FIRST Africa Regional Liaison

The FIRST Africa Regional Liaison will be responsible for leading FIRST engagement with the Africa incident response community and supporting the design and delivery of a wide-ranging community capacity building program. This includes helping to develop training, presentations, and workshops for delivery in the region; providing mentorship support; facilitating information and good practice sharing; and supporting the development of local incident response capabilities.

The Liaison will work as part of the FIRST Community and Capacity Building Program to deliver on the three-year FIRST Africa Regional Liaison Initiative. More background on the initiative is [available here](). This is a full time role and will be based remotely in the African region, with extensive in-person community engagement.

The main responsibilities of the role are

Incident response and technical cybersecurity capacity building
- Provide mentorship support to partners including regular formal and informal sharing of operational experience, lessons learned, and good practice with our Africa counterparts to build capacity and trust across the community
- Actively contribute to the development and strengthening of the Africa cyber community through different formats, such as open forums or closed trusted information sharing networks
- Provide specialist advice on incident response, regional cybersecurity landscape to internal and external partners
- Support partners to develop national incident response capacity and help foster local and regional cybersecurity communities of practice.
- Develop understanding of the Africa cybersecurity landscape and assist in the design and delivery of methods for better collaboration and information sharing.

- Design and deliver FIRST grass-roots cybersecurity and incident response capacity building activities in collaboration with local and regional partners.

Community engagement and relationship management
- Contribute to community outreach efforts, including direct or facilitated delivery of presentations, workshops, and training either as stand-alone activities or as part of other events
- Support for an enhanced Suguru Yamaguchi Fellowship Program in the region and facilitation of events and training efforts in collaboration with the FIRST Events team
- Build and maintain relationships with stakeholders in Africa, including through existing communities of practice such as AfricaCERT, AFNOG, Africa Internet Summit, and the GFCE Africa Hub

Strategic
- Work closely with the FIRST Director – Community and Capacity Building to design a strategic program of work to deliver an effective and impactful FIRST Africa Regional Liaison Initiative.
- Assist regional partners to develop governance, operational, management, and strategic approaches to development of incident response capacity, including the establishment of national CERT/CSIRTs where appropriate.
- Produce regular, comprehensive reporting on activities and project finances to meet funder requirements.
- Proactively engage with partners in the cyber capacity building space to share insights, coordinate activities, and foster collaboration.

Skills & Qualifications

5-10 years experience in either ICT development, cybersecurity incident response, or related field
- Strong technical experience relating to cybersecurity, network and system security analysis, and incident response
- A comprehensive understanding of cyber threats and the regional threat landscape
- A solid understanding of security controls and how to mitigate threats
- Experience delivering complex programs of work, and managing projects to completion
- Ability to develop creative solutions to deliver outcomes

- Experience in training, education, and capacity building will be advantageous
- Experience in engagement, outreach, or training will be advantageous.
- Demonstrated ability to build strong relationships and networks at all levels
- Ability to work independently and strategically
- Understanding of and ability to work in different cultural contexts, with experience in Africa a plus.
- Ability to travel regularly. Expected travel around 20 to 35%
- A good understanding of local stakeholder landscape and cultural context in various African countries is highly desirable.

If you do not satisfy all requirements, but feel you are a good fit we would still like to hear from you.

Applying

To apply, please send your CV and a cover letter to africa-liaison@first.org by 23:59 UTC on 4 January 2024.

We will treat your application as confidential within the FIRST board. At a later stage we may consult with others, after informing you and getting your agreement.

Salary for the role will be based on the candidate's experience and location.

About FIRST

The Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) is a globally focused, US incorporated non-profit association, bringing together incident response and security teams from around the globe. FIRST runs different programs including training courses and capacity building, standards development, conferences, meetings and cyber security information sharing with the goal to build Security Incident Response Team (SIRT) communities. FIRST has approximately 700 member teams in over 100 countries and continues to grow. Our primary mission is to enable our members around the world to work collaboratively and facilitate maturity in global incident response capability.