

**APrIGF2022**  
SINGAPORE  
12 - 14 September 2022



**APNIC 54**

**APSIG 2022**

**SGNOG 9**

Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum 2022

## Conference Report

# Overview

After 2 years of convening mainly through a virtual space, the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) held its 13th annual conference face-to-face at Grand Hyatt Singapore from 12-14 September, 2022. This is also the first time to co-locate with Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance (APSIG) and APNIC Conference at the same venue, which gathered around 600 in-person participants from over 60 countries and over 300 remote participants from the online platforms.

The overarching theme this year is “**People at the Centre: *Envisioning a community-led Internet that is inclusive, sustainable and trusted***” which highlighted 3 thematic tracks: Inclusion, Sustainability and Trust. There were over 30 sessions, and each had a unique Internet Governance topic and a diverse set of speakers including people with disabilities, gender diverse persons, and communities from the least developed countries, etc. It created a stage where government officials and big tech companies, students and young advocates all had equal opportunities to share their insights and perspectives.

Since 2010, APrIGF has been convened with objectives to foster multistakeholder discussion on Internet governance issues in Asia Pacific; to engage with relevant stakeholders and raise their awareness; and ultimately to advance Internet governance development in the region. Like the global IGF, the APrIGF has also undergone developments that reflect the aspirations of the Internet governance community and the broader community to see the measurable impact of policy discussions. One of the key innovations is the APrIGF Synthesis Document, which aims to present a snapshot of key Internet governance issues and policy recommendations in the Asia Pacific region and has inspired other national and regional initiatives to develop their own processes.

APrIGF 2022

Date: 12-14 September 2022

Venue: Grand Hyatt Singapore X Virtual

Co-hosts: APrIGF MSG, APNIC

Website: <https://2022.aprigf.asia>

# Co-hosts

## **APNIC**

APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, pronounced A-P-NIC) is an open, member-based, not-for-profit organization, whose primary role is to distribute and manage Internet number resources (IP addresses and AS numbers) in the Asia Pacific region's 56 economies. These number resources are the building blocks for the Internet to operate and grow. As part of this service, APNIC is responsible for maintaining the public APNIC Whois Database and managing reverse DNS zone delegations.

APNIC provides forums for Internet policy development that are bottom-up and open to everyone. APNIC also helps build essential technical skills across the region, supports Internet infrastructure development, produces insightful products and research, and is an active participant in the multistakeholder model of Internet cooperation and governance.

## **APrIGF Multistakeholder Steering Group**

The Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of APrIGF is a self-organised committee with members who volunteer from around the Asia Pacific Internet Community formed with the below objectives:

- To support and ensure the proper conduct of the organizational work of the annual Asia Pacific Regional IGF,
- To promote and encourage dialogue among all stakeholders involved with Internet governance related issues in the Asia Pacific region, and
- To act as an interface between the Asia Pacific IGF community and the global IGF community.

The membership emphasizes the inclusion of multi-stakeholders and so is open to any interested individuals within the AP region who are committed to the Organisational Principles of openness, transparency and multi-stakeholder cooperation; to devoting time and effort in support of the APrIGF; and to maintaining and demonstrating respect for all other members.

# Preparatory Process

For more detailed information on the roles and responsibilities of each committee, including list of members, please visit: <https://ap.rigf.asia/committees/>

## Pre-event Meetings

Multistakeholder Steering Group: 18 meetings

Event Committee: 21 meetings

Program Committee: 25 meetings

Fellowship Committee: 19 meetings

Stakeholder Engagement Committee: 17 meetings

Drafting Committee: 8

Complaints Committee: 3

Joint / other meetings: Around 60-70

## Post-conference Reports by Committees

Event Committee: <https://igf.asia/2022ec-report-final>

Program Committee: <https://igf.asia/2022pc-report-final>

Fellowship Committee: <https://igf.asia/2022fc-report-final>

Stakeholder Engagement Committee: <https://igf.asia/2022sec-report-final>

# Program Agenda

| 11 September (Sun)<br>Day 0             |  | 12 September (Mon)<br>Day 1              |  | 13 September (Tue)<br>Day 2              |  | 14 September (Wed)<br>Day 3              |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 14:00-16:30<br>SGT<br>06:00-8:30<br>UTC | <b>Capacity Building Program for Fellows and Newcomers</b> | 09:30-10:30<br>SGT<br>01:30-02:30<br>UTC | <b>S06. Empowering New Voices in Internet Governance Spaces</b>  | 09:30-10:30<br>SGT<br>01:30-02:30<br>UTC | <b>S15. Toward Trusted Design: User Protections for a Better Web for All</b>                                 | 09:30-10:30<br>SGT<br>01:30-02:30<br>UTC | <b>S03. Strengthening the disability voice in Internet Governance</b>  |
|   |  |  | <b>S13. Combating Disinformation from COVID-19 to the General Election: Multistakeholder Digital Literacy vs Legislation &amp; Censorship?</b> |  | <b>S02. Digital accessibility and connectivity for disabled students in higher education during COVID-19</b> |  | <b>S09. Social Media Regulation during Elections: Expanding or Limiting Digital Democracy?</b>   |
|   |  | 10:30-11:00<br>SGT<br>02:30-03:00<br>UTC | Break  | 10:30-11:00<br>SGT<br>02:30-03:00<br>UTC | Break  | 10:30-11:00<br>SGT<br>02:30-03:00<br>UTC | Break  |
|   |  | 11:00-12:30<br>SGT<br>03:00-04:30<br>UTC | <b>APrIGF 2022 Opening Plenary</b>   | 11:00-12:30<br>SGT<br>03:00-04:30<br>UTC | <b>(APNIC Opening Ceremony and Keynotes)</b>   | 11:00-12:30<br>SGT<br>03:00-04:30<br>UTC | <b>Showcases</b><br><b>S19. Locally Accessible Cloud Service (LACS) for e-resilience</b><br><b>S21. LEO Satellite Constellations – Will They Bring Better Internet Access and a More Resilient Internet?</b><br><br><b>S25. Koo – Empowering Users and Building Cyber Resilience</b> |
|   |  | 12:30-13:30<br>SGT<br>04:30-05:30<br>UTC | Lunch Break  | 12:30-13:30<br>SGT<br>04:30-05:30<br>UTC | Lunch Break  | 12:30-13:30<br>SGT<br>04:30-05:30<br>UTC | Lunch Break  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  | <b>IGF Secretariat Workshop: Internet governance within the system of United Nations: is IGF on a good path to adapt, innovate and reform?</b>   |

|  |  |  |  |  |   |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|---|
|  |  | 13:30-14:30<br>SGT<br>05:30-06:30<br>UTC | <b>S07. Online harassment as tools of exclusion: A discussion on Addressing Online Gender Based Violence Through Community Organised Helplines</b> | 13:30-14:30<br>SGT<br>05:30-06:30<br>UTC | <b>S16. Protecting the Healthcare Sector from Cyber Harm</b>  | 13:30-14:30<br>SGT<br>05:30-06:30<br>UTC | <b>IG Futures (Summary Session by APriGF-APSIG Fellows)</b>   |
|  |  |  | <b>S17. Advancing data justice in (post-)pandemic data governance: perspectives from Southeast Asia</b>  |  | <b>S11. Responding to changing digital rights priorities in a post-pandemic world</b>                 |  | <b>Showcases</b><br><b>S20. Here's How Your Genital and Physical Affects Your Digital Lives</b><br><br><b>S22. Measuring the Internet protocol parameters for reducing Internet poverty</b> |
|  |  | 14:30-15:00<br>SGT<br>06:30-07:00<br>UTC | Break  | 14:30-15:00<br>SGT<br>06:30-07:00<br>UTC | Break   | 14:30-15:00<br>SGT<br>06:30-07:00<br>UTC | Break   |
|  |  | 15:00-16:00<br>SGT<br>07:00-08:00<br>UTC | <b>S05. Resilience and inclusivity in digital education</b>  | 15:00-16:00<br>SGT<br>07:00-08:00<br>UTC | <b>S12. Multi-stakeholder Collaborative Approach for Developing Local Digital Literacy Champions</b>  | 15:00-16:00<br>SGT<br>07:00-08:00<br>UTC | <b>S18. Routing Security – We can do better!</b>  |
|  |  |  | <b>S08. Towards an EcoInternet – A Multistakeholder Dialogue on Policy Making and Strategising for a Sustainable and Energy Efficient Internet</b> |  |   |  | <b>Showcases</b><br><b>S23. Child Online Safety: A .Kids conversation on creating a Child-centric Internet</b><br><br><b>S24. Assessing investments in surveillance and technology</b>      |
|  |  |  |  |  | <b>APNIC Cooperation SIG and APriGF</b>   |  | <b>APNIC and APriGF Inclusion in Tech</b>   |
|  |  | 16:00-16:30<br>SGT<br>08:00-08:30<br>UTC | Break  | 16:00-16:30<br>SGT<br>08:00-08:30<br>UTC | Break   | 16:00-16:30<br>SGT<br>08:00-08:30<br>UTC | Break   |
|  |  | 16:30-17:30<br>SGT<br>08:30-09:30<br>UTC | <b>S04. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ICT Job Sector</b>   | 16:30-17:30<br>SGT<br>08:30-09:30<br>UTC | <b>S01. Connecting the Unconnected – Efforts from Private Sector and Policy Lessons from the APAC</b> | 16:30-18:00<br>SGT<br>08:30-10:00<br>UTC | <b>APriGF 2022 Closing Plenary</b>  |

|  |  |  |   |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |  | <b>S10. Future of Work: Achieving a sustainable gig economy</b> |  | <b>S14. Digital Resiliency of Civil Society in the context of shrinking Civic Space</b> |  |  |
|  |  | 17:30-18:30<br>SGT<br>09:30-10:30<br>UTC | <b>Townhall Session</b>   | 17:30-18:30<br>SGT<br>09:30-10:30<br>UTC | <b>Townhall Session</b>   |  |  |
|  |  |  |   | 19:00-21:00<br>SGT<br>11:00-13:00<br>UTC | <b>Welcome Social</b>   |  |  |

