ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM CONFERENCE
MACAO 2015
EVOLUTION OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE:
EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
1 JULY 2015
ROOM 1
09:00 LOCAL TIME
SESSION 52
CAN MOBILE INTERNET BRIDGE THE GENDER DIGITAL DIVIDE? CHALLENGES
AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR STAKEHOLDERS

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     >> MODERATOR: Sorry everyone. We can start. Okay. So let's
begin this discussion. Can Mobile Internet Bridge the Gender Digital
Divide? Challenges and Opportunities for Stakeholders. For many
countries and nations the reasons for this are not just social barriers
but impedance to education.
      One of the potential solutions for that, one of the reasons
for this is because mobiles are cheaper and they are easier to get
accustomed to. The learning curve for using mobile devices is much
lower than the other devices. And also it's more personal.
     So women who are, for instance, have husbands or families that
are in a kind of restricted environment, they are able, they may be
able to access, gain access to technologies without worrying about
what their husband will think they are looking at or what the fathers
will think they are looking at, but even in mobile technology there
is also a gender gap.
     And for this session, we can focus on how we, and not restricting
ourselves to mobile, of course, but using that as one of the
foundations for the discussion, how we can address fundamentally this
isn't about mobile itself, but about increasing use and access for

women, not just by kind of lowering the economic barriers for them to do that, but also what we can do to address the institutional, the other barriers that women face in accessing the Internet. I would like to introduce the first speaker, which would be Austin Menyasz. Austin Menyasz is the adviser for APAC, and he will be discussing mostly the efforts of the GSMA and also giving insights from the private sector who is very much involved in this.

>> AUSTIN MENYASZ: So what I will be talking about today is what the GSMA is doing is trying to bridge the gender gap. So the GSMA as you may or may not know is the global trade association. So we have more than 800 mobile operators in over 220 countries. And what the GSMA does on behalf of the operators is, it's kind of a multi-functional role. So on the one hand, we represent the operators to Government and regulators so that -- that's primarily what I do, but we also have our research arm, and we produce and we have a variety of different programs that address various issues that are related to the main.

One of our main programs particularly in Asia-Pacific and Africa is our digital inclusion programme. So it's the notion that by connecting people to mobile broadband and to mobile phones, we are able to significantly improve their life, whether it's socially, economically, and the benefits to countries, to individuals are absolutely astounding. And one of the specific issues that the GSMA has been looking at are the inclusion programs has been our women programme. So that's specifically looking at certain populations within the digital inclusion programme that face significant barriers to act as a, and barriers that are different than what might be just the general barrier preventing access to mobile, which is the cost or the availability of a network.

So as part of that, what the GSMA has done is we have just published our new report which is Bridging the Gender Gap. So what we did was we looked at most middle income countries, and we did a specific research study that brought together academics, people from the private sector, NGOs as well as directly doing focus groups and interviews with people in the low to middle income countries to try to identify what the barriers are.

So that's kind of what I'm going to be talking about today, and some of the work that GSMA is doing in this area. So my first point is always that when we look at Asia-Pacific as a primary method that people are going to be connecting to the Internet is through global. So we can see in the chart here which is from our most recent study we just published last week in Bangkok, this is on digital society. There was a woman as well, but we were looking at fixed versus mobile penetration in some of the key countries.

And we could see here that mobile is exploding. Our subscribers

are up 10% per year since 2009, connections are up 11% per year. Smart Phone connections are up 75% per year. And as a result of that, we are seeing the growth in service as well. Mobile is becoming the key method to which we are trying to access people in rural areas and reducing the digital divide in that sense.

And there are tangible benefits to connecting people to mobile devices. So generally speaking when we see our huge productivity improvement in GDP, and in Asia-Pacific region alone, we estimated that last year mobile contributed about 4% to the region GDP. And we are expecting that number to jump up 6% by 2020. So the amount of economic opportunities created by mobile are very substantial. Now, one of the issues we run into when we are talking about digital divide, speaking about it very generally is sometimes not entirely helpful because within the digital divide, there is a lot of different communities that face specific issues that are preventing them from accessing mobile services.

