Report on yIGF 2018 Port Vila, Vanuatu

13 - 16 August 2018 - Port Vila, Vanuatu

Youth Organiser

Supporting Organisation

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Introduction

The Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum 2018 (yIGF 2018) was held from 13 to 16 August 2018 in Port Vila, Vanuatu. With the advisory support from APrIGF secretariat and the Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of APrIGF, and the dedication of the NetMission Ambassadors from NetMission.Asia, the yIGF 2018 was completed successfully.

APrIGF Workshops

Participants were given an opportunity to attend more than 10 APrIGF workshops, where they could freely express their own thoughts and concerns regarding the internet governance issues. Guiding questions were provided to the participants in prior to the workshops in order to allow them to get prepared and materially contribute in the workshops.

This year, we are pleased that our youth participants were provided with an invaluable opportunity to have a dialogue with Dr. Vint Cerf, Vice President and Chief Evangelist of Google, and Mr. Chengetai Masango, Secretariat for the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, in one of our sessions. We believe that the youth participants have gained tremendous insights by interchanging insightful ideas with our honourable guests, which might help encourage future initiatives and youth engagement in the Asia-Pacific regions.

The list of the honourable guests are as follows in alphabetical order:

Honourable Guest	Organisation
Mr. Chengetai Masango	High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation, United Nations
Mr. Edmon Chung	DotAsia Organisation
Ms. Dalsie Baniala	Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator
Ms. Doreen Lango	Women and Girls in ICT Vanuatu
Ms. Joyce Chen	Internet Corporation for Assignment Names and Numbers (ICANN)
Mr. Paul Wilson	Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
Mr. Pablo Hinojosa	Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
Mr. Rajnesh Singh	Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau, Internet Society
Mr. Rodney Philemon	SMART Sistas Committee
Mr. Vint Cerf	Google

What is yIGF?

Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF) has firstly been initiated by a group of NetMission Ambassadors (www.netmission.asia) in 2010 in parallel with the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF). It aims to raise the awareness of youth on Internet governance discourse and to encourage the young generation to have more active engagement in policy discussion and the decision-making process.

Inspired by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on issues of Internet governance, the yIGF is also established in the same multi-stakeholder approach as the IGF.

yIGF is usually a 4-day-3-night camp which participants are assigned with roles as one of the interest groups, including government, private sectors and NGOs, to brainstorm their ideas and voice out their opinions on the issues of Internet governance from new perspectives.

Based on equality, yIGF provides an open platform for the youth to express and interchange their ideas and own thoughts on Internet governance freely. It also serves as a preparation camp for them to understand various Internet issues and open their door to the international policy discussion.

You might find more details on www.yigf.asia.

yigf.asia

Organiser

NetMission.Asia is a network of passionate youth from Asia dedicated to engage and empower youth on Internet governance discourse with the aim to enhance youth mobility and create impact in Asia.

Students from top tertiary institutes or universities are recruited every year and will be provided with a series of training workshops. We are endeavoring to empower young minds and to constructively contribute to the local, regional and global Internet governance discourse through organising the Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum (HKyIGF), international conferences and community projects.

NetMission Ambassadors are actively participating in various international Internet conferences, including ICANN meetings, IGF, APrIGF, Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) and Asia Pacific Next Generation Camp (APNG Camp).

To support and encourage youth participation on Internet governance, the ambassadors have been organising the yIGF in the Asia-Pacific regions, including Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, Delhi, Macao, Taipei, Bangkok and Port Vila since 2010.