# Attendance Statistics\*

Numbers of total participants: 911

Numbers of on-site participants: 594

Numbers of online participants: 317

Number of economies/countries the attendees are from: 64

Gender ratio of attendees (F: Female; M: Male; O: Others - non-binary / undisclosed)

F: 20%; M: 65%; O: 15%

*\*Since registration and check-in process were shared with APNIC conference, the statistics included attendees of APrIGF and APNIC conference.*



# Summaries of Sessions

## Capacity Building Program for Fellows and Newcomers

- Round of introductions by Fellows and warm up
- Introduction to APriIGF
- APriIGF 2022 Overarching theme & thematic tracks
- Introduction to Synthesis Document process
- Introduction to IGF and NRIs
- Transforming future for youth: opportunities and challenges (IGF youth engagement track)

### Moderators:

- Swaran Ravindra, Fiji National University
- Ashirwad Tripathy, ISOC SIG IfE

### Speakers:

- Anju Mangal, Alliance for Affordable Internet
- Joyce Chen, APNIC
- Jennifer Chung, DotAsia Organisation
- Chengetai Masango, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum, Head of Office
- Jenna Fung, DotAsia Organisation
- Umut Pajaro Velasquez, YLACIGF
- Nicolas Fiumarelli, YLACIGF
- Dr Agnieszka Uflewski, University of Glasgow
- Anja Gengo, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum
- Satish Babu, APSIG
- Sagarika Wickramasekara, APSIG
- Luke Teoh, Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022 Organising Committee Member
- Bea Guevarra, Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022 Organising Committee Member

## Opening Plenary

### Opening Remarks

Facilitator: Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Internet Australia

### Speakers:

- Edmon Chung, DotAsia Organisation
- Jenna Fung, DotAsia Organisation
- Paul Wilson, APNIC
- Amandeep Singh Gill, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
- Chengetai Masango, United Nations Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum, Head of Office

- Dr. Janil Puthucheary, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information

Panel Discussion: People-centred Internet - How do we get it right?

Moderator: Anju Mangal, World Wide Web Foundation

Speakers:

- Sarim Aziz, Asia Internet Coalition
- Ilaria Chan, Tech For Good Institute (founded by Grab)/Grab
- Jia Rong Low, ICANN
- Hon. Timothy Masiu, Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Government of Papua New Guinea
- Josh Tseng, ETCH Empathy

We need to place people at the centre of the internet, decision-making, policymaking and community driven projects and initiatives. The internet is a lifeline for many and it has become a human right for people who are constantly dependent on the internet. Developing a people-centred approach to assess the impacts of the internet is also key.

In the context of the pandemic, natural disasters and political challenges, we are still way behind in addressing the digital divide. Many countries are struggling to achieve the sustainable development goals. And there's a growing need to close the digital divide - we want people to have access to affordable internet, we want people to have access to digital skills and content and we want people to have access to online services and affordable devices but we also want to ensure that people are safe and secure online.

### Closing Plenary

Panel Session: Enhancing Collaboration for Digital Development in Asia Pacific

Moderator: Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI

Speakers:

- Tenzin Norbhu, Google
- Marielza Oliveira, UNESCO
- Chris Perera, AT&T
- Tenanoia Simona, Tuvalu Telecommunications Corporation

There is a huge divide in terms of digital development across the Asia Pacific. Various initiatives are being taken to reduce this divide. A collaborative approach among different stakeholders and countries is identified as one approach to reduce this divide. This session explored the collaborative initiatives currently underway to enhance digital development in the Asia Pacific region, deliberated how these collaborations can be strengthened and replicated, and explored the role APriGF can play.

Closing Remarks

Facilitator: Joyce Chen, APNIC

Speakers:

- Edmon Chung, DotAsia Organisation
- Stella Teoh, yIGF
- Paul Wilson, APNIC

- Paul Mitchell, UN IGF MAG
- Yoichi Iida, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan (IGF 2023 Japan representative)
- Waqas Hassan, MSG Vice-Chair

## Thematic Track: Inclusion

### S01. Connecting the Unconnected - Efforts from Private Sector and Policy Lessons from the APAC

Moderators:

- Isha Suri, Centre for Internet & Society
- Rodrigo Balbontin, The Asia Foundation

Speakers:

- Gayani Hurulle, LIRNEasia
- Dr. Tariq Zaman, University of Technology, Sarawak
- Crystal Kewe, DMAP and Crysan Technology
- Riki Manarangi, Lonleyseat.co.nz, and Good Buggers Advisory

**Brief Summary:** During this panel discussion, panelists from different countries from the region explored the state of internet connectivity, adoption and usage within the Asia Pacific region. In addition, the session highlighted the challenges and opportunities inherent in efforts to build inclusion into the region's vision for a digital economy and connected society. Examples of ongoing initiatives to engage underserved communities – including indigenous peoples – led by some of the region's digital entrepreneurs were highlighted.

During this session, regional experts were brought from select countries in Asia to discuss various hurdles faced by the region in its digital journey and share best practices and suggest a way forward towards universal, affordable broadband connectivity within the region. Apart from the differences, there are also parallels among countries within the region including sociocultural context, availability or lack thereof of digital skills, funding constraints and regulatory uncertainty. This discussion helped facilitate dialogues towards cross learnings and regional cooperation to expedite the process of connecting the unconnected.

### S02. Digital accessibility and connectivity for disabled students in higher education during COVID-19

Moderator:

- Dr. Sudha Bhuvaneshwari, Dr.G.R Damodaran College of Science

Speakers:

- Nirosha Wedasinghe, General Sir John Kotelawela Defence University
- H. K. MANIQUE GUNARATNE, Federation of Ceylon
- Dr Gnanajeyaraman Rajaram, SBM COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
- Dr.N.Sudha Bhuvaneshwari, Dr.G.R Damodaran College of Science

**Brief Summary:** The session was a panel discussion on how the students with disability managed to study online during the pandemic and what are the various challenges faced by

them during this period. The discussion also focuses on the various Learning Management Portals and Tools available for their support and where improvements are required. The Panel consisted of 4 speakers 2 speakers from India and 2 speakers from Sri Lanka with appropriate gender balance representing the academia and institution of learning with disability.

**Key Issues:** The key issues raised were proper support to have access to the learning management tools and connectivity issues and support from the Government and the same was discussed from perspectives of different countries.

**Conclusions:** Representation to the community and the Government to support the initiatives of helping disabled students to continue their higher education with connectivity, moral support, reachability and accessibility.

### S03. Strengthening the disability voice in Internet Governance

Moderators:

- Gunela Astbrink, ISOC Accessibility Standing Group
- Satish Babu, APSIG

Speakers:

- Manique Gunaratne, Employers Federation of Ceylon
- Anju Mangal, APriGF MSG
- Muhammad Shabbir Awan, ISOC Islamabad Chapter
- Vashkar Bhattacharjee, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)

**Brief Summary:** This year's APriGF with the theme of "People at the Centre" had three sessions about disability issues. This was the largest number ever. It is a good reflection that 15% of any country's population are persons with disability and the need to bring to the fore accessibility and inclusion for persons with disability.

The main concerning issue is the limited number of disability leaders in the Internet governance community.

The session concentrated on strategies to strengthen the disability voice.

The session was dynamic with stimulating discussion between the panelists together with comments and questions from attendees.

**Key Issues:** The session's panelists discussed the small number of persons with disability with experience in bringing their voices to Internet governance debates. Disability leaders such as Josh Tseng, Vashkar Bhattacharjee, Dr Muhammad Shabbir, Manique Gunaratne and Gunela Astbrink are spread very thin in the IG space and cannot do everything needed to raise issues and share ideas of accessibility and inclusion.