And one of the groups that we found the most pronounced difference just within that general digital divide was gender. So our programme produced a study and there were ten key conclusions that we came to through that research. The first was when we are talking about lower to middle income countries, the opportunities that there is over 1.7 billion women who don't own mobile phones. So right there alone, that's a huge, huge number.

But what's more troubling is that because there is a lot of people in middle and low income countries that still aren't able to afford phones is that women are 14% it's even more pronounced. If you look at South Asia. South Asia is showing that women are 14% less likely and I will talk about some of the issues that we discovered that contribute to that as well. There are significant barriers in some countries that create difficulty in services.

One of the other issues that we found particularly interesting was in terms of the actual usage of mobile when women do have access. And what our study found was that women, A, used mobile less frequently than men, and secondly, it's less intensive, and that's particularly problematic when we talk about rural broadband access. Because our study found that significantly less women use rural broadband.

We were trying to identify what the major issues were, and one of the issues that we did find for all of the countries was cost. If a family is going to buy a mobile phone, particularly if you are talking about a Smart Phone, it still represents a significant outlay for a lot of families for low and middle income countries. Usually a family will then be on one device, and what we found through the study is that if the device is being purchased, it tends to be purchased by men.

So that could be a byproduct of what we found to be financial

in low and middle income countries, women don't manage the finance or men are more likely to manage the finances. And as a result of that what we see is that more men are owning mobile phones. Particularly more men are owning Smart Phones where they are able to access value added services. And we actually see women predominantly owning phones where access is rural.

One of the other key concerns that was identified in the study was the question of security. So we were finding that this is an issue that doesn't just -- if we look at the difference in access and development as well, women tend to face more significant security issue in these environments. In low to middle income countries it's not so much a question of having access to social networks, but we are finding that in terms of security there were questions of trust. So maybe because in some countries women don't necessarily trust the vendor. So going into a shop and buying a mobile phone, or there is a lack of trust between the mobile operator and the customer whether it's around data protection or identification.

Another big question was service delivery issues, so network quality and coverage. If you want people to be connected to the network, you need to build the network better. And in a lot of rural communities, although I think we are starting to move away from rural or urban and talking about underserved communities. When a lot of these underserved communities, the problem is that the value proposition for mobile operators is not as strong, and as a result of that, you might not see the same types of services that we rolled out. But also tied into that (Technical difficulties).

So it might be a question of are women who have been through the education system, are women encouraged to go to school? And as a result of that school and curricula. (Technical difficulties).

We are not entirely sure if we give them access to mobile Internet, what are they going to do? So there are some systemic barriers from a cultural perspective as well that might come into play, but what we found with the study and what was really uplifting was that a lot of the time women generally saw the value in accessing mobile services. Even if there was this lack of confidence that was being reported, or they would say that financially they are not able to access the phones, they see the benefits that they can provide both in terms of economic opportunities as well as educational opportunities, access to value added services around health, education.

So the recognition of the benefits of accessing mobile are there, and so then the question if there are all of these barriers, but women are seeing that this is something that could genuinely help them what we could all do in the private sector and public sector and society, what could we do to try to minimize these barriers. What we also found

is that there is a very, very strong incentive for global operators and for private sector companies to -- in terms of quantifying that what the study found is that over the next five years, addressing the gender gap so that that team of women that are less likely to access mobile than men could represent up to $107 billion in potential market in the next five years.

And that goes from both the mobile operators who will see an increase in access to their services in using the handset device, sale to the broader ecosystem. So there is a huge economic opportunity there that, beyond the general social, cultural value of connecting that should get people's attention. So what we tried to do with the study afterward was identify some recommendations that different actors in different sectors (Off microphone). And if you look at the study online, we have four or five pages of recommendations that span the area of cost. And looking at it from the general commercial side as well as this area, what I tried to focus on, I just put a sample of the recommendations up here. These were the ones that we had focused on. So this doesn't really cover all of the issues that we used.

