Youth Coalition on Internet Governance
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IGF Istanbul
Session Summary Report

Co-Moderators and Panelists:
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Yannis Li, Secretariat of APrIGF, Asia Pacific*
David Ng, NetMission.Asia, Asia*
Bonface Witaba, AFRINIC 2014 Fire Award, Africa

Attendees:
Pim Thege, NLIGF, Netherlands
Nathan Biermon, NLIGF, Netherlands*
Thyl Klerkx, NLIGF, Netherlands*
Wilson Lam, NetMission Ambassador, Asia*
Enoch Chung, NetY Ambassador, Asia
Agnes Fong, NetY Ambassador, Asia
Michael Mok, NetY Ambassador, Asia
Sharolina Villalta, Instituto DEMOS Guatemala*
Wilfredo Gonzlez Gaitan, Instituto DEMOS Guatemala*
Thais Steinth, Brazil*
Eli Loeb, United States
Chris Chung, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Anne Collier, Connectsafely.org, United States
Octavia Kumaro, ISOC Gauteng, South Africa
Jonathan Ssembajwe, Rights of Young Foundation Uganda, Africa*
Moses Karanja, Strathmore University, Kenya
Jaroslaw Ponder, ITU
Mae Siriwat, Electronic Transactions Development Agency (Ministry of ICT), Thailand

Remote Participants:
Juha Leinonen, New Media Summer School, Finland
Anya Orlova, Network for EuRopean Digital Youth (NERDY), Europe

Session Format
The session was conducted mainly in a roundtable format with the facilitation of the co-moderators and began with an introduction of YCIG background and sharing of the youth engagement experience by the panelists. This meeting aimed to rejuvenate the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance, bringing new leadership and set up a strategical plan for the next 3 years.

The meeting involved new members working on setting new goals for the coalition and ensuring the transition. It was then followed by a sharing from the attendees on their programs as well as their challenges. Lastly, there was was an open discussion.

Brief Discussion Summary
The YCIG is undergoing a transition and rejuvenation process as the coalition has been started about 5 years ago which most of the initiators and coordinators are no longer youth already. Therefore a new generation of YCIG core members and committees have to emerge as strong actors of the DC. With the aim of re-energizing the group, the discussion of this meeting focussed on the role and future plans of YCIG in the upcoming IGFs.
The session was mainly been divided into 2 parts. The first part attempted to identify a list of barriers for youth involvement on the Internet Governance discussion whereby attendees shared about their work on youth engagement and the difficulties accounted. Then the next part explored how YCIG as a coalition could come into play to mitigate some of the issues as a group and the next action steps of YCIG.

Identifying Barriers for Youth Participation:

- Funding Issues
  The discussion acknowledged the difficulties in looking for funding to youth delegates from various stakeholders

- Lack of Awareness

  The awareness problem on Internet Governance issues have also been brought up where in many countries the term "IG" is indeed still very new to the community let alone the youth. A challenge was highlighted on how to best communicate and explain what Internet Governance is and why youth should care about the topic.

- Structural Gap
  Youth who had participated in the discussion of 2014's WS173 Youth Involvement in Internet Governance, observed that there were indeed not enough channels or way for them to really make an impact on the policy dialogue and they are promoting to have some sort of structural change or related measures by the policy makers to actively engage youth. e.g. to include youth on the MAG of IGF.

- Sustainability
  Participants noted that while first-timers to IGF or related conferences may often find it difficult to fully engage and take time to familiarize themselves with different discussion going on, it is however unfortunate that many of the youth delegates could only go to IGF or similar conferences once due to funding issues. The sustainability issue create certain barrier for them to continue their participation and make their voice heard effectively. Therefore it was noted that a sustainability and continuity planning is very important which allows youth to participate several national/regional/global IGFs.

Proposed Next Steps of YCIG:

- <u>Revamp YCIG website</u>
  To enhance the outreach as well as information sharing of YCIG, It was agreed that the current website does not have up-to-date information and shall be redesigned to make it a platform for information exchanges such as different youth initiatives around the world. It may also develop a session for youth to upload their speaker profiles to allow other workshop organizers to easily identify youth to join their panels.

- <u>A Day 1 Youth get-together</u>
  It was raised that the YCIG session this year scheduled on the last day is a bit too late as some of the youth delegates may have left due to limited budgets. It is proposed that either a formal or informal get-together on Day 1 for all the youth delegates will be helpful which allows them to mingle and build a support network to better coordinate their activities throughout the week. (*Day 0 was also not a good option considering the funding issue)

- <u>Send youth speakers to different panel</u>
  One youth participant shared his experience and stated that trying to get on several panels will enhance the chance of receiving funding support. Also to allow meaningful participation of youth instead of just mere attendees of IGF, it was suggested that we shall try to actively propose youth delegates to different workshop for next year's IGF. To achieve that, the aforementioned profile section on the YCIG website could be the first step.

- <u>Youth Survival Kit in IGF</u>
  Some youth participants suggested that YCIG could gather the experiences of past youth delegates and try to create a youth-friendly version on how to survive and navigate the IGF to help the newbies to warm up before they come.

- <u>Best Practices Forums (BPF) Sharing on Youth Engagement</u>
  Echoing the recent initiatives of Best Practices Forum of IGF, a suggestion of creating a best practices of youth engagement was brought up. This may ultimately provide insights and know-how for those who would like to create similar programs. The participants suggested that the IGF Secretariat ought to start preparing a best practice paper & forum for next year's IGF on how to enable and improve youth participation in Internet governance. The participants had followed two 2014 IGF best practice forums and noted that hey seemed very fruitful and that perhaps were the first real, tangible thing that IGF 2014 produced.

- Form an Advisory Group
  To enhance the support network and knowledge of the YCIG, an advisory group consists of youth engagement practitioners or past YCIG members who are beyond the defined age of youth to continue their engagement and provide advice and support to YCIG when necessary.

Action Items:
- A working group was set up to work on specifically on the transition process from the former coordinator(s). They will review the charter of YCIG. After the review, there shall be a process to elect a new batch of YCIG committees to further work on the future plans of YCIG. The * names on the participants list are those who volunteered to join the working group.
  The working group will also look into the website revamption plan and current communications platform (e.g. mailing lists), and further follow up with the former coordinators at the soonest to ensure up-to-date information be posted on the website as well as sufficient information flow to facilitate the outreach of YCIG.
- Call for more other youth to join the facebook group- https://www.facebook.com/groups/youthcoalitiononinternetgovernance/ or through youthcoalitiononinternetgovernance@groups.facebook.com

as well as the Mailing Lists: http://www.ycig.org/ (Check out the website and on the right you could subscribe to ycig@googlegroups.com)

The above proposed next steps will be further discussed by the new committee of the YCIG.

Reported by: Ms. Yannis Li, Secretariat of APrIGF, Asia Pacific, Mr. Ephraim Percy Kenyanito, Access (accessnow.org), Africa and Mr. David Ng, NetMission.Asia, Asia

Please see an unedited Transcript record of the meeting at:
http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/174-igf-2014/transcripts/2012-2014-09-05-dc3-dynamic-coalition-youth-coalition-on-internet-governance-room-5)

Youtube Video Recording of the 2014 YCIG meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5YM68Ei3pM