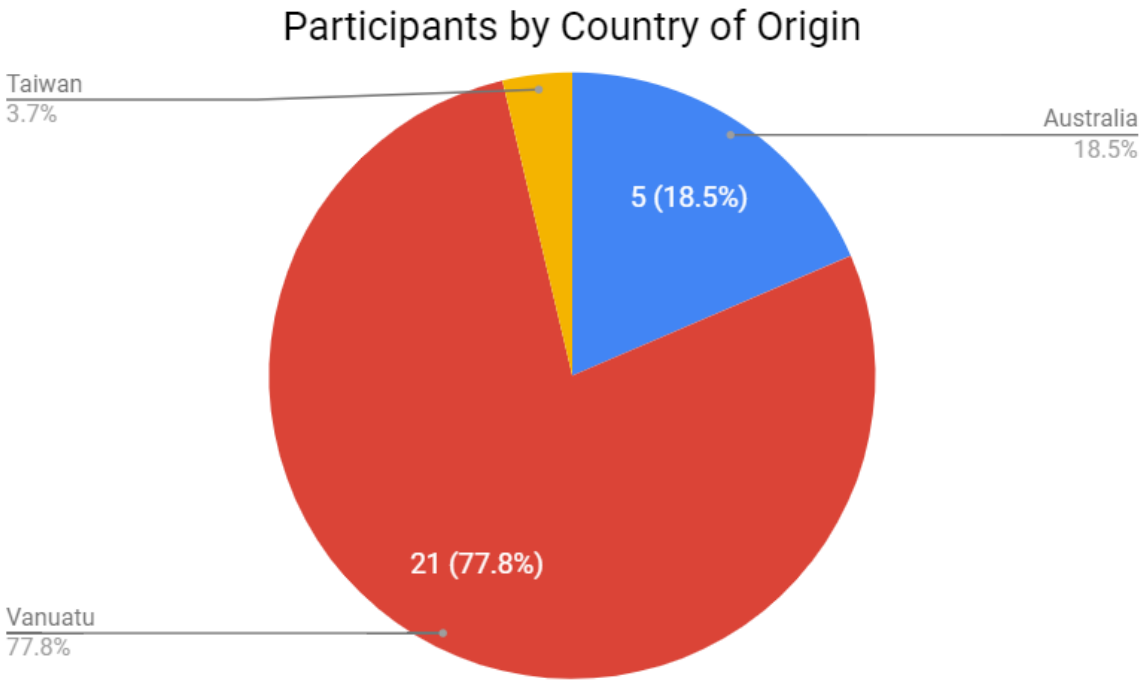
The NetY Program (www.nety.asia) is also initiated for further outreach to secondary school students from 2012 to 2014 by partnering with Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. In 2016, it was firstly marked as HKyIGF (hk.yigf.asia) followed with a 3-day-2-night camp and an Internet Summit with the same approach used in the yIGF model.

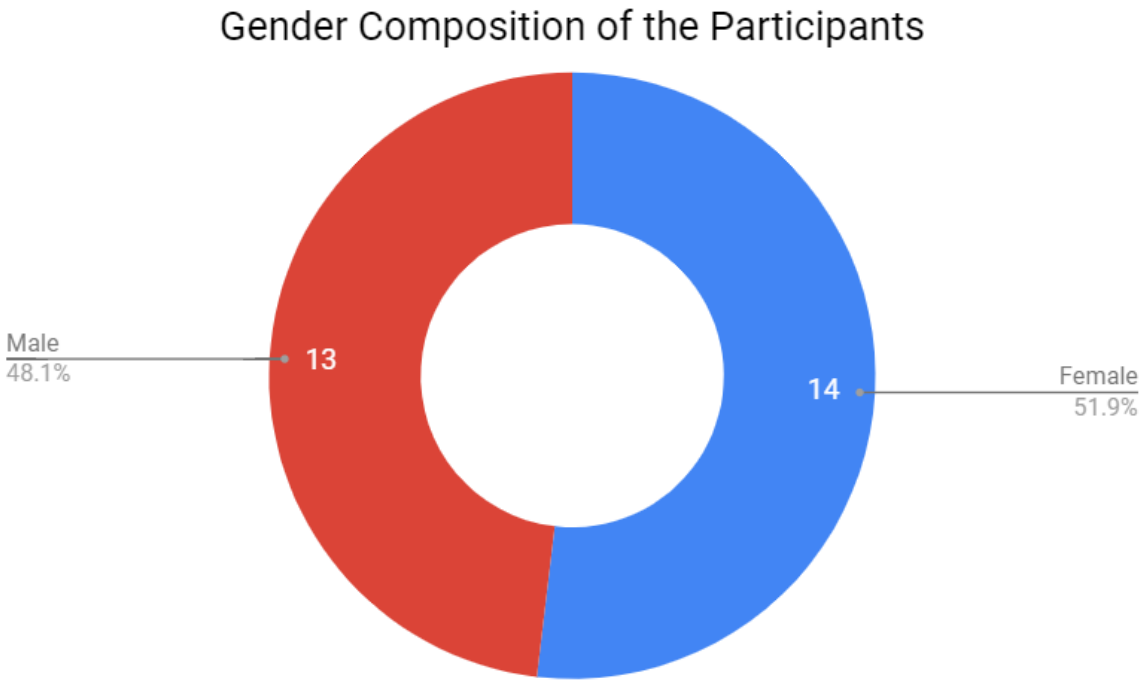
The highlight of NetMission Activities in 2018 are as follows:

