



APrIGF Macao 2015 Workshop Summary Report

Date: 3 July 2015

Time: 10.30-11.45

Workshop Title: "From Periphery to Core: Towards an Asia-Pacific Agenda for the WSIS+10 Review"

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Gender Balance (approx. number of female vs. male participants): NA

Moderators: Paul Wilson – APNIC and Duangthip Chomprang – ISOC

Panelists:

Paul Wilson – APNIC

Duangthip Chomprang - ISOC

Shahzad Ahmed - Bytes for All Pakistan

A brief summary of presentations (If any)

Please see below

A substantive summary and the key issues that were raised:

The session was envisioned as an important opportunity for members from different stakeholder groups in the Asia Pacific region to come together and share visions and strategies to make the WSIS+10 Review a success. Apart from general sharing of information and perspectives, the session was specially intended to galvanise greater focus on the question of a possible revitalisation of the development agenda as part of the Review. It saw talks from Paul Wilson from Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), Duangthip Chomprang from Internet Society (ISOC), and Shahzad Ahmed from Bytes for All Pakistan, followed by a Q&A.

Paul Wilson opened by providing some brief background on the WSIS+10 process that developed over two major summits, one in Geneva in 2003 and the other in Tunis in 2005. These summits were primarily about the Information Society and how governments and communities worldwide can get best results from the economic and social development of the Information Society.

At the end of the first phase, a working group on Internet governance was formed that was supposed to investigate Internet governance and produce a report as an input to the second phase. That report, which recognised Internet governance and the challenges involved, also called for an Internet Governance Forum, which is being held for the tenth time this year. Paul finished by clarifying that the point of this session was to bring an update about WSIS+10 and



also to look at how the review is happening as well as how the Asian-Pacific region can be involved in the review.

The podium was then passed on to Duangthip Chomprang, who came in to tell a bit more about the WSIS+10 process. She mentioned that it was important to note that the plan of action with 11 items developed in Geneva will be up for review at the end of this year. Moreover, the Tunis agenda was highlighted as another important proceeding where multi-stakeholderism was introduced and the Internet Governance Forum was created. This too will be up for review.

She reminded the audience that the WSIS+10 Review is scheduled for 14-15th December 2015. The review will primarily seek to identify the achievements and challenges since the two earlier phases as well as come up with policy recommendations for the future. She highlighted the importance of the reports that have been created leading up to the WSIS+10 Review, particularly the ones by UNESCO and UNESCAP. She also noted that while there has been a regional reviewing process for Latin America and Africa in preparation for the global review, there hasn't been one for Asia-Pacific. The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Secretary-General later agreed to table the idea of having a WSIS review and perhaps a submission from the Asia Pacific region, and promised to consult the member-countries in August. During the earlier phases of the WSIS, she pointed out, there had been regional submissions from the Asia Pacific, particularly the Tokyo Declaration of 2003 and Taiwan Declaration of 2005.

Finally, Shahzad Ahmed came onto the podium to give an update from the civil society perspective. In early June, a first regional meeting of civil society on the WSIS+10 Review was organised in the sidelines of another, large civil society gathering in Jakarta. He spoke about the priorities that were identified by participants, such as freedom of expression, net neutrality, cybersecurity and open data. He also mentioned that everyone had agreed to the fact that a human rights based approach should be followed for the policy process.

He went on to note that it was unfortunate that there was little space for civil society in the preparatory process which is primarily intergovernmental, but nonetheless hoped that they would be able to provide input for the draft outcome that will be available in September 2015. By that time he said, the civil society would also have organised a regional consultation in Thailand. This consultation was highlighted as an important opportunity for a cross community gathering to provide joint input into the overall process.

Conclusion & Further Comments:

The workshop concluded with a discussion with the audience about the drafting process for the WSIS+10 Review outcome document as well as clarifications regarding the meetings that had happened and were set to happen in the future for the WSIS+10 review process.