The disability movement's statement 'Nothing about us without us' was emphasised in the need for persons with the lived experience of disability to highlight accessibility barriers.

The key point of the discussion was the best way to build more disability leadership.

The panelists discussed the initiative through the partnership between the ISOC Accessibility Standing Group and APSIG. The first stage of this initiative was the successful pilot project in Bangladesh with participants from five South Asian countries to transfer capacity-building skills at the intersection of disability advocacy and Internet governance. If funding becomes available, the knowledge gained at the Dhaka workshop will be used as a basis for further workshops in six South Asian countries. A dedicated online training course will be developed with the support of the Internet Society.

A concrete outcome of the pilot workshop was the formulation and adoption of the Dhaka Declaration. This was a useful exercise in itself but most importantly, it provided a tool for further advocacy by workshop participants. It is gratifying to know that in late September, after many years of campaigning, the Marrakesh Treaty was ratified in Bangladesh enabling persons with print disabilities to enjoy accessible reading materials.

Session attendees raised a number of issues such as:

- ensuring persons with less common disabilities were not forgotten
- accessibility initiatives and technologies from countries in the region

**Conclusions:** It was recognised that gaining new disability leaders takes time both in building personal networks and understanding the complexities of the Internet governance community. Funding is needed to continue to mentor and support these emerging leaders.

From the Internet community perspective, an effort should be made to ensure that persons with disability are actively encouraged to participate. This can be done in a number of ways including the use of accessibility guidelines for onsite and online participation.

Reference was made to Josh Tseng's presentation in the opening plenary where he stated that he wished it to be commonplace for a person with a disability to be a plenary speaker.

It is clear that the importance of champions such as Anju Mangal is vital. Anju, in her APrIGF speeches and presentations, often referred to persons with disability first when she reminded participants about inclusion. This builds awareness and needs to continue with current and future APrIGF leaders.

Vashkar Bhattacharjee was the first known person with a disability to be selected as an APrIGF Fellow. He had an impact that was evident in the Fellow's presentations with ongoing references to accessibility and inclusion issues.

More Fellows with disability need to be selected at future APrIGFs with at least one place allocated to a person with a disability.

Inclusion and empowerment were the central aspects of this session and were discussed in the context of a stronger disability voice in Internet governance.

#### S04. Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ICT Job Sector

Moderator:

- Swaran Ravindra, Fiji National University

Speakers:

- Sylvia Cadena, APNIC
- Philip Smith, APRICOT/PFS Internet Development
- Georgina Naigulevu, Tetra Tech (Digital and Health Information)
- Manique Gunaratne, The Employers' Federation of Ceylon

**Brief Summary:** Around the world, more than 15% of the population has one or more disabilities. This constitutes over 1 billion persons worldwide. While there have been numerous efforts directed towards legislative and policy reform, the inclusion of persons with disabilities remains a challenge, particularly in STEM-related subject areas. Even to this day, persons with disabilities face barriers and obstacles in early education, which consequently further marginalises them and deprives them of job opportunities. This session discussed some such barriers, and the need for education, training, support, and partnership with ICT stakeholders to create an enabling environment for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ICT sector.

Fundamentally, the session focused on creating sustainable opportunities of ICT job opportunities to ensure continued inclusion.

**Key Issues:** With more people actively participating in the digital economy, it is vital to acknowledge the fact that persons with disabilities still face a number of disparities in the digital spaces which greatly inhibit their ability to practice their digital rights. A people-centric Internet is where people from all parts of the community including persons with disability can be actively engaged. This means not only safely using an accessible Internet but also successfully being employed in the sector. This session focused on how we as a community can work together to create an accessible environment to train and employ more tech people with disability. Panelists discussed the role of equal opportunity legislation in some economies and whether this may influence more ICT job opportunities for persons with disabilities. The challenge of implementation was discussed. Panelists recommended ways in which relevant stakeholders can work together to create a pathway for educational progress; potentially leading to absorption into preferred job markets.

#### S05. Resilience and inclusivity in digital education

Moderator:

- Winston Roberts, IFLA/National Library of New Zealand

Speakers:

- Ashirwad Tripathy, ISOC SIG IfE
- Binod Basnet, Educating Nepal
- Misako Nomura, ATDO (Assistive Technology Development Org)
- Nina Nakaora, International School, Suva

**Brief Summary:** The session on resilience and inclusivity in digital education was a hybrid session conducted jointly by ISOC and IFLA on 12th September. This session covered a wide range of issues relating to digital education. Firstly, issues relating to infrastructural aspect was discussed along with existing digital poverty, digital divide and language barriers that has been a constraint to effective, inclusive and equitable education system. The next aspect was about technological transformation of libraries to enhance the knowledge of students and create a resilient digital platform for learning. The other important aspect of this session was on improving internet accessibility for person with print disability using Daisy and e-pub international standards for accessible multimedia. The session was summed up by advocating for digital literacy and digital competency of stakeholders in education system in order to provide necessary skillset needed for workfare in the 4 th Industrial Revolution.

**Key Issues:** The key issues raised during the session were about ways to connect the unconnected and means of making connectivity meaningful by eliminating digital divide. The next issue raised was about finding solutions to digital education during internet shutdowns or in places that do not have connectivity. The issues also included finding ways to upgrade curriculum for vocational schools in alignment of technology and finding training modules for current employees to make themselves ready for the future workforce. The other issue raised for digital resiliency was on finding affordable software for digital education including the protection of digital content used in education. The session also raised issues on effectiveness of libraries in the times of pandemic when online modules were introduced including the latest standards necessary for multimedia accessibility for person with visual impairments.

**Conclusions:** The session was successfully conducted with fruitful discussion with the participants. In the way forward, we need to create a resilient and inclusive digital education system, and that entails improving digital infrastructure and digital literacy. After the pandemic, there has been a shift in the educational paradigm. In order to match the targets of SDG 2030, it seems to be high time to make necessary interventions towards inclusive digital learning, especially for marginalized communities, IDPs and PWDs. As the economies are changing, LDCs need necessary interventions in educational curricula to match learners with skillsets necessary for Industry 4.0.

#### S06. Empowering New Voices in Internet Governance Spaces

Moderator:

- Pavitra Ramanujam, Association for Progressive Communications

Speakers:

- Kelly Koh, Sinar Project
- Gayatri Khandhadai, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- Satish Babu, APSIG
- Waqas Hassan, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority

**Brief Summary:** This session provided an opportunity for an open, informal discussion that informed the audience of perspectives on how to engage with different stakeholders, such as the private sector, technical community and the government. Inputs and questions from audience members on their experiences and the kinds of approaches they and other new entrants can adopt were encouraged, so that the needs of new entrants to efficiently engage with internet governance processes were captured.

Through audience interaction, speakers shed light on some of the challenges that new entrants might encounter when approaching each stakeholder, and ways to navigate these challenges. The speakers addressed what can be done by the internet governance community and various stakeholders to enable better participation by newer voices. The session included perspectives from a new entrant into internet governance and digital rights on the challenges they are facing and the kinds of support they need to participate in internet governance processes successfully.

**Key Issues:** This session explored ways to ensure that internet governance spaces are more inclusive and made more accessible for new entrants. It was an attempt to demystify a crucial part of internet governance processes, the multi-stakeholder model and stakeholder engagement, to ensure that there is more robust cross-disciplinary interaction across the region and there are more diverse and newer voices in internet governance spaces.

The session also addressed the 'Trust' track. This track speaks to the responsibilities of governments, industry, civil society, and other stakeholders to maintain trust in Internet governance. Ensuring that internet governance processes and spaces are open and inclusive for all, and enabling participation of newer entrants, especially those representing public voices and advocating for rights-respecting internet governance, is key to ensuring that the internet remains a trusted space.

Finally, the session directly addressed the overarching theme of this year's APriGF, People at the Centre: Envisioning a community-led Internet that is inclusive, sustainable and trusted, by advocating for more diverse, newer voices representing the larger internet community to be a more effective part of internet governance processes. This ensured that the larger community

and everyday internet users are better represented in decision-making around internet governance issues and that internet governance policies and processes are rights-respecting. The reflections from this session were captured, and shared with the APriGF's multi-stakeholder group for consideration in planning for next year's event.

### S07. Online harassment as tools of exclusion: A discussion on Addressing Online Gender Based Violence Through Community Organised Helplines

Moderators:

- Afra Suci Ramadhon, Digital Defenders Partnership (Hivos)
- Mythili Srinivasamurthy, SFLC.in

Speakers:

- Radhika Jhalani, SFLC.in
- Nurul Nur Azizah, Konde.co
- Bishakha Dutta, Point of View
- Ellen Kusuma, AwaskBGO (Safenet)

**Brief Summary:** This panel effectively shared an overview of recent trends on online gender-based violence and online harassment in particular as well as highlighted ongoing efforts and challenges from the community-based helplines providing inclusive support. The first speaker of this panel, Nurul Nur Azizah (Nurul) from Konde.co presented an overview and her firsthand experience of online harassment against her independent media website in the forms of doxxing and account hijacking. From a journalist perspective, she shared the lesson learned from konde.co to mitigate future attacks, including internal digital security training, networking with journalist associations and contacts from social media companies and collaboration with the authorities.

