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Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022
Singapore
REPORT

Foreword

The Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022 (yIGF) has concluded at the National Library Board in Singapore with a hybrid format on 10th and 11th September 2022, with a well-attended record with 25 onsite participants and 21 remote participants from 13 different countries, and 4 remote participants joining from the Taiwan local hub.

"**Youth@Crossroads: Trusting in a Common Future With No One Left Behind**" is the theme of the yIGF this year. The advancement of technology and global Internet connectivity have accelerated the spread of information, human progress, and innovation across diverse areas. While we are experiencing the benefits of the improvement of the Internet, the pandemic has changed the way we live.

In the past decades, we have been addressing the rapidly changing development of technology and its impacts on us. With an online presence comes the realization that the world we're living in is a data-centric one, how are we going to minimize the impacts and inequality within the marginalized communities across the globe? How are we going to govern digital technology before the issues of the digital divide part our world into two extremes?

Resonating with the overarching theme of the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF), our 2-day program covered a wide range of topics, from algorithm bias to cybercrime, to transformation under the influence of Metaverse, NFT, and other emerging technologies with 21 guest speakers from different backgrounds, ages, and countries. By exploring the possibility to address and tackle the issues of inequality and introducing a more inclusive policy-making and discussion process, we wish to redefine the existing normality, eliminate systematic bias and engender equality with no one left behind.

This year, we managed to co-organize the yIGF along with more than 10 youth NRIs or initiatives from the Asia Pacific region and had a Youth Leaders Dialogue with leaders of different initiatives to explore strategies for the enhancement of youth participation and Asia-Pacific representation at the global level.

With our strategic design of the yIGF program this year, the yIGF organizing committee guaranteed the contribution from the youth community will be reflected in the synthesis document and the discussion in the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) 2022, as well as the youth statements developed by all our youth participants at the yIGF.

Youth – is our future; crossroads – because youth is in transition in education and in their stage of life. This explains why inclusion, trust, and sustainability in Internet governance are critical to our future in the light of digital transformation. We believe collaboration is the first step toward inclusion and meaningful participation. Youth is taking action to get our inputs acknowledged, get our efforts recognized, get our ideas valued, and get our voices heard. We, the youth, are taking this one step, and inviting all of you to make this baby step a big one together.

Jenna Fung

Jenna Manhau Fung
Program Coordinator of Asia Pacific Youth IGF

About the Organizer

NetMission.Asia is a network of passionate youth from Asia dedicated to engaging and empowering youth on Internet governance discourse with the aim to enhance youth mobility and create impact in Asia. Students from top tertiary institutes or universities are recruited every year and will be provided with a series of training workshops. We are endeavoring to empower young minds and to constructively contribute to the local, regional and global Internet governance discourse through organizing the Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum (HKyIGF), international conferences, and community projects.NetMission Ambassadors are actively participating in various international Internet conferences, including ICANN meetings, IGF, APrIGF, Asia PacificInternet Governance Academy (APIGA), and the Asia Pacific Next Generation Camp (APNG Camp).To support and encourage youth participation in Internet governance, the ambassadors have been organizing the yIGF in the Asia-Pacific region, including Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, Delhi, Macao, Taipei, Bangkok, and Port Vila since 2010. The NetY Program (www.nety.asia) was also initiated for further outreach to secondary school students from 2012 to 2014 by partnering with the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. In 2016, it was first marked as HKyIGF (hk.yigf.asia) followed by a 3-day-2-night camp and an Internet Summit with the same approach used in the yIGF model.

Words From Local Hub

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This year, TWNIC supported the addition of a Taiwan Local Hub for yIGF 2022. I was assigned the role of Taiwan Local Hub chair as well as online moderator for remote participants. This was my first Internet Governance-related event, and I believe yIGF was a great platform for encouraging youth participation at the regional level. In my opinion, when participants join international events via local hubs, there is an added sense of security and safety. This is because participants can discuss prompts or better explain their ideas in the local language with other peers. I am very grateful for the opportunities participation in this event offered me, as I was able to challenge myself and gain knowledge. I especially enjoyed learning about the multistakeholder model, and moderating the participant discussions when it came to drafting youth statements. I affirm that the addition of a Taiwan Local Hub, and sponsorship of Taiwan-based participants to the program, indicates the far-reaching impact yIGF has on youth engagement within the Asia Pacific.

Cheng Peng

Cheng Peng, TWSIG

Program Agenda

DAY 1 – 10 SEP (SAT)

