Asia Pacific yIGF 2020 Virtual Camp Program Report

18 - 20 September 2020

Youth Organiser

Supporting Organisation

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Introduction

The Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum 2020 Virtual Camp (yIGF 2020) was held from 18 to 20 September 2020 online due to the global pandemic . With the advisory support from ***APrIGF secretariat*** (www.aprigf.asia) and the ***Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (MSG)*** of APrIGF, and the dedication of the NetMission ambassadors from ***NetMission.Asia***, the yIGF 2020 was completed successfully.

This year, yIGF was held as a 3-day virtual meeting with a series of virtual social meetups during the week when APrIGF 2020 was happening. Participants were engaged in discussing hot issues related to Internet governance with other youth leaders from the region and the experienced speakers from the IG community. 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.

What Is yIGF?

Organized and facilitated by NetMission.Asia, the Youth IGF occurs in conjunction with the APrIGF annually, to raise awareness and build the capacity for youth to join the Internet governance discussions. Based on the mandate of IGF to bring people together from various stakeholder groups as equals, YIGF provides an open platform for the young generation to express and interchange their ideas and own thoughts on internet governance freely.

YIGF is usually a 4-days-3-nights camp in which participants are assigned a role as one of the interest groups such as government, private sectors, and civil society organizations. During the camp, they are encouraged to think from a new standpoint and different perspectives. It also serves as a preparation camp for them to understand various internet issues via interactive activities & games as well as further directly participating in the local and global internet policy discussion platform.

More information about past youth IGF could be found at https://nma.asia/yigf.

Objectives

- Build the capacity of young adults to participate in internet governance discussion.
- Encourage youth to attend and bring contribution to actual internet governance discussion.
- Provide a platform for cultivating ideas to drive social change and further actualizing the initiative for a healthy and harmonious internet.
- Develop a youth network on internet governance.

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 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 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 2019 and 2020 are as follows:

Mar 2019	Participants of ICANN64 Kobe in Kobe, Japan
Jul 2019	Participants of Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum in Vladivostok, Russia Organizer of youth Internet Governance Forum in Vladivostok, Russia
Aug 2019	Youth Facilitators of Mock ICANN conference in Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) in Seoul, South Korea
Mar 2020	Fellowship 101
On-going	Chat with DotAsia CEO

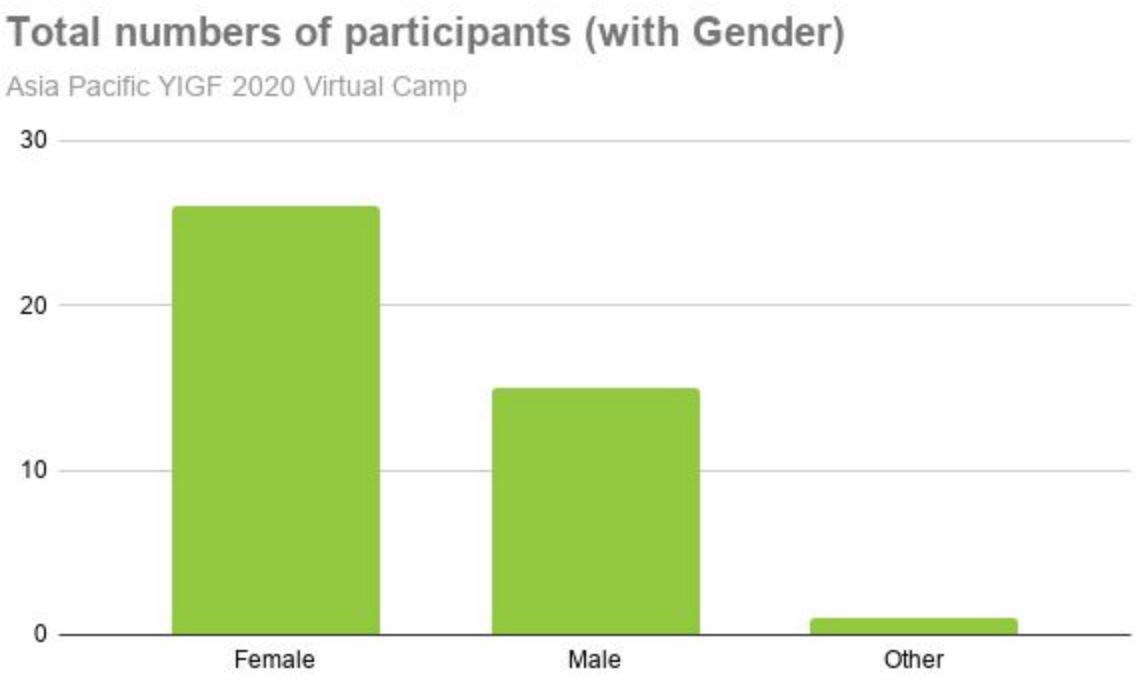
Ambassadors' achievement in 2020:

