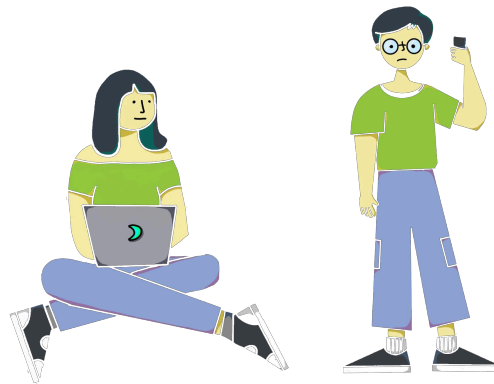




3rd yIGF Myanmar 2024 Summary Report





Introduction

This report outlines the results of the 3rd successful Youth IGF national event in Myanmar known as yIGF Myanmar, held on 3rd and 4th August, 2024. Despite ongoing challenges, the most significant success was the event itself – the yIGF Myanmar volunteers once again overcame obstacles to host an inspiring forum that introduced critical Internet Governance concepts and topics to youth across Myanmar.

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, we would like to thank Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC) for the invaluable support through funding. The financial support for implementing the Forum is instrumental in ensuring the success of this yIGF Myanmar initiative.

Secondly, we are incredibly proud that, despite the ongoing hardships, we have been able to implement one of the primary goals of our initiative: hosting the Third Youth Internet Governance Forum in Myanmar. Overcoming numerous challenges, including political unrest and the lingering impacts of the social and economic instability, this forum stands as a testament to the resilience and commitment of our yIGF Myanmar team.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the speakers Ko Yin Maung (Engage Media) , Jennifer Chung (DotAsia), Athena Foo (ICANN), Felicia Yunike (SEA Youth IGF), Pablo Hinojosa (APNIC), Shu (MBA candidate, Thammasat University), Ma Zinny (Digizens Alliance), and Ko Roy (Youth Representative) for their unwavering support and insightful sharing throughout Forum’s sessions. We are equally thankful to the local and international speakers from the Internet governance community, who generously shared their expertise and knowledge. Their contributions enriched the forum and significantly enhanced its value



to participants. Additionally, we are profoundly grateful to have the participation of Myanmar youths for our forum, without them this forum would not have been possible.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the dedicated organizing committee who devoted their time, energy, and effort to ensure the success of yIGF Myanmar 2024. Their commitment to the cause made it possible for us to bring this forum to life. While organizing this forum required considerable effort from all involved, it would not have been achievable without the generous support and encouragement from all. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our most sincere thanks to all of them.

Lastly, we are deeply appreciative of the United Nations IGF Secretariat for providing essential resources such as the website, contact email, mailing list addresses, and the Zoom platform, which were crucial in facilitating the yIGF Myanmar 2024. We are also thankful to have the United Nations IGF Secretariat as our honorable video message at our 3rd yIGF Myanmar Forum. This collective effort truly reflects the power of collaboration and the shared vision for a digitally resilient future for Myanmar's youth.

What is yIGF Myanmar?

yIGF-Myanmar is one of the Youth Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) like IGFs from other nations which is trying to organize a specific forum that discusses the issues pertaining to the Internet arena from the youth's point of view. It has been recognized as an official IGF initiative by the United Nations IGF Secretariat on 9 March 2022 (website: www.intgovforum.org/en/content/youth-initiatives). yIGF Myanmar mainly focuses on Internet Governance advocacy and discussion on Internet-related matters which are needed for the local youth community in Myanmar, at the same time getting involved in regional and global Internet governance dialogues.



Vision

To advocate Internet Governance for a meaningful, inclusive, trustworthy and safer Internet through yIGF Myanmar.

Missions

- To raise awareness of Internet Governance policies and issues among young people.
- To bridge the Internet Governance community and Myanmar youths for shaping the harmonious Internet community.
- To encourage Myanmar youths in order to participate in the Regional and Global Internet governance dialogues and raise local internet issues.
- To empower future generations to organize the annual Youth Internet Governance Forum in Myanmar in accordance with our core values; open, transparent, inclusive, bottom-up and steering the multi-stakeholders collaboration.

Motto: *“Get involved and Raise Your Voice for the growth of the Internet Community”*

Introduction to Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee of yIGF Myanmar is composed of a diverse group of individuals representing various stakeholder groups, including the technical community, civil society, and the private sector, in line with the [NRIs principles](#). Despite the challenges faced, particularly in the current context, the committee members have remained deeply engaged in regional and global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) activities, bringing valuable experience and insight to the initiative.

