yIGF 2017 Bangkok, Thailand

Program Report

26 - 29 July 2017 – Bangkok, Thailand

Youth Organiser

Supporting Organisation

Introduction

We visited Chulalongkorn University, which is a reputable University in Asia, for organizing Youth Internet Governance Forum, Bangkok 2017. First of all, thanks for all supporting organisations, staff and participants to support NetMission Ambassadors in holding a youth engagement program in APrIGF. We have engaged 58 participants who came from 14 economies of the Asia Pacific region. Encouragingly, we have achieved more gender balance and sexual minorities included for better engaging different voices to multi-stakeholder approach discussion.

We highlighted the theme "How does social media shape our minds?" to respond to what we have happened in real life situations nowadays. Participants who came from Asia-Pacific had a bunch of interactive workshops with us to get themselves familiarized with the theme of yIGF this year. We designed interactive activities, such as Idea Wall, Role-play discussion, Initiative planning. All these interactive sessions gave us an opportunity to include different opinions to the table.

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 a 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 in 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.

yIGF provides an open platform for the youth to express and exchange their ideas and thoughts on Internet governance freely. It also serves as a preparation camp for them to understand various Internet issues and open their doors to international policy discussions. You might find more details on www.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 an 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 in Internet governance, the ambassadors have been organising the yIGF in the Asia-Pacific region, including Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, Delhi, Macao, Taipei, Bangkok, Port Vila and Vladivostok 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 the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong. In 2016, it was first 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 2017 are as follows:

Jul	- Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum (HKyIGF), Hong Kong - Youth Internet Governance Forum, Bangkok
Aug	- Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA), Seoul
Dec	- Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

Highlight Summary

1. IDEA Wall

Participants were invited to put on a memo pad what their most concerned Internet Governance issue is. After categorizing their answers, the following topics and issues have been identified: Cybersecurity, Access, Freedom of Speech, Cyberbullying, Net Neutrality, Privacy. Participants split into groups, either in the topic that they wrote down or another topic they want to hear other views' form to have a fruitful discussion. This aims to engage the participants from diverse backgrounds to discuss issues that are relevant to them and their region and compare it with others. This way, they can build connections and find relevant actors that have similar concerns as them.

2. Role-play discussions

One role-play discussion was held this year that span the entire three days of YIGF. Participants are divided into three committees to discuss the Privacy Protection Bill. They were expected to write an action-plan after discussion/debate with different stakeholders in their respective committees. The three committees are 1. Freedom of Speech 2. The Right to be Forgotten 3. Social Media and Advertising Strategies. Each committee is divided into three sectors: Business, Government and Civil Society. Participants took the roles of government officials, search engine providers and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). At the end, each committee produced an action plan based on the consensus that their group has reached.

3. Data War

NetMission Ambassadors organized a Data War game/simulation in order to promote the importance of collaboration, communication, and multi-stakeholderism. Participants are divided into companies (Apple, Tencent, Bloomberg, Facebook, Microsoft, and Google). Each company has different assets (data and capital) and different sets of skills. The goal is to win as much money as they can through different means including negotiating their resources, trading skills and investing.

4. Future Initiatives

The Future Initiative session was held on the last day of the YIGF, to put together what the participants have learned, experienced and discussed into action. The session aimed to encourage youth to come up with their own suggestions on how to bring back what they have learned in YIGF to their community, to address a pressing issue in their community and also to bring the power of youth forward. Given the diverse set of participants this year, they were divided into countries and regions to better utilize their resources and make it community-relevant. The groups are from The Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Cambodia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, Malaysia, and Myanmar.

5. APrIGF Workshops

Participants were free to participate in different workshops owing to their own interests. Participants actively engaged in giving inputs to the APrIGF Synthesis Document drafting discussion after having more knowledge in Internet Governance after the session APILP and activities in YIGF.