Zooming in to the perspectives of the online gender-based violence case handlers, the second speaker, Bishakha Datta from Points of View (PoV) shared experiences and challenges from TechSakhi (a remote GBV helpline set up by PoV). The helpline provides support through phone calls to be more accessible. The helpline receives 20-30 calls daily. Bishakha shared important challenges experienced by the case handlers or agents. They experienced harassment by perpetrators and opposition that often attacked them through the helpline service. These threats affected them mentally. As front liners, they also bear secondary trauma from assisting the survivors. It is imperative to take care of the handlers' well-being and safety. Besides providing assistance to the victims, the helpline service needs to equip the survivors with knowledge on digital literacy in general and digital safety in particular. As TechSakhi aims for inclusive service, the helpline plans to expand its service in other local languages.

Moving on to Ellen Kusuma from AwaskBGO, which has provided support to OGBV survivors since 2018. Ellen shared a recent initiative in providing inclusive helpline service for the deaf and visually impaired. The helpline worked together with the deaf and visually impaired community to develop a guideline for accessibility. The helpline has started its collaboration with the deaf and visually impaired community by conducting Training on Trainers as knowledge and skill-sharing. Ellen shared one of their main challenges in processing the reported cases is that law enforcement bodies lack knowledge in handling online gender-based violence cases. The helpline team tried to educate law enforcement and government agencies on several occasions. Seconding Ellen's points on law enforcement, the last speaker, Radhika Jalani from Software



Freedom Law Centre India underlined the importance of sensitizing law enforcement and government bodies to serve victims' interests in a legal process. Radhika called for actions from digital platforms to mitigate online gender-based violence and to improve their internal policies and system for victims' protection. Digital platforms shall perform the role to educate users' literacy and safety.

**Key Issues:** The discussion with the audience covered significant points responding to the questions. The first one highlighted the non-discriminatory approach, anonymity and confidentiality that are compulsory in making victims, particularly from the LGBTQI+ community feel safe to access support and speak up. The discussion also questioned the male participation in supporting survivors which exists and in most cases the ally assisted victims to report their cases. Support from the ally is also needed to prevent victim blaming in processing the cases. The support provider shall be considerate to the victims, not pushing them to make a certain decision while providing support to OGBV victims. The last point highlighted at the end of the session is to educate law enforcement to apply a victim-centred process in responding to online gender-based cases. Two speakers also shared their experiences collaborating with law enforcement, government agencies and relevant networks to respond to OGBV cases.

**Conclusions:** From the session there were several conclusions on how to respond to online gender-based violence through community-based helplines, as follows:

- Provide inclusive support
- The support providers including helplines shall ensure the inclusivity of their responses by enhancing the accessibility of the services such as adding more language availability and providing a guideline for persons with disabilities to file a report.
- Encourage victims to report their cases, the helplines shall apply the non-discriminatory principle and victim-friendly approach and ensure confidentiality and anonymity.
- Focus on the well-being of case handlers
- Provide support and extensive capacity building for helplines' front liners to mitigate the risk of trauma and ensure their safety and security.
- Educate and sensitize law enforcement
- Conduct training and create a resource for law enforcement to sensitize their approach and improve their response in processing OGBV cases.
- The role of digital platforms
- Improve their internal policies and system that focus on protecting victims
- Educate the users on digital literacy and safety
- Multi-stakeholders collaboration
- Work together with relevant institutions and networks to ensure comprehensive support for victims

## Thematic Track: Sustainability

### S08. Towards an EcoInternet - A Multistakeholder Dialogue on Policy Making and Strategising for a Sustainable and Energy Efficient Internet

Moderator:

- Ellen Strickland, InternetNZ

Speakers:

- Audrey Tang, Digital Minister, Government of Taiwan
- Kavickumar Muruganathan, Microsoft
- Jaewon Son, Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis
- Edmon Chung, DotAsia Organisation

**Brief Summary:** Building from last year's session on the EcoInternet Index, the research on the various factors (i.e. Energy, Efficiency and Economy) affecting the Internet-environment relationship continues and the new phase of this project will be extended to 15 additional jurisdictions across Asia Pacific. Based on the studies and discussions with subject-matter experts, the approach to evaluate the environmental impact by the Internet is more complicated than simply identifying the carbon footprint of the Internet or a specific online activity for direct comparisons among jurisdictions, which can be misleading and debatable in many ways. Measuring the definitive amount of the Internet's carbon footprint, as it naturally increases along with increasing usage, may not depict the real situation of its eco-friendliness, but instead, looking at how the accelerating growth of the Internet significantly replaces some traditional activities or industries which are way more carbon-heavy, can provide meaningful outcomes for policy directives and decisions.

That said, it is foreseeable that the Internet usage will continue to surge, and therefore, it is necessary to ensure that the sustainability of the Internet network and infrastructure are included or even highlighted in the consideration and decision of any climate agenda and action plan. As our pilot study report pointed out, government and industry are the 2 key sectors which can create major influence on any fundamental and infrastructural changes to improve the energy efficiency of the Internet. The session initiated a dialogue between these 2 sectors to reflect on the concerns around sustainability and address the obstacles faced in the Asia Pacific region, discussed how to collaborate in policy making to achieve the most beneficial results, and invited other stakeholders to exchange views and ideas.

**Key Issues:** Sustainability has now become one of the major goals in every agenda at a global level, at industry level, down to individual level. It is one of the 3 thematic tracks of APriGF since last year but the topic is only slowly gathering attention in the region. IGF has also started the Dynamic Coalition on Environment this year, which we see as an indication of the rising concerns within the Internet community. While "People at the Centre" is the overarching theme of APriGF this year, the objective of our project on EcoInternet Index also drives public awareness and multistakeholder discussions on the impact of the ever-growing Internet on the environment that people live in.

Asia is particularly lagging behind when it comes to sustainability and carbon initiatives. According to a recent report, Asia most frequently presents barriers to energy sourcing experienced by the members in RE100, the global corporate renewable energy initiative bringing together hundreds of large and ambitious businesses committed to 100% renewable electricity), with high cost of renewables, poor corporate procurement options and limited availability of renewables being common prevalent barriers. Despite these challenges, RE100's membership has seen its biggest yearly growth in Asia Pacific. It now has 102 members in Asia Pacific, up from less than 10 in 2016, demonstrating the growing appetite from businesses in the region to adopt 100% renewable electricity. Discussion was carried out among different sectors and foster collaboration in order to make sure the Internet network and infrastructure in the Asia Pacific region are capable of keeping up with the sustainable development goals.

### S09. Social Media Regulation during Elections: Expanding or Limiting Digital Democracy?

Moderators:

- Tanka Aryal, Digital Rights Nepal
- Saurav Bhattarai, Digital Rights Nepal

Speakers:

- Michael Caster, ARTICLE 19
- Nikhil Pahwa, MediaNama
- Sadaf Khan, Media Matters
- Vera Franz, Open Society Foundations

**Brief Summary:** The session dealt with the conundrum of regulating social media during elections which may impact freedom of expression of citizens and if left unregulated may play a role in spreading mis/disinformation during elections. The goal of the discussion was to share experience and knowledge to tackle the prevalence of mis/disinformation in the social media influencing elections and its potential solution i.e social media regulation without undermining citizens freedom of expression and informed political choices. Additionally, this session contributed in exploring the nuances of the issues and identify necessary measures and actions to be taken in respective countries in the region in relation to the upcoming elections. This year's APriGF overarching theme is inclusion, sustainability and trust within these themes APriGF had encouraged proposals on key issues including Digital rights/ Human rights, freedom of expression, content moderation & censorship. The discussion was particularly related to the content moderation and censorship of social media during elections at the same time protection of human rights, such as freedom of expression, on the Internet. Hence, thematic tracks and issues as recommended by APriGF were addressed and covered during the session.

### S11. Responding to changing digital rights priorities in a post-pandemic world

Moderator:

- Pavitra Ramanujam, Association for Progressive Communications

Speakers:

- Gayathry Venkiteswaran, University of Nottingham Malaysia
- Byoung-il Oh, Korean Progressive Network Jinbonet
- Fernando Ximenes, Association for Progressive Media and Technology
- Darika Bamrungchok, Thai Netizen Network

**Brief Summary:** This session also relates to the 'Sustainability' track, which is part of this year's sub-themes. The session aims to understand the long-term impact that the pandemic has had and could have on the protection of digital rights, and its consequences on people in their use of ICTs. Building a strong regional digital rights movement which addresses our changing relationship to the internet and related technologies, and which aims to ensure that the internet is an open, free and rights-respecting space led to the long-term sustainability of the internet. Finally, the session directly addressed the overarching theme of this year's APriGF, People at the Centre: Envisioning a community-led Internet that is inclusive, sustainable and trusted.

