APrIGF 2015 Macao Synthesis Document – FINAL
(Last updated on 18 Aug 2015)

Background

The APrIGF Synthesis Document was first raised and discussed at the APrIGF New Delhi 2014 Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) meetings, and further refined over the course of MSG deliberations throughout the year. The Synthesis Document aims to identify items of common interest and relevance to Internet governance within the Asia Pacific region. The MSG decided to implement this experimental approach for the first time for the APrIGF Macao 2015, to grow and develop with input from the Asia Pacific Internet community into a more comprehensive and in-depth document in the future.

The first draft of this document, which was circulated on the APrIGF MSG mailing list and posted publicly to solicit comment, was based on the submitted and accepted workshop proposals for the APrIGF containing the placeholders for topics to be discussed at the APrIGF event. Through a series of "Synthesis Document Discussion" sessions at APrIGF Macao 2015, there emerged a rough consensus among the APrIGF participants to move forward with the Synthesis Document, with an extended comment period to further request a wider input on this open document. A volunteer Drafting Team was formed on 2 July to steer document development, and an initial meeting laid groundwork for the document structure and timeline for public input.

THIS APRIGF 2015 MACAO SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED FROM COMMENTS RECEIVED AT THE APRIGF EVENT BOTH ONSITE AND REMOTE, AS WELL AS COMMENTS RECEIVED BY JULY 8, 2015 FROM THE ONLINE COMMENTING TOOL. FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC INPUT ONLINE UNTIL AUGUST 4, 2015 AND IS FINALIZED BY THE DRAFTING TEAM ON AUGUST 14, 2015.

Purpose

The Synthesis Document aims to document the input from participants at the APrIGF (as well as the broader APrIGF community through remote participation and dissemination at the mailing list) and is not intended to be representative of the diverse Asia Pacific region. Nevertheless, it is anticipated by APrIGF MSG that the development of this Synthesis Document can help drive active participation in the movement, as well as to allow for a platform to voices, views and thoughts in the Asia Pacific region as contribution to relevant global, national, local and international forums on Internet governance[1].

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[1] IGF 2014 Chair's Summary: Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance, Section 1.1 (http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/igf-2014-istanbul/308-igf-2014-chairs-summary-final/file) underlines the spirit with which this document is being undertaken.

1.   Introduction

The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) serves as a platform for discussion, exchange and collaboration at a regional level, and also wherever possible tries to aggregate national and local Internet Governance Forum (IGF) discussions, ultimately advance the Internet governance development in the Asia Pacific region.

"Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development" was the main theme of the sixth APrIGF held in Macao. With 34 sessions spanning 9 sub-themes on Cyber Security and Trust; Internet Economy; Enhancing multi-stakeholder cooperation; Internet and Human Rights; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Critical Internet Resources; Openness; Emerging Issues; and the IANA Transition, there was robust discussion and comprehensive engagement of participants coming from 20+ countries and territories in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

The issues highlighted in this document summarize the collaborative efforts of the bottom-up multi-stakeholder community process intended to serve as the Asia Pacific regional contributions towards the international Internet Governance discourse, including the IGF, as well as towards local and national Internet governance deliberations in the Asia Pacific region.

2.   Key Issues in the Asia Pacific region and suggestions for ways forward

The majority of the next billion people coming online will be from the Asia Pacific region, and critical priorities need to be addressed from local to national to region-wide levels. Given the wide spectrum of social, economic, political and geographic diversity in the region, comparative analysis of cross-regional trends will allow the development of policy framework building on the momentum and knowledge of previous work.

Among the discussions held at the APrIGF Macao 2015, the participants have identified the following issues and concerns for the Asia Pacific region (in no particular order):

- **Evolution of Internet Governance (main theme of APrIGF 2015):**
  Diverse views from the Asia Pacific region should be taken not as discord but as a reflection of the different challenges and dynamics of the multi-stakeholder model employed under different conditions. More importantly, the global Internet Governance consensus development processes should better take into account such disparate conditions in considering voices from the Asia Pacific region, alongside more advanced participation from other regions.

- **Bringing the next billion online and bridging the digital divide:**
  Combined efforts from public, private and community sectors are needed to create sustainable initiatives to solve issues of affordable accessibility and digital literacy for all. Effort is also necessary to support local languages in all facets, as well as new emerging digital divides with new technologies.

- **Open access and spectrum for Wi-Fi for development:**
  Wi-Fi, including open Wi-Fi has become a vital method for achieving Internet connectivity, due to its use for ad-hoc local networking, and its easy accessibility from mobile devices. Open access to the Wi-Fi spectrum is increasingly important to support the ongoing demand to access content, services and applications that serve development needs.

- **Effective models of youth engagement:**
  Refine and rediscover a new model for youth participation beyond current practices for better integration with regional IGF and related youth IGF activities. The APrIGF will continue to foster youth participation and we hope that other IGF initiatives will continue to do the same.

- **Preventing Data-driven Discrimination:**
  Taking steps from the design of the network to output analyses of data collected (personal and public) to guard against detrimental discrimination of individuals or communities.

- **Universal Acceptance of Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) & Email Addresses (EAI: Email Address Internationalization):**
  The linguistic diversity of the Asia Pacific region underlines the necessity for faster realization of universal acceptance of the internationalization of core Internet identity technologies (DNS and email) so people can connect using their own language and script.

- **Building Trust on the Internet:**
  Recognize the need for a single, stable, secure and trusted environment for the adoption and use of the Internet. Measures should be taken up by the multi-stakeholder community (including but not limited to Public, Private, Technical and Civil Society) to enhance the level of trust on the Internet, including trust for information accuracy, privacy and security. This can be achieved using trust protocols within the communication, which can be further improved by policy dissemination and awareness.

- **Human rights and development on the Internet:**
  Human rights and development are integrally linked. It is widely accepted that human rights standards should equally apply online. Respect, defense and the promotion of a wide range of human rights online in the region need to be strengthened. Violations of rights to freedom of expression and to privacy through online censorship, sexual

harassment and mass surveillance are growing concerns. Commitment by states and private sector to developing and adopting clear standards, procedures for protection and transparency are needed to strengthen respect for human rights on the Internet in the region.

- **Core Internet Values:**
  While the subsidiarity principle suggests and should allow different approaches to Internet Governance in different geographic areas, there are core values that can be identified and retained (or maximised) in order to maintain a single global Internet. These include accessibility, privacy, openness and neutrality.

- **Emerging virtual currency technologies:**
  Recognize the potential for virtual currencies that can power the economy of the next billion. It is important to deepen the understanding of the issues around virtual currency, through dialogue and collaboration in the Asia Pacific region. Developments are also necessary in safe and affordable electronic payment facilities to allow everyone to facilitate sustainable activities.

- **Open process for producing outputs:**
  Inclusive and open process and roadmap for creating outputs such as how outcomes documents can be developed from the APrIGF.

- **Network Neutrality:**
  Network neutrality debate is gaining importance in the region especially in regard to the implications for developing countries and marginalised users. A variety of divergent approaches are emerging around network neutrality legislation. There is a need to promote openness and broad-based consultations, including participation from governments, in the process of elaborating or scrutinising approaches to network neutrality legislation.