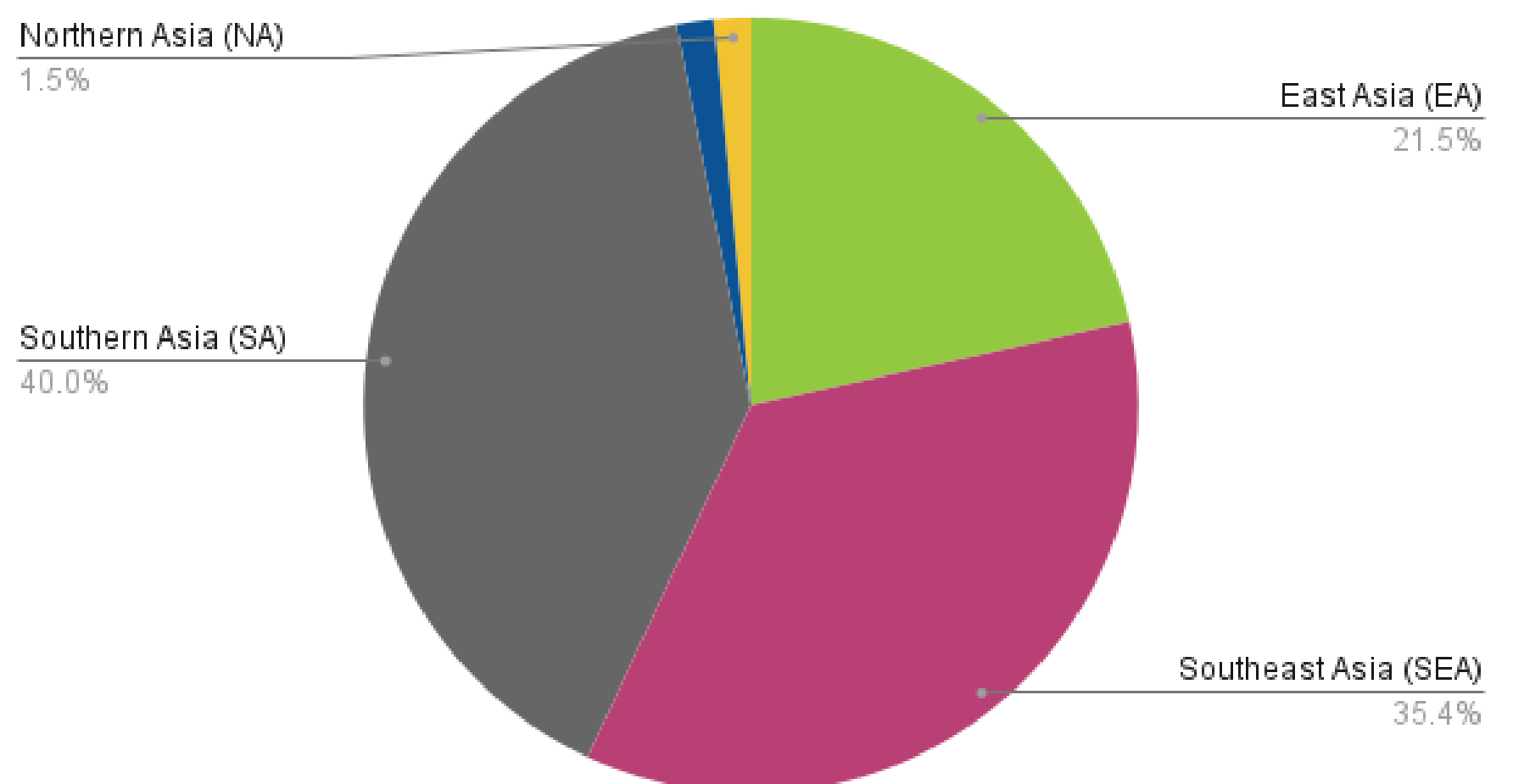|	
01:00-01:20 UTC	Introduction of yIGF 2022
01:20-01:30 UTC	Ice-breaking
01:30-01:45 UTC	Basics of Internet governance & Multi-stakeholder participation
01:45-01:55 UTC	Coffee break
01:55-03:25 UTC	Meetup with industry experts: Internet Governance ABCs: Algorithm Bias - Big Data - Cyber Crime
03:25-03:55 UTC	Workshop: idea wall
03:55-04:05 UTC	Summary - morning session
04:05-05:05 UTC	Lunch break
05:05-05:20 UTC	Meetup with our supporting organizations - DotAsia
05:20-06:50 UTC	Panel discussion: Emerging Technology Virtual Reality: Growing up with Metaverse and NFT
06:50-07:00 UTC	Coffee break
07:15-07:45 UTC	Preparation of youth policy statement
07:45-08:00 UTC	Wrap up

DAY 2 – 11 SEP (SUN)

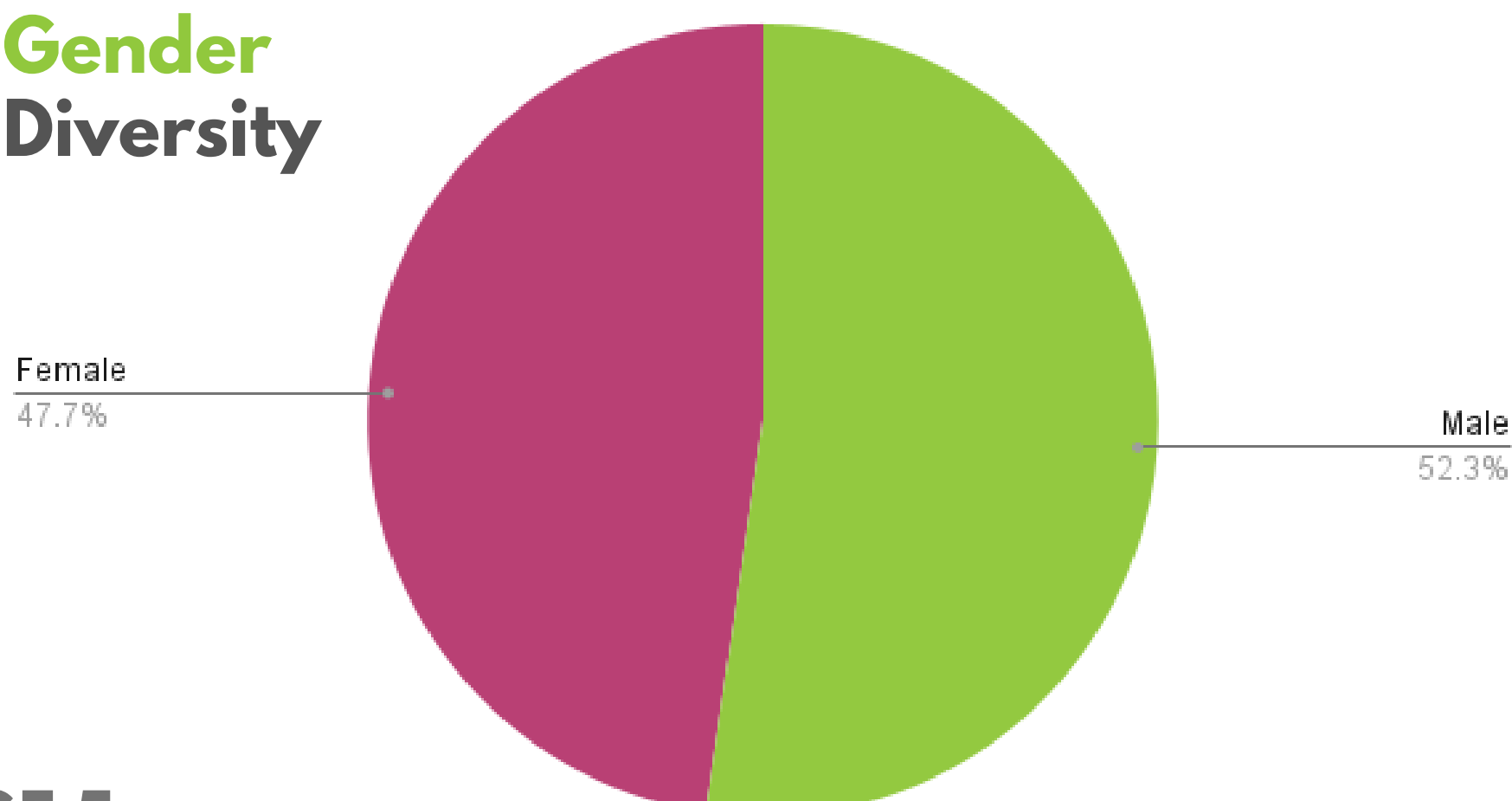|	
01:00-01:10 UTC	Ice-breaking
01:10-01:30 UTC	Introduction of APrIGF 2022 and Synthesis document
01:30-02:50 UTC	APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue
02:50-03:00 UTC	Coffee break
03:00-03:30 UTC	Youth policy statement presentation & program summary
03:30-04:00 UTC	Takeaway & way-forward
04:00-05:00 UTC	Lunch break
05:00-09:30 UTC	APrIGF Day 0