April	Organizer of Youth Internet Boost Camp X 078Kobe in Kobe
July	Organizer of youth Internet Governance Forum in Taiwan Organizer of 3rd Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum (HKyIGF) Youth Facilitators of Mock ICANN conference in Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA)
August	Organizer of youth Internet Governance Forum in Port Vila
November	Internet Governance Forum 2018 organized by United Nations in Paris

Participants Statistics

Here is the background information of the participants this year.





List of Participants

Name of participant	Gender	Economy represented
Floral MWARAKSURMES	Female	Vanuatu
Chris SILAS	Male	Vanuatu
Stanley JOSEPH	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Charles BASIE	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Ethan Xavier HAKWA	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Franklyn OLUL	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Lippa EDMANLEY	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Jessy WOTLEMARO	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Sharyn WOBUR	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Vanessa SIMON	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Lanlee TAA	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
John MALTOCK	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Watson NGWERA	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Nolanie MOLI	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Leah Lowonbu FLORENCE	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Bezai AKI	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Sairozz MALTOCK	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Charles BASIE	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Franky ALBERT	Male	Ni-Vanuatu
Rachel WOTLEMARO	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
Tracian SIBA	Female	Ni-Vanuatu
FuJen HSUEH	Male	Taiwan
Georgia ROBERTSON	Female	Australia
Lauren REDDIEX	Female	Australia
Ruthvik RAO	Male	Australia
Jasmin Percy	Female	Australia
Tess VAN GEELEN	Female	Australia

List of Organising Committee

Name of committee	Gender	Economy represented
CHOI Pak Yin Edward	Male	Hong Kong
FUNG Man Hau Jenna	Female	Hong Kong
Kong Sam	Male	Hong Kong
LEONG Clement	Male	Hong Kong
YIP Tsz Ming	Male	Hong Kong

All of the honourable guests, participants and the organising committee were excited to take a group photo to capture the perfect moment.

Core Elements of yIGF

Idea Wall

This session aimed at exchanging views and thoughts on various hot Internet topics. Participants were expected to put their ideas on the ideal wall by writing down their own thoughts on the sixth themes listed in the synthesis document, including:

1) Cybersecurity;
2) Online Privacy and Protection;
3) Access and Empowerment;
4) Digital Economy and Emerging Internet Technologies;
5) Diversity and Inclusion;
6) Multi-stakeholder Participation in Internet Governance;

Throughout the session, participants interchanged their insights freely and had discussion all together on the above themes after reviewing the posted ideas on the idea wall. Participants were split into six groups according to their own interest to have further discussions on the topics. They presented and exchanged their discussion outcomes at the end of the session.

After the discussion, it could be briefly summarised that most of the participants tended to concern more about the Internet issues related to gender equality and Internet access in Asia-Pacific islands and other developing countries in the Asia-Pacific regions.

The participants also emphasized the importance of working guidelines for the enforcement bodies, so as to maintain the balance between cybersecurity and individual privacy protection. These topics have been raised in this section and it provided a brief idea to the participants on what to discuss further in the Roleplay Discussion and what to contribute in the Townhall session in APrIGF and the Synthesis Document.

Roleplay Discussion

The Roleplay discussion session provides a chance for participants to discuss specific Internet-related topics. Going parallel with the themes of APrIGF, we are exploring the challenges faced in course of promoting internet access in Vanuatu and other Pacific islands this year. This year, the roleplay discussion was derived from APrIGF overarching themes with a major focus on one of the sub-themes: Access and Empowerment - **How does improvement of internet access promote gender equality?**

Participants were assigned of different roles, ranging from academia, government officials to business representatives. This session developed in two stages. The first stage took form of a public hearing that concerned the problems faced in promoting internet access in Pacific islands. The second stage operated in Focus Groups Meetings. Participants have discussed in a multi-stakeholder approach and generated possible initiatives to solve the problems discovered in stage one.

Objectives

1) Understand multi-stakeholders approach on Internet issues.
2) Go through the Internet issues from diverse perspectives.
3) Encourage youth engagement and contribution to Internet governance.