But in terms of cost, what we have seen is that in some countries, targeted and subsidized programs can be beneficial as well sector specific taxation has become particularly if you look at South Asia, Pakistan, Africa, access to mobile is significantly more rural. So as a result of some of those taxes anywhere between 5% and 20% more that people are paying and as a result of that maybe they are making the decision not to have mobile. Awareness campaign, but also Governments have responsibility to look at this issue and develop legal and policy frameworks to address this. A lot of the time the legal framework in the physical realm don't necessarily translate effectively to on line.

In terms of lack of focus on women, what we found is that there isn't a concerted effort to foster education in mobile products and services. I will give an example but through some of the programs that we have run, we found that if you foster an entrepreneurial environment (Off microphone) and one of the big issues is lack of access to data. So we know that in the academic world we are studying it. So we have asked researchers across a variety of universities, but what we have noticed is our rural operators are looking at a lot of the time that is not the data.

So the data will all just come together, and as a result of that, we are not able to draw a conclusion about differences in access and differences in the opportunity between men and women. In the study what we found is, and this is as a result of not having this global, but it was repeated across many markets that men and women see different value in different services that are offered.   So as a result

of that, there are significant opportunities in trying to bridge that divide by looking at those different usage patterns and trying to develop services that are more relevant to try to encourage more mobile use. That's also part of the lack of focus on women. The assumption is that all users are the same, and as a result of that, the market exists in one way and that services are provided to that market, but what we have found is that the different value adds differ significantly.

And finally around confidence, I think this is where there is a greater role played through Government NGOs and the private sector to try to include mobile skills and Internet and technical literacy skills in school. And encouraging women in those environments to play a more active role. I know the GSMA in Europe has been running a programme with women so it has been a proponent of trying to encourage women who are in school to move into the technical path so that they can major in computer science and try to boost the number of women who are in the sector generally, because if you look at the number it predominantly men.

And I think that when we talk about the different roles that we can all play, there are some examples of success and the one that I like to highlight is a subsidiary in India, and they put in place a programme. The idea here was that in India, women are reporting a lack of comfort in going in and dealing with the seller. So going into a store was something that was intimidating. It was mostly men that were in that environment and they felt like they were being talked down to, and that they didn't have the skills and confidence to know whether or not they were being taken advantage of in that environment. So the question of security were preventing them from going in and buying.

So what they put in place was a local NGO would train women to operate their own business. So the idea was that women selling things to other women would remove the barrier where people felt uncomfortable coming in. And this was, I think they didn't know how it would do. It was a programme that hadn't really been tried in the market. And it was actually successful. A, the women themselves saw their own personal income increase, it was almost ten-fold, and what was important to operators was that the sale of the SIMs to women we saw it rocket from 30,000 to 100,000 between August 2012 and July 2013. So these women entrepreneurs trained 75,000 women to be able to go into this type of business.

And what we actually noticed is that when operators try to put in place programs like this, sometimes they actually become a core service and they become part of a core business. So what we believe in GSMA is that things that we have seen in rural agriculture where farmers are able to access better crop irrigation which prevents them

from being ripped off, and what we see in mobile benefits that these operators put in place we can see from programs that are specifically designed to sell to women. So this is something that we encourage where it's similarly reported.

But you have to find a local NGO. And it's always a question of social barrier. At the start of the programme there was no guarantee. So it was run as a pilot programme. But it ended up being part of a new strategy. So there are opportunities for us and this is kind of generally what we found and what we -- so I look forward to addressing any questions you might have and how we can all work further together to try to reduce the gender gap. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much. (Off microphone) so thank you very much for that.

>> LIH SHIUN GOH: (Off microphone).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you, Lih Shiun Goh. It's getting more and more interesting. And perhaps another, I suppose we can also start to think about there are opportunities that we have identified and we can also think about how do we think we can work with the private sector and how do we think the private sector can work with us on these issues? Are there any questions? Okay.

>> AUDIENCE: (Off microphone).

>> LIH SHIUN GOH: So unfortunately, I (Off microphone).

>> MODERATOR: I suppose we can go next to the next speaker, Liza Garcia is the ICT coordinator for the Foundation for Media, and she is going to share some details on a study that we are doing on the mobile.

>> LIZA GARCIA: Thank you.