Highlights of yIGF 2022

This year, we have received 159 registrations, where a total of 48 registrants proceeded to continue with the yIGF 2022 program. Attendees of this year, including onsite and online participants, organizers, facilitators, guest speakers, and observers, came from 16 territories in the Asia Pacific, namely Afghanistan (1), Bangladesh (4), Hong Kong (1), India (2), Indonesia (3), Malaysia (3), Myanmar (9), Nepal (10), Pakistan (6), Philippines (6), Russia (1), South Korea (5), Sri Lanka (4), Taiwan (8), Thailand (1), and Vietnam (1).

According to our survey, 21.54% of attendees come from East Asia, 35.4% from Southeast Asia, 40% from Southern Asia, 1.54% from Central Asia, and 1.54% from Northern Asia. There are 34 males, 31 females, and 0 non-binary. Below are the charts that show the geographic diversity and gender diversity of attendees.

Geographic Diversity

Northern Asia (NA)
1.5%

East Asia (EA)
21.5%

Southern Asia (SA)
40.0%

Southeast Asia (SEA)
35.4%

Gender Diversity

Female
47.7%

Male
52.3%

Highlights of yIGF 2022

YOUTH POLICY STATEMENT

Participants formed groups to do their group presentations to bring out their opinions and policy suggestions on the overarching theme of yIGF. The ideas, examples, policies, or solutions suggested were recorded to establish a Youth Policy Statement in the Report of yIGF. The outputs were also referred to as the input for the Synthesis Document of APrIGF.

PRE-EVENT E-LEARNING COURSE

In collaboration with ISOC e-learning, all remote and in-person participants were assigned to participate in an e-learning course about Internet governance in August 2022. Participants had access to course materials and 5 webinars conducted by the ISOC instructors for one hour per session every Thursday in August.

DAILY BRIEFINGS

The 30-minute daily briefings were held for both remote and in-person participants during APrIGF 2022 from the 12th and 14th of September to enhance participants' experience at the conference.

IDEA WALL

As Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum 2022 was held in conjunction with APrIGF 2022, session organizers attempted to familiarize participants with the key themes of APrIGF 2022 – inclusion, trust, and sustainability. The objective of the idea wall session was to get youth participants actively consider their current understanding of Internet Governance issues that fall into these themes, to prepare themselves for upcoming APrIGF 2022 sessions later that week.

Below is the screen capture of the Jamboard used by both onsite and online participants in brainstorming on the theme of APrIGF 2022.

Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022 Singapore

Highlights of yIGF 2022

Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022 Singapore

- Sustainable and Secure Internet
- no one left behind
- Thrive through Connectivity
- Net Neutrality
- Democracy
- Capacity Building
- leave no one behind
- digital skill for older people
- relevant local content in certain minority languages
- More leisure alternatives
- Equal acess
- Affordability
- Divesity
- Language
- gender diversity
- Free from the government's restriction on the internet
- Eductiion
- lessening the digital gender divide
- Digital Divide
- Equal participation
- everyone is represented
- Multi-stakeholder Approach
- Inclusion
- Inclusion Gathering everybody together to go forward.
- awareness
- Ability to use the Internet
- Digital Economy
- equal participation
- Community outreach
- diversity
- Accessibility
- Respect and understanding
- Getting people from varied backgrounds together for availing same opportunities is inclusion. Also, hosting hybrid events like that of yIGF'22 is synonymous to inclusion
- accessibility
- Internet Penetration
- partnership

Asia Pacific Youth IGF 2022 Singapore

- More effective cyber security to protect infrastructure
- Save the bandwidth while using OTT platforms
- Establish local content server (proxy) to lower cross-country transmission
- Deleting unnecessary emails to save up storage and power in the servers
- education for a sustainable digital citizenship
- Interconnection
- Economy
- Lower Energy Consumption
- Continued Engagement
- Accessibility
- urban planning with sustainable smart cities
- THE LAST MILE
- The only way forward, a must for future lifestyle and enabler of our existence!!
- Green Internet
- financial
- Decentralisation
- Responsible stewardship
- environmentalist social cybermovements and the fight against climate change
- policies that link the SDGs with digital citizenship, cybersecurity
- Sustainability
- content moderation
- Stable and resilient internet infrastructure
- p.s. Check out the EcoInternet Index session at APrIGF 2022 if you are interested in this issue! [12Sep (Mon) 3-4pm SGT]
- environmental-conscious internet community
- Sustainability: Consistency
- continuous conversation
- Internet's impact to environment

Meetup with Industry Experts
Internet Governance ABCs

This year, we are honored to have invited Natalie Pang (NUS), Shah Zahidur Rahman and Pavitra Ramanujam (APrIGF MSG members), John Panes (SGV, EY Philippines), and Aris Ignacio (Southville International School and Colleges) to join one of the sessions to "redefine" the Internet Governance ABCs with our next generation.

The pandemic has forced most if not all of us online, and with an online presence comes the realization that the world we're living in is a data-centric one. The shift in lifestyle makes it important to have new foundational skills, and this discussion highlights three elements of our new existence — algorithm bias, big data, and cybercrime.

The existence of bias isn't something limited to the "real world", one might think that systems and algorithms churning out decisions or suggestions for us is a better alternative to error-prone "us". However, machine learning-based systems are trained on lots of data (Heilweil, 2010). Sometimes such biases are profit-driven like the Cambridge Analytica — Facebook scandal (Ma & Gilbert, 2019) where data was improperly harvested from users to build psychological profiles; but the real danger is how hidden personal attributes can be predicted through the data you generate (Walsh, 2019).

