Conference Report

APRIGF 2020 VIRTUAL

By APrIGF Secretariat – DotAsia Organisation

Table of Contents

Overview

Date: 27-30 September 2020
Venue: Virtual, Online
Total number of attendees: 380
Number of sessions: 14 + 2 plenaries

Host: APrIGF Multi-stakeholder Steering Group
Executed by: DotAsia Organisation
Secretariat: DotAsia Organisation

Sponsors & Supporters:
- ICANN
- ISOC
- APNIC
- APTLD

About Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF)

Serves as a platform for discussion, exchange and collaboration at a regional level, and also where possible to aggregate national IGF discussions, ultimately advance the Internet governance development in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2010, while the global IGF is already in its fifth and final year of its initial charter, and Regional IGFs have been established in many other regions, including Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, to date, Asia has seen no parallel forum for discussing Internet governance issues at a regional level. For the first time, the APrIGF is therefore being convened with objectives to raise awareness and encourage participation from relevant stakeholders around the region on Internet governance issues, as well as to foster multi-lateral, multi-stakeholder discussion about issues pertinent to the Internet in Asia.

The multi-stakeholder approach is a core principle of the APrIGF with the emphasis on the diversity of participants and openness of the discussion. Valuing the youth as an important stakeholder and the future generations of the Internet, a Youth IGF also become an integral part of the APrIGF whereby they are held in parallel annually featuring a simulation of the multi-stakeholder discussion model among the young people on various Internet governance issues.

About Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (MSG)

The Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of APrIGF is a self-organised committee with members from around the Asia Pacific Internet community formed with the below objectives:
- To support and ensure the proper conduct of the organizational work of the annual Asia Pacific Regional IGF,
- To promote and encourage dialogue among all stakeholders involved with Internet governance related issues in the Asia Pacific region, and
- To act as an interface between the Asia Pacific IGF community and the global IGF community.

About Secretariat of APrIGF

DotAsia Organisation (http://www.dot.asia) is the current secretariat of the APrIGF who is responsible for coordinating the activities of APrIGF and the meetings of the MSG, as well as performing any secretariat function to assist and facilitate the operations of APrIGF.

About APrIGF 2020

Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) is one of the key regional initiatives on Internet governance which provides an open platform for multi-stakeholders to discuss and identify issues and priorities, and ultimately advances the development of Internet governance in the Asia Pacific region as well as bring forward and contribute to the wider global Internet community. Our community has grown significantly since initiated in 2010 and we are now bringing together over 300 multi-stakeholders across the region every year to advance the Internet governance development. In addition, our effort in engaging the next generation on the Internet governance discussions is also well recognized with the Youth IGF being held a week in prior.
This year marked the 11th Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum, and it is the first time it was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year.
It was hosted by the MSG, executed by the secretariat which is DotAsia.

Virtual Meeting Environment

A Virtual Conference Working Group was formed specially for this year as a taskforce to tackle the issues of running the entire event online. Members were volunteers from the MSG from different sectors with different backgrounds, who brought in collaborative intelligence to solve problems from how to create a feasible virtual environment, to how to expand our audience.

The following were offered to facilitate the virtual conference:
- Remote participation (via Zoom)
- Live streaming
- Captioning
- Sign language interpretation (for 1 session only)
- Countdown timer
- Chatbot on website
- Contact for technical support
- In-session support team

Remote Participation
- Various conference tools have been compared before the Virtual Conference Working Group decided to use Zoom as the major platform, due to its more established accessibility features and common use by general public.
- Webinar mode was used for both the Opening and Closing Plenaries, while meeting mode was used for all other sessions.
- Adobe Connect was also set up as a standby, because it has most of the necessities but with poor quality on audio.

Live Streaming

- With the technical support of ISOC, we were able to live stream the entire conference on YouTube, Facebook and LiveStream. Comments and questions on these platforms would also be posted to the Zoom room instantly for better audience engagement.

Captioning
- Real time captioning in English was provided as closed caption in the Zoom room and also as streamtext where you can view in a separate browser. Transcripts were uploaded to our website after the conference.

Sign Language Interpretation
- English sign language interpretation was provided for one particular session on disability and accessibility. It was a great success and was considered to be fully utilized in future conference.

Countdown timer
- As the taskforce has emphasized time management in a virtual session, a clock was displayed on screen to remind moderator and speakers. Audible notifications were made at the last 15 minutes, 5 minutes and end of session.

