

ViCTOR (Virtual assets – facilitated financial Crime – Trace, Obstruct and Recover) Kick-off Meeting: A Formal Prelude to the Fight Against Cryptocurrency-Related Financial Crime

The ViCTOR Kick-off Meeting, a pivotal capacity-building initiative aimed at combating financial crime mainly within the cryptocurrency space, took place from September 27 to 29, 2023, in Tokyo, Japan. This gathering brought together key stakeholders, including the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and Law Enforcement Agencies from Southeast Asia and five countries in South Asia including Sri Lanka. The primary focus of the ViCTOR Kick-off meeting was to enhance the capabilities of professionals involved in investigating and prosecuting virtual currency-related crimes.

Sri Lanka was actively engaged in this event, with five officers participating in the program, representing both the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Sri Lanka Police. During the event, Sri Lanka had the opportunity to share its experiences and the progress made in virtual currency-related investigations in the country. This exchange of knowledge and best practices with peer countries was a valuable component of the event, contributing to the overall success of the Project ViCTOR.

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Sri Lanka extends its heartfelt gratitude to INTERPOL - Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre for organizing this crucial event, and we are deeply appreciative of Japan for hosting the gathering. Additionally, we express our thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan for their invaluable support in addressing these pressing issues of financial crime. With over 60 delegates and esteemed guest speakers, including representatives from KoFIU and District Court Bamberg, as well as esteemed partners from Iknaio, TRM Labs, and Uppsala Security, the kick-off meeting was an indisputable success, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in the fight against financial crime in the crypto space.