Building on that, although society is more aware than ever of the value of 'data' as something produced and consumed by everyone (Andrews, 2021), there is little awareness of how this data can be considered an influencing factor on how fast but not necessarily fairer decisions are made by machines or algorithms.

One might think that with datasets and algorithms, crime can be easily prevented if easily predicted. Such efforts are known as —'predictive policing', but have low accuracy and are easily skewed by "dirty data". Aside from data-related crimes, an interconnected society introduces multiple avenues for criminals to exploit, which makes it even more critical for the average user to be cognizant of cyber threats and information security.

Digital literacy as we know it was confined to search and navigation skills, but the ever-changing nature of the Internet has forced us to confront newer, bigger, and more intangible problems. Thus, this session intends to allow participants and guest speakers to explore a different perspective on what foundational skills are needed for youths to navigate life with a looming digital presence—to govern or be governed.

FORMAT
Introduction (5 mins)
Speaker's sharing (25 mins)
Breakout group discussion (40 mins)
Roundtable discussion (20 minutes)

SPEAKERS
Natalie Pang, National University of Singapore
Shah Zahidur Rahman, APrIGF 2022 MSG member
Aris Ignacio, Dean, College of Information Technology, Southville International School and Colleges
Pavitra Ramanujam, APrIGF 2022 MSG member
John Panes, Cybersecurity Director, Security Operations Center Manager of SGV/ EY Philippines

POLICY QUESTIONS
- How important is cyber crime awareness for youths?
- How do we differentiate between digital literacy and digital citizenship (digital literacy?
- What are the impacts of algorithm bias on everyday life and why is awareness important?
- What is the youth's role in building digital citizenship?
- How do we cultivate the digital citizenship competencies of our next generation by building a new understanding of IG ABCs? Or is there a better way?

Meetup with Industry Experts
Internet Governance ABCs
Summary

Entitled "Internet Governance ABCs", this year's session for meetup with industry experts aimed to expand the existing discourse on key topics of algorithm bias, big data, and cybercrime. Moderated by yIGF 2022 organizing committee member Stella Teoh, speakers were invited to talk on specific themes as well as give their overall opinions on digital citizenship, particularly in the youth context. This yIGF session aimed to redefine what basic knowledge of Internet Governance might need to cover for future generations, with ample opportunity for participants to ask questions and discuss among themselves.

APrIGF MSG member Pavitra Ramanujam kickstarted the discussion by addressing algorithmic bias and big data from a human rights-based or people-centric approach. Universal, inherent, and protected by International Law; human rights should be protected online just as they are offline, she states. Ramanujam believes such perspectives are invaluable because algorithms and big data have widespread effects on the lives of general end users. She also outlines what algorithmic bias is and how far-reaching algorithm-based decisions are (e.g. control over decisions in health, finance, and social life). She stated that technology is neutral but what is fed into the technology can cause it to have bias. For the issue of big data, she encouraged participants to think of whom the data belongs to, what it is used for, and whether such data is protected or not.

Dr. Natalie Pang from the National University of Singapore begins by reaffirming that digital citizenship goes beyond mere digital literacy, and focuses on empowerment, agency, and associated identity. Algorithms drive applications and this often goes on unbeknownst to citizens. Pang offers a new addition to how algorithms are actually heavily reliant on training and highlights the issue of training data being either over-representative or under-representative as a potential cause of biases. She also advises that discussions should cover the topic of considering what the collected data might be used for. Her final point covers platform capitalism, as well as a call to the audience to evaluate potential solutions with collaboration with platforms in mind.

The next speaker was Shah Zahidur Rahman, another APrIGF MSG member who mentions how it is important to be careful when securing the training data. He explains that algorithm-based decisions can be better trusted with more robust data. He points out that digital ecosystems may vary by country, and factors that need to be considered include digital infrastructure and national policies for a better governance process.

Moving the discussion onto the C of "Internet Governance ABCs", John Panes, Cybersecurity Director, from EY Philippines starts by defining Cybercrime as a criminal or malicious deed done by an individual or organization via digital devices. He elaborates that cybercrime has become more prolific with time and that most known cybercrimes are targeted attacks. He adds that youth are often unaware they are already targets of hacking and this is an issue that probably occurs daily. He attributes this to the lowered awareness of the concept of cybersecurity and its basic practices. He concludes that security is often best when it is shared and should be more present in discussions surrounding the digital sphere.

Our final speaker was Aris Ignacio, Dean of the College of Information Technology. Coming from the perspective of an educator, he revisits the key foundational principles to crafting policies—education and awareness. He believes that introducing digital citizenship at a young age is best, not only because they are future leaders but also because algorithms are being used to target unsuspecting individuals. He points out that the youth of this generation are at ease in the digital sphere but they also need protection. With the transition online forced by COVID-19 across more levels of society, some individuals are coming online for the first time and thus are also vulnerable to online threats.

Digital literacy is the basis for digital citizenship, with youths seeking to navigate a future where their present decisions will ultimately decide if they are to govern or be governed.

Meetup with Industry Experts
Internet Governance ABCs
Youth Statement

The youth statement was developed by our participants during the breakout group discussion session with guest speakers. Each group is assigned the role of one stakeholder group, including civil society, the private sector, the government, and the technical community. The proposed youth statement is shown below:

CIVIL SOCIETY
Civil Societies with all different backgrounds provide context for people to recognize what counts as a crime. Digital literacy is the soil for digital citizenship, and youth is the bridge for digital literacy to be attained in societies. Cultivating the digital citizenship competencies of our next generation requires proactively reactive participation and awareness of IG ABCs encouraged by solutions built on security, trust, accessibility, transparency, and inclusiveness.

TECHNICAL COMMUNITY
Balanced datasets are required to make unbiased decisions, while clear cyber security laws are necessary for protection from harmful agents. There is a need for technical communities to develop and flexibly apply universal cyber security laws through the help of the government, and digital citizenship should be well established through the help of all the stakeholders.

GOVERNMENT
Capacity building that leads to digital citizenship will help protect the youth from cybercrime. By working together with the public, the government can build a more inclusive, safe, and habitable cyberspace where no one is left behind through capacity building and balanced government involvement.

PRIVATE SECTOR
Cultivating the digital citizenship competencies of our next generation requires initiatives built on security, trust, accessibility, transparency, and inclusiveness. The private sector can organize events to create avenues for learning, and further opportunities while embracing the change.