So I will be talking about women and mobile. So eventually I will be giving you statistics. What we are trying to say is the Philippines is connected. We have 100 million population and 44% of the population is connected, but if you go into other statistics, of course, our own ICT office would say 50% of population is connected. Internet users, last year there was an increase of 80%. So these are some of the figures in regards to the number of acting mobile Internet users. It's about 32% of the population. We will not spend a lot of time on that. So six hours at the PC and then more than three hours a day on average using the mobile phone.

And mostly they use it for social media. These are the statistics and the number of acting social users accessing mobile is 36% of the population. So that's 36 million. And in the Philippine for many of these Facebook is the Internet of information on Facebook and that is how they connect, that is how they get information from other kids. More than 19% of them are on Facebook.

13% of the population are subscribed to the mobile phone. So that means for some people have more than one device. But this being

the case, what do they use the mobile phones for? Well, number one is for social media, watching videos on mobile or you have the TV programs that they like to watch online and others.

    This was done in 2013, 2012-2013, there was a survey and they say that 54% could use mobile phones. And a focus group discussion as well, they said that they can't live without their mobile phones. So it's becoming a very important technology for a lot of people, especially for young people. But if you look at the statistics Austin was saying this already, but these are not gender. And this is a cause for concern, it's not just about statistics relating to Internet relating to gender, but when it comes to significant information that we need, most of them are not gender segregated. This is cause for concern. In the Philippines there are more women who are connected than men.

    We really don't know that based on other studies. For instance, in social media they say there are more women who are using the social media than men. But who are these women actually who are using social media? Through the studies that we looked at, through the focus group discussions we conducted with women and with young women, it's young people inside the schools are mostly in the urban areas and those who can afford to buy gadgets. And these are those who more or less they are intrigued because they know how to use the technology.

    I think this was mentioned. There are barriers, of course, for women accessing. It runs at the speed of 3.5, very slow, but expensive. That's why a lot of people try to use prepaid sim cards. So I think a percent of the users are using -- that is still not a lot. We are currently doing a study on women. This is a study we are doing with the foundation, and this is being done in ten countries. In Asia it's with the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and then the four African countries, Mozambique, Colombia. In each of the countries, the study will be looking at 4,000 respondents coming from urban core communities. 70% of them will be women and 30% men because we wanted to understand how people are using the Web and the comparisons of the differences there are of men in their use of mobile.

    We wanted to find out to what extent this is women. The survey was done already, but the data was not processed in the Philippines. There are ten countries that had to go through the UK and they will have to process it. So I was trying to get it ahead. Unfortunately, I did not. What we are looking at here is the survey of phones how Internet is being used, and how they are accessing it whether it's at home or in other places, why people use mobile phones.

    And in homes where they are not using the Internet, why they are not using the Internet. Because the studies had focus group discussions for women and actually we found out that most of them with their mobile phones but they are not connected to the Internet.

We had a discussion that only two of them have Internet connection on their mobile phones. There are people doing home based businesses like doing rugs that they send to the community. But we found out that for the mobile phones, this is without Internet access, it's very important for them to have mobile phones, but not all of them, of course, will have phones.

Some of them will borrow from their neighbors or friends and other family members. Some of them also in some families they have more than one mobile phone but under is only one, it is the man that carries the mobile phone because he goes to work. So if the wife wants to contact her husband, she has to borrow a phone from a neighbor or from a friend.

Also we found during the discussion we were informed that it is those who are working who would have the phones. So among women, especially those who were not employed or who are doing jobs at home, it's very important for them to communicate with their families. Some of them are migrant women who migrate from the provinces to the urban areas, and they would want to connect as well with their families in the provinces, and having the phone is very important for them so they can update each other.

The women also, the mothers, especially also say that it is important for them to find the whereabouts of their children. They are concerned about them. And especially if men are working far, and if they are not going home every day to their families, they would also want to connect with the men, to find out what they are doing. And among those who have home based businesses they say it's important to be connected even if not with the Internet, because that is how they connect with their suppliers. That is how they can order the materials that they need for instance, for the rug that they were making. And it's possible also for them to conduct business using the mobile phone.

