Indicators of Rapid Cybersecurity Development in Southeast Asia: A Study on Singapore and Malaysia's Approaches to Cybersecurity

Authors : Ryan Lindsey, Lora Pitman

Abstract : Forecasts about the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for the 2024–2029 timeframe show that the fastest developing cybersecurity market is the Asia-Pacific. Only two countries from this region – Singapore and Malaysia, ranked 4th and 5th by the latest International Telecommunications Union report from 2020, are present in the list of top 10 countries with highest global cybersecurity index scores. Therefore, this study seeks to take a closer look at the rapid progress of Singapore (CAGR of 16.14%) and Malaysia (CAGR of 16.84%) in the area of cybersecurity. More specifically, it aims to respond to the question what developments made these countries rank so high. The focus of the analysis is on a 10-year period (2013-2023) and the data for this qualitative study will be gathered from news and reports by NGOs, the two countries' governments, and the private sector. Variables for this research include five categories: new policy and legislation related to cybersecurity, technical developments and capabilities that can be used for cyber defense, development of domestic units and organizations, efforts to cooperate with other entities. Results are then discussed and recommendations, based on them, are made so that a successful path toward notable improvement can be outlined for other countries as well.