The goal of this 1.5-hour session is to explore the challenges faced when implementing Internet access in Vanuatu and other Pacific islands. The session was primarily feature collaborative discussion and brainstorming on the issue of Internet access at different levels, with brief examples and case studies to prompt dialogue. The ultimate aim of the session is to reach a rough consensus on key discussion points which should be discussed further in stage 2.

Mini-Townhall Session

Mini-Townhall session is designed to build the capacity of participants for the synthesis document townhall session in APrIGF. In this session, participants were asked to raise their concerns or comment on the synthesis document. Participants have familiarized with the basic ideas of the synthesis document and have been equipped to voice out their opinions in the townhall session based on the following themes, including:

1) Cybersecurity;
2) Online Privacy and Protection;
3) Access and Empowerment;
4) Digital Economy and Emerging Internet Technologies;
5) Diversity and Inclusion;
6) Multi-stakeholder Participation in Internet Governance.

The mini-Townhall session was divided into three parts. Participants were firstly be encouraged to raise their ideas in the first 30 minutes based on the sixth themes in the synthesis document. Participants were then asked to comment and expand the discussion on the raised ideas for 30 minutes. Lastly, participants formed into groups according to their own interests based on the above sixth themes to facilitate further discussion and make comments on the synthesis document.

A heavily discussed topic directly relevant to many of the participants was the usage of ICTs in education. Many of the participants are students at the University of the South Pacific. Discussion topics included the use of cloud and internet education. According to local participants, other than the law school, many of the courses did not have in-person lecturers and instead were connected remotely. Due to low quality internet connections, lectures were commonly disrupted.

In relation to this during school hours access to sites such as Facebook and YouTube were blocked. While many of the students appreciated the reasoning for blocking facebook, some questioned the blocking of YouTube, citing its potential educational value. However, Rajnesh Singh pointed out the difficulty of supporting high bandwidth applications such as video streaming, as well as the difficulty in enforcing responsible usage among all students. With Rajnesh leading the discussion, the relationship between policy and technical implementation was explored. This included the distributed caching of data as well as the difficulties surrounding peering and transit at IXPs.

Program Agenda

Day 0 - 13 August 2018 (Monday)	
08:30 - 09:00	yIGF - Participants Morning Meet-up
09:00 - 13:00	APrIGF - Capacity Building Days for Fellows and General Newcomers
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:25	yIGF - Expectation Setting and Ice-breaking Games Session
15:25 - 15:40	Break
15:40 - 16:15	yIGF - Idea Wall
16:15 - 17:15	yIGF - Introduction of Role-play discussion
17:15 - 18:00	yIGF - Introduction of youth@Synthesis Document
18:00 - 20:00	Social Event - Welcome Cocktail for Fellows and yIGF

NetMission Ambassadors were also joining the Capacity Building Day.
(Photo credits: ISOC)

NetMission Ambassador was sharing his journey on Internet governance in APrIGF. (Photo credits: ISOC)

The youth participants were introducing themselves to each other.

Kickstart our yIGF with various ice-breaking games.

Participants were exchanging their ideas in the idea wall session.

Participants were raising their concerns on different topics and see how they can further discuss the issues in the roleplay discussion.

Day 1 - 14 August 2018 (Tuesday)	
08:30 - 09:00	yIGF - Briefing Session
09:00 - 10:30	APrIGF - Opening Ceremony
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	APrIGF - Pacific ICT Plenary
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:00	yIGF - Roleplay Discussion (Stage 1)
15:00 - 16:30	APrIGF Session
16:30 - 18:00	APrIGF - Synthesis Document Townhall Session
18:00 - 20:00	Social Event - Welcome Gala

Our NetMission Ambassador was participating in the YMI workshops in APrIGF.

Our honourable guests were sharing their experiences and insights with the participants before the roleplay discussion begins.

Participants were preparing for the roleplay discussion.

Participants were actively voicing out their opinions in the roleplay discussion.

Day 2 - 15 August 2018 (Wednesday)	
08:30 - 09:00	yIGF - Briefing Session
09:00 - 09:30	Lightning Talk with Mr. Vint Cert, Vice President and Chief Evangelist of Google
09:30 - 10:30	APrIGF Session
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	APrIGF Session
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:00	yIGF - Roleplay discussion (Stage 2)
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 - 17:00	yIGF - Mini-townhall Session
17:00 - 18:00	APrIGF - Synthesis Document Townhall Session
18:00 -18:30	yIGF - Debriefing Session

Lightning talk with Mr. Vint Cerf.