Driven by a strong passion for youth empowerment, the committee members possess a wealth of knowledge in Internet Governance, project management skills, and a shared commitment to developing yIGF in their home country. Their collective knowledge and



dedication have been instrumental in fostering an inclusive and impactful platform for Myanmar’s youth to actively participate in shaping the future of Internet governance.

List of Organizing Committee Member(s)’ information

<i>Name</i>	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Stakeholder group</i>
Athony	Male	Private Sector
Cc	Male	Academia
Peter	Male	Technical Community
Ri Na	Female	Civil Society
Jeremy	Male	Academia

Stage I: Forum Preparation

The 3rd yIGF Myanmar introduced a unique hybrid format for the first time, offering both virtual and in-person participation. This year’s forum included an in-person component held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, alongside the virtual sessions via Zoom. This approach allowed for a more dynamic and engaging experience, fostering deeper interaction between participants and speakers.

There was a call for the thematic consultation call to gather input from the public on the forum’s theme on June 21st 2024. This collaborative approach allowed us to align the event with the most pressing issues related to digital resilience in Myanmar.

On 8th July 2024, the registration for participants was opened, and individuals from different regions and states across Myanmar were invited to apply. Out of 42 applicants, 16 participants were joined, ensuring diverse representation while considering limitations in



communication support. During the same period, local and international speakers from various stakeholder groups were invited to contribute to the forum’s discussions. To ensure all participants had a safe space, we shared the [safety guidelines](#) in priority with the [codes](#).

Stage II: Forum Implementation

This year’s forum stood out due to its hybrid format, combining virtual sessions with an in-person gathering in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This allowed for broader participation while providing the benefits of face-to-face interaction for those attending on-site. There was a challenge for us to invite the participants due to the clash with a big conference.

The forum was conducted according to the following schedule:

Program Schedule

The poster features a background image of a river with several wooden boats. The text is overlaid in white and green. At the top right is the yigf.Myanmar logo. The main title is in large green letters. Below it, a dark grey box contains the forum information. At the bottom left, a green circle highlights the extended registration period. At the bottom right, there is a QR code and a globe icon with the registration URL.

“RESILIENT FUTURE: EMBRACING THE DIGITAL RESILIENCE OF MYANMAR YOUNG PEOPLE”

Forum Information
Date: 3rd and 4th August, 2024
Time: 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Myanmar Time)
Place : Virtual Platform

Extended Registration until 25th July, 2024

<https://myanmaryouth.intgovforum.org/en>

SCAN FOR
Registration



Theme: Resilient Future: Embracing the Digital Resilience of Myanmar Young People

Date: 3rd and 4th August, 2024 (Sat and Sun)

Time: 09:30 AM to 13:00 PM (Myanmar Time)/ 3:00 AM UTC - 6:30 AM UTC

Place: Zoom Platform

Day 1: Scheduled Sessions on 3rd August, 2024

- Welcome - (10 mins), 9:30 AM - 9:40 AM (MMT)
- Introduction to yIGF Myanmar (20 mins), 9:40 AM - 10:00 AM (MMT)
- What is Internet Governance? (30 mins), 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (MMT)
- Digital Resilience 101 - (60 mins), 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (MMT)
- Break Time (10 mins), 11:30 AM - 11:40 AM (MMT)
- Breakout room discussion (1 hour), 11:40 AM - 12:40 PM (MMT)
- Wrap Up: (20 mins), 12:40 PM - 13:00 PM (MMT)

Day 2: Scheduled Sessions on 4th August, 2024

- Introduction - (5 mins), 9:30 AM - 9:35 AM (MMT)
- Opening remark (5 mins), 9:35 AM - 9:40 AM (MMT)
- Global Digital Compact (GDC) (20 mins), 9:40 AM - 10:10 AM (MMT)
- Showcases Sessions : (60 mins), 10:10 AM - 11:10 AM (MMT)
- Break Time: (10 mins), 11:10 AM - 11:20 AM (MMT)
- Roundtable discussion for digital resilience (60 mins), 11:20 AM - 12:20 PM (MMT)
- Wrap Up (10 mins) - 12:40 PM - 12:50 PM (MMT)



- Closing (10 mins) - 12:50 PM - 13:00 PM (MMT)

The 3rd Myanmar Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF Myanmar) 2024 focused on building and enhancing digital resilience among Myanmar youth. The forum aimed to equip young people with knowledge on internet governance, digital safety, and reflection of current situations in the digital realm, particularly in challenging circumstances. We co-located the forum in Chiang Mai, Thailand while having the local hub. There was a challenge to invite the participants because of event clashes at Chiang Mai University. However, it was facilitated successfully online while testing the interpretation support model in the local language for this third forum.

