



## **APrIGF Macao 2015 Workshop Summary Report**

**Date:** 2 July, 2015

**Time:** 09:00 -10:30

**Workshop Title:** Human Rights and Governance in ASEAN Cyberspace

**Reported by & Contact Email:** Ms. Lisa Garcia,

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

**Moderators:** Liza Garcia

**Panelists:**

**Speakers:**

Jac sm Kee, Association for Progressive Communications

Duangthip Chomprang, Internet Society

**Reactors:** Nica Dumlao, Foundation for Media Alternatives

Arthit Suriyawongkul, Thai Netizen Network

Lih Shiun Goh, Google

### **A brief summary of presentations (If any)**

**Description.** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has recognized the vital role of information and communication technology (ICT) towards ASEAN integration and has laid out plans for its development on the ASEAN ICT Masterplan (AIM). Under the plan, ICT is seen as instrumental to an enhanced quality of life for ASEAN peoples and fundamental to the growth of ASEAN economies.

This workshop aims to generate interest on issues around Internet rights and governance in ASEAN among stakeholders and craft initial recommendations and strategies from reactors and participants as to how we, especially civil society, can engage the post-2015 ASEAN ICT Master plan, the major document that lays out ASEAN's plan to develop the region's ICT landscape.

### **A substantive summary and the key issues that were raised:**

**Workshop Proceedings.** Jac sm Kee gave an overview of what the ASEAN ICT Masterplan is all about and what its contents are. AIM has huge economic thrust. It sees the potential of people. At the same time, it also focuses on infrastructure as a way to



bridge the digital divide. Putting it into context, the AIM is supposed to pave the way for the ASEAN economic integration. But within the AIM, where does civil society come in, how can they engage the process?

Jac briefly described the internet governance structure in the region where ICT ministers and senior officials are part of. There is also a working group within the ASEAN that looks into the implementation of the plan. Civil society is not part of all this, but it is important to see how civil society can also provide inputs, so that the process involves various stakeholders.

On the part of civil society, there was an initial analysis of the AIM in a forum that was held previously at the ASEAN People's Forum. The analysis also looked at how human rights were factored in the AIM. Based on the discussion, the following were the main recommendations arrived at during the ASEAN People's Forum:

1. engagement of civil society in the 2016-2020 AIM, with a wider regional consultation; and,
2. framing of internet access as a human rights issue

There should also be human rights standards in the regulation of Internet and it was suggested that Ruggie Framework on Human rights and businesses, as well as the Manila principles be used as guides. Other concerns raised were the following: data protection for all sectors and not just for the private sector; transparency around intellectual property rights and copyright; cybersecurity; Internet of things; digital literacy; and, potential of big data and how they can be linked with the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Meanwhile, Duangthip Chomprang talked about the study commissioned by the Internet Society on the Potential of Internet for ASEAN economies. She first described the connectivity and infrastructure issues in the region. There are two types of technology in the region - the fixed and wireless broadbands. The different countries in the region use them differently, and Internet penetration in the region among the countries are also different. Thip emphasized the need for a robust backbone and backhaul to handle all traffic in the region. She also cited the need to develop local content. There is a need for the ASEAN member countries to be more connected and to exchange data among themselves and between the countries. Policies should also be looked into as others have policies while others don't. Moreso, some policies are restrictive and limiting, like the cyberlaws, which are becoming common in the region.

The three individuals asked to give their reactions said the following:



Nica Dumlao said there is a need for civil society engagement at the ASEAN level and also suggested that civil society talk to the agencies within their own countries that are involved in the AIM;

Art Suriyawongkul expressed concern within the region that while there is AIM, the gap in terms of Internet penetration, infrastructure and policies should be addressed. He was critical of how the AIM can be implemented considering the gap across the region.

Lih Shiun Goh said there is a need to look at the region as a whole and also the people in the region, and how infrastructure can address access.

During the open forum, the following issues surfaced:

- Civil society should engage their governments because sometimes governments also need the knowledge that civil society has
- when we talk about human rights, we are not just talking about violations but also positive obligations of the States. In this case, access to the Internet as an enabler of human rights is an important take from the discussion, and governments should also have plans on how to increase access.

## **Conclusion & Further Comments:**

### ***Recommendations:***

- More active civil society involvement and engagement during the discussion of the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020
- Convince government within each ASEAN country, especially the agencies involved, to engage civil society in the discussion of the AIM so that the process becomes multi-stakeholder
- Inclusion of human rights when discussing the AIM and the future of ASEAN