Report from IGF 2019 session of the
Dynamic Coalition on Schools of Internet Governance
(DC SIG)

The DC SIG had a very full session. There were 100+ in attendance at the meeting. There was broad representation from different countries, both global north and global south. While a count was not not done, the gender distribution appeared more or less balanced. The session was chaired by a member of the DC SIG secretariat, Avri Doria. The meeting had been organized as a round table discussion amongst those who had organized and taught in the variety of SIGs in existence. As the meeting was held in a classroom setting, the group adapted.

The meeting started with self introductions, which included a brief description of the SIGs that people were involved in, or their general interest in the topic. From the introductions it was possible to identify that at least 18 existing schools were present in the meeting and spoke. There were also at least 3 Schools/IG programs in formation also in attendance. There were a variety of programs described, with some having been long existing, others were scheduled for the near future and some still at the planning stage. Some participants were just curious. One of the very exciting parts of the introductions was that the richness in the variety of approaches became obvious.

After the round of introductions, the agenda included a review of the work done in 2019 as well as a discussion of what needed to be done in 2020 in order to make progress on the theme of the meeting: How do we improve the building capability of schools on internet governance.

We discussed the tools available on the web page and the wiki. The web page is setup to display the schools around the world and give pointers to the locations and their web presence. At the time of the meeting, only 3 schools were located on that map. (As of this writing 8 are displayed, still many more need to be added - all schools are encouraged to pin their school on the map). There are also pages for willing faculty and fellows of the various schools to list themselves - these areas are still rather sparsely filled in. The wiki is dedicated to collecting material that has been offered by the organizers of the schools; material shared in order to help other schools with their planning, curricula, and organization. There was a suggestion that we add video components to the web space that gave descriptions and testimonials about the schools. The web maintainer for the site indicated that this, in fact most anything we decided to add in the context of SIGs, could be added, either in the main web pages or in the wiki.

The 2019 work reviewed included the Taxonomy document as well as the web site and wiki that had been set. Taxonomy is the work of many contributors. It stands at version 0.7, that is, not ready for wider release yet because there are still a few sections yet to be written, though it is a living document that remains open to review and comment. Some of the content areas that still need contribution concern funding strategies, and metrics for school programs that help in

future planning and that will satisfy funders. All members of the DC were, and are, encouraged to add content wherever they find a gap.

The meeting reviewed the goals of the documentation process; to collect the type of work being done in the various schools to create an educational opportunity, to find a common terminology to describe what is being done, and to compare how the various efforts are organized. The document is meant to indicate and describe without evaluating, as no single right answer for all schools on any of the topics has been defined. In addition to building a vocabulary for discussing schools, the meeting focused on the primary intent behind the Taxonomy: to provide tools for those who may want to start or develop their own schools.

One of the discussions on the Taxonomy concerned whether the title of this document was appropriate or whether it should not have been called a Glossary. Though it attempts to define terms, it also tries to go further. The discussion also included the possibility that the document should be divided into two documents, one a Glossary and the other a compendium of good practices and learning from the existing schools. This suggestion will be further discussed in 2020.

The discussion of the Taxonomy also covered the process by which it was developed. The document is open for suggested contributions by anyone who has the url. We then hold meetings, approximately monthly, to discuss the suggested edits and then either accept them into the document or mark them for further discussion.

Finally the meeting explored priorities and activities for the next year. One of the primary activities is to complete the documentation whether as one document or two, collect more information of the various curricula being developed, add a discussion of evaluation, and look into the possibility of producing documentation in a language other than English. One thing that was mentioned: the more ambitious the plans, the more volunteer work will be needed. Everyone is welcome and several participants in the meeting indicated their intention to get involved in the year's work. Hope to see their contributions during the coming year.

Finally there was a request that as many schools, faculty and fellows as were interested, listed themselves on the DC SIG web pages to help it become a rich resource. The website is at igschools.net - anyone interested in adding content to the wiki needs to contact the webmaster for access to their own section of the wiki. Information of schools, faculty and fellows can be added via forms found on the web page.

Semi-regular, approximately monthly, meetings resume in 2020.

Some resources:

Transcript from the meeting   Video of the DC SIG session

DC SIG Web Page   DC SIG Wiki Page   Web/wiki maintainer

Report found at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_tg5E3FwQKTu7-9pNG9SvjArCai8GTDktlv2ayiWHfE/edit?usp=sharing

This review was discussed with members of DC SIG before release.