But for those, yes, and we have also conducted some discussions with young people, and they said that it is mostly for connecting with friends rather than for anything else. And for those who have, for those who argue that the Internet, it is also, they also use it to communicate with family and friends. And most of the time it is through social media. Again, Facebook is very important for them. A lot of Philippinos, the community that we have, and that is basically how they connect, especially through Facebook. They exchange pictures. And, yes, it is a way for them to find jobs as well.

Their children or they themselves are able to access Government services as well, like, for instance, when they are gaining clearance from the National Bureau of Investigation, because that clearance is needed to get a job, or to find out the status of their payment for Social Security system. And then for those who are doing business,

it's also a way for them to advertise or to market their goods and then show them to their friends. So I'm sorry, this is not a picture of the Philippines using mobile phones. I didn't have time. I was doing it this morning. This has been said, there are many uses, for instance, in the Philippines -- (Laughter). Anyway even in the Philippines 50% of the women are connected. There is really a large market, and if I hear a business person, oh, that's money for me, that's profit. It's an opportunity for them, but let us make this an opportunity for women as well.

We want women to be connected. Yes, we want them to be connected because of the many benefits they can get being connected. But how do we connect them? And how do we surmount the barriers that were discussed here? In terms of the makers, the builders of mobile phones, for instance, they are mostly going to be cheaper phones that are simple and easy to use. We say not a lot of them are that tech savvy or digitally skilled so it would be something that would be easy for them to use in terms of cross connectivity. Well, we can also try other means of connecting, perhaps the wide space, and that's just the available services that are being offered to us by the telecos.

Now the women use technology and tell them how they, how it can benefit them but how do we make sure that women are really maximizing their access and connecting? Well, there is this study by Sorenson they said that the use of ICT necessarily enhance women's position to become equal to that of men. And this is a challenge for us. This is something that we can look into, how do we convert the access and the use of phones of technology of the Internet into something that is for their meaningful participation on line and be able to access the information that they need and be able to develop contents that are relevant to, women and teaching them how to be safe on line, things that are very relevant to women and perhaps that is the challenge that we have.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you. I think Liza Garcia highlighted an important point is when we talk about data, we tend to focus on statistics. We tend to focus on the quantity, but as this has highlighted many of these are actually very local, and these communities may be a community of 100 people. If we talk about the data that we have about women, the use of women, they tend to focus on things like social media, which is important. In the project we are doing in India, above everything else, once someone gets connected, it's entertainment and social media that they look for. So that is an important indicator but it is not the end all, be all of connectivity. And it will be more interesting or just as interesting to have data on what else is, are women using ICTs for, and I think that's why the study that these organisation is doing is also very important.

The other thing for us to note is that having mobile phones is one thing and getting connected is another. It's not a straight forward line. Jac, if I may, highlighted an important point a few days ago when she said that being connected for women is not mobile, mobile connectivity is not just about mobile. There are a lot of issues that are involved in it. There are spectrum issues, there are other technologies that are involved.

So it's also I suppose important for us to consider these and, you know, not just focus on the mobile devices and what is the origin of those devices. If everyone would have -- we have 10 to 15 minutes to listen to the last presentation, and I'm sure you have lots of interesting questions that will compel you to stay further because we are a bit, well, we started 25 minutes late. Okay. I will hand it over to the deputy executive Director for the APC. The association for progressive communication. Jac sm Kee.

>> JAC sm KEE: I will be quick. Can mobile Internet reach the gender digital divide? I want to have a poll in the room. Who says yes? So the question is can mobile Internet bridge the gender digital divide? This is the question we are trying to answer. So who says yes? Okay. Who says no? Who says maybe? Okay. Gender digital divide. It is not an easy question. I thought to myself, absolutely not, you know. The gender digital divide is more than just access to mobiles.

What I find disturbing about the discussions, I have been working around these issues for a long time. Back in 2000 when the first World Summit on Information Society started, it was around, the question was ICT for development. And computers and Internet connectivity to rural areas, to women, et cetera. It's the same development model that has been actually has failed women, and that is bringing, putting technology, having water. It's the same kind of development model that really has failed because it doesn't really look at women in diversity, number one. It doesn't empower women completely.

