



APrIGF Macao 2015 Workshop Summary Report

Date: 3 July 2015

Time: 0900-1030

Workshop Title: Localising Internet Governance: Making multi-stakeholder collaboration work at the national level

Reported by & Contact Email: Noelle de Guzman, deguzman@isoc.org

Gender Balance (approx. number of female vs. male participants): 11 female, 14 male

Moderators: Duangthip Chomprang, Regional Affairs Manager, Internet Society

Panelists:

Ms. Lianna Galstyan, Internet Society Armenia Board Member, (civil society)

Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, MP, Minister, Ministry of Information Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (government)

Mr. Leonid Todorov, General Manager, APTLD (technical community)

Mr. Akinori Maemura, General Manager, JPNIC (technical community)

Ms Nica Dumlao, Program Coordinator for Internet Rights, Foundation for Media Alternatives (civil society)

A brief summary of presentations (If any)

Akinori Maemura discussed the Internet Governance Conference in Japan, a multi-stakeholder ad hoc platform established by JPNIC June last year to raise awareness on IG issues to the broader community. It is a bi-monthly event that gathers 30-50 participants and is currently focusing on the IANA transition as well as matters relating to Internet resource management.

In the Philippines, Nica Dumlao said that local civil society initiated a space where different stakeholders can come together and discuss Internet governance concerns. Thus far, it now has the participation of government and the private sector. However, the country still doesn't have its own dedicated ICT Department, which poses some challenges in Internet governance matters. [In the Philippines, where Internet governance and ICT policies are an underdeveloped discourse, the objective is to first come together, to have a space, more than agreements at this point]

Leonid Todorov shared a video showing the public's lack of awareness on Internet governance in Russia. The country held its 6th national IGF in April this year, which was attended by 800 people. The Russian IGF is trying to establish itself as a bottom-up platform.

A substantive summary and the key issues that were raised:

There continues to be a low number of national IGFs in Asia-Pacific. Moreover, certain voices in Asia-Pacific remain under-represented in global and regional fora.

Two of the main challenges identified by those who have already established local channels for IG discussions are: (1) creating sufficient visibility for the wider public to get involved and; (2) deepening IG dialogues to make them more outcome-oriented with more follow-up action involved, after observations that the same concerns and problems tend to crop up repeatedly, with little progress on the solutions that were agreed upon at such meetings. Lack of funding mechanisms and a secretariat to coordinate local IG initiatives were also recognised as constraints to regularising such gatherings at the national level.

Panelists agreed that informal spaces that provide venues to thresh out Internet governance affairs were just as important as local IGFs with formal structures and processes.

Conclusion & Further Comments:

Participants commended local efforts to increase widespread participation in IG discussions. Several panelists suggested making IG events more engaging and interesting through more compelling sessions and workshops that focus on common interests between different communities.

Topics that participants felt needed more exposure in local IG spaces were: (1) mobile Internet; (2) locally relevant content, particularly content in local languages; (3) digital literacy; (4) services and applications for marginalised sectors, such as persons with disabilities; (5) online safety for end-users.

To conclude, the session's panelists concurred that local Internet governance spaces should be open and accommodating both to those who are connected and those who have yet to connect.