

Advisory No. 027, s. 2026

October 21, 2026

Compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013

This advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001, but only for the information of DepEd officials, personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public.

(Visit www.deped.gov.ph)

HACKTHENORTH.PH'S 9TH TCON NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY CONFERENCE

HackTheNorth.ph, Inc. will host the 9th TCON National Cybersecurity Conference (TCON9) on November 27–28, 2026, at Hotel Supreme, Baguio City. The conference serves as a collaborative platform bringing together cybersecurity leaders, IT practitioners, and researchers to share threat intelligence, exchange best practices, and discuss strategies to fortify institutional defenses against cyber threats.

Why Attend? What's in it for your Agency?

- Advance Cyber Defense
- Policy Alignment and Collaboration
- Capacity Building for ICT Teams
- Support Digital Transformation
- Foster Inter-Agency Cooperation

Target Participants:

- Cybersecurity and Data Privacy Focals
- Regional and Division IT Officers
- Human Resource Development (HRDD) Heads and technical personnel

This Advisory is transmitted to all Schools Division Offices (SDOs) for their information, evaluation, and appropriate action. In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013, this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001, but only for the information of DepEd officials, personnel/staff, as well as the concerned public. Participation of interested personnel shall be subject to the discretion of the Schools Division Superintendent and non-disruption of regular office operations.

Attached is the invitation letter relative to the event for reference.

For further information and inquiries, please visit tcon.hackthenorth.ph or contact them via email at tcon@hackthenorth.ph

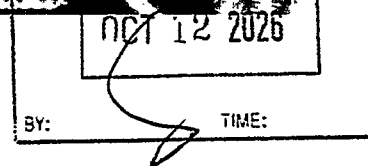
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October 11, 2026

DIR. NICOLAS T. CAPULONG, PhD, CESO III
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CORDILLERA REGION



ATTENTION: CYBERSECURITY AND DATA PRIVACY FOCAL, REGIONAL AND DIVISION IT OFFICERS, HRD HEAD

Dear Director Capulong,

We are proud to introduce HackTheNorth.ph, Inc., a SEC-registered national non-profit organization recognized by the national ICT community as a primary driver of cybersecurity excellence and technical upskilling across Northern Luzon. Backed by 12 years of high-impact service and dedicated to bridging global threat intelligence with local expertise, our mission is to empower communities and institutions to proactively prepare for, withstand, and effectively mitigate emerging cyber threats.

Happening at Hotel Supreme, Baguio City, on November 27–28, 2026, we are honored to host HackTheNorth.ph's 9th TCON National Cybersecurity Conference (TCON9). This flagship event brings together industry leaders, cybersecurity and IT practitioners, security researchers, and enthusiasts for a dynamic exchange of knowledge, skills, and research. More than just a conference, TCON serves as a collaborative platform to showcase security research, hear emerging issues directly from industry practitioners, and pickup expert recommended best practices to fortify your agency's defenses.

Why Attend? What's in it for Your Agency?

- **Advance Cyber Defense:** Engage with industry experts on threat intelligence, incident response, digital forensics, and risk compliance to significantly strengthen your agency's security posture.
- **Policy Alignment and Collaboration:** Participate in strategic dialogues with fellow government units, private sector leaders, and academic institutions to harmonize cybersecurity efforts across sectors.
- **Capacity Building for ICT Teams:** Equip your technical personnel with the latest security tools, techniques, frameworks, and strategies to modernize infrastructure and improve operational resilience.
- **Support Digital Transformation:** Learn from real-world use cases, case studies, research, and best practices that can directly inform your agency's online safety initiatives and digital public service delivery.
- **Foster Inter-Agency Cooperation:** Build actionable partnerships that support shared goals in cybercrime prevention and national security. Improve your incident response playbook in case of real life cyber attacks and ransomwares.

Institutional and Public Sector Benefits

- **Enhanced Workforce Readiness:** Attendees return equipped to lead cybersecurity initiatives, pursue advanced credentials, and contribute meaningfully to national resilience.
- **Visibility and Recognition:** Showcase your agency's proactive commitment to cybersecurity and innovation before a broad assembly of national, inter-agency, and government-academe-industry stakeholders.
- **Inspiration for Innovation:** Discover emerging cybersecurity technologies and researches that can be adapted to strengthen office infrastructure for secure and seamless public service and governance.
- **Nation-Building Through Tech:** Actively contribute to a decentralized, secure, and inclusive digital Philippines.

Your agency's presence at our first ever Baguio National Cybersecurity Conference will add immense value to the national discourse on digital resilience. Together, let us lay the groundwork for a more secure and digitally empowered Northern Philippines.

For inquiries, please visit tcon.hackthenorth.ph or contact us directly at tcon@hackthenorth.ph.

Thank you once again for your steadfast support and for championing cybersecurity upskilling. We look forward to welcoming your ICT Staff to TCON9.

Sincerely,

ZAHN XANDRE GAVINO
Chairman, TCON

MARS CACACHO
Founder, Hackthenorth.ph, Inc.



>/SPEAKERS

Over the years, HackTheNorth.Ph has championed speakers who not only possess deep technical expertise but also a genuine passion for building vibrant tech communities. This year, we're thrilled to present an international lineup spanning diverse roles across the cybersecurity landscape.

Day 0 – November 26, 8-11PM Pre-Conference Meet and Greet (Venue to be announced)	
STUDENT TRACK: Hacking a Career in Cybersecurity <i>Featuring Hiring Managers and Industry Mentors</i>	PROFESSIONAL TRACK: Crisis Management <i>Featuring Incident Response Commanders and Specialists</i>
Day 1 – November 27, 9AM-5PM (Red Day)	
Keynote: From Hire to Hero, Employer Expectations and Strategies for Elite Pentesters	Michel Chamberland (<i>United States</i>) <i>Founder and CEO, IntegSec</i>
WebApp + Mobile Hacking and Bug Bounty	Carlo Jae Avila <i>Lead Offensive Security Engineer, Secuna</i>
No OSCP, No Problem: Breaking Into Red Teaming Without the Certification Tax	Nhaja Day Herrera <i>Adversary Emulation Specialist</i>
Ride Hacking: Implanting Offensive Hardware into Connected eScooters	Omkar Mali (<i>India</i>) <i>Head, Marathi Group</i>
AI Blackbox Pentesting and Exploitation Framework LLMs	Christian Villapando <i>Cybersecurity Consultant, Red Rock IT Security</i>
Low Earth Orbit Satellite Security Posture Management	Vismit Rakhecha (<i>India</i>) <i>Principal Security Researcher and Founder, Hacker's Samachar</i>
Conference Day 2 – November 28, 9AM-5PM (Blue Day)	
Welcome Message: Security for Smart Cities	Gen. Benjamin Magalong (<i>Ret.</i>) <i>Baguio City Mayor</i>
Keynote: How to be Efficient Blue Team Professionals in the Era of AI	*Speaker Invited (<i>Singapore</i>) <i>Security Evangelist</i>
Fifth Domain of Warfare: Government Efforts Against Advanced Persistent Threats	Col. Francel Margareth Padilla <i>Spokesperson, Armed Forces of the Philippines</i>
Scaling Security Operations: How AI is Redefining Managed Detection and Response	*Speaker Invited (<i>United States</i>) <i>Director for Managed Extended Detection and Response</i>
Leadership Strategies for AI Security, Tech Governance, Compliance, and Risk Management	Carlos Ely Tingson <i>Director for Global Business Solutions, Kroll</i>
Elevating Threat Intelligence to Outpace AI-Driven Adversaries	Randen Rosete (<i>Singapore</i>) <i>CEO, Obfuscate Solutions</i>
Introduction to Homegrown Reconnaissance Tools	Recon Village PH
**The speaker lineup is subject to finalization. Organizers reserve the right to make changes as necessary.	

>/COMPETITIONS

TCON is home of renowned Contest Activities: (1) Level up Challenge is a Beginner-Level Capture the Flag (CTF) organized by Unit3500, (2) a Full-scale 2 days Capture the Flag co-organized with Recon Village PH and US-based Project-AG, (3) Secure System Award: Informally pitch your system to security practitioners and get recommendations for improvement.

Only 2 teams per Agency//Company//University are allowed to join the CTFs, the Secure System Pitch is open to all participant researchers. Registration to the competition will be announced by HackthenorthPh through its Facebook page. Only participants to TCON9 are eligible to join. Winners will be awarded during the closing ceremonies.

>/PARTNERSHIPS

Institutions that send 20 or more participants to TCON9: The Northern Philippines Cybersecurity Conference will be proudly recognized as **official event partners** - a distinction that supports both accreditation efforts and institutional PR. As an official partner, your agency will receive (1) Logo placement across TCON9 marketing materials, (2) public recognition reinforcing your leadership in infosec advocacy, and (3) a free exclusive cybersecurity seminar for your agency from HTN claimable within 12 months.

This is more than participation - it's a strategic investment in your agency's cybersecurity initiatives and community impact.



HackTheNorth.ph's TCON9: The Northern Philippines Cybersecurity Conference offers four (4) distinct ticket packages:

- **Regular Student Pass (Midgard Access – P6,000)**
Covers the 2-day conference (Day 1 and 2 – November 27-28, 2026), inclusive of lunch and refreshments for 2 days, Regular Swags, Access to all talks, and student eCertificate for 2 Conference Days.
- **Regular Professional Pass (Asgard Access – P7,000)**
Covers the 2-day conference (Day 1 and 2 – November 27-28, 2026), inclusive of lunch and refreshments for 2 days, Regular Swags, Access to all talks, and professional eCertificate for 2 Conference Days.
- **Group Package** – We provide huge discounts for 5 or more registrants per institution / agency / university. Reach out to us for further inquiries on this.

What are the Conference Freebies included?

TCON Freebies, also known as Swags, are memorabilia for attending TCON. They include a Lanyard, a Hacker Badge, and Tech Stickers.

The traditional Badge is similar to those distributed at prominent security conferences like DEFCON in Las Vegas, BSIDES in London, BLACKHAT in Singapore, and ROOTCON in Pampanga.

HackTheNorth.ph takes pride in providing these badges during its events, and TCON8 will feature our 21st Badge across all HackTheNorth.ph events.

Go to

TO REGISTER.

Official Receipt will be given at the Consortium.

FOR PAYMENTS, please follow the instructions and take note of the Bank Details indicated in the Registration Confirmation Email.

Attach the scanned copy of the bank deposit receipt and send to finance@hackthenorth.ph

Subject: <provided in the registration email>

Body: <provided in the registration email>

Registration is on a first registered (and paid) first served. There are limited slots to TCON. We will also be closing Registrations by November 20.

If you need to pay at the venue, please let us know by replying to the registration notification mail. Be sure to register in advance.