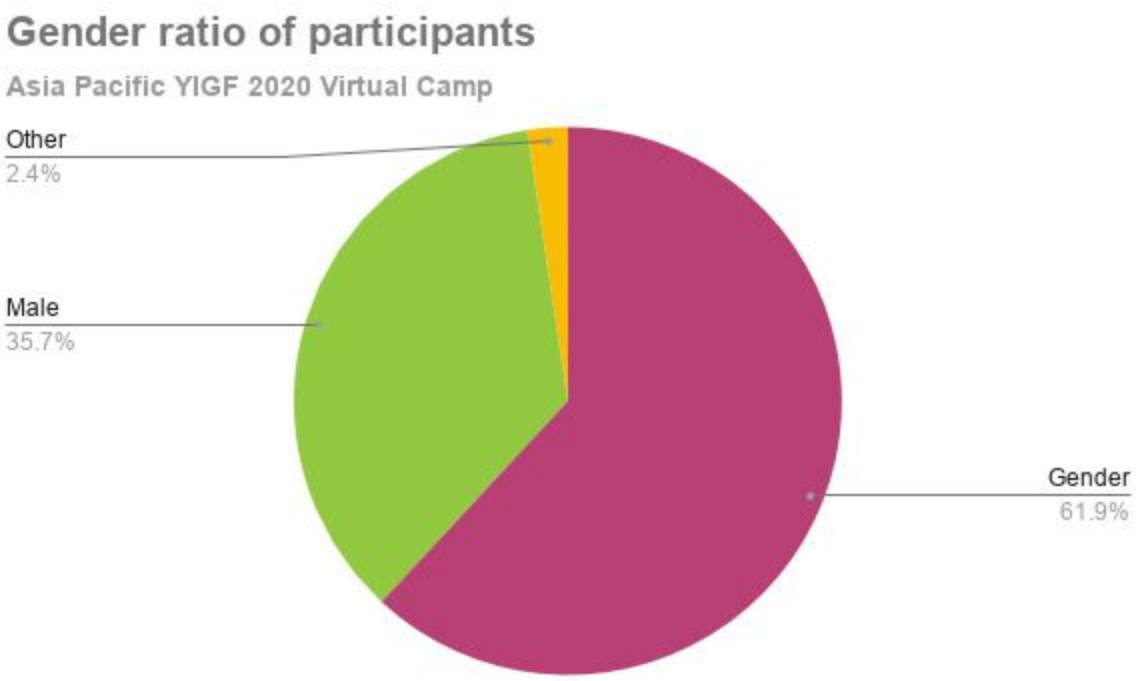
- **4th Place, Outbreak: What's Next? Our World After COVID-19, Own Academy**
  - Mandy Chan (NetMission ambassador of class 2018/19, Hong Kong); &
  - Steven Chen (NetMission ambassador of class 2018/19, Taiwan)
- **Belt & Road Initiative – A Journey to Explore the Future 2020, HKFYG**
  - Alvin Ho (NetMission ambassador of class 2017/18, Hong Kong);
  - Jenna Fung (NetMission ambassador of class 2017/18, Hong Kong);
  - Joyce Chiu (NetMission ambassador of class 2017/18, Hong Kong); &
  - Sky Lai (NetMission ambassador of class 2017/18, Hong Kong)
- **Selected Fellow, Youth4DigitalSustainability**
  - Connie Siu (NetMission ambassador of class 2019/20, Hong Kong)