Chatbot on website
- Chatbot was developed on our website for instant messaging during conference. It mostly helped people to register and to join the sessions they wished.

Contact for technical support
- Email address technical@aprigf.asia was created for anyone to send in their technical inquiries on joining the conference. Meanwhile, registered participants were also provided with a WhatsApp number for urgent, immediate technical support.

In-session support team
- A dedicated team was placed in each Zoom room to ensure smooth running of sessions. Duties include:
  o Zoom setup
  o Handling presentations
  o Audio and video check
  o Watching out for disruptions and taking action upon zoombombing
  o Facilitate discussions in chat pod

With all these efforts to establish a favourable virtual environment, the feedback received was quite satisfying, with a few improvements that can be done in future.

Theme & Sub-themes of APrIGF 2020

Overarching Theme: Internet Governance for Good: Norms, Standards and Mechanisms
The multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance affects the technical architecture of the Internet, its reliability, resilience and potential for further development; as well as complex public policy issues arising from the use of the Internet and its social, economic and political impact. To be 'well/better-governed', consensus building on norms (conventions) and standards is important. Equally important is to ensure greater impact of Internet Governance discussions, by translating them into concrete policies and normative frameworks to be implemented in appropriate platforms.

Sub-themes:

- **Cybersecurity, Safety and Trust**
Cybersecurity covers protection of Internet infrastructure from innumerable cyberthreats that can cause harm to business processes and people. Strengthening cybersecurity requires that all stakeholders should understand cyberthreats and how to counter them. As the Internet is ubiquitous, every individual is entitled to feel safe in using the Internet to perform legitimate activities and transactions without the fear of loss of money, personal information, reputation or freedom. However, with the tremendous increase in human activities being mediated through digital platforms, many surveys show a large decline in trust in the Internet. Under this sub-theme, APrIGF expects to receive proposals for sessions focusing on methodologies and tools to help people use the Internet and digital technology with confidence, on regulatory approaches to increase trust between users and platforms, and on the roles of all stakeholders in building online trust.

- **Digital Inclusion, Gender Equality and Diversity**
Everyone should be given the opportunity to use the Internet as a public good; to receive and impart information for legitimate purposes, regardless of their social status, gender, age, beliefs or financial status. Affordable and reliable access must be provided – using a range of different approaches – equally to all sectors of the community, whether rural or urban, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, vulnerable people and communities, more recently established populations, or new immigrants and refugees. Norms and standards-making must reflect the diversity of individual experiences, cultures and legitimate developmental needs in all societies, encouraging people to create local content on the Internet in their own languages. Under this sub-theme, APrIGF expects to receive proposals for sessions focusing on technical and organizational approaches for affordable and reliable access for all, methodologies and tools to make the Internet and digital technologies more inclusive and diverse, regulatory approaches and best practices, the role of all stakeholders in access provision and inclusion, and the provision of education and training for information literacy and digital literacy, including the responsible exercise of these skills with respect for other people.

- **Human Rights and Ethics**
Human rights (as defined by international human rights instruments and conventions and reflected in national laws) and ethics must be at the core when developing online applications and services as well as the design of regulatory approaches and normative frameworks governing the Internet. This is essential for ensuring accountability, trust and responsible infrastructure management across the Internet. Evidence of various violations gathered through Internet governance processes should form the basis for reviewing existing frameworks and practices towards enabling legal protections and the development and modernisation of laws and policies, as well as other regulatory approaches. Under this sub-theme, APrIGF expects to receive proposals for sessions focusing on digital rights, methodologies and tools for translating debates around human rights and ethics into practice. Areas which could be covered include refinement of definitions and interpretations under national law and regulations, ethical codes, standards and best practices as well as other regulatory approaches, and research to improve the lives of all persons with a specific focus on the role of governments in the protection of human rights online and the open participation of all stakeholders, including civil society and the technical community.

- **Innovation and Development**
As development needs grow larger across the globe, the Internet and related technologies are now seen as a viable option to scale development solutions, to promote and underpin the Sustainable Development Goals. Technological innovation and the evolution of the

Internet and its applications has facilitated the development of the digital economy and substantial advancement in science, agriculture, health and education. For innovation to benefit all, an understanding of incentives for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) as well as start-ups and grassroots communities are important for design, development and use. With so many emerging technologies, it is also important to consider new frontiers such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data and the Internet of Things. Under this sub-theme, APrIGF expects to receive proposals for sessions focusing on law, regulatory approaches, ethical codes, standards and best practices, research and the open participation of all stakeholders in digital innovation and development.

