Trinidad & Tobago Internet Governance Forum TTIGF 2021 Summary Report

Overview

The annual **Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum (TTIGF)** took place online on Thursday January 28th and Friday January 29th, 2021 between the hours of 9am and 1pm.

The TTIGF 2021 consisted of four (4) panel discussions addressing the theme, **"Digitalization: The New Norm",** as well as an Open Forum. The four panels were titled:

- Digitalization – The Multistakeholder Approach,
- Cybersecurity in the New Norm,
- Tech and Education – Revolutionizing Education for a Digital World, and
- Digital Entrepreneurship.

Hosts

TTIGF 2021 was hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG). TTMAG's mission is to be an independent entity for the promotion and development of best practice policy standards for the .tt country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) and the local Internet ecosystem in the interest of the Internet Community. The TTMAG has been hosting the TTIGF annually since 2017.

TTMAG was formed out of consultations with Internet stakeholders on the .tt country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) held by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. A Multistakeholder management model was preferred by most stakeholders, which subscribed to the General Principles of Internet Governance. A Multistakeholer Advisory Group (MAG) was considered a fair and legitimate way to develop ccTLD policy. The formal TTMAG was constituted in September 2015. Stakeholders included:

- Government
- Internet users
- Academia
- Technical community
- Civil society
- Business/SMEs

The TTMAG sought the input of its membership in organizing the TTIGF, through a call for topics and through virtual consultations. The TTIGF would not have been possible without the support of its strategic partners: Trinidad and Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC) and The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

Attendees

The TTIGF 2021 was joined by many attendees across multiple platforms. The event was hosted on Zoom with a maximum of 168 participants joining on the Zoom platform. TTIGF 2021 was also live streamed on Youtube and Facebook with over 400 participants on these platforms at peak. Attendees comprised all stakeholder groups represented by the TTMAG.

Attendance at the event was free of charge.

Planning

Planning for the 2021 TTIGF would have commenced several months prior to the event by sending out a "Call for Topics" to all members as well as via social media to ensure as wide as possible reach. The planning process commenced in this way to ensure that all stakeholder groups had a chance to share ideas and approaches.

Based on the suggestions received, the TTMAG would have contacted contributors to get a more detailed idea of the topics being suggested and then select the most relevant ones for the event. Selection of the final topics was done during monthly Board meetings of the TTMAG.

With respect to panelists, the TTMAG ensured that each session had panelists from different stakeholder groups such as government, civil society, business etc.

TTIGF2021 – Agenda

The agenda for the meeting is attached as Annex 1. A summary of the panel sessions is outlined below. A more detailed report may be accessed via https://igf.tt/trinidad-and-tobago-internet-governance-forum-2021/

Key points from Panel Sessions

1. **Digitalization – The Multi-Stakeholder Approach**

Digitalization The Multi-Stakeholder Approach Panel: Mr. Rabindra Jaggernauth (Top Left), Ms. Maria Daniels (Top Right), Mr. Peter Davis (Bottom Left), Mr. Sean Rocke (Bottom Right)

This panel sought to provide fresh ideas on how to better harness the potential of digitization, foster networking within business, and build trust in digital technologies by creating greater transparency around them. Panelists discussed how to harness the full potential of digitalization, how our economy can become even more closely connected, and how we can encourage a positive attitude towards digital transformation by providing for greater transparency.

Points raised

- digitalization is an enabler, but requires a clear vision on what is to be achieved
- in order for something to succeed everyone should have a seat at the table
- government is steeped in traditional ways of doing things and their perspective is that they want an immediate return. If you are going to be investing in technology it's going to be a long-term investment
- there is a difference between automation and transformation

2. Cybersecurity in the New Norm

Cybersecurity in the New Norm Panel: Mr. George Gobin (top left), Mrs. Kerry-Ann Barrett (top centre), Mr. Anish Bachu (top right), Dr. Rajendra Singh (bottom left), Mr. Nicolas Antoniello (bottom right)

This panel discussed what we as individuals, businesses, academia, and governments should know about this menace and how do we protect ourselves from financial ruin, loss of privacy and loss of our intellectual property. The panel highlighted known cybersecurity breaches to illustrate the costs and harms incurred whether financial, personal or otherwise.

Points raised

- Social engineering is not something new to cybersecurity however it has now gotten a wider platform with a global pandemic
- Covid has changed how we do business, it has changed the cyber risk protocol of most organizations - how do we protect both the organization's information and the person's information when it is at home
- we should discuss internet safety and develop an online safety plan with your kids

3. Tech and Education – Revolutionizing Education for a Digital World

Tech and Education – Revolutionizing Education for a Digital World Panel: Mr. Vejai Sammy (top left), Mr. Devanand Gosein (top right), Mrs. Jacqueline Morris (bottom left), Pt. Shiva Maharaj (bottom right)

This panel looked at revolutionary ideas for transforming education to fit the digital world for the greater adaptation and success of our future generations. The current education system has been in use for over 100 years, and while over this time, evolutionary changes have been made, little change has been made to the current education system to adapt to the digital environment in which we currently find ourselves.