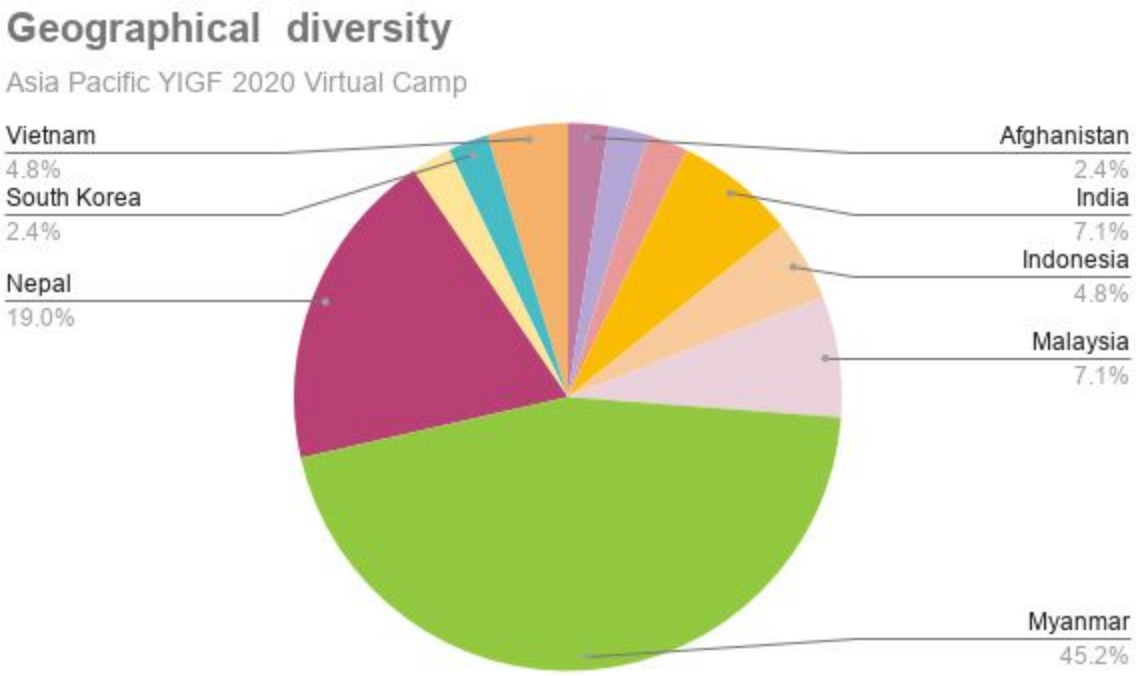
Workshops organized by NetMission ambassadors:

Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum 2020
Learn from Home During COVID-19 [Day 1: Sep 28 (Mon) 08:00 – 09:00 UTC] https://ap.rigf.asia/
Internet Governance Forum 2020
• WS #97 Fact-Checking: A Realm for Multi-stakeholder model? (http://nma.asia/igf2020-ws97) • WS #212 Learn From Home During COVID-19 (http://nma.asia/igf2020-ws212) • WS #231 Youth & Sustainability: Creating change through collaboration (http://nma.asia/igf2020-ws231)

Participants Statistics







Attendance rate

Asia Pacific YIGF 2020 Virtual Camp

Attendance was taken 3 times in total on each day of our event. At the table below, the details of attendance of our participants and attendance rate are shown. We have found that the average attendance rate of our participants throughout this 3-day virtual event is 76.8%.

	Day 1 (Begin)	Day 1 (after coffee break)	Day 1 (End)	Day 2 (Begin)	Day 2 (after coffee break)	Day 2 (End)	Day 3 (Begin)	Day 3 (after coffee break)	Day 3 (End)
Total no. of participants	37	34	34	32	31	32	29	29	29
Total no. of attendees	48	54	54	38	42	44	43	49	49
	88.10%	80.95%	80.95%	76.19%	73.81%	76.19%	69.05%	69.05%	69.05%

Notes:

- Total numbers of participants included the numbers of yIGFers who were selected to participate at the yIGF 2020 Virtual Camp.

- Total numbers of attendees included the technical support staff, speakers, members of the yIGF 2020 organizing committee and the yIGF 2020 participants.

List of Participants

Name	Gender	Economy represented
Alia Syahada	Female	Malaysian
Aye Chan Htwe	Male	Myanmar
Aye Chan San	Female	Myanmar
Aye Myat Thiri Kyaw	Female	Myanmar
Bikash Rimal	Male	Nepalese
Divash Paudel	Male	Nepali
Ei Nghon Phoo	Female	Myanmar
Farha Diba	Female	Bangladeshi
Felicia Yunike	Female	Indonesia
Ghanshyam Chaurasiya	Male	Nepalese
Hein Min Oo	Male	Myanmar
Kabita Luitel	Female	Nepalese
Krishtina Yadav	Female	Nepali
Kyaw Zaw Lin	Male	Myanmar
Linh Hoang	Female	Vietnam
Martha Hatch	Female	Hong Kong
Miru Lee	Female	South Korea
Moe Satt Thu Thu	Female	Myanmar
Mohit Gautam	Male	Nepalese
Myat Min Ko	Other	Myanmar
Myint Myat Chaw Su	Female	Burma
Naing Naing Khin	Female	Burmese
Nann Shwe Win	Female	Myanmar
Nu Nu Wai	Female	Myanmar
Phuong Anh Vu	Female	Vietnamese
Phyo Thiri Lwin	Female	Myanmar
Puteri Ameena Hishammuddin	Female	Malaysian
R Reza Fahlevi	Male	Indonesian
Raghu Gagneja	Male	Indian
Roshan Sunar	Male	Nepali
Seint Thinzar Thet Seint	Female	Burma

Shakiba Ibrahimkhail	Female	Afghanistan
Shivam Sharma	Male	Indian
Shradha Pandey	Female	Indian
Sujata K.C	Female	Nepali
Taimur Shahzad	Male	Pakistan
Thazin Tun	Female	Myanmar
Tin Thu Thu Wai	Female	Myanmar
Wai Ling Chan	Female	Malaysia
Wunna Tun	Male	Myanmar
Yan Naung Myint	Male	Burma/Myanmar
Zin Myo Htet	Male	Myanmar

List of Guest Speakers

Name	Gender		Economy represented
Aditi Agrawal	Female	MediaNama	India
Rajnesh Singh	Male	Internet Society	Australia
Elliott Mann	Male	Swinburne University, Melbourne	Australia
Prateek Waghre	Male	The Takshashila Institution	India
Nat Gyenes	Female	Meedan	Canada
Viviane Vinagre	Female	Uber Brasil (public policy intern)	Brazil
Elisabeth Schauermann	Female	German Informatics Society & EuroDIG	Germany
Noha Ashraf	Female	YCIG	Egypt
Mili Semlani	Female	Youth4IG	India
Joshua Joshua	Male	West African YIGF	Nigeria
Ihita Gangavarapu	Female	Youth IGF India	India

List of Organising Committee

Name	Gender	Economy represented
Pavel Farhan	Male	Thailand
Pratik Ghumade	Male	India
Rilla Gusela Sumisra	Female	Indonesia
Yee Man Jasmine Ko	Female	Hong Kong
Yu-Jen Steven Chen	Male	Taiwan

Program Coordinator

Name	Gender	Economy represented
Fung Man Hau Jenna	Female	Hong Kong

Core Elements of yIGF

The yIGF is a platform for youth across Asia-Pacific region to voice out their opinions on Internet Governance. It also serves the purpose of empowering youth to further engage themselves and their peers into immediately relevant and critical Internet Issues.

1. Role-Play Discussion

All youth participants will be assigned to different stakeholder groups, i.e. civil society, private sectors, governments, and the technical community for the discussion on the topics of "Violation of data and privacy in the COVID-19 era" and "Internet disaster management in and after emergency situations".

The aim of this simulation session is to let the youth put themselves into other people's shoes and encourage them to think from a multi-stakeholder perspective. While the best way of practice is by actual participation, yIGF participants are encouraged to attend APrIGF workshops to share their opinions, youth can bring contribution to actual Internet governance discussion in APrIGF.

2. Youth Policy Statement

Throughout the 3-day event, participants will be given chances to interact with guest speakers and discuss the issues with other participants. The ideas and opinions, cases and examples, policies and solutions suggested by participants will be recorded to establish a Youth Policy Statement. The Statement will be included in the Report of yIGF 2020, which will be submitted to and published on the official site of the Internet Governance Forum by the United Nations.

3. Social Virtual Meetups

We value the social elements of an event. To maximize our participants' experiences in participating in APrIGF 2020, we will host different kinds of social virtual meetups with different themes, including culture, music, movie, etc. on 27 Sep (Sun) and 29 Sep (Tue) 2020. We hope our community members could mingle with each other through both topics about Internet governance and their interests.

Program Agenda

Day 1 - 18 Sep (Fri)	
03:00-03:10 UTC	Briefing session • Edmon Chung, DotAsia Organisation • Jenna Fung, NetMission.Asia
03:10-03:30 UTC	Ice-breaking game
03:30-04:00 UTC	Introduction of Role play discussion
04:00-04:15 UTC	Coffee Break
04:15-05:20 UTC	Topic 1: Privacy Umbrella - "Violation of Data and Privacy in the COVID-19 Era" • Rajnesh Singh, Internet Society • Elliott Mann, Swinburne University Melbourne • Aditi Agrawal, MediaNama
05:20-05:50 UTC	Roundtable roleplay discussion (prep for presentation)
05:50-06:00 UTC	Wrap up

Group photo of our participants and guest speakers at the panel discussion of Privacy Umbrella: VIolation of Data & Privacy in the COVID-19 Era.

