two eminent women in the field of Cyber Security- 'Keren Elazari' and 'Nirmala Sitharaman'. Keren Elazari is an Israeli cyber security researcher, a distinguished public speaker and industry analyst. Featured speaker at international events such as TED, TEDMED, TEDx, and many more. Keren's talks have been viewed by millions and translated to 30 languages. Keren writes about emerging cyber security issues and is a frequent commentator on national & international broadcast media and the press. Nirmala Sitharaman is an Indian politician currently serving as the Defence Minister of India. Ms. Dana had put emphasis on the similarities and differences between India and Israel. Despite the physical differences, Dana says that India and Israel are pretty much related in terms of living, agriculture, defense against terrorism, etc. She put into account the meeting of the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu with the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi earlier this year where India and Israel signed nine agreements. According to Dana, any innovation starts with the necessity; followed by a culture that is ready to take up the challenge and work on it with the support of the state. Hence, Israel managed to have startups and MNCs following the above-said principles. Israel is ranked #2 for innovation in World Economic Forum Index, #3 in NASDAQ listings and #2 in Bloomberg's 2015 Global R&D Ranking. Google Israel is a hotbed of innovation, developing core Google infrastructure, as well as products and application used by millions around the world. Google's Executive Chairman, Eric Schmidt has said, "The decision to invest in Israel was one of the best that Google has ever made". Dana invited the students to study in Israel giving three major benefits: Quality, Cost and Fun! Six Israeli universities rank among world's top 100 universities with much more affordable cost relative to equivalent institutions in USA and Europe. Following is a graph that illustrates the Israel cyber security sphere and how it has emerged over the years:

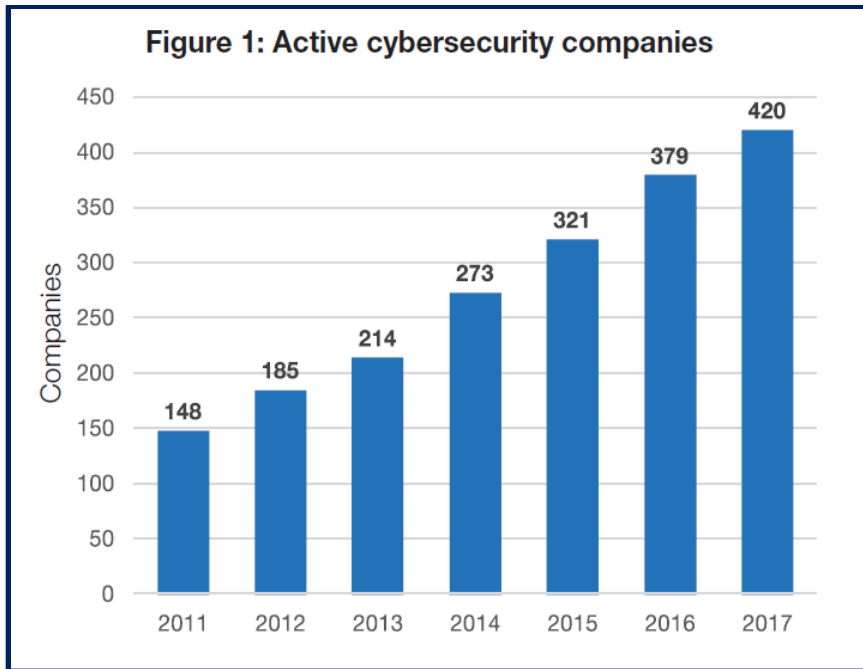


Fig. 1 Emergence of cyber security companies

Followed by Ms. Dana was **Ms. Deborah Housen-Couriel**, Adv. B.A. (summa cum laude), LL.B., LL.M (cum laude), MC-MPA . She had a discussion over 're-imagining women's approaches and Leadership for National Security Strategy and Planning'. She discussed the case study of cyber security law and policy. According to Ms. Deborah, Cyber Security is a team sport that has the power to yield results with diverse perspectives. However, cyber security expertise is not diverse enough so far. There are certain adaptive challenges that are open ended (fig 2). The adaptive challenges become clear as tactical responses fail.

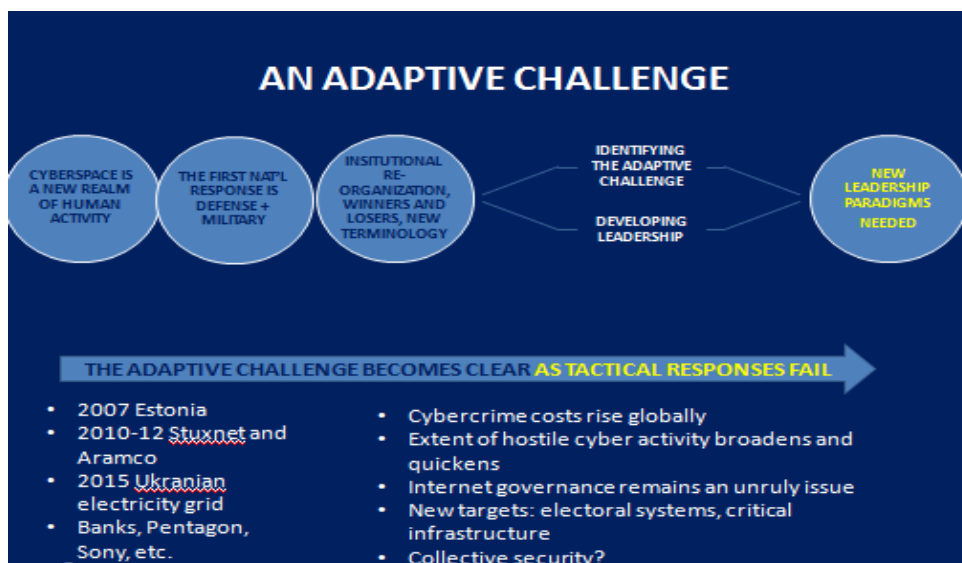


Fig 2: Adaptive Challenge

Ms. Deborah says that one of these challenges is the legal and policy norms. The norms are mentioned in the book titled, "Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations. The other challenge is the employment gap. As per the data, there will be a shortage

of 1.8 million Information security workers by 2022. Hence, to secure the best talent, it's important to understand who millennial are and what motivates them. She talked about the future of women in cyber security and how the women can meet the leadership challenges. An article from a leading newspaper says that the federal government should engage in more aggressive recruitment of women to boost the number of women in the federal IT workforce. Women in federal IT also need to be more willing to embrace the challenges and go outside their comfort zone. A serious cultural change is needed to get more women into IT, which is not that difficult. Israel's 2018 Cyber Professions Policy which started with the Shafran Committee, 2013, promotes gender equity and has ignored all the gender issues. The other steps taken by Israel to promote and motivate women in IT includes the several groups for women cyber professionals within Israel's hi-tech industry; the term 'Cyber-Ladies' wherein the women take up the role in policy making, government participation, private sector, academia; Israel Defense Forces (IDF) ; and Forum Dvora's engagement. The organization *Forum Dvora: Women in Foreign Policy and National Security* was established in 2009. The *Forum* is a non-partisan, active network of approximately one hundred professional Israeli women in a variety of fields from security, to law to finance and environment. The network was originally established by the Institute for Inclusive Security, in light of UNSCR 1325 (2000) which stresses the importance of “equal participation and full involvement” of women “in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security”. The current objectives of *Forum Dvora* are dual: to contribute to the inclusion of women in Israeli decision-making processes on the national level and to strengthen *Forum Dvora's* high-level network of professional women.

The last speaker of the day was **Ms. Latha Reddy** (Co-Chair of the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace). She put light on the women pioneers in technology; need for norms and international cooperation in cyber security; ethics in technology; and need for international cooperation. Some of the leading women pioneers in history, as shared by Ms. Latha are: **Ada Lovelace** who is highly recognised computer programmer. She was the first to create an algorithm for the first computer program machine in the mid-1800s; **Grace Hopper** who was also a computer programmer, helped develop the first computer language compiler which led to the creation of the Common Business-Oriented (COBOL) language. There were many other women pioneers discussed by Ms. Latha. According to her, one must never forget the ethics while developing or proposing something in the technological field. There must be stringent norms and rules to incorporate in cyber security. Something is not a norm just because someone says so; a norm exists only when some relevant group agrees with and holds particular beliefs about expected behavior. As said by the above mentioned speakers, cyber security can be achieved collectively. Hence, one must have international cooperation in order to yield the best results.

Prof. Anita H B of the Department of Computer Science, CHRIST delivered the vote of thanks and the mementos were presented to the speakers. Program ended by 1.00PM.





***** THANK YOU *****