Narrative report of CAIGF2018

The third Central Asian Internet Governance Forum, CAIGF, was held on 21-22 of June at Astana city. The forum was organized by the Ministry of Defense and Aerospace Industry of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Legal Media Center, the Center for analysis and investigation of cyber-attacks (TSARKA) and the Civic Initiative of Internet Policy supported by Facebook, RIPE NCC, ICANN, SecDev Foundation (Canada), Soros Foundation - Kazakhstan, the US Embassy in Kazakhstan and the European Union Delegation in Kazakhstan.

In this year, the main objective of the forum is to expand the region's participation in shaping the global digital economy. Forum Topics ranged from the development of strategies for the digital economy approaches to Internet governance, cyber security, blockchain technologies, Big data to the construction of infrastructure in remote mountainous areas and countering of online extremism.

According to experts - participants of the forum, “CAIGF has already become a traditional venue for the determination of a more precise approach to the political and technical regulation and management of the Internet. Within its framework, best-practice recommendations are formed annually based on regional and international practices”.

One of the widely discussed topics of the third CAIGF was the search for a balance between Internet freedom and security in Central Asia. Maarit Palovirta, manager of the European Regional Issues at the Internet Society, talking about trends in increasing control over the Internet, noted that “Fake news and propaganda existed in newspapers and on radio. Therefore, it is a social phenomenon, and the Internet is just a tool that is now being used for promotion. Of course, this happens faster within the Internet, and the information reaches more people with greater speed, which is problematic”.

Leading lawyer of “RoskomSvoboda” company in his comments on the situation noted that "each another surge of prohibitions and restrictions caused an increased interest in instruments related to anonymization and traffic encryption. According to our calculations, only in May 2018 in Russia from 50 to 100 thousand users installed VPN services. There is also a growing interest to Tor browser: Russia now holds one of the first places in downloading this browser”.

This year the forum brought together more than 150 participants - international and regional experts in the field of Internet governance and cyber security, representatives of ministries, communication agencies and law enforcement agencies, research centers and universities.

More than 45 presentations and reports were shown during the program of forum; they all are available on the forum website. The speakers were experts from Facebook, ICANN, Internet Society, RIPE NCC, RCC (Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications), CEPT of the CIS countries,

Russian Coordination Center and many other international and regional organizations and institutions.

Live video was available on the event page on Facebook.

In the mass media about CAIGF2018 were the following information materials:

1) https://aqparat.info/news/2018/05/30/8863790-tretii_centralno-aziatskii_forum_po_upra.html
2) http://profit.kz/calendar/10695/Tretij-Centralno-Aziatskij-forum-po-upravleniu-internetom-Astana/
3) https://informburo.kz/stati/v-astane-proydyot-iii-centralno-aziatskiy-forum-po-upravleniyu-internetom-chto-budut-obsuzhdat.html
4) http://newreporter.org/2018/05/28/otkryta-registraciya-na-uchastie-v-tretem-centralno-aziatskom-forume-po-upravleniyu-internetom-astana/
5) https://noi.md/ru/nauka-i-it/delegaciya-moldovy-prinimaet-uchastie-v-forume-po-upravleniyu-internetom
6) https://cctld.ru/ru/press_center/news/news_detail.php?ID=12413
7) https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/radio/20180624/12851548/darbinyan-pro-anonimajzery-v-kitae-i-irane-uzhe-nauchilis-opredelyat-otkuda-traffik.html
8) https://yvision.kz/post/805995?category=%D0%9D%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8%C2%A0
9) https://forbes.kz/news/2018/06/21/newsid_175587
10) http://orient.tm/ru/2018/06/01/11551.html
11) https://tgstat.ru/channel/@certkznews
12) https://informburo.kz/interview/maarit-palovirta-feyknyus-eto-problema-obshchestva-a-ne-interneta.html?_utl_t=fb
13) https://ru.sputniknews.kz/radio/20180622/6130513/abdikalikov-informbezopasnost-spacialisty-deficit.html