Day 2 - 19 Sep (Sat)	
03:00-03:30 UTC	Introduction of APrIGF & MSG • Rajnesh Singh, MSG Chair • Jennifer Chung, APrIGF Secretariat
03:30-04:00 UTC	Introduction of Youth@Synthesis document • Jennifer Chung, APrIGF Secretariat • Jenna Fung, NetMission.Asia
04:00-04:15 UTC	Coffee Break
04:15-05:20 UTC	Topic 2: Misinformation and Disinformation Regulation in the Context of a Public Health Crisis • Prateek Waghre, The Takshashila Institution • Nat Gyenes, Meedan • Viviane Vinagre, Uber Brasil
05:20-05:50 UTC	Roundtable roleplay discussion (prep for presentation)
05:50-06:00 UTC	Wrap up

Group photo of our participants and guest speakers at the panel discussion of Misinformation & Disinformation Regulation in the Context of a Public Health Crisis.

Day 3 - 20 Sep (Sun)	
12:00-12:15 UTC	Program summary
12:15-12:50 UTC	yIGF - participant presentation
12:50-13:10 UTC	Feedback (presentation & program)
13:10-13:20 UTC	Way Forward
13:20-13:30 UTC	Coffee Break
13:30-15:00 UTC	Lightning Talk with Youth@Global IG community • **Elisabeth Schauermann** (Policy and Communications Officer, German Informatics Society & EuroDIG) • **Noha Ashraf** (African group representative, YCIG) • **Mili Semlani** (Founder, Youth4IG) • **Joshua** (Coordinator, West African YIGF) • **Ihita Gangavarapu** (Co-founder, Youth IGF India) • **Elliott Mann** (APIGA 2019 Fellow)

Group photo of our participants and youth speakers at Lightning Talk.

Discussion Summary & Future Initiatives

After the 3-day virtual camp, the participants had conducted two discussions on Internet issues on privacy, data protection, and misinformation. In this section, you may find the summarised viewpoints of participants on two topics and the recommendations proposed by the participants.

Topic One: Privacy Umbrella - Violation of Data and Privacy in the COVID-19 Era

I. Key Issues Raised:
- How the Government should act to proper technology related to data and privacy.
- How to promote data and privacy protection..
- How the stakeholders collect the data and how they keep track of everyone.

II. Discussion Summary:

The discussion started from *Rajnesh Singh*, explained the circumstances and unique set of things that happened across the world, the modern world and never faced pandemic of this scale across the world. Some of the reaction is doing contact tracing where It is obvious to do contact tracing needs a lot of data. The explanation continues with examples of contact tracing processes from some countries.

Another speaker, *Elliott Mann* illustrated how legislation on privacy works in Australia, especially on the contact tracing app introduced by the Australian government., and how Australia is prepared to put legal safeguards on it and evolved during COVID-19. He also pointed out that the potential damage caused by the pandemic would impact the national health systems and the global economy as a whole.

Aditi Agrawal, as the last speaker talked about some of the measures taken by the Indian governments. She shared how such policies and measures impact the privacy rights of people and suggested how we can protect our personal data, especially those that are sensitive and critical during an emergency situation like the pandemic. For example, the Indian government has used methods to surveil citizens and health. In the process at times intentionally and times unintentionally but severely irresponsibly they have jeopardized citizens' privacy.

The discussion continued with a Q&A session on how to build trust with the public as a response of distrust or trust attached to the government.

IV. Recommendations to stakeholder groups

Government

It is suggested that the Government should regulate their privacy and data protection laws to ensure data stored in the servers of service providers is protected with encryption and the data can be stored in the country locally to eliminate privacy concerns.

Moreover, a clear process is needed when establishing new laws and regulations to ensure accountability and transparency. Additionally, data protection legislation should be prioritized the same as national disaster management, because during COVID-19, billions of data and taking measures of how the data is managed securely and used is very crucial to ensure whether all the data is safe and accessible when it is required by the authorized party. Therefore, the government should consider data protection illustrations, especially for the purpose of managing all the information.

The government should not rely too heavily on technology or mobile applications only in measuring COVID-19 cases, as there are groups of populations who live in remote areas with limited connectivity. Alternatives should be considered when dealing with emergency circumstances like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Private sector and technical community

Business actors such as the service providers of different mobile applications should ensure that end-to-end encryption technology is implied in respect to anonymization of data.

Civil society and academia

It is suggested that more NGOs should step in to raise the general public's awareness on personal data protection through different educational campaigns. Empowerment is the key in the long run. We should start off by a small step even if we are just teaching the individuals to alter the privacy settings on their mobile phones and applications.

In the context of ASEAN countries, civil society should believe that personal information and data should be protected according to the ASEAN framework on data protection.

Topic Two: Misinformation and Disinformation Regulation in the Context of a Public Health Crisis

I. Key Issues Raised:
- Information Disorder
- The Policy for misinformation and disinformation

II. Discussion Summary:

Our first Speaker, *Prateek Waghre* talked about how individuals perceive information disorder and explained the differences between misinformation. *Waghre* emphasized that misinformation and disinformation does not only exist in news but in any source of information on social media. *Waghre* illustrated different approaches to tackle fake news in different countries.

Our second speaker, *Nat Gyenes*, presented on different domains in the session, including (1) the actors that are behind enacting policies, (2) misinformation framework, and (3) the unique roles that fact-checking organizations play when they work directly with public health experts. Besides, she also mentioned how important it is to ground health misinformation response work and the fields of misinformation more generally in the reduction of stigma.

The last Speaker, *Viviane Vinagre* shared about the breadth of misinformation in Brazil during the pandemic, and how people react to the policies or measurement enforced by the public health authorities. She also mentioned the civil framework rights of the Internet in Brazil and illustrated how such a framework could contribute to some circumstances, for example, shutdowns caused by criminal investigations, or the spread of fake news on WhatsApp.

The session concluded with the following recommendations on how we should combat the epidemic of misinformation and disinformation by adopting the multi-stakeholder model.

IV. Recommendations to stakeholder groups

Government

Governments should take more initiative to tackle the spread of misinformation and disinformation, in order to eliminate the negative effect fake news brings to the general public during the pandemic. For example, they could adopt new policies to encourage service providers of different social media platforms or the ISPs to combat the spread of misinformation and disinformation. However, it is important to ensure the level of transparency of the policy-making process in order to maintain the accountability of one's government.

On the other hand, the governments should be more supportive of the work done by different external fact-checking organizations. By collaborating with the private sector, such as social media platforms, governments can disseminate official pronouncements with higher reach to the general public. It is believed to be one of the methods to reduce the influence of misinformation and disinformation to the general public, as it might help lower an individual's dependence on a particular source of information or news outlets on social media or other online platforms.

Private sector and technical community

Technical community should continue to work on the algorithms of digital platforms and technology in order to contribute to combat misinformation and disinformation online. For example, Google to work on flagging information or news outlets with less credibility, or ISPs to block fake news on social media.

With an improvement on the algorithms, the systems might not flag a source of information or a piece of news based on the literal meaning of one's language but with the context of a particular society or culture.

By adopting a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach, stakeholders can collaborate with one another to develop, comply and govern the mutually agreed community guidelines.

Civil society and academia

Non-governmental organizations, especially those who contribute to raise the awareness of internet users towards internet policy related issues, should continue to empower individuals with the capacities to participate in advocacy or even high-level discussions on Internet policy-making.

Participant Engagement

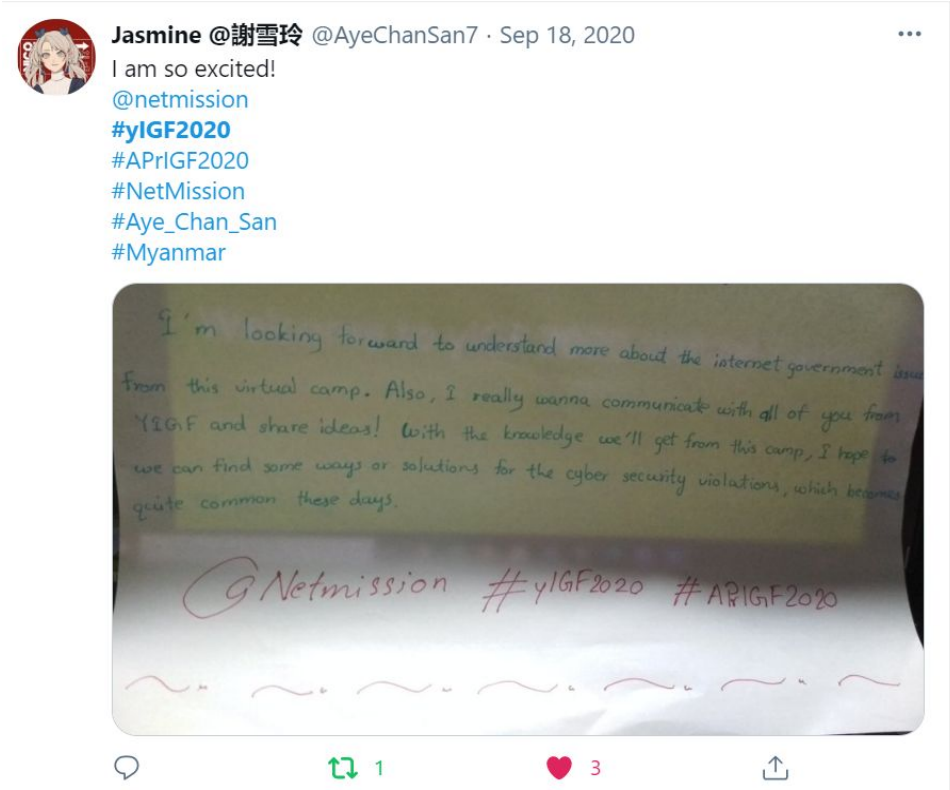
Since the event was held virtually due to the pandemic, our interaction with our participants are limited. To guarantee the best experience to our participants, we opened 5 WhatsApp groups in total for better communication and coordination with our participants.

All participants were added to a WhatsApp group with all participants prior to the event, so that they could mingle with one another, and raise their questions and concerns when needed. Participants were also added to a particular WhatsApp group with a smaller number of participants according to their assigned stakeholder group in the roleplay discussion session.

We believe it was effective to achieve the following objectives:

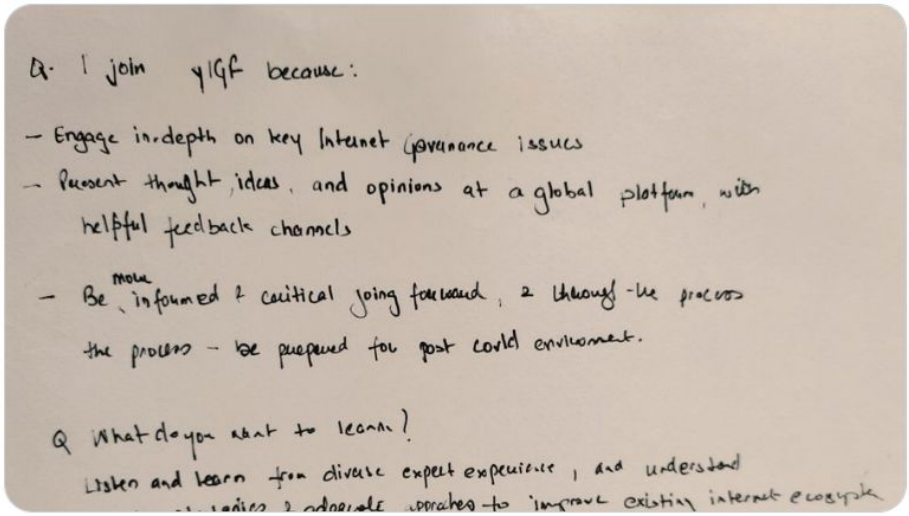
(1) Enhancing participants' engagement during the event
(2) Better understanding of the multi-stakeholder model
(3) Engaging the participants in our IG community in the future

Additionally, we also initiated a #yIGF2020 challenge on social media like Twitter. Participants are encouraged to post about their expectations towards the virtual camp on their personal social media handle. You may find some screenshots of those social media posts below:



Raghu Raj @Raghu_Raj_ · Sep 18, 2020

Incredibly excited and honoured to be a part of the yIGF 2020 Virtual Camp. Really looking forward to engaging with diverse perspectives on IG over the course of the next 3 days! @netmission **#yIGF2020** #APrIGF2020 #IntGov #Youth #AsiaPacific

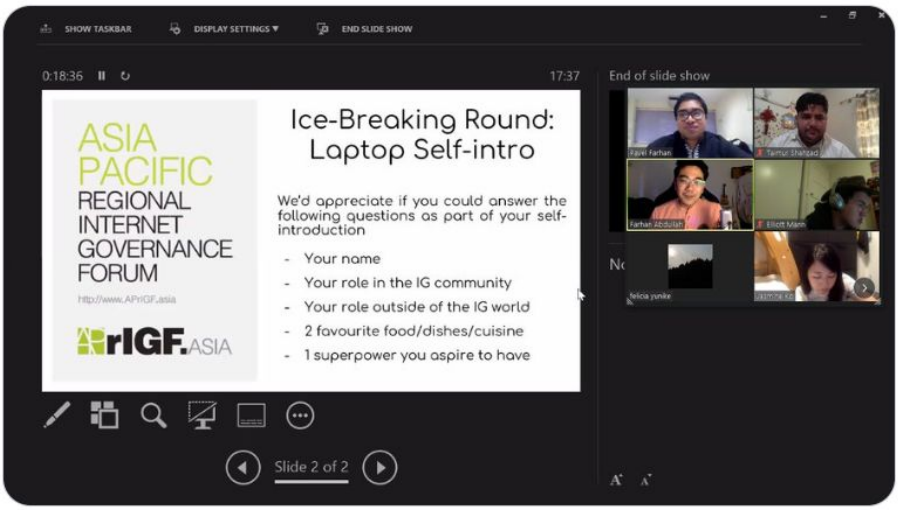


You

2 3 20

Taimur Shahzad @taimurshahzad40 · Sep 27, 2020

virtual Social Meetup Its Really amazing Enjoying .
@jennarationz @chaixpapi @netmission @ISOCapac @ISOC_Community @ISOCibdpk
#yIGF2020 #APrIGF2020 #IntGov #AsiaPacific



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Testimonials from yIGF 2020 Participants

"Thank you NetMission Team for organizing the yIGF Virtual Camp 2020. It was extremely interesting. I really enjoyed it and learned a lot of new things related to Internet Governance."

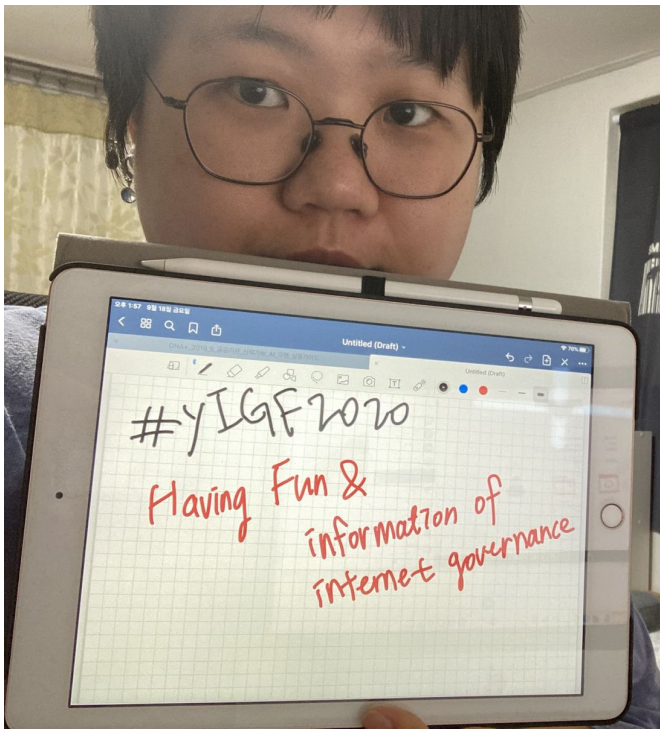
— Shivam Sharma (Bharat Institute of Technology, India)

"Let's shape the future of our digital world together with yIGF 2020."

— Zin Myo Htet (University of Yangong, Myanmar)

"The yIGF is really helpful for youth with no technical background just like me. It allows me to explore the world of Internet governance from different perspectives. Let's learn, share and create for our society together."

— Phyo Thiri Lwin (Yangon University of Economics, Myanmar)



Thoughts after yIGF and way forward

Thoughts on yIGF

Participants generally made positive comments after joining the yIGF 2020.

1. ***Improved understanding on Internet governance***

Most of the participants reflected that they have gained new knowledge about Internet governance and the multi-stakeholder model. They emphasised that they understood the importance of the multi-stakeholder approach and cooperating with one another in order to tackle different Internet policy related issues, especially during a global pandemic.

2. ***More connected with the youth community in Internet governance***

Joining the yIGF 2020 allowed them to meet new people that share common interests. Even participants can only meet virtually this year, but the event has expanded their network and provided an opportunity to all participants to make international connections. This favors future collaboration between different youth initiatives and inspires them how to continue their future engagement in the Internet governance world.

Way forward

Many participants showed their interest in continuing their journey in Internet governance in the future, mainly in the following three ways.

1. ***Building own capacity***

To further develop their own capacity to continue their participation in the Internet governance discourse, they decided to participate active in the regional IGF, i.e. APrIGF. Some of them planned to participate in the global level Internet governance events, i.e. the virtual IGF this year. While some showed interest in applying for youth programmes, the NetMission Academy, to learn about Internet governance from different perspectives in order to empower more young people in the future.

2. ***Contributing to local community***

Ideas of holding awareness raising activities such as webinars for youth in their home country were raised by participants. Some of the participants from Myanmar would use their experience gained from yIGF 2020 to contribute to the youth IGF in Myanmar as an organizing committee. Some of them added that they, as individuals, would share more information on Internet issues and Internet governance with their personal social media handles.