**Key Issues:** Movement building and advocacy for digital rights puts people at the centre of decision-making on issues related to the internet and other technologies. In order to ensure that the internet is an inclusive, sustainable and trusted space, the work of digital rights advocates

must be strengthened through capacity building, better cross-regional mobilisation and access to adequate resources, especially in a post-pandemic environment which has seen a downslide in human rights protections across the region.

**Conclusions:** The session included perspectives from APC's Global Information Society Watch report 2022, on 'COVID-19: Changes to digital rights priorities & strategies'. The audience reflected on these questions. Conclusions from the discussion informed the work of APC's Digital Rights Collaborative, a capacity & movement building program for new entrants into digital rights in the region.

## Thematic Track: Trust

### S12. Multi-stakeholder Collaborative Approach for Developing Local Digital Literacy Champions

Moderators:

- Abigail Bernadette, Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs of The Republic of Indonesia / ICT Watch
- Ellen Kusuma, SAFEnet

Speakers:

- Pironrong Ramasoota, The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC)
- Clair Deevy, WhatsApp
- Muhammad Arif Angga, Indonesia Internet Service Provider Association (APJII)
- Rizky Ameliah, MCIT Indonesia

**Brief Summary:** The session brought significant social impact discourse, particularly for digital literacy education. As we may understand, Providing people with the skills and resources they need to become digitally literate (and safe online) is one thing; giving them the tools and resources they need to become digitally literate (and safe online) is another challenge. The digital gap cannot be bridged only through access. The beginning point for gaining the digital literacy abilities required for ethical digital citizenship and online agency is access to the internet and networked devices.

The session created a learning ecosystem and promotes sustainability by developing replicable methods or tools, increasing people's skills and capacity in the ICT that enables more people to learn within their respective cultural backgrounds. To fully benefit from the Information Society, we believe everyone needs to have the appropriate abilities. As a result, capacity development and ICT literacy are critical. ICTs can help to achieve universal education through delivering education and teacher training and enhancing circumstances for lifelong learning, including for persons who are not enrolled in formal education and boosting professional skills. Our session aimed to exchange learning from the local community's best practices on how to use ICTs and encourage the creation of valuable and socially relevant content for the common good.

**Key Issues:** The digital literacy movement should encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration to create an ecosystem that aids the local champions to do more without relying solely on the support from certain stakeholders only, but also other stakeholders such as the local government, local colleges, or universities, local communities, and many more. We should

always follow three fundamental principles to assure the long-term viability of the collaborative program:

- 1). Assuring multi-stakeholder cooperation: to believe and ensure that fieldwork involves a diverse range of stakeholders in an equitable, inclusive, and participatory way.
- 2) Strengthening the ability of local actors: to promote a variety of local actors and sources to be actively involved in the preparation, execution, and development of activities in every program we conduct.
- 3). Making use of open online platforms and creative-commons licensed information: to ensure that the web platform we use is free and accessible to the public. Furthermore, all of the content we generate is always licensed under a Creative Commons license.

Digital literacy entails more than just technical knowledge. It covers a variety of ethical, social, and reflective behaviors that are critical for online resilience and ethical digital citizenship development. Then we must incorporate these principles into our job, education, and daily lives. Overemphasizing access, hard technological skills, and risk avoidance in the digital literacy approach limits rather than empowers user agency. While most people do not require persuasion to use digital technology, many users without the appropriate digital literacy skills and support get profoundly engrossed in online life.

### S13. Combating Disinformation from COVID-19 to the General Election: Multistakeholder Digital Literacy vs Legislation & Censorship?

Moderators:

- Charles Mok, Tech for Good Asia
- Donny B.U, KPCPEN / ICT Watch

Speakers:

- Rizky Ika Syafitri, UNICEF / RCCE
- Indriyatno Banyumurti, ICT Watch / Siberkreasi
- Dr Kyung Sin PARK, Open Net / Korea University
- Alice Budisatrijo, Meta

**Brief Summary:** Our session combined speakers from different backgrounds and a mix of local vs regional experiences to look at issues surrounding online disinformation and what to do about it -- between multi-stakeholder digital literacy building to intermediary self-regulation to regulation by law, or even criminal punishment. Our speakers were from the industry (regional/global platform intermediary), civil society and an inter-governmental agency working on these issues on both health-related concerns, such as Covid information and vaccine hesitancy, as well as election falsehood. The general consensus was that building digital literacy, while being a long-term effort, should still be the preferred solution, but industry self-regulation and the use of technology to supplement the effort to stamp out disinformation would still be required. While the speakers mostly agree that government regulation or criminally punishing misinformation would be problematic, especially for political and election related content, one speaker maintained that for health related issues it would still be necessary to balance the need for some regulation.

**Key Issues:** Alice Budisatrijo (Meta) spoke on Meta's system to deal with misinformation and disinformation, by ranking content, working with fact-checkers, publishing guidelines, political ad restrictions, etc, as an example of industry self-regulation, and how deliberate distribution of

disinformation by organized actors may lead to elimination of the whole network. But Meta also acknowledged the need for balance with free discussion, and agreed that digital literacy building and clear principles to balance harms vs free speech would be needed.

Dr Park focused on his views against criminally punishing disinformation, using vivid examples from Korea where the rulers penalized opponents for speaking the truth, only for the victims to be exonerated decades later. Although policymakers claim that election disinformation must be punished because of the short period of time involved, he argued that would have adverse effects on public discussions. The reason is that the biggest problem is always state-sponsored disinformation, which carries legitimacy and oppressive power. Laws will let the government press only its version of the truth, misdirecting attention away from hate speech, discrimination and the pattern of disinformation, e.g. automated trolling. He also supports the use of technology on solving problems caused by technology, as a way platforms can self-regulate. Indriyatno Banyumurti focused on the experience in Indonesia combating COVID-19/health disinformation using online education, collaborative hybrid workshops, making movies and animation to promote anti-hoax messages, and working with fact-checkers as well as government, as ways to build digital literacy in a diverse cultural and social environment such as Indonesia. Disinformation will be even more challenging in upcoming elections but education will remain important.

Rizky Ika Syafitri described her experience with using surveys to understand why people believe in hoaxes, causing vaccine hesitancy, for instance, while strategizing how to debunk the hoaxes and provide easy tools for fact-checking, coordinating at the national level. She emphasized the need to understand it is more than an issue with disinformation, but also one of unbalanced or even too much information, as survey shows more than 40% of Indonesian public admitted they could not distinguish what is true. While digital literacy is long-term, it is the best approach. But she maintains for some issues such as health related ones, some regulations or even punishment for falsehood may be needed and that may be different from political disinformation which may be harder to prove or more subjective.

**Conclusions:** Our panelists agree on the preference for multi-stakeholder digital literacy over regulations, although there are some different opinions over whether regulations may be of use in some circumstances, compared to others, like between health related issues and election disinformation. Going forward, we may examine these two alternatives more deeply. For building digital literacy, what is the best collaborative way for different stakeholders to achieve the best results? How to best promote this approach to governments and the public, so that policymakers can be influenced more to support these options?

On the other hand, for the concern over regulations, the trend in Asian economies today appears to be moving toward exactly the wrong direction, that is, more and more regulation and government deciding what is the truth, and enforcing that over platforms, which must "follow local laws". The consequence may be extremely harmful for free speech and may end up with endless state-sponsored disinformation. How can civil society in Asian countries deal with this reality and deal with such regulations? Will digital literacy effort need to be redoubled from distinguishing disinformation to also identifying harmful laws and government-sponsored disinformation?

#### S14. Digital Resiliency of Civil Society in the context of shrinking Civic Space

Moderators:

- Santosh Sigdel, Digital Rights Nepal
- Rukamane Maharjan, Digital Rights Nepal

Speakers:

- Prasanth Sugathan, Software Freedom Law Center, India (SFLC.in)
- Priscilla Kevin, PNG Digital ICT Cluster
- Marius Dragomir, Center for Media, Data and Society (CMDS)
- Achia Nila, Women In Digital

**Brief Summary:** The discussion played a role in bringing forth the issue of shrinking digital space in public attention. It contributed to knowledge exchange and fostering mutual learning among diverse stakeholders by providing an opportunity to share experiences as well as discussed initiatives reflecting good practices and solutions for promoting digital resiliency and capacity of civil society.

The discussion was particularly related to the surveillance, content moderation & censorship of CSOs activities where solutions to building digital capacity and resiliency of CSOs were explored.