So I do think that one of the things that's happening now is this it's become focus the discussion on access. It has become so narrowly focused on having mobile Internet for women because this is the model that will make them more empowered. That's the problem I have with the current discussion around what should be then the focus for the models for bringing, connecting women. And I think that this is the drive. I think there are many different models that are available, and this is in response to what you were says Liza, there are different models we look at. Public access, for example, that's no longer being discussed as a model.

There is still a lot of poverty. There is still a lot of buyers to access, and one of them is affordability. I give you an example here. This is an NTU study, and it says especially in the

Asia-Pacific, it is the most digitally divided region in the world. Korea, 37.5% gets broadband penetration compared to with Myanmar .01% access. So all I'm saying is that the divide is still very big in terms of accessibility and affordability. And that means that even if, for example, in the Philippines, even if you have, if you have a lot of mobile connectivity, the access to the Internet is still very high.

It's one of the highest -- we pay the highest amount in relation to the Internet in the region, one of the highest. So it's not just about having a device in your hand. As you said, it's really about what you can access on the Internet. So that's one. Cost is one. It's very expensive.

And with middle incomes, incomes in terms of men and women gap in terms of incomes is still high. Women still earn less than men, and women still, in terms of what is available for women in terms of what they can spend on communications is quite little. So if the sense if you look at access, again, I would like to stress here that we shouldn't really narrowly just focus on one specific model of access. Just mobile phones or Smart Phones. We need to look at what are possible and what our community, what kind of models will increase community access, for example?

If you look at community access, this is shared access. Number two, we need to look at public access models. Governments, whether they are local Governments, whether they are national governments do have the responsibility to provide access with people. If we look at Internet as very essential for providing services, there needs to be -- it's not about information, it's about providing access as well to people if you are looking at these services, for example.

I think those are some of the, for me those are some of the issues that are not being -- that should be included, that should be part of the discussion. So bridging the digital divide allowing access and there is a lot of bias that we see. A model should be about how we can exercise in relation and using whatever device is available, you know, different kinds of devices, mobile phones can be one of them. It can be telecenters. It can be community type access. So we should look at, I think, from the perspective of diversity and needs of women. There is a number of things that can help us in this. So, for example, people talked about digital literacy as a compliment for meaningful access. That's very important. What we mean about digital literacy is not simplifying phones because women cannot understand. Women can understand phones less than men. No. Absolutely not! This is symptomatic of how women have seen.

If you want to really understand the gender differences, we need to look at the analysis of how women have been taught to not be scientific enough because our minds are less scientific than men so

you have to simplify things because that's the only way we can understand this technology. Absolutely crap. Sorry about the use of the language. It's not about that. It's not about simplifying technology so we can understand it. It really is about, it really is about providing access to these technologies and also for women to be able to participation in technology. They don't design technology for us.

Women are capable of designing technologies but there are bias to that. Some of it is not even technical. Some of it is gender relations in society. Some of them is because girls are not permitted to study and boys are. Why are there less women in science and technology, I mean, the study or the international, the study is that it's not only in the south. It's actually north in many northern countries at the moment, it's going down. Why is it going down? It's because women have to look after kids because women go to college, they take science and technology classes, and it's been a study that has been done by women -- I can't remember the name, but it's a study that has been established that the number of women are decreasing.

The potential weight of women in higher levels science and technology is decreasing. And the reason being that it's the industry as well as still the roles that women and men have to play. So I guess I'm giving those examples to just to understand more broadly what women's conditions are rather than just looking at the device itself. I don't think that's the way to go when you are looking at really understanding what the bias are for women around the gender digital divide. Secondly, affordability of mobile and other technologies.

Again, you know, affordability is not just about affordability of mobiles. I think it is also about affordability of the connection itself. So what it means to look at infrastructure. What it means to look at telecoms infrastructure. For example, in the Philippines, women, we need to understand that the bias are not just, the bias are because of this really directly in the Philippines. If you are to -- buyers for men and women you need to address that. You need to address competition so that the prices of Internet connection is lower.