Highlights of the Forum

The slide is titled "About Team & Milestones" in a light green font. It features a small green asterisk icon on the left. The text describes the organizing committee's composition and their commitment to the IGF community. A timeline at the bottom shows milestones from 2020 to 2024. A small video thumbnail in the top right corner shows a person with a fox avatar, labeled "Peter_YIGFMM 2024...". The URL "https://myanmaryouth.intgovforum.org" is at the bottom.

About Team & Milestones

To align with the NRIs principles, the organizing committee is composed of various people from different stakeholder groups such as technical community, civil society, and the private sector.

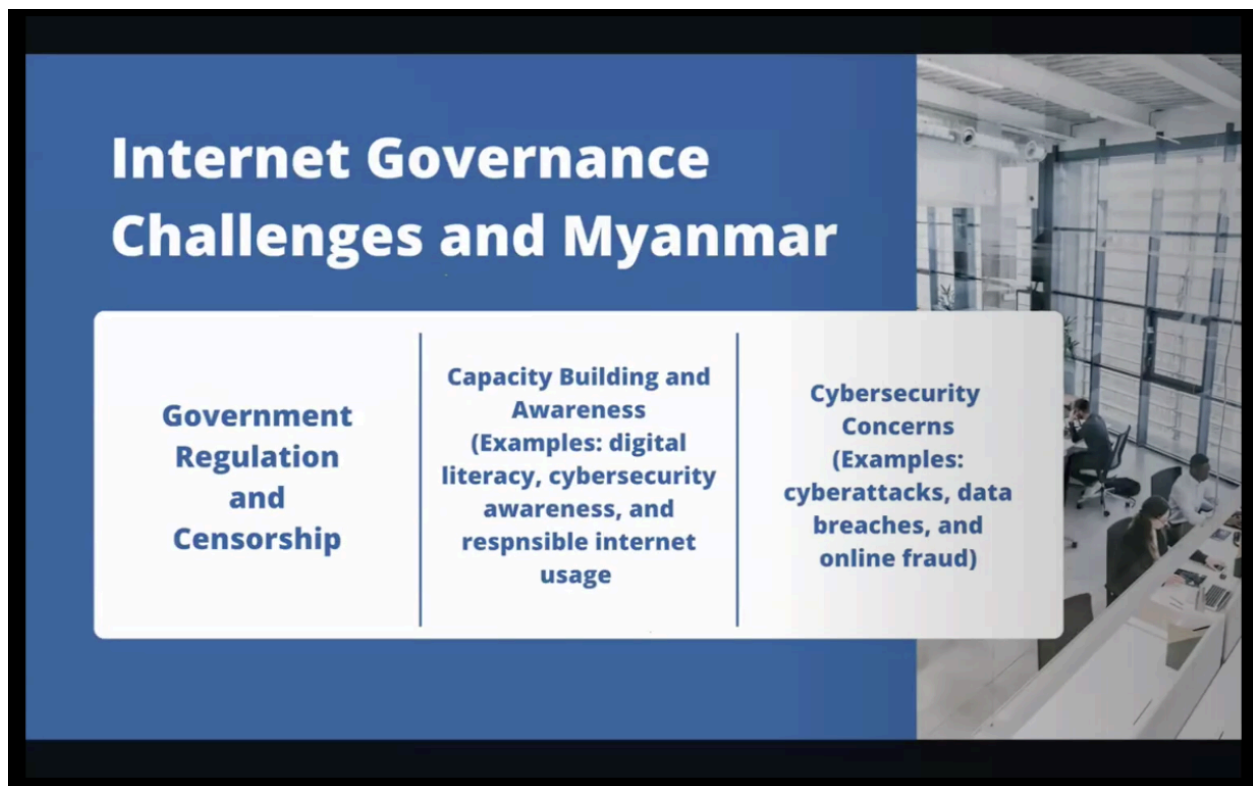
Having been participating in the regional and global IGF community's engagement activities despite the challenges, the committee members are experienced and highly passionate to develop an initiative of yIGF in their home country.