Participation Statistics

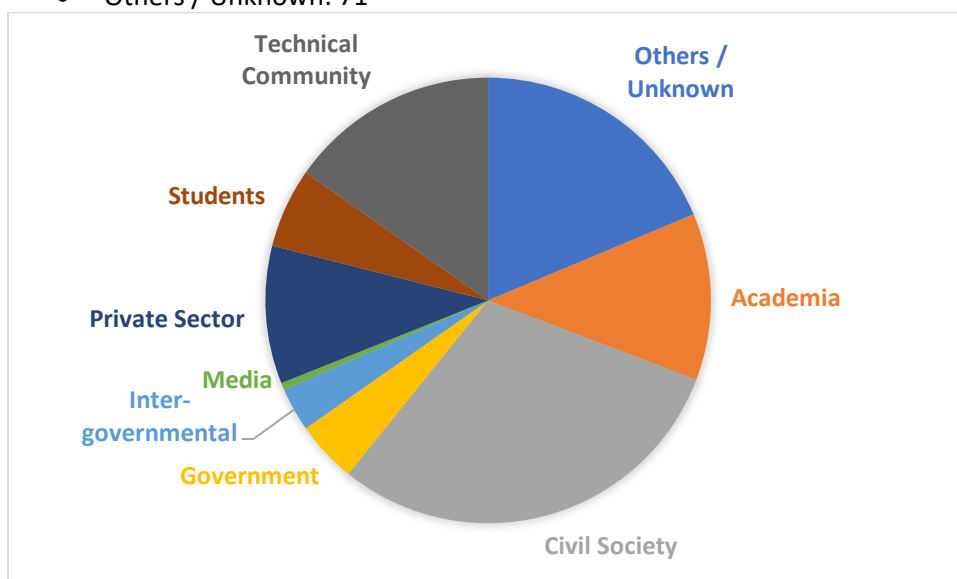Total number of attendees: 380
Average number of attendees in a session: 74

Gender ratio of attendees (Male : Female : Non-binary) (approx.): 150 : 144 : 7
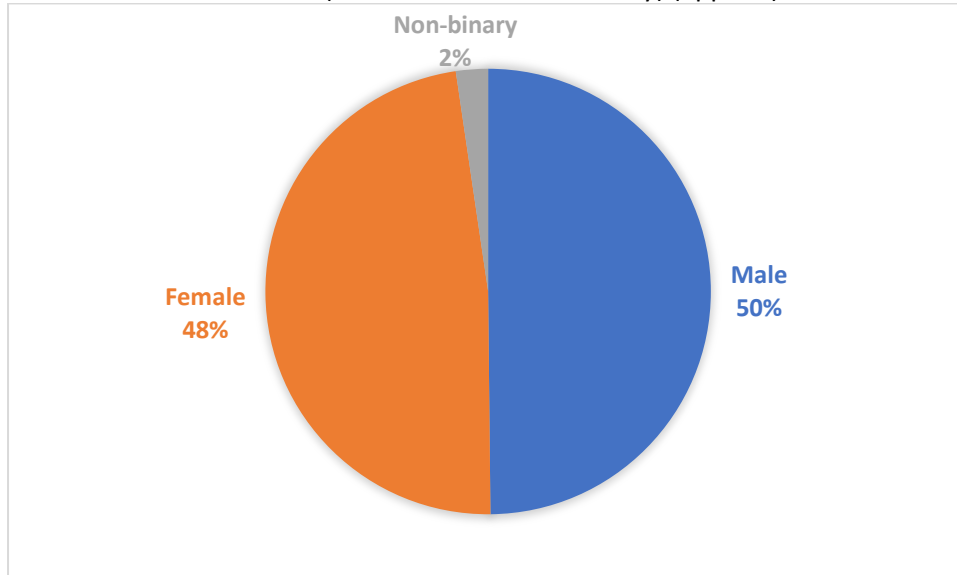
Stakeholder Group
- Academia: 46
- Civil Society: 114
- Government: 17
- Inter-governmental: 12
- Media: 2
- Private Sector: 38
- Students: 22
- Technical Community: 58
- Others / Unknown: 71

Fellowship Program

Total Application received: 137 (Male: 83 / Female: 52 / Other: 2)
Initial Round Selected Fellows: 26 (Male: 11 / Female: 14 / Other: 1)
Sub-Region Distributions
- Pacific & Oceania: 3
- Southeast Asia: 7
- South Asia: 12
- