CAIGF
CENTRAL ASIAN
INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

IP
INTERNET
POLICY

REPORT

ON THE RESULTS OF THE 7TH CENTRAL ASIAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM IN ALMATY, REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN
2023

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Introduction

On November 10, 2023, the seventh Central Asian Internet Governance Forum (CAIGF) took place in the city of Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan. The forum aimed to discuss the digital future of Central Asia, the challenges and opportunities of the digital era, and the creation of coяnditions for all stakeholders in the region to benefit from digital technologies. The organizer of this event, traditionally, was the Public Foundation "Civil Initiative on Internet Policy" (hereinafter referred to as CIIP). CIIP has been operating since 2003 and is a leader in legislative activities in the field of regulating information technologies and communications in the Kyrgyz Republic and across the entire Eurasian space. Additionally, it actively participates in the processes of digital transformation in governmental and societal spheres, promotes equal, free, and fair access to the internet, and enhances the role of public institutions and citizens in the decision-making process regarding the application of information and communication technologies.

This year, the central theme of all discussions at CAIGF was the impact of artificial intelligence technologies on the digital agenda of the region's countries, technological, social, and humanitarian challenges of AI for legal regulation, ensuring digital resilience, privacy, and digital rights of citizens. The tasks related to bridging the digital divide, improving internet accessibility, and expanding the scope of digital literacy among the population were also addressed.

Representatives from the governmental bodies of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as experts from around the world (USA, Estonia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) participated in the event.

CAIGF 2023 emphasized the need for a balanced approach to regulating digital technologies as a whole and artificial intelligence in particular, with a focus on human rights protection and ensuring the resilience of digital ecosystems. Once again, participants highlighted the importance of aligning legal approaches to regulating digital technologies to enhance effectiveness, improve living conditions, and solve complex challenges; strengthening cybersecurity at national and regional levels, including active knowledge and experience sharing; applying ethical principles in the use of artificial intelligence, especially concerning information privacy and protection of digital rights in the digital era; ensuring everyone's access to the benefits of the digital age based on regional and international cooperation to collectively address digital challenges.

1. Main themes of digital resilience addressed in CAIGF 2023

1.1. Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies: Trends, Opportunities, Risks, and Solutions Necessary for the Digital Society

The first session of the Central Asian Internet Governance Forum discussed key aspects of the potential of legal regulation of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technological innovations, emphasizing the need to establish common "rules of the game" while maintaining conditions for startup development. The primary focus of the discussion was assessing current trends in AI development and its integration into fundamental spheres of societal life in the region—governance, medicine, science, and education.

Participants in the plenary discussion analyzed the potential of AI to stimulate breakthroughs in medicine, industry, transportation, and education. At the same time, they acknowledged that the growth of these technologies is accompanied by increased risks related to ethical aspects of AI usage, data security, the potential threat of job loss, and the insufficient transparency of algorithms.

Emphasis was placed on the strategic necessity of international cooperation to create national standards and regulatory mechanisms aimed at promoting ethical and responsible development and implementation of new technologies.

During the session, the Digital Code of the Kyrgyz Republic was presented, showcasing innovative approaches to regulating AI and other technologies based on the principles of technological neutrality and respect for the law.

At the conclusion of the session, participants highlighted the necessity of establishing legal frameworks to regulate digital technologies, including AI, capable of minimizing potential risks while preserving the potential for development and innovation. In this context, regulation should be balanced and thoughtful, not hindering innovation and technological progress while ensuring the protection of human rights and adherence to ethical standards in the use of AI.

1.2. Digital Resilience: New approaches to solving old problems

Digital resilience is a key element in ensuring a reliable and secure digital ecosystem. During this session, participants discussed the challenges that digital transformation poses for the sustainable development of organizations across the Central Asian region, along with the opportunities it presents. The discussion focused on current cyber threats relevant to the new digital era, emphasizing the importance of protecting personal data, analyzing approaches to ensuring the digital resilience of digital systems in a constantly evolving cyber threat landscape.

Progressive methods and strategies aimed at strengthening protection and enhancing the efficiency of digital processes were deliberated during the digital resilience session. Special attention was given to developing advanced cybersecurity tools and protocols, as well as

training qualified professionals to counter new cyber threats. Methods to reinforce data and system resilience were explored, including the use of cloud solutions for data backup and recovery and the application of distributed networks to enhance their fault tolerance. The significance of ensuring continuous access to the internet and information despite shutdowns and social media blocks was highlighted. Discussions underscored the need to form state policies that foster digital system resilience, considering the rights and freedoms of citizens. Additionally, the importance of international cooperation in knowledge exchange and establishing cybersecurity standards and data protection for the common good was emphasized.

The session featured a presentation of the ESCATO report on the electronic resilience of Central Asian countries for 2020-2022, prepared by the UN working group, offering an analysis of the current state and recommendations for change management.

European approaches to ensuring digital resilience and minimizing cyber risks were also presented and discussed.

Overall, the session on digital resilience emphasized the necessity of strengthening cooperation among Central Asian countries in exchanging information about cyber threats and incidents, developing common norms and rules to ensure digital resilience. Participants highlighted that in the face of growing interconnectedness of digital ecosystems and common cyber threats, regional cooperation and policy harmonization are crucial in creating a unified, safe, and resilient digital space. This collaboration will not only enhance cybersecurity at an intergovernmental level but also ensure the protection of data and user rights, supporting open and free access to information resources in the region.