Youth participating in the Townhall session in APrIGF.

Our organising committee was discussing how we can contribute in the synthesis document with our youth participants.

Day 3 - 16 August 2018 (Thursday)	
08:30 - 09:00	yIGF - Briefing Session
09:00 - 10:30	yIGF - Roleplay Discussion Summary and Wrap-up of APrIGF Session
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	APrIGF Session
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:00	yIGF - Future Initiatives, Way Forward and Feedback Session
15:00 - 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 - 17:30	APrIGF Session - Closing Plenary and Ceremony

Youth participants were presenting their ideas discussed after the mini-townhall session.

One of our participants, Sharyn Wobur, and one of our committee members, Ming Yip, were presenting the discussion summary of yIGF and raising the concerns from the youth perspectives in the closing plenary.

Discussion Summary and Future Initiative

After the 4-day-3-night camp, the participants have mainly gone through the Internet issues related to Internet access and gender equality. Most of them expressed that they found unequal Internet access between men and women in Pacific islands. Here are the summarised viewpoints of the participants towards the rapidly-changing context of the Internet, and the recommendations proposed by the participants and the multi-stakeholder groups.

Changing attitude towards the Internet

Some people in the Asia-Pacific regions may have a perception of mobile phones or digital devices as "corrupting". To enable a cultural evolution and to remove the hostility towards the Internet, education with regards to equitable access for women, children and people with disabilities is needed, so that people will be educated to use the Internet safely without a negative perception.

Successful cultural shifts has occurred through Youth Centres and Red Cross initiatives in schools. To implement these practices on the Internet, establishing tailored education approach for educating the parents might also be effective. With the introduction of the education program in schools, it might be helpful to raise our next generation's awareness and their interests towards the Internet-related issues.

Reallocation of resources for better Internet access

The centralised-provincial governments have control over the allocation of the resources. In the Pacific regions, they currently focus more on tourism, which the Internet can be extremely beneficial to the industries, particularly in the booking systems for activities related to tourism. Therefore, reallocate the funding and resources to place into projects or programs related to the Internet industry may help.

The group generally proposes to get more money for improvement of internet access in the Pacific islands. Some of their key proposals include imposition of 10% tax in tourism, appeal against government's' decision to get fund. These proposals are expected to secure capital to develop Internet infrastructure and service bandwidth in schools and society. The group also emphasizes the woman's right to access to internet.

However, there will be concerns about losing the original cultural identity and influence of the westernised Internet. To preserve and promote the culture of a country, social media can be utilised by establishing an unique hashtag, which complements tourism and also de-stigmatising a xenophobic view of the Internet from the Vanuatu perspective.

Recommendations to stakeholder groups

Government

A strategy should be in place to examine the social media or political consequences in relation to activities and the programs.

There should be a mechanism, with indicators, to develop new products or technology, especially to those in the islands such as market venders, tourism in Vanuatu. The Indicators may help provide information to the civil societies, private sectors, and the government for identifying the issues, so that they can eliminate those issues, for example, bridging the gaps and protect the rights on the the disabilities and women in the islands by enabling their access to the Internet.

Small internet service providers (ISPs)

In Pacific islands, many remote schools and health centers are not connected to the internet. To increase the Internet access in the rural areas or remote local community, small ISPs need financial assistance from the government to extend its broadband service to get the users in the remote areas connected to the Internet

Big Internet service provider (ISPs)

Many people in Pacific islands like Vanuatu depend on the Internet service provided by the big ISPs, since the islands are isolated and not easily accessible. To ensure that people in both rural and urban areas to have a better Internet access and Internet penetration, ISPs should provide training to people around the world and secure the personal data they have.

Local women

Many of the local participants from Vanuatu stated that unequal Internet access between men and women is very common in Pacific islands. Therefore, it is essential to create a safe space and secure society to eliminate the discriminations towards women, girls and eliminate, so that women and man of all ages and abilities can have equal rights on Internet access.

International non-Governmental organizations (INGOs)

Most of the INGOs should set up saving groups for women and small schools in outer islands for children so that children, women and people with disability can have equal opportunities to access to the Internet and be educated.

Opposing political parties

Political parties took the important roles on having policies making in government. Their roles may have influences on developing policies or creates attentions in the society that are favorable to the related interest groups.