**Key Issues:** Civil societies rely heavily on tech platforms and the internet to conduct their activities, and the adoption has increased significantly along with CoVID19 pandemic. Civil societies especially in the south asian region were slow to adopt digitalization and digital platforms. Recent trends around the globe show that the apps and services that make up the digital space are now being weaponized by governments and big tech to monitor and disrupt civil society activities, silence journalists and whistleblowers, manipulate public opinion, and oppress citizens ultimately shrinking the role and influence of civil society. Thus, it is high time that civil societies invest in digital security mechanisms to develop digital resiliency for protecting themselves and maintaining and widening civic space.

In such a context, the discussion unpacked and honed in on:

- Common operational challenges including trend and source of threat that CSOs face from censorship to surveillance in an already shrinking civic space;
- Technical support CSOs have been getting ( if any) from government and international organizations, local networking among CSOs on navigating digital risk management and data security;
- Exploring trend on how CSOs in the Asia Pacific region addressing the issues, including the best practices; and
- Explore opportunities of digital resiliency, digital capacity and collaboration among civil society organization in the Asia Pacific region

#### S15. Toward Trusted Design: User Protections for a Better Web for All

Moderators:

- Anju Mangal, Alliance for Affordable Internet / APriGF
- Katherine Townsend, Web Foundation

Speakers:

- Chandni Gupta, Consumer Policy Research Centre (CPRC)
- Sage Cheng, Access Now
- Beni Chugh, Dvara Research

- Kaushalya Gupta, Web Foundation

**Brief Summary:** Deceptive designs are most relevant to trust including privacy, data governance, tech regulation, surveillance, multistakeholderism, digital rights, and cyber norms. Deceptive designs are a global concern that currently have disproportionate impact on those most vulnerable, but which are also difficult to tackle partly because the tools and language we use to address deceptive design mean different things to different audiences and key stakeholders. While policymakers attempt to write laws that regulate technology platforms, web and UX designers are too often not included in the intent of the law and the result is poor design that does not meet the regulation's true intention. The most widespread example of this is the GDPR regulations against cookies- the UX that has followed is a popup on every website that says accept all cookies or make a selection, resulting more often than not in consumers accepting all tracking cookies leading to the same scenario before the law was created. Designers do not want to make deceptive design, and most platforms do not want to perpetuate it, but many are not in conversation with each other on the implications and potential in moving away from deceptive design to trusted design.

**Key Issues:** Deceptive designs, also commonly known as “dark patterns” have become a global concern that hurts privacy, consumer protection, and trust building. Design defaults like these are prevalent in many people's day-to-day online experiences, preventing the global majority from fully benefiting from the advancements of the internet. In particular, deceptive designs have a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, including senior citizens, women and gender minorities, children, families with lower incomes, and people who are less digitally connected.

It has been a difficult problem to tackle, partially because the language we use to address deceptive design means different things to different stakeholders. Also, the interventions often come in silos, whether it is policy and regulations or ethical design initiatives. The most widespread example of this is the GDPR regulations against tracking cookies versus the trending solutions to create cookie banners that utilize manipulative designs to collect user data. Designers do not want to make deceptive design, and most platforms do not want to perpetuate it, but many are not in conversation with each other on the implications and potential in moving away from deceptive design to trusted design.

This workshop brought together researchers, policy experts, designers, and members of civil society to discuss different models for solutions, identify major blocks in the existing efforts, and compared regional experiences tackling the issue and advancing an alternative future with trusted design.

The Web Foundation is currently running a Technology Policy Design Lab, a co-creation workshop series to design recommendations that will culminate at the end of September 2022 and be shared widely and sustained through our network of partners. The workshop discussion brought insights in examining the final report of the program, which aims to spark in-depth collaborations across stakeholders and effective policy decisions.

## S16. Protecting the Healthcare Sector from Cyber Harm

Moderators:

- Pavel Mraz, Microsoft
- Michael Karimian, Microsoft



Speakers:

- Nayantara Ranganathan, Digital Asia Hub
- Charlotte Lindsey, CyberPeace Institute

**Brief Summary:** Throughout 2021 and 2022, the Government of the Czech Republic, the CyberPeace Institute, and Microsoft brought healthcare and cybersecurity communities together through the organization of multistakeholder workshops, each one addressing a critical topic related to the protection of healthcare sector from cyber harm. During these workshops, key recommendations, lessons learned, and good practices were collected from a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and stakeholders. Based on what we heard and learned in these discussions, we have developed this Compendium of Multistakeholder Perspectives on Protecting the Healthcare Sector from Cyber Harm that offers healthcare institutions, governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders a useful resource to support their efforts to safeguard the healthcare sector from cyber threats.

This session explored the workshops' findings and recommendations, which are available online: <https://blogs.microsoft.com/eupolicy/2022/07/28/protecting-critical-infrastructure-from-cyberattacks/>

**Key Issues:**

The UN's recent designation that medical facilities are critical infrastructure falling under the protection of applicable cyber norms of responsible state behavior; this session looked at how to promote greater accountability for malicious cyber behavior internationally; and the role of diplomacy and international law in this space.

- The experience in the Asia Pacific when it comes to the cybersecurity and healthcare sector.
- The CyberPeace Institute's data on the evolution of the threat and harm, including the impact cyberattacks against healthcare have on individuals.
- The important factors & trends in how cybersecurity risks are understood across the region.
- How to bridge the existing gaps in strengthening resilience of the healthcare sector across countries in Asia Pacific and beyond.

The session further looked at concrete steps stakeholders at all levels can take to increase resilience of the healthcare sector, whether through capacity building, updating international and national legal frameworks to the digital reality, or connecting the operational realities and demands at national level with diplomatic outcomes at the global level.

**Conclusions:** Here are five key recommendations from our reports that governments and critical infrastructure providers should tackle as a priority:

1. Cybersecurity must be understood as a continuous process

Technology and its uses continue to develop at speed. There is the need to recognize that there will always be important systems in need of protection against malicious actors with harmful intentions and sophisticated capabilities. Risk management needs to be at the heart of any approach we take.

2. Focus on harmonized regulation that spans sectors and countries

Cyberattacks can have spill-over effects and cross-sectoral impact based on the use of the same underlying technology. Harmonization and alignment are key, which is why the NIS2 Directive aims to streamline risk management and incident reporting across critical infrastructure sectors. Emerging sector-specific legislation, for the financial services or energy sectors, for example, should ideally build on the NIS2 baseline requirements and agree to guarantee consistent and effective regulatory frameworks.

### 3. Increase information sharing and capacity building efforts

Cybersecurity responsibilities are distributed among many regional, national, and industry actors. Often these entities do not communicate outside their own sector or country. However, attackers do not respect borders, and increased information exchange is needed on best practices and defensive actions. Greater collaboration between public and private actors is key to ensuring success in this regard. Similarly, there is an urgent need to address the cybersecurity skills gap. The Global Forum on Cyber Expertise as well as private sector initiatives can play a critical role in further advancing these efforts, domestically and internationally.

### 4. Establish a culture of cyber resilience

While governments can advance protections for the sector through legislation, there are actions that critical infrastructure providers can take to strengthen the security of their operations. Organizations must invest in continuous cybersecurity protection to thwart ever-evolving threats. This includes implementing horizontal, not hierarchical, IT security team structures within organizations to break down organizational silos, and to ensure a swift escalation of an issue and a timely response. Organizations should educate all employees on the role they have to play in preventing cyberattacks through good cyber hygiene.

### 5. Hold malicious actors accountable

Perpetrators of cyberattacks rarely face consequences for their actions. While attribution can be politically sensitive at times, more efforts are needed both nationally and internationally to sanction bad behavior. Recent discussions at the UN have made it clear that international law applies to cyberspace in its entirety.

## S17. Advancing data justice in (post-)pandemic data governance: perspectives from Southeast Asia

Moderator:

- Shita Laksmi, Tifa Foundation

Speakers:

- Debora Irene Christine, Tifa Foundation
- Sutawan Chanprasert, DigitalReach
- Jamael Jacob, Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA)
- Yuyun Wahyuningrum, ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)

**Brief Summary:** The session began by discussing changes in digital data governance and data-driven governance enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia and the Philippines, particularly policies which facilitate increased datafication (i.e., the technological trend turning many aspects of our life into data which is subsequently transferred into information realized as a new form of value). It then discussed data injustices that occurred in

both countries due to the pandemic data-driven governance and anticipated implications of COVID-19 pandemic data governance on the post-COVID situation. The session continued with a discussion on the current development of the implementation of digital contact tracing technologies in Southeast Asia and its impacts on people. The session concluded with an exploration of ASEAN mechanisms that might serve as potential avenues for advocating pandemic data justice in Southeast Asia.