It is this kind of understanding especially for women's organisations, Civil Society organisations are involved in this advocacy. We need to understand and be involved in that. So I think that's one of the other areas. Other things associated, public access. Public access is very important. And also looking at the other possibilities like use for members who use mobile communities, they provide wide connectivity. They use a license and they provide connectivity in communities.

And what happens is it's a very it provides economic opportunities for people, not only for women, but they do have an

area where they have enhanced, they have enhanced traditional and long standing economic community. And they have really raised the incomes of I lot of the ones of women in that area. But it's the whole ecosystem. It's not just about putting computers there or not just about providing mobile connectivity in the area, but it's a whole ecosystem.

You actually strengthen community organisations, you strengthen their capacity to provide connectivity. So there is a lot of strengthening and community building. I think these are the kinds of models that we need to include in the conversation. So that, I mean, yes, of course, I use, I have a mobile phone, and I think everybody here, no one can -- everybody, it's quite easy to see that the phones provide new opportunities, access to information, et cetera.

But it requires, I think, we are quite privileged in the sense of where we are at in terms of our incomes, in terms of our education, and in terms of the -- these are the conditions that make it possible for women like myself to be empowered by a Smart Phone and access everything that I can access. I can navigate it because I have -- I can navigate is because I have financial independence.

It's the same kind of conditions that women need to have. And we must always remember when we think about access. It cannot just be the device. Because otherwise, I think it really will be the same kind of development model where you bring, you know, you build wells and that's it. It doesn't really amount to really empowerment for women. Changing gender -- in families, for example, so I can actually negotiate. I can negotiate with my father or I can negotiate with my partner or my husband.

That is has to be understood to be able to really change, have much more meaningful change. And I guess the last point I would like to say is that -- the last thing is really that to stress that, yes, I think it's -- we need to get together in the sense of business and community and Governments, et cetera, we need to have this conversation to bring much more the voices of women in all of, in different conditions and I think if we can do that, it would really make us understand. We could understand the complexities more, and not just have simplistic solutions to access, which is not an easy thing.

It's very, I think it's quite strategic, but it's not -- so we should really look at it from a strategy perspective rather than one solution. Thank you.

>> MODERATOR: Thank you for that, and I think that's a very important reminder of what we are trying to do here really is not just give women access, and more importantly, it's not just having women use the Internet, but enabling women to become innovators, developers, creators through the Internet. And with that, I would

like to open the floor for questions.

I believe we have a few minutes. I'm really stretching it. But any questions for anyone? Anything that you would like to share? This has been a very rich discussion and I'm sorry if I didn't have the power to interrupt any of the speakers to try and shorten it, but, yes, anything?

>> AUDIENCE: Good morning. Is studies working abroad in the data? And if not, is there any available data because over 10 million Philippinos and most are using mobile phones.

>> MODERATOR: Is there anyone doing studies?

>> The study we are doing does not include data from Philippino workers. Unfortunately this was for women.

>> I'm not sure about the statistics.

>> There is a big number of women working as domestic partners. So it would be good to know data and statistics. Most are using mobile data and Internet because most of them are in the home and I think most of them are using mobiles.

>> MODERATOR: Very important point, I suppose, especially because countries, especially the low, middle income countries really have a lot of husbands working abroad in certain sectors. I think the gentleman is here for the next session. Anyone else? Any other questions before we conclude? Going once. Okay. I will take that as a no. I would like to thank the panelists for giving their time.

(Applause).

And I think there is a lot of interesting developments from different sectors. But I suppose it's, when you Google women and -- see that's a plug for you, women and ICT use, it's not a very -- data whether quantitative or qualitative, it's not very easy. It's disaggregated. And there is a lot of things going on, and it would be I suppose going forward good to see platforms where this data can be consolidated more and so other stakeholders can bake them down further into their use. So that would be an interesting development I suppose going forward especially because studies would add to that. So it would be great to have this information available more widely and in a more consolidated way.

Thank you very much for your time, and I hope you enjoy the rest of the time at the APrIGF.

(Applause).

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