Year	Milestone
2020	Founded
2021	Social Media Project
2022	First Youth IGF In Myanmar
2023	2nd Youth IGF In Myanmar
2024	3rd Youth IGF In Myanmar

<https://myanmaryouth.intgovforum.org>

Day 1 (August 3, 2024)

The sessions on Day 1 were primarily conducted in Myanmar language, emphasizing capacity building and digital literacy, especially concerning Internet governance and digital resilience. The goal was to foster a local understanding of these global concepts and how they can be applied within the Myanmar context. The day comprised several important interactive activities like sharing, and breakout room discussion by the participants in alignment with the provided policy questions.



What is Internet Governance? Presented by Ri Na (yIGF Myanmar)

The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the internet's role in society, beginning with an exploration of its users and their diverse purposes, ranging from



communication and commerce to education and social engagement. The presentation also explained the technical and functional aspects of how the internet works, followed by an introduction to internet governance, defining the processes, policies, and organizations that ensure the internet's smooth functioning. Key challenges faced by Myanmar in this domain, such as cybersecurity, privacy, and digital inclusion, were discussed, along with an overview of the global and regional organizations shaping internet governance. Finally, the session introduced the fellowship opportunities in internet governance, providing a foundational understanding for young professionals looking to engage in this ecosystem.



Digital Resilience 101 - Presented by Ko Yin Maung (EngageMedia)

This concept encompasses the development of skills, policies, and mindsets that empower youth, particularly in Myanmar, to navigate the rapidly changing digital landscape. In this session, participants explored key aspects of the history of Myanmar’s digital landscape and building digital resilience, including safeguarding against online risks, fostering responsible digital citizenship, and leveraging technology for positive change and the situations in the digital sphere before and after the political turmoil.

Day 2 (August 4, 2024)



yIGF Myanmar featured a dynamic lineup of speakers and sessions aimed at fostering dialogue around digital resilience. Opening remarks by Anja Gengo set a collaborative tone, followed by insights on the Global Digital Compact (GDC) presented by Jennifer Chung, highlighting the importance of global cooperation in digital governance. The showcase sessions included impactful presentations from Pablo Hinojosa from APNIC, Felicia Yunike from the SEA Youth IGF, and Athena Foo from ICANN.



Global Digital Compact (GDC) by Jennifer Chung:



In this session, Jennifer Chung presented the Global Digital Compact (GDC), a UN initiative aimed at promoting an open, free, and secure digital environment. The GDC seeks to establish a framework for international cooperation on digital governance, focusing on issues like data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital inclusion. Chung likely outlined the key components of the compact, emphasizing the need for collaboration among governments, the private sector, and civil society to ensure that the internet remains a global public good. Participants learned how Myanmar can contribute to and benefit from global efforts to create a more equitable and secure digital future.



Overview of ICANN

Athena Foo
Stakeholder Engagement Manager - APAC

4 August 2024



Athena Foo - ICANN ...

The slide features a blue background with a white line forming a rectangular frame around the text. The ICANN logo is positioned to the left of the text. A small video feed in the top right corner shows Athena Foo speaking.

