Youth Internet Governance Forum India 2019

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) serves to bring people together from various stakeholder groups as equals, in discussions on public policy issues relating to the Internet. Although India has close to 500 million Internet users, of whom the vast majority are under 30 years of age, India didn't had a Youth Internet Governance Forum or national IGF. It is in this context that a Youth Internet Governance India was founded in 2018, as a first step towards engaging youth to mobile around Internet Governance. It's been recognized by the United Nations Internet Governance secretariat and was founded by Shahul Hameed and Ihita G, who were India School of Internet Governance (inSIG) Fellows. The first edition was held on 12th of October, 2018 in New Delhi with the support from inSIG, ICANN, APNIC, IGDTUW and Internet Society.

On **14th November 2019 at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata**, we had the second edition of Youth IGF India. 150 young people from all across India who are interested in taking part in Internet-related discussions to join us for the event. We provided fellowships to 20 delegates from different parts across India. This edition was supported by India School on Internet Governance, United Nations Internet Governance Forum, Indus Net Technologies and St. Xavier's University, Kolkata.

In this edition, the whole event is themed around "Privacy" and we had eminent experts from the Internet Governance Ecosystem and organizations such as the Internet Society, Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), IEEE, India Internet Foundation, Software Freedom Law Centre (India) speaking at the event. The event was inaugurated by Rev. Father Dr. J. Felix Raj S. J. Principal, St. Xaviers, University. Followed by a keynote session by Mr. Rajnesh Singh (Regional Bureau Director, Asia-Pacific, Internet Society) on 'Introduction to

Internet Governance'. He explained in detail about various Internet Governance organizations and how to get involved with each of these.

Technical talks on new technologies impacting Internet Governance such as Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence its environmental impact and Universal Acceptance was well received by the participants. Talk on Blockchain, AI and its environmental impact was delivered by Mr. Satish Babu (Chair, APRALO, ICANN) and the talk on Universal Acceptance was given by Dr Ajay Data (Chair, Universal Acceptance Steering Group, ICANN). The interactive Q&A followed by these sessions was a clear indicator of the same.

A multi-stakeholder roleplay was organized on the topic 'Spread of Fake News in Internet'. Participation was divided into four stakeholder groups and each were given 10 minutes to discuss on the topic and come up with a summary which their team leads presented before everyone. Participants got a taste of how multi-stakeholder discussion works through this exercise.

The panel discussion on Internet Governance Ecosystem and How to Involve was well represented by IG* organizations such as the Internet Society, APNIC, ICANN and ISOC Chapters. It introduced these organizations for participants into depth.

An interactive group activity game on 'Networking Basics' was handled by Sunny (APNIC) to educate the participants on how the Internet works. It showcased how the network works and how a packet of information is sent from one network to another and what are the issues are involved in the process. Through this game, the participants also came to know which organizations distribute IP addresses to the networks which in turn assign it to the users on a particular network.

The panel on Privacy and Safeguards Status in India, Challenges for the Youth dealt with topics such as Privacy, Online Anonymity, Data Protection and the Data Protection law that's about to come up in India. It also stressed the importance of awareness among users of the Internet on how to safeguard their own privacy rather than trusting the platforms blindly.

This was followed by a panel discussion which discussed various opportunities for youth in Internet Governance and how to get started. Panelists comprised of various backgrounds such as policy and tech and cited their personal experiences which the participants could easily connect with.

Organizing team consisted of representatives from stakeholder groups such as Government, the Private Sector, Technical Community, Academia and Civil Society and are Anupam Agarwal, Debjit Kar, Dr. Aritra Das, Dr. Tuhin Utsab Pal, Ihita G, Praneet Kaur, Sabarinath G Pillai, Shahul Hameed, Shylesh S, Sneha Tambe, Sushanta Sinha.

We also plan to form a community at a regional level to take the initiative forward and expand engagement from various geographical areas within India and increase the diversity of participation among the youth of India.