**Key Issues:** The turn to datafication and digital technologies to manage the COVID-19 pandemic in Southeast Asia amid the region's inadequate personal data protection and data governance policies has amplified existing problems of digital technology and justice. These include the digital divide and other accessibility issues, various privacy, security, and confidentiality risks, the thinness of the legitimacy of technological intervention, and the lack of participation of intended beneficiaries in the design of digital technology. The concept of data justice has facilitated further interrogation of the societal implications of pandemic data-driven governance. Common data injustices include loss of autonomy over personal data handling, discrimination, misrepresentation in data, unfair distribution of (supposedly) benefits of data sharing, and privacy violation.

**Conclusions:** To realize a rights-respecting and just post-pandemic data-driven governance, it's crucial to:

- Put in place better data governance regulation and oversight
- Enhance the institutional capacity of public institutions governing public data
- Implement privacy impact assessment prior to the mass deployment of digital data technology
- Clearly define the role of private companies in the development and use of data technologies
- Raise the issue of (post-)pandemic data governance in Southeast Asia to governments of ASEAN member states
- Strengthen the collaboration of CSOs across the region for more impactful data justice advocacy

### S18. Routing Security – We can do better!

Moderator:

- Simon Sohel, Fiber@Home

Speakers:

- Kenny Huang, TWNIC
- Carmen Denis, IXP Yucatán
- Name: Terry Sweetser, APNIC

**Brief Summary:** There are security challenges to establish trust in the local/regional/ global routing infrastructure. Security incidents are still on the rise and some incidents have real life consequences and this raises critical alarms in any policy forum. This can only be addressed after understanding the points of view from various quarters of the community. The solutions are there but what is stopping the community from implementing those solutions requires understanding of the issue from other perspectives. Asia Pacific is already home to almost half of the population of the world and so the Internet users and network providers, the region should be champion in the infrastructure and routing security.

**Key Issues:** Routing security remains one of the top vulnerabilities when it comes to national, regional and global Internet infrastructure. Even though there are nearly daily calls and

comments from multiple quarters (government, business, users) on cybersecurity and the need to secure Internet infrastructure, limited attention is paid to securing one of the foundational building blocks critical to the Internet's functioning – the routing infrastructure.

Despite efforts in the Asia Pacific regional Internet community to promote and encourage the adoption of secure routing, there has been slow and limited adoption. As a community there is a strong desire to better understand the views from different sectors of our community on this matter and what we can do to further improve awareness and actions.

## Showcases

### S19. Locally Accessible Cloud Service (LACS) for e-resilience

Moderator:

- Binod Basnet, Educating Nepal

Speakers:

- Toshikazu Sakano, ATR
- Jeffrey Llanto, CViS Net Foundation
- Ashirwad Tripathy, Educating Nepal

**Brief Summary:** Locally accessible cloud system for e-resilience was a showcase session at APriGF 2022 and was conducted successfully on 14th September 2022. The session was moderated by Binod Basnet. Dr Toshikazu Sakano from ATR gave the introduction of the product with its specification. The introduction of the product indicated its use case as a community backup network system usable during the times of disaster to communicate with each other. It included file sharing capabilities, messaging and a notice board. Jeffery Llanto from the Philippines shared the implementation findings as deployed on the island of Cebu. Ashirwad Tripathy shared the potential of LACS to beyond disaster mitigation and noted that it could be a device for daily remote education in marginalized communities in Asia Pacific that did not have internet connectivity. The session highlighted the LACS system to be an effective device for disaster preparedness and as a resource for telemedicine and e-education functions.

**Key Issues:** The key issue raised during discussion was about the ability of LACS to synchronize with the internet. Dr. Sakano explained the C-LACS facility of the product to automatically synchronize the data the device is connected to the internet. The participants from various nations which regularly had disasters in their countries showed keen interest in the use cases of the product. The other issue raised about the system was about its price. Participants wanted to see a hands-on presentation of LACS but that was not possible due to time allotted.

**Conclusions:** The session was very successful with fruitful discussion of the participants. The LACS system seems to be a resilient device, however needs more pilot testing to discover its full potential. Its utility for telemedicine and remote education needs more research-based testing. This requires partnership and collaboration from AP community to develop research based pilot programs to test LACS in mountainous or island region so that the findings can direct a way forward to use LACS beyond disaster.

### S20. Here's How Your Genital and Physical Affects Your Digital Lives

Moderator

- Ellen Kusuma, SAFEnet

**Brief Summary:** The session went with the speakers explaining about the advocacy on online gender based violence in Indonesia through SAFEnet's initiative called Awas KBGO (Beware of Online Gender-based Violence). The advocacy started as a 16 days of activism campaign but then pioneered a multistakeholder effort by collaborating and working together with other stakeholders, namely the victims, service providers, government (relevant ministries and NHRIs), digital platform, law enforcements, relevant UN bodies, and et cetera. The initiative also documented the knowledge and published guidebooks and researches on it, while at the same time pushing through the dissemination towards the larger public.

Awaz KBGO also diversified the format and channels (from booklet to social media posts, podcasts, YouTube videos) and improved the accessibility so the transfer of knowledge could reach more vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as deaf and blind communities.

Remediation of the published materials included encouraging the deaf communities to create sign language instructions around the topic of online gender based violence, and raising their awareness and capabilities to handle the subject. Other efforts currently happening is translating the resources into English language to broaden the scope of advocacy.

**Key Issues:** Multistakeholder approach is important in strategizing the advocacy of online gender based violence.

Diversifying the format of the resources and improving its accessibility are important as it practices inclusion.

**Conclusions:** There's a need to share common resources and different contexts of challenges and best practices of advocating online gender based violence, especially in the Asia Pacific region as it has similarities in socio-cultural background.

### S21. LEO Satellite Constellations - Will They Bring Better Internet Access and a More Resilient Internet?

Moderator:

- Adrian Wan, Internet Society

Speakers:

- Dan York, Internet Society
- Rajnesh Singh, Internet Society

**Brief Summary:** This session directly related to the theme of Inclusion as LEO-based satellite systems offer the promise of providing new ways to connect the unconnected and bring digital connectivity to more people, especially in regions that may have limited options. This session also relates to the theme of Sustainability in that LEO-based systems may provide another means to provide resilient connectivity. For example, while a subsea cable may be the primary connection for an island, a LEO-based system may provide a secondary connection in the event of outages. There are also environmental concerns about these systems that fit into the sustainability theme.

The challenge for Internet governance is that at the time of this proposal submission, only one of the proposed LEO systems, SpaceX's Starlink, is deployed at a large enough scale for people to use. There are so many questions about the capabilities and the policy issues around these systems.

The next two to three years will be critical for these systems as several other companies launch and deploy their systems. We have an opportunity to help shape the policies and systems in this area to ensure that they are as inclusive and sustainable as possible.

An outcome of the session was to equip the participants with the information and questions needed to shape these emerging discussions.

**Key Issues:** Companies such as SpaceX, Amazon, OneWeb, Telesat, and others are racing to launch large systems of Low Earth Orbit satellites (LEOs) to provide Internet access. While they may help bridge the digital divide, particularly in remote regions, they could put Internet access into the hands of a few large companies and introduce new security and privacy concerns. The Internet Society, a global nonprofit focused on building a bigger, stronger Internet for everyone, researched LEO systems in 2022 and will explain what they found, how secure the systems may or may not be, and what we all need to be concerned about as these systems expand. Attendees will leave with information about how LEO systems work and with recommendations for areas of concern and questions to consider.

## S22. Measuring the Internet protocol parameters for reducing Internet poverty

Moderators:

- Anupam Agrawal, India Internet Foundation (IIFON)
- Bikram Shrestha, Nepal Internet Foundation

Speakers:

- Anand Raje, ISOC Kolkata Chapter

**Brief Summary:** The suddenness with which the people were forced to adopt Internet Services has left many languishing at the edge wherein they are facing issues related to Internet Poverty. The community interactions at diverse geographical regions in India very clearly points out that lack of bandwidth either in terms of quantity or quality is significantly hampering the inclusion of people. Further, issues like power cut, high latency of services, low bandwidth and less availability of content are also affecting inclusion.

The session explored how real time information about the quality of Internet from the user endpoint can help in solving the issues for the stakeholders who are involved and will also help in provisioning of adequate infrastructure by the service providers.

The session showcased how the new solution framework is creating benefits to include more people on to the internet by diving into interoperability requirements among different Internet platforms available globally and data exchange platforms among them.

**Key Issues:** The issue: The Internet is becoming more and more important for societies and the recent pandemic situation has increased its importance multifold as key services have moved online. The new set of users are from diverse geographical locations being forced to go online, but they are suffering not only due to poor services but less than optimum Internet delivery infrastructure and bandwidth quality. Internet measurement from user endpoints of different protocol parameters provides understanding of the issues and pinpointing the gaps thereby helping coordinating with different stakeholders to strengthen the infrastructure.