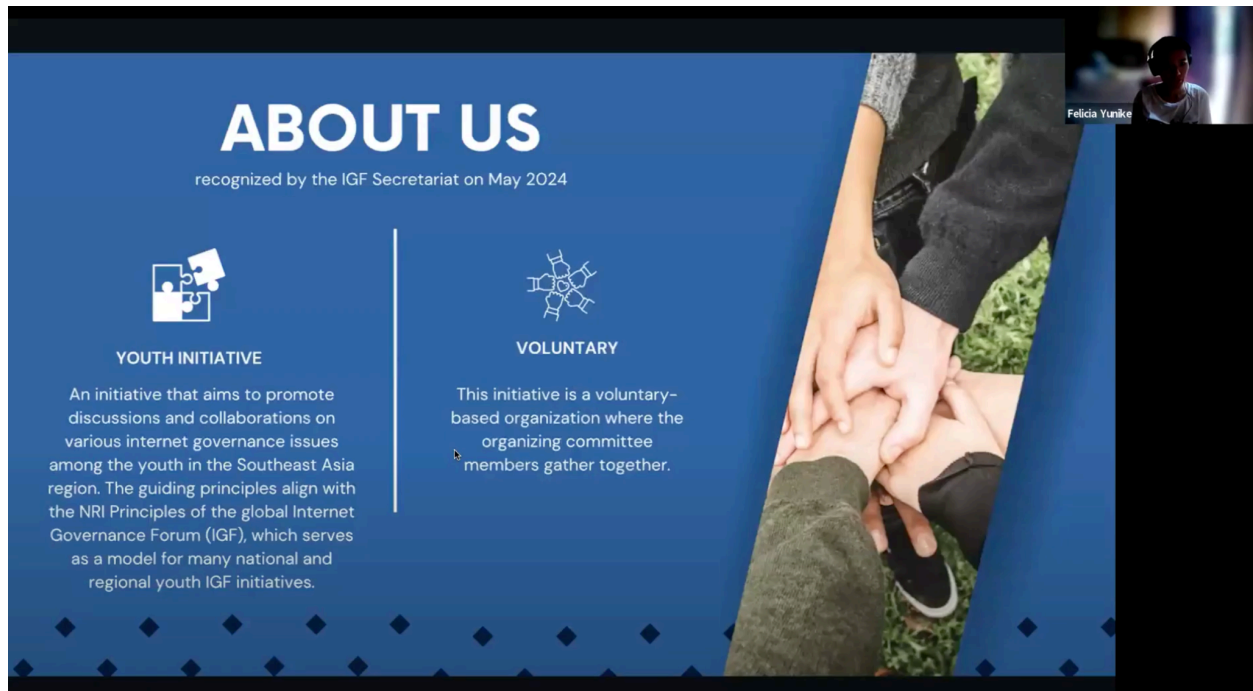
APNIC Fellowship Program

YIGF Myanmar 2024
4 August 2024
Pablo Hinojosa



Pablo Hinojosa

The slide features a blue background with white text. The APNIC logo is in the bottom left corner, and the YIGF Myanmar logo is in the bottom right corner. A small video feed in the top right corner shows Pablo Hinojosa speaking.



Opportunities from ICANN, APNIC, and SEA Youth IGF:

This session showcased opportunities available to youth through international organizations such as ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Center), and the SEA Youth IGF (South East Asia Youth Internet Governance Forum). These bodies offer numerous platforms for young people to engage with the technical and policy aspects of internet governance. Participants were likely introduced to organizations in the internet governance ecosystem. That would help them deepen their understanding of internet governance and how they are functioning for shaping the Internet policies. In this session, it was also mentioned about the opportunities where they could engage and get involved in this community.



Roundtable on Digital Resilience featuring voices from the private sector, civil society, and youth communities:

The roundtable discussion brought together diverse stakeholders to discuss digital resilience where Ma Zinny from Digizens Alliance, Shu and Roy shared their opinions. Representatives from the private sector, civil society, and youth communities provided their perspectives on how to build resilience in the digital age. This discussion likely touched on how the private sector can contribute to improving cybersecurity infrastructure, how civil society can advocate for stronger digital rights and digital citizenship, and how youth can play a role in fostering a culture of digital resilience. The roundtable fostered a collaborative dialogue on the future of digital safety, with an emphasis on multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Policy Questions Discussions on both days:

These discussions focused on crafting a definition of digital resilience that reflects Myanmar's unique challenges, including its political and economic landscape, internet penetration rates, and cybersecurity threats. Participants debated the best ways to prepare communities for a more secure and inclusive digital future.

Participants explored actionable strategies to strengthen Myanmar's digital resilience, particularly through cybersecurity practices and promoting digital literacy. Topics included how to teach internet users to identify scams, use encryption tools, and ensure their personal data is protected. Additionally, the discussion touched on the role of education in spreading awareness about digital hygiene and the importance of securing one's digital footprint.

These discussions focused on the importance of bringing together various stakeholders - governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, and youth - to build and sustain digital resilience. In the context of Myanmar, multi-stakeholder collaboration is crucial



given the country's diverse and often fragmented political and social landscape. These policy questions were explored:

- Role of the private sector in digital resilience and user data protection
- Civil society's role in improving digital literacy and resilience among vulnerable populations
- Active youth participation in shaping digital resilience policies and initiatives
- Essential digital skills needed by youth and how to provide them across diverse regions
- Enhancing multi-stakeholder collaboration to ensure inclusive digital resilience efforts for marginalized communities

Key Discussion Points

- **Digital Resilience and Current Challenges in Myanmar:** Digital resilience in Myanmar encompasses cybersecurity, mental health, and digital literacy. The current challenges include threats to online security, misinformation, and limited access to digital resources.
- **Impact of Changes in the Digital Realm:** As Myanmar's digital landscape evolves, changes in how people browse the internet and use social media will significantly affect society, particularly in terms of access to information and communication.
- **Promoting Safe Online Practices and Inclusive Digital Literacy:** Encouraging youth to adopt safe online habits requires collaboration among stakeholders to promote digital literacy, ensuring inclusivity regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, or geographic location.