Emerging Technology Virtual Reality: Growing up with Metaverse and NFT

On Day 1 of yIGF 2022, we have invited Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe (General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University), Wan Hafiz Irshad (Co-founder of Hackstitute), Fernanda Galera Soler (Faculty of Law of the Universidade de São Paulo), and Dr. Hafizul Fahri HANAFI Ph.D. (Sultan Idris Education University) as panelists at the session about growing up with the influence of Metaverse and NFT.

Internet-related technologies have drastically altered the speed, scale, and scope of human communication, affecting how people work, play, shop, meet new people and learn about others. The "norm" that the GenZ or Zoomers (generation born in 1997-2012) experienced as children, according to Roberta Kratz, was a fast-paced, large-scale world. They developed early capabilities with powerful digital tools that allowed them to be self-sufficient and collaborative. (De Witte, 2022) Generation Z, as the world's largest generation, is positioned to advance our culture in every way: economically, socially, and technologically.

According to Deloitte's study "Digital Media Trends 2022", 87% of Gen Z and 71% of millennials consider themselves gamers. As a natural outcome, gamers of these generations are more likely to explore the Metaverse. Having lived online since birth and through COVID-19 during their youth, the Metaverse holds the allure of community that Gen Z strongly craves (Pastore, 2021) subsequently making their digital identity as important as their offline one. With the COVID-19 pandemic severely limiting consumers' ability to spend disposable income on travel, dining out, and other in-person experiences over the past year, some people have turned to other hobbies to fill the void (Silverman, 2021).

NFTs play a big part in the Metaverse, because of the utilization of digital assets in this virtual space for the Avatar and virtual property, etc. NFTs are non-fungible tokens that are more or less unique, can't be replaced with something else, and have unique identifying codes. NFTs are generally encoded with the same underlying software as many cryptos. Still, instead, it is a digital asset that represents art, music, and in-game items that are bought and sold online frequently with cryptocurrency.

Big firms are investing in digital real estate because they see it as an opportunity to pre-purchase advertising space. NFTs also afford artists and content creators a unique opportunity to buy and monetize their wares. Artists no longer have to rely on galleries and auction houses to sell their art. Instead, they can sell it directly to a consumer as an NFT thus keeping more profits.

Though such technologies are not a foreign or futuristic concept to them, the Metaverse and crypto technology influence how the modern generation thinks, acts, socializes, and spends money every day through virtual events, augmented reality, video gaming, and other immersive experiences. As impressive as it sounds, it will usher in new problems.

With the increased use of digital assets to traverse the virtual world, the protection of avatars will be a necessity. Earning income in the Metaverse also means changing one's view towards the concept of intellectual property, not to mention any processes of knowledge-building or sharing that would be influenced by an individual's Metaverse activities. Ultimately, the long hours spent in the Metaverse will grow to have a lasting impact on one's self-identity. However, the shaping and molding go both ways, the Metaverse onto the individual, and the individual onto the Metaverse.

FORMAT

Introduction (5 mins)
Panel discussion (30 mins)
Q&A (10 mins)
Breakout group discussion (20 mins)
Roundtable discussion (20 mins)
Closing remarks (5 mins)

SPEAKERS

Wan Hafiz Irshad, Co-founder of Hackstitute
Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe, Faculty of Computing, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University
Fernanda Galera Soler, Faculty of Law of the Universidade de São Paulo (FDUSP); FGVLaw
Dr. Hafizul Fahri HANAFI Ph.D., Senior Lecturer, Sultan Idris Education University (UPSI)

POLICY QUESTIONS

- How does NFT shape youth perspectives on intellectual property, such as art and culture?
- How will Metaverse affect the youth's perception of self-identity? For example, body image concerns, LGBTQ+.
- What form of policies should be implemented to protect the users in the virtual world? What effect will these policies possibly have after being implemented?
- How will the virtual world have an impact on the minds of the users?
- How important is digital citizenship for youths in an online environment?

Emerging Technology Virtual Reality: Growing up with Metaverse and NFT Summary

The panel discussion this year, which was titled "Emerging Technology Virtual Reality: Growing up with Metaverse and NFTs," fostered a lively discussion between the speakers and the young participants. This session was moderated by Bea Guevarra, a member of the yIGF organizing committee. yIGF initiated discussions about how the metaverse affects youth perceptions of self-identity, and intellectual property, as well as ideas for what types of policies should be developed to protect users in the online world. The panel of experts made statements that piqued the attendees' interest and engaged them in important discussions.

Wan Hafiz Irshad, Co-founder of Hackstitute, shared his thoughts on the starting point of the metaverse, NFTs, which he claims has been commonly misunderstood by society. He states that the development of all emerging technologies is inextricably linked - if one was not made, the rest would not have been made either. He thoroughly explains the relationship between blockchain and NFTs, which has resulted in a slew of new innovations on the horizon. He also discusses where the value of these trends comes from and shares that crypto banks have historical value, whereas NFTs' value comes from the community itself. Irshad encourages the youth to take their time learning about new technologies, experimenting with new innovations, and discovering something new.

Dr. Hafizul Fahri Hanafi also discusses NFTs and compares how everything in the real world is created in the virtual space. Hanafi emphasized how Metaverse is a digital universe that can truly inspire the next generation of artists. Simple hobbies such as painting/drawing can transform great meaning into one's life, by putting much more effort into selling and even improving skills such as marketing. He claims that these works of art (NFTs) can aid in the settlement of copyright issues in the digital space, as well as implementing NFTs in the metaverse to prove identity and authenticity in blockchain, and to build infrastructure for user-generated content (UGC).

Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe expresses concerns about data privacy when developing an NFT marketplace, as well as user addiction to such emerging technologies. People are becoming increasingly disconnected from the real world, which can lead to humanistic issues. She contends that in order to avoid becoming overly dependent on these new technologies, young people should be self-aware and possess self-control. Wedasinghe concludes by educating the youth about user safety when using platforms like the metaverse, such as using complex passwords or enabling two-factor authentication using a secure internet connection.