**Scope:** The session will explore the available Internet Measurement platforms globally and showcase a newly developed Internet Measurement platform now operational in India, the impact of hosting 4 L root servers in a geographic region and experiments for disaster

scenarios. The showcase will talk about the impact the platform is creating and the research findings which will help in the evolution of the Internet.

### S23. Child Online Safety: A .Kids conversation on creating a Child-centric Internet

Moderator:

- Jennifer Chung, DotKids Foundation

Speakers:

- Jutta Croll, Stiftung Digitale Chancen
- Jessie Li, Meta

**Brief Summary:** Trust is the cornerstone for all interactions on the Internet. When it comes to the most vulnerable parts of our society, kids, it is all the more important to have trust built into all aspects ranging from data privacy to protection from illegal and inappropriate content. This sessions' focus on kids and child protection online was also squarely in the contemplation of overarching theme of APriGF 2022 "People at the Centre" which discussed proactive as well as mitigation strategies on how to create a child-centric space.

Outcomes from this session informed how to refine and improve the .kids Guiding Principles, including possible additional APAC region-wide and global consultation. Underlining the topic's importance, the National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) network this year, through a bottom-up consultative process, would be curating a collaboration session on Child Online Safety at the global IGF meeting to be held in Ethiopia.

**Key Issues:** Increasingly, and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, work, education and play are conducted online. Young people spend a significant portion of their daily life using the Internet for different interactions. For kids, the first generation born digitally native, it is important to have an environment that is conducive to learning and exploring their creativity while at the same time being protected from the dangerous elements and criminal and predatory activity online.

After 10 years of effort from the DotKids community of child rights and child-led organisations, the .kids domain extension has finally been successfully delegated to the Internet's root zone and set to launch later this year. A child-centric domain extension for kids with their best interests at heart needs to balance between effective mechanisms for taking down illegal and inappropriate content and an open environment for kids to express themselves.

This showcase presented the .kids Guiding Principles alongside the Kids-Friendly Content Best Practices guide, and invites views from child rights experts, educators, youth, and social media platforms to discuss on what are the key elements for child-online safety, in the APAC as well as in the global context, effective reporting on illegal and inappropriate content, and swift and fair take-down measures that do not stifle kids' innovation and creative expression.

### S24. Assessing investments in surveillance and technology

Moderators:

- Gayatri Khandhadai, Business and Human Rights esouce Centre
- Danny Rayan, Business and Human Rights esouce Centre

Speakers:

- Dhevy Sivaprakasam, Access Now
- Lorraine Hau, Columbia Threadneedle Investments

**Brief Summary:** Surveillance and private sector accountability hit at the heart of trust and sustainability of the internet. Accountability is an integral part of internet governance. For credible and reliable internet governance, several stakeholders, especially those who are not as visible need to be addressed and integrated. This session brought to the platform a unique and often under-represented stakeholder - investors in technology based companies. Given the desire of APRIGF to ensure that all stakeholders, especially the government and private sector to become more engaged, this session presented an opportunity unlike others.

By discussing human rights assessment of investments, civil society and the technical community engaged in digital rights will also be presented with an opportunity to experience a discussion and resource on an under explored avenue of advocacy. The session was built around the guide that helps participants understand effective due diligence will help shareholders with investments in the surveillance technology ecosystem identify, assess, prevent and mitigate increasing human rights and other material risks; as well as helping civil society and other stakeholders use this as leverage in advocating for more accountable technologies.

Ultimately, this would contribute to inclusivity of people's perspectives and stakeholders in the governance processes and addressing core digital rights issues such as freedom of expression and privacy.

**Key Issues:** Surveillance technologies are fundamentally reshaping our societies. Certain technologies within the surveillance sector can serve legitimate law-enforcement and national security purposes with appropriate government oversight and accountability. However, many surveillance products and services are being used to systematically violate human rights by reinforcing discrimination, promoting censorship of the media, violating individuals' right to privacy, facilitating detention and forced labour, and enabling attacks against human rights defenders.

Companies do not function in a vacuum. Investors, both private and public, are critical to enabling the set up and continued existence of companies. Therefore, investors have a responsibility to ensure their portfolio companies are respecting human rights and are not unnecessarily exposed to legal, reputational, and financial risks. Navigating the surveillance technology ecosystem: A human rights due diligence guide for investors (<https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/from-us/briefings/navigating-the-surveillance-technology-ecosystem->, a guide developed by the organisers and partners, provides shareholders with a deeper understanding of the potential human rights issues going unnoticed in their portfolio companies' value chains and equips them with a framework to make rights-respecting decisions.

The session provided for a space to hear from the developers of the guide and a representative from the investors community about the metrics in the guide and how investors view human rights compliance. The discussions shed light on how these dual use technologies create human rights and other material risks for investors' portfolios, often in unexpected ways. Finally, the guide's authors answered questions and discuss how the guide can help investors, technical community and civil society advance corporate accountability throughout the surveillance technology ecosystem.

## S25. Koo - Empowering Users and Building Cyber Resilience

Moderators:



- Prerana A N, Koo App
- Niyati Verma, Koo App

Speakers:

- Rajneesh Jaswal, Koo App
- Phaneesh Gururaj, Koo App

**Brief Summary:** This showcase outlined Koo's journey as a recent entrant in the social media space and its efforts to increase trust, safety and inclusion on the platform. To this end, we spoke about Koo's Charter for a Model Social Media Intermediary, i.e., the 5 fundamental principles that make an ideal social media intermediary. These principles are: Communities & Content, Recognising Eminence in Communities, Authenticity in Identities, Neutrality and Policy Enforcement.

We spoke about how the Charter serves as the guiding principles for Koo to build platform policies and navigate difficult decisions as a social media intermediary in order to build a truly user-centric platform.

**Key Issues:** Koo aims to drive trust and inclusion by building its platform and policies around the guiding principles set out in its Charter, in order to make it a truly user-centric platform.

To drive inclusion:

1. Provides a platform for its users to express their thoughts and opinions in their own regional languages. This has given millions of non-English speaking and many first time internet users access to the platform.
2. Enables users to easily find and connect with other users sharing their thoughts in the same languages and/or similar topics and/or in nearby locations.
3. Allows its users to select topics and people of interest and creates customised user feeds on that basis. Additionally, users are also given the ability to block topics that they do not wish to see.

To drive trust:

1. Has open sourced its algorithms to help users understand how their feeds are curated and experiment with it to have a personalised experience on the platform.
2. Has enabled a Voluntary Self Verification feature to allow its users to verify themselves using a government-issued identification document to create authentic digital identities. This is an effort to combat bot and spam accounts.
3. Koo's content moderation policies are in line with local laws, i.e., keeping in mind its role and only a neutral intermediary, only content which violates local laws are moderated and removed.

**Conclusions:**

1. Local customs and mores vary from country to country and region to region
2. Each such cultural context has a right to exist with another.
3. There should be more efforts to give space to local cultural contexts and internet tools that emerge from such contexts.
4. We appreciate the opportunity to showcase a local social media platform like Koo which is rooted in the culture and everyday life in India.

# Attendance Statistics\*

Numbers of total participants: 911

Numbers of on-site participants: 594

Numbers of online participants: 317

Number of economies/countries the attendees are from: 64

Gender ratio of attendees (F: Female; M: Male; O: Others - non-binary / undisclosed)  
F: 20%; M: 65%; O: 15%

*\*Since registration and check-in process were shared with APNIC conference, the statistics included attendees of APrIGF and APNIC conference.*

# Budget

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| <b>(1) Operations</b>   | <b>Actual Cost<br/>(USD)</b> |
| Zoom  | \$108.98                     |
| Otter.ai  | \$60.00                      |
| Computer equipment (Zoom and Otter.ai support, general support) | \$143.41                     |
| Transcription   | \$2,500.00                   |
| Sign language   | \$1,100.00                   |
| Photography   | \$150.00                     |
| On-site equipment   | \$8,000.00                   |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$12,062.39</b>           |
|   |                              |
| <b>(2) Secretariat Travels</b>                                  | <b>Actual Cost<br/>(USD)</b> |
| Flights (2 persons)   | \$922.66                     |
| Accommodation (2 persons)                                       | \$2,147.51                   |
| Quarantine hotel (Hong Kong)                                    | \$613.91                     |
| Quarantine Insurance and PCR test                               | \$91.82                      |
| SIM card  | \$10.76                      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$3,786.56</b>            |
|   |                              |
| <b>(3) Fellowship (APrIGF + APSIG)</b>                          | <b>Actual Cost<br/>(USD)</b> |
| Flights   | \$18,639.20                  |
| Accommodation - IBIS contract                                   | \$14,402.15                  |
| Stipend   | \$5,624.81                   |
| Fellows Dinner  | \$2,500.00                   |
| Total   | \$41,166.16                  |
| <b>Total of APrIGF share (50%)</b>                              | <b>\$20,583.08</b>           |

# Contact Information

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