

Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP)

The **Meridian Conference** is a *unique* global event for government CIIP policy makers. It is specifically designed to create a confidential environment, free from commercial pressures, for government delegates from across the world to openly share their CIIP problems, concerns and solutions. The conference moves to a new country each year, deliberately targeting different regions to introduce more new countries to its benefits.

The **11th Meridian Conference** will take place in **October 2015, in Leon, Spain.**



The **Meridian Process** has encouraged past conference hosts to lead initiatives to perpetuate the sharing and learning between conferences, building up a body of valuable resources and processes. These have included: the development and hosting of the Meridian website, a CIIP newsletter, a Directory of CIIP points of contact, guides to CIIP self-assessment & planning a CIIP strategy, and libraries of international collaborations, policies, legislation & standards from across the world. Now the focus is emerging on delivering valuable outcomes at the conference, and linking in with other key events such as the Global Cyberspace Conference 2015 taking place in The Netherlands.

The **Meridian Community** grows steadily every year as new countries/economies send delegates to a Meridian Conference and thereby automatically become members of this community. The Conference is specifically designed to encourage the informal communication between delegates which leads to trusted relationships that endure over many years, and the Process is designed to build upon and reinforce those links.

The long-term aim of Meridian is for every country/economy to one day become part of this **Community**, so that those nations which are a little further ahead in the field of CIIP can share their knowledge and experience with countries newer to the subject, who can in turn share their new ideas and approaches. Because Critical Information Infrastructures are inevitably interconnected across borders and in cyberspace, joining the **Meridian Community** will benefit everyone who becomes involved, to better protect those CIIs.

Visit

www.meridianprocess.org

The Meridian Process

The Meridian Process seeks to create a community of senior government policymakers in CIIP by fostering ongoing collaboration, recognising that it is only by working together that we can advance our national and multi-national CIIP goals and objectives. It explores the benefits and opportunities of cooperation between governments and provides an opportunity to share best practices from around the world. Meridian is not focused specifically on law-enforcement, legal, technical or response (CERT) matters; instead it takes a broad policy view of all of these aspects and their implications.

Every country/economy is invited to attend the annual Meridian Conference and take part in the Meridian Process.

Meridian is for government officials only; it is not open to commercial companies, though some speakers from CIIP-related industries are invited to present their perspectives to the conference delegates, but they are given strictly limited access and do not take part in the conference as whole. Some relevant International Organisations are invited to take part as observers.

How Meridian Works

Since the first Meridian Conference was launched by the UK at Greenwich, London in 2005, the Process concept was developed and strengthened by the subsequent conferences in Hungary, Sweden, Singapore, USA, Taiwan, Qatar, Germany, Argentina and Japan. The conference moves to a new region each year to make it easier for new countries to join. The list of countries queueing up to host the conference grows longer each year and the next 4 prospective hosts from various regions are already identified. Many annual conferences have triggered initiatives in CIIP led by the host country to strengthen the Process, and in-year working groups and activities are instigated to advance issues of importance to the Meridian Community, and a number of valuable outcomes are soon to be published.

Governance is by means of a Steering Committee of past and potential hosts, and an annually appointed Programme Committee chaired by the upcoming host. There is a permanent Meridian website with a wealth of CIIP resources (in English and Spanish) available for Community members, including a confidential online Directory of CIIP points of contact across member countries.

If you'd like to know more about Meridian, please contact the Meridian Coordinator at

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