Fernanda Galera Soler, our final speaker, discusses Intellectual Property in the Metaverse. Trademarks and copyright can cause huge problems in the metaverse because they are more complicated than in the real world. Even though there is an international standard, how can this right be enforced globally if most users are unaware? She delves into the metaverse's use of avatars, with people's appearances, using a trademark, and copying someone's appearance. How can youth develop their own personalities and ideas, especially when they are influenced and inspired by others, and how can they share the same image? Many new creations will be made in the metaverse, but how can conflicts such as who owns this particular NFT be resolved? Who becomes the rightful owner if a user creates something in the metaverse and another user transforms it into an NFT without the owner's permission? Soler believes that people should be more aware of intellectual property rights. According to her, "NFTs are the new stickers." Having an NFT or the original will not deter others from using it. She ends her sharing by stating that the idea is to harmonize the internet with intellectual property, what we know, who we are, and what we want on the internet.

Panel Discussion
Emerging Technology Virtual Reality: Growing up with Metaverse and NFT Youth Statement

The youth statement was developed by our participants during the 20-minute breakout group discussion session. Each group is assigned the role of one stakeholder group, including civil society, the private sector, the government, and the technical community. The proposed youth statement is shown below:

CIVIL SOCIETY

Due to the pandemic, the importance of digital literacy has grown, and it should continue to do so in order to promote digital citizenship. Youth is the link that allows people from all different socioeconomic backgrounds to achieve digital literacy. Digital citizenship is cultivated by beginning with education, educating students about it, and even collaborating with institutions supported by the government. Digital literacy is the soil for digital citizenship especially as new technologies emerge.

TECHNICAL COMMUNITY

NFT has a big impact on intellectual property, it values people's ideas and works. So as a technical community, it is very important to maintain a high protection system that prevents the possibility of hacking and claiming people's works. From the perspective of our technical community, it is very positive that people admire and feel attracted to the Metaverse world. In particular, youth will be able to express what they want and feel stable in a new environment.

The technical community is aware that users can feel deprived of reality in the virtual world. In addition, breaches of personal information problems are more likely to occur in the virtual world. All multi-stakeholders need to think about ways to alert people to addiction and strengthen personal information policies for the virtual world. Digital citizenship and enhancing personal data policies are very important in the Metaverse to control how people behave in that platform and to give a sense of safety to people to use the Metaverse as a positive platform.

GOVERNMENT

Youth are the most vulnerable in terms of cybercrime seeing as they spend a lot of time on social media. To address this vulnerability, the government should collaborate with all stakeholders to develop capacity-building programs. Having government-partnered programs can help to make a bigger impact on the spread of digital citizenship. Internet governance is a multi-field and multidimensional issue and it requires every stakeholder's participation, especially young people. To make the internet a more inclusive, safer, and habitable environment, no one should be left behind.

Digital literacy is the first step to embracing digital citizenship, utilizing past data and experience to incorporate future policy execution and Internet governance measures is essential for the governance of the Internet of the future. In addition to having something resembling a feedback model that can be used to address issues and difficulties in the digital sphere.

PRIVATE SECTOR

The forthcoming future of a decentralized web and virtual domain of the metaverse should maintain a shared responsibility with the youth in keeping the platform cognizant, sustainable and secure while maintaining its integrity.

Youth are coming into their identities both in real life and in the metaverse, using experiences across both worlds to build confidence and hone their self-expression. Gen Z gamers view the metaverse as a safe place to freely express themselves, experiment with identities, establish friendships, and ultimately create a world they want to live in.

There should be a citizenship relationship between the private sector and users. Private sectors should make more effort to bring awareness about the Metaverse, NFT, and virtual world.

APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue

Youth leaders and representatives of different youth initiatives or Youth Internet Governance Forum (YIGF) from the Asia Pacific region will be gathered. It aims to facilitate a consistent conversation among the youth community in the region and keep the younger generation in the community informed about the Internet governance discourse that is going on in the region.

This year, we invited speakers from different initiatives, including Grace Huang and Cheng Peng (TWSIG), Jae-Won Son and Jae-Young Lee (VOY@IG), Phyo Thiri Lwin and Zin Myo Htet (yIGF Myanmar), Astari Yanuartii and Bhredipta Socarana (Indonesian yIGF), and Ananda Gautam (Youth IGF Nepal), to kick-start the discussion by sharing their experiences as a youth in leadership in the Internet governance community.

Youth are at the center of transformative change and are the most active and prominent users of the Internet when compared with other age groups. Hence, this dialogue addresses how we might empower and strengthen the youth's participation in the Asia Pacific Internet Governance scene and youth representation from the Asia Pacific in the global Internet governance scene.

To encourage participation and inclusion through collaboration among youth NRIs and initiatives, yIGF initiates this collaborative session organized by 10+ youth organizations. This dialogue aims to provide a platform on a regular basis for the youth of our region to stay informed about each other's work and plan strategically for our future participation in the regional and global Internet governance forum.

Additionally, we would like this to be a stepping stone for the youth of the Asian Pacific region to join the Internet governance forum 2023 held in Japan.

The Youth Leaders Dialogue is an annual meeting at Asia Pacific Youth IGF co-organized by youth initiatives and/or youth NRIs in the Asia Pacific region. One of the main aims of this initiative to for the youth leaders to stay informed about each other's work. This enables the youth leaders to plan strategically together to empower youth participation in regional and global Internet governance policy-making processes. Another objective of this meeting is to increase the Asia Pacific representation at the global Internet Governance Forum level through close collaborations and creative discussions.

FORMAT
Intro of the session (5 mins)
Panel: The Internet governance scene in the Asia Pacific (30 mins)
Q&A for the panel (10 mins)
Open Floor (40 mins)
Wrap up (5 mins)

SPEAKERS
Grace Huang & Cheng Peng, The Taiwan School on Internet Governance (TWSIG)
Jaewon Son & Jae-Young Lee, VOY@IG, South Korea
Phyo Thiri Lwin & Zin Myo Htet, yIGF Myanmar
Ananda Gautam, Youth IGF Nepal
Astari Yanuarti & Bhredipta Socarana, yIGF Indonesia

POLICY QUESTIONS
- How important is cyber crime awareness for youths?
- How do we differentiate between digital literacy and digital citizenship (digital literacy?
- What are the impacts of algorithm bias on everyday life and why is awareness important?
- What is the youth's role in building digital citizenship?
- How do we cultivate the digital citizenship competencies of our next generation by building a new understanding of IG ABCs? Or is there a better way?

APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue
Summary

"Youth at the Centre: Empowering & Strengthening Youth Representation from the Asia Pacific" was the title for this year's Asia Pacific Youth Leaders Dialogue. Luke Teoh Rong Guang and Jenna Fung moderated this session, they are both members of the yIGF organizing committee. The keynote speakers included

The dialogue started off with the youth leaders discussing the challenges that youth face in their respective communities as well as sharing their thoughts on how to encourage sustainable youth participation in the region. After that, there was a Q&A session for the onsite and online participants.