Outcomes

Digital resilience in Myanmar is shaped by the collective efforts of individuals and organizations to adapt to current challenges while leveraging opportunities for growth and empowerment in the digital era. The digital realm in Myanmar faces significant challenges following the 2021 coup, with increased restrictions limiting access to information on national and international affairs, thereby hindering individual and community development.

One of the participants shared that

“Digital resilience means when the internet cuts off any kind of condition, how can we access digital communication? Communication cut off is kind of a challenge of the digital era of Myanmar. For example, in Rakhine State, some people died because of cut off ration and cut off medicine”

It was also mentioned in the discussion that limited access to digital education and skills significantly hindered effective technology use in Myanmar, particularly due to ongoing restrictions following the 2021 coup. Digital resilience emerged as a crucial response, highlighting the ability to navigate challenges such as communication blackouts and cybersecurity threats. In regions like Rakhine State, the impact of internet disruptions was severe, affecting access to essential resources like food and medicine. Despite these hurdles, the people of Myanmar demonstrated remarkable adaptability, leveraging technology and community-driven solutions to overcome digital blockages. This resilience was underscored by an evolving awareness of digital literacy, which fostered engagement with digital platforms and promoted collective efforts to address pervasive challenges. As Myanmar struggles with digital restrictions, the potential for renewed digital literacy and resilience remains, shaped by the experiences of its citizens during this turbulent period.

Social media platforms, while facilitating communication, business, and activism, expose users to risks such as doxxing, online harassment, and fraud, leading to financial losses



and deteriorating mental health. Many individuals resort to VPNs to navigate these restrictions, reflecting a growing awareness of digital privacy and security although using VPNs have been restricted and criminalized since after 2022. Despite the population's understanding of digital literacy, the ongoing challenges have resulted in delayed digital progress across the country, emphasizing the need for initiatives that enhance online safety and promote community engagement.

Potential Solutions toward resilient digital future

To foster the digital resilience of Myanmar youth during challenging times, stakeholders can utilize technologies like Starlink to enhance internet access while assessing the current ground situation and online environment to identify specific needs with limited resources. Providing targeted training sessions on overcoming digital restrictions and protecting personal security on social media platforms are essential. Additionally, showcasing successful movements can inspire and motivate youth to actively engage and overcome the challenges they face, ultimately empowering them to build a resilient digital future.

To ensure that digital literacy programs are inclusive and accessible to all young people, regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, or geographic location, it is essential to raise awareness about online safety, emphasizing the importance of not sharing location information or personal photos. Programs should begin with a needs assessment to tailor support effectively. Hosting in-person workshops that include practical exercises enhances learning, while online training offers flexibility and accessibility for those with devices. Expanding the reach of these programs nationwide is crucial, along with providing information that encourages adherence to digital values and persuades youth to engage actively with the initiatives.

There were suggestions made where stakeholders are to collaborate for promoting digital literacy and security, focusing on the development of digital skills for the future. They need to emphasize raising awareness and sharing knowledge while fostering cooperation. By creating more opportunities for youth through workshops and training sessions,



stakeholders need to aim for empowering young people to establish their own pathways by using the digital skills and knowledge they gain, ultimately supporting their communities. NGOs and CSOs play a significant role in promoting digital values and they may serve as potential actors for advancing these values by leveraging digital resilience in their ongoing efforts.

Conclusion

The forum underscored the importance of empowering Myanmar youth to actively shape and adapt to the digital future. Through capacity building and collaborative discussions, yIGF Myanmar 2024 created a foundation for ongoing digital resilience efforts in the country. Together, both days of yIGF Myanmar 2024 provided participants with a well-rounded experience, offering both local and global perspectives on digital governance and resilience. The event empowered attendees to think critically about Myanmar's place in the digital world while equipping them with the extended knowledge to advocate for a safer, more inclusive and resilient internet.

Financial Expenses

The overall expenses for the 3rd forum totaled 1,063.66 AUD. This amount encompassed a range of costs, including the production of promotional materials, logistical arrangements, travel expenses for participants or organizers, and other coordination-related expenditures essential for the smooth execution of the event. These costs reflect the necessary investments made to ensure the forum's successful planning and implementation.