1.3. Digital Citizenship: The Impact of AI on Human Rights and Ethical Principles of its Application

The session was dedicated to a comprehensive analysis of the opportunities of digital citizenship and ensuring digital rights in light of the exponential influence of artificial intelligence (AI) and other new technologies on human rights.

Discussions focused on the importance of developing an inclusive and non-discriminatory digital society where everyone has equal access to digital resources and opportunities. The plenary session explored measures and solutions that could contribute to digital equality and prevent discrimination while preserving space for innovation and technological progress that benefits all segments of the population.

Issues raised during the session included the impact of AI on workers' labor rights, privacy, freedom of expression, and protection against discrimination. Participants addressed the need to update international human rights standards and emphasized the crucial role of governments in protecting these rights in the context of rapidly advancing digital technologies.

The findings of the assessment of digital rights in Central Asia based on evaluating digital service platforms, telecommunication companies, e-commerce, fintech, were presented to understand additional efforts needed to enhance respect for and protection of human rights

and trust in digital services. Participants discussed future steps in the regional context, especially considering the swift changes brought by AI and breakthrough technologies.

Consequences of using AI in content moderation for human rights were discussed, including how various states regulate content moderation, European approaches, and practical cases. The use of AI for monitoring, profiling, and targeting individuals posed risks to privacy, prompting unanimous agreement among participants on the necessity of ethically using such technologies.

Significant attention was given to issues of internet accessibility and reliability, impacting each person's ability to leverage the advantages of the digital era. The discussion highlighted the need for enhancements to bridge the digital divide and ensure all citizens possess necessary digital skills and literacy.

The session concluded with a call for Central Asian countries to develop and implement joint norms and rules that would contribute to the creation of a fair and resilient digital environment adaptable to rapidly changing conditions and technologies, while ensuring the protection and respect of human rights.

2. Financial statement

№	Item	Cost $
1	Aviatickets	3700
2	Rent of halls	1500
3	Banners and decor	3900
4	Badges	250
5	Designer's honorarium	250
6	Coffee breaks and lunches	2400
7	Gala dinner	3000
8	LED screen	2000
9	Microphones and garniture	1500
10	Accomodation	9000
11	Promotion in social media and information agencies	950
12	Simultaneous translation (KZ-RU-ENG)	800
13	Rent of equipment for translators	1000
14	Transfer	750
15	Photo and video support	1000
Total		**32000**

3. Conclusion

CAIGF 2023 emphasized the importance of a balanced approach to regulating digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI). The focus on human rights protection, sustainability of digital ecosystems, and ethical AI application became the centerpiece of all discussions and planning for future actions. Forum participants affirmed the need for standardizing legal frameworks to enhance the effectiveness of technological progress, improve quality of life, and address global issues facing modern society.

Special attention was devoted to reinforcing cybersecurity at national and regional levels. The significance of regular knowledge exchange and experience-sharing, aimed at developing common strategies and tactics for defense in the face of increasing cyber threats, was underscored. Within this context, active incorporation of ethical principles in AI usage is critically important to ensure information privacy and safeguard digital rights.

Access to all benefits of the digital era must be ensured on the grounds of equality and fairness, enabling every individual, regardless of their location or social status, to leverage the opportunities provided by technology. To achieve this goal, the Forum highlighted the necessity of international collaboration and regional partnerships that would contribute to crafting a coordinated and harmonized response to digital challenges.

CAIGF 2023 concluded with unanimous support for the need to bolster regional and international cooperation among countries, fostering interaction among governments, organizations, businesses, and the expert community. This concerted effort aims to establish a sustainable and secure digital environment where a robust balance between innovation and human rights exists, supporting progressive and inclusive development of the digital society in Central Asia.

5. Pictures from the event

ЦИФРОВОЙ КОДЕКС КР:
предлагаемые подходы к регулированию технологий
THE 7-TH CENTRAL ASIAN
TERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
TikTok
kaspersky
RIPE NCC
THE TECH
MediaNet

NOVEMBER 10, 2023
CAIGF
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ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN
INTERNET POLICY
LPRC
TSARKA
THE TECH
ERKINDIK QANATY
TikTok
kaspersky
RIPE NCC
ICANN
NEW REPORTER
Internews
MediaNet

THE 7-TH CENTRAL ASIAN
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6. Links

Official web site of the Forum: https://caigf.org/ru/

https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy24L3ZsxuY/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=694188369412122&set=a.549490283881932
https://the-tech.kz/10-noyabrya-v-almaty-projdet-forum-czifrovoe-budushhee-czentralnoj-azii/
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy2kAGBMXew/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

https://www.instagram.com/p/CxulGjTIVqW/
https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy2q2WcoDl-/?igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA%3D%3D

https://newreporter.org/2023/11/07/registrirujtes-na-centralno-aziatskij-forum-po-upravleniyu-internetom-2023/

https://internetpolicy.kg/2023/11/14/centralno-aziatskij-forum-po-upravleniju-internetom-2023-shag-vperjod-v-cifrovoe-budushhee/

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