Points raised

- what we need in our education are research, innovation, accessible education for all, diversity, entrepreneurship in a system of rapid change
- methods of teaching and learning must be adapted to the changing societal situation that is applicable to life and the real world
- the United Nations issued a statement regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, noting that it has created the largest disruption of education in history affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners and more in 190 countries. In contrast, the world economic forum published a research-based report that suggested that online learning facilitates increased retention and information in less time, therefore the pandemic may have changed education forever and will remain an integrated part of the educational landscape.
- education is not a technology issue but it is a human issue and technology is a facilitator

4. Digital Entrepreneurship

Digital Entrepreneurship Panel: Mr. Tracy Hackshaw (top left), Mrs. Camille Abrahams (top centre), Mrs. Roxanne Colthrust (top right), Mr. Keron Rose (bottom left), Mr. Agyei Archer (bottom right)

This Panel discussed the realities that challenge the digital entrepreneur, digital entrepreneurship and the local digital economy. The conversation was designed to be solution-oriented and sought to move beyond talk and offer concrete recommendations as to what we can practically do to not only continue motivating an increase in digital entrepreneurship, but also to ensure that these businesses are sustainable and globally competitive in the long run.

Points raised

- encouraging a greater uptake of digital entrepreneurship is really about creating an enabling environment, encouraging development, and collaboration
- there is a need to focus on giving students tools that will allow them to be innovative
- financing and infrastructure are critical tools for digital entrepreneurship which needs to become more accessible

Annex

AGENDA TTIGF 2021
DAY 1

9:00 - 9:05	**National Anthem** **Opening Remarks**: • Ajmal Nazir, Chairman, *Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG)*
9:10 - 9:30	**Introductory Keynote Address:** • Markus Kummer, Chairman *Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)* • Anriette Esterhuysen, Chair *United Nations Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group* • Senator the Honourable Allyson West, Minister of Public Administration and Digital Transformation *Ministry of Public Administration and Digital Transformation*
9.30 - 11:00	**Panel Session: DIGITALIZATION - The Multistakeholder Approach** • Moderator: Rabindra Jaggernauth, Director, *TTMAG* Panelists: • Peter Davis, IT Governance, Compliance, Security & Audit Consultant, *Peter Davis & Associates* • Maria Daniel CFA FCCA, Chair, *Fintech Association of Trinidad & Tobago (FinTechTT)* • Dr. Sean Rocke, Chairman, *iGovTT*
11:00 - 11:15	**Partner Showcase - Microsoft Caribbean**
11:15 - 12:45	**Panel Session: Cybersecurity in the New Norm** • Moderator: George Gobin, Director, *TTMAG* Panelists: • Dr. Rajendra Singh, Systems Engineer - Network Security, *UWI, St. Augustine* • Kerry-Ann Barrett, Cybersecurity Program Officer, *Organization of American States* • Anish Bachu, ICT Security Analyst, *Trinidad & Tobago Cyber Security Incident Response Team* • Nicolas Antoniello, Regional Technical Engagement Manager, *Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)*

TTIGF 2021: DAY 2

9:00 - 9:10	**Opening Remarks**: ● Ajmal Nazir, Chairman *Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG)*
9.10 - 10:45	**Panel Session: TECH & EDUCATION - Revolutionising Education for a Digital World** ● Moderator: Vejai Sammy, Director, *TTMAG* Panelists: ● Jacqueline Morris, e-learning Manager, *The Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago* ● Dev Gosine, Director, *TTMAG* ● Pt. Shiva Maharaj, Director and Chief Operations Officer, *I.C.T Expertz Ltd* ● Felipe M. Noguera, Telecommunications Consultant, *Telecommunications Services of* *Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT)*
10:45 - 11:00	**Partner Showcase - Trinidad and Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC)**
11:00 - 12:40	**Session - DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP** ● Moderator: Tracy Hackshaw, Director, *TTMAG* Panelists: ● Keron Rose, Mobile Expert and Founder*, Droid Island* ● Agyei Archer, Independent Design Director & Co-Founder/CEO, *Unqueue (Agyei Archer Ltd.)* ● Camille Abrahams, Programme Coordinator for Animation Studies, *University of Trinidad and Tobago.* ● Roxanne Colthrust, Serial Entrepreneur & Managing Director, *Shop Caribe*
12:40 - 1:30	**Open Forum**