Ananda Gautam expressed how important it is for all digital citizens to be aware of what rights they have online. He further added that knowing the dos and don'ts of the internet will help digital citizens to overcome many of the problems that they face online. He also stated that the synthesis document would be a great opportunity for the youth to make their voices heard on a larger platform.

Grace Huang shared that the main challenge for youth in her region is a cultural challenge, more specifically certain cultures infantilize the ideas and voices of the youth. Furthermore, she discussed how most people today are frequently distracted by social media and people are rarely engaging in deep conversations that lead to problem-solving. Cheng Peng adds that using social media is a great tool for encouraging the youth of Taiwan to be actively engaged in internet governance initiatives. He says that a sense of belonging is key to making youth feel at ease when sharing their ideas with no fear of being deemed as immature.

Jaewon Son expresses her troubles when first joining the internet governance scene in South Korea, not only was she the youngest but there were also very few women in the field. Jae-Young Lee shares that the concept of internet governance is not well-known among South Korean youths. Moreover, he said that there are very few internet governance initiatives.

Bhredipta Socarana discusses how the youth are actually helping many other generations in this digital transformation. In the context of the pandemic, he says that everyone was pushed to adapt and adopt technology more and it was the youth who played a major role in helping the elder generation to become more suited to the internet. Socarana posited that internet governance is not only for those who are interested in policy-making, but it is also much more interdisciplinary and anyone who uses the internet should play a role in internet governance.

Astari Yanuarti stated that yIGF Indonesia has had four main initiatives since its start in 2018, namely collaboration, engagement, survey, and advocacy. Through these initiatives, they have been able to reach the youth of Indonesia and encourage them to join internet governance activities to share their thoughts and ideas. There are more than 100 languages In Indonesia, thus Yanuarti says that they usually adapt by using the local language and are able to engage with the youth more easily and effectively.

Zin Myo Htet shares that the main problem faced by yIGF Myanmar is the lack of human resources. Phyo Thiri Lwin adds that the political instability and safety issues hinder their collaboration with other NRIs who are available for collaboration. Moreover, they also face financial problems, especially for new initiatives and internet service, which greatly impacts their ability to encourage the youth to participate in internet governance initiatives in their local community. Internet accessibility is also a great obstacle as many youths live in areas with no internet coverage thus they could not attend their youth forums and activities.

During the Q&A, Luke Teoh Rong Guang asked whether it is easy to accurately translate internet governance concepts into local languages. Jaewon Son adds that sometimes the translated text is even more complex and harder to understand compared to the original text. Jenna Fung adds that translation of internet governance terms and concepts into local languages would greatly help the youth in the Asia Pacific region as not everyone speaks English.

Bibek Silwal asked the keynote speakers about how to ensure inclusivity in youth initiatives. Phyo Thiri Lwin shares that joining the right stakeholder groups that align with your personal mission and interest is a great strategy to ensure many young people are able to find their place and have a sense of belonging in the internet governance community. Jaewon Son adds that having role models from various backgrounds in internet governance can encourage more youth to join the community as it would motivate them and show them there is always room for diversity and inclusivity in internet governance.

Wei-Ting Hung, one of the yIGF participants asked for any sustainable or innovative ways to continue translating internet governance content into local languages. Phyo Thiri Lwin adds that by hiring a professional translator yIGF Myanmar can ensure effective and accurate translation of the content. Jenna Fung adds that language proficiency seems to be a major factor in determining whether youth are able to consume and understand internet governance content.

yIGF engagement at APrIGF 2022

Hosting IGF youth engagement workshops on Day 0 of APrIGF

This year, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2022 has introduced a series of youth engagement tracks to create opportunities for youth to network with senior stakeholders and experts in Internet governance. As a follow-up to the first two workshops organized at EuroDIG and African IGF earlier this year, the Asia Pacific Youth IGF has taken up the lead to host the third capacity development workshop on the topic of Transforming Future for Youth: opportunities and challenges.

The session was held on the Day 0 of the APrIGF 2022, which opens the door for everyone in the Asia Pacific, regardless of their seniority, to discuss opportunities and challenges the youth faces now and in a near future with the global youth community onsite and online. It specifically focused on the role new and emerging tech such as AI has and could have on education and job markets.

The workshop was moderated by Jenna Fung (program coordinator of the Asia Pacific yIGF), with a high-level overview of the topic delivered by Anja Gengo (IGF Secretariat) and Dr. Emmanuel Ogu. A shared document was shared with all attendees to directly input their comments about the topic and discussion happening during the session. The floor was also opened for both onsite and online participants for further discussion.

The session was eventually concluded by a summary delivered by the rapporteur, Mauricia Abdol Tshilunda, and a remark by the host of the fourth youth engagement track workshop – Youth LACIGF organizer, Nicolas Fiumarelli.

For more details about the workshop, please go to https://nma.asia/youth-track.

yIGF 2022 Organizing Committee sharing @ APrIGF 2022

In order to directly address the youth attendees of APrIGF 2022, our Ambassadors Bea Guevarra and Luke Teoh were given the opportunity to share a way forward and future opportunities in the Internet Governance Community on Day 0 of this year's APrIGF. They both highlighted the numerous initiatives, fellowships, programs, organizations, and future events that the youth can get involved in after APrIGF to become more than just youth participants but also to become global youth experts. They discussed a number of organizations, including APNIC, ICANN, IGF, ISOC, IETF, and many others. Guevarra and Teoh state that even though each initiative has its own primary focus, they are all interconnected, much like the Internet. A few fellowships were also suggested to further involve the youth in where they can learn more about Internet Governance, including the IGF Youth Ambassador Program, NextGen@ICANN, APNIC Fellowship, NetMission Academy, APIGA Fellowship, and additional online resources. As well as funding from IGFSA and APASA was shared with the youth participants if they had any plans to start their own initiatives in their local communities.

With the countless initiatives stated, our ambassadors also mention the fruitful discussions they had with fellow APAC youth leaders at yIGF 2022, emphasizing the importance of translating Internet Governance concepts into local languages in their regions. Despite language differences, the youth intend to make the change in the upcoming year for a more inclusive community in which no one is left behind. The youth were duly recognized at this year's APrIGF by professionals and experts for their ongoing efforts and unwavering involvement in Internet Governance.

yIGF engagement at APrIGF 2022

Contribution to Synthesis document and town hall session

One of the unique features of APrIGF is the publication of the Synthesis Document. With the aim of encouraging participation, the Drafting Committee oversees the process of crafting the document which includes documenting participant-sourced input as well as contributions from the public via a specific platform.

This year, yIGF 2022 Organizing Committee member Stella Teoh joined the Drafting Committee (DC) and was the first NetMission Ambassador to co-chair Town Hall sessions. Her responsibilities included moderating Town Hall sessions which were held during the APrIGF as the final session on each day, with the hopes of collecting the thoughts and takeaways from attendees. Her inclusion in the DC, along with other yIGF and APrIGF fellows points to increased youth representation and paves the way for youth opinions to be communicated and reflected in the Synthesis Document. Other yIGF participants, along with the rest of the organizing committee Bea Guevara and Luke Teoh also took the initiative to share the output from yIGF 2022's discussions —specifically the youth statements. Ultimately, this year's yIGF sees a big step forward in strengthening the role of youth in the IG ecosystem, beginning with more concrete contributions to the Asia Pacific regional discussion.

Quick meetup with APrIGF Sec: Learning more about joining MSG

During the last day of APrIGF, the youth participants took the initiative to meet up with the APrIGF Secretariat to learn more about joining the Multistakeholder Steering Group (MSG). The youth expressed their passion and intent to contribute to APrIGF and the APAC community. Jennifer Chung, the APrIGF Secretariat shared the functions of the Multistakeholder Steering Group, and how the MSG supports and ensures the proper conduct of the organizational work of the APrIGF by facilitating and encouraging dialogue among all stakeholders involved.

The participants were interested to learn more about the Working Groups (WGs) of APrIGF. Chung explained that working groups consist of volunteers who will address specific operational matters as a team. The Working Groups also have specific tasks and responsibilities as well as a set of guidelines and expectations to which members must adhere to. In order to engage or take part in these initiatives Jennifer recommends the youth stay up to date by signing up for the mailing list so that they can receive the latest information and catch up with the work the MSG is working on right now.

This session was able to provide the youth with relevant information for them to foster their interest in their internet governance journey. This meetup also aids in building a sustainable engagement with the youth in the internet governance community so that they can increase their representation on a larger scale.

Call for action from the yIGF 2022 Organizing committee

Our next generation is one of the keys to the sustainability of Internet governance. However, due to a lack of support on various levels and aspects, youth engagement and capacity building for newcomers become very challenging. As a group of young individuals in leadership, we always seek improvement within our capacity, but we cannot do this on our own. The "youth work" cannot be done without the involvement of other stakeholders. Therefore, we would like to propose the following for the future planning of youth engagement initiatives like yIGF.

Financial and Operational Support from Organizations

Financial support like funding and sponsorships to the event enables the execution of planned activities and a more diverse group of fellows. However, money does not directly translate to outcomes and outputs. Since most leaders engaged in the youth community as volunteers only, the time they could dedicate fluctuates sometimes. A lack of leadership and varying commitment from members, pose challenges to organizing a youth event that is up to the standard of a professionally coordinated forum. This creates an illusion of youth being inexperienced.

It may be difficult for some organizations to fund a youth capacity-building event that does not create many direct returns on their investment. However, there are many aspects for the private sector or non-profit organizations to contribute in support of the youth community. For instance, supports on technical set-up and granting access to virtual rooms for the youth event period; assistance with printings of materials and offering of supplies; and giveaway of company's swag items, etc. Big changes start with small steps, we believe different levels and aspects of support from organizations will definitely enhance the experience of youth participation.

Support on Outreach

Other than financial and operational support, there is a key factor that may determine the success of a youth event – support on outreach. This includes outreach to potential participants, especially when the Asia Pacific yIGF is rotating from city to city based on the hosting location of APrIGF, the organizing committee always finds it difficult to reach local participants without support from our community members. It is our pleasure to have such a supportive community of members from the APrIGF MSG, otherwise, we would not be able to partner with the National Library Board of Singapore for our venue, and managed to invite so many guest speakers from different backgrounds.

Inclusion & Diversity

Factors identified in the previous section may hinder the organization of events, but inclusion and diversity are critical elements that must not be overlooked nowadays, no matter how limited the resources a youth initiative has. Given the majority of youth may not have the chance to participate in an event physically, a hybrid event must be guaranteed in foreseeable years. Transcription service, live streaming, and access to resources like recordings and archived materials become essential now and in the future.

Inclusion is always an ongoing process and aspects all stakeholders must work on together. Organizers must ensure the event can be joined remotely, and that the program is planned to be inclusive for all participants, including onsite and online participants with disabilities. Sign-language interpretations were available for workshops at the main conference – APrIGF this year, perhaps it is time to include such an inclusive element and expand the scope of inclusiveness to our newcomers too.

Support Your Local Youth Delegates & Community

Another lesson learned from yIGF 2022 is that support for the yIGF is good, but support for your local yIGF and youth community is even better. This year, some of our co-organizers and organizations from the Asia Pacific region, like TWNIC, NII, and KISA are sending their delegates to the Asia Pacific yIGF and the APrIGF by providing full support on their flights and accommodation. This ensures that yIGF is an open and inclusive platform for newcomers from all over the Asia Pacific without channeling the opportunity for a particular group of audience through a centralized selection process only. We believe a decentralized fellowship model will be an approach for the Asia Pacific yIGF in the next few years, and we look forward to more initiatives from more organizations, especially the private sector, in contributing to the future of youth engagement.

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our yIGF organizing committee – Jenna Fung (program coordinator), Luke Teoh, Stella Teoh, Bea Guevarra, Lam Nha Truc, Tien Nguyen Dao, Sourojit Dutta; our online facilitators – Moh. Fahim Mayar (Afghanistan), Lam Nha Truc (Vietnam), Astari Yanuarti (Indonesia), Allen P Alex(India), and our youth moderator from the Taiwan local hub – Cheng Peng (TWNIC). As well as all our supporting organizations, DotAsia Organisation, APNIC Foundation, Internet Society Foundation, TWNIC(Taiwan), and KISA (South Korea) for supporting the events, introducing and bringing youth representatives from their home country to the Asia Pacific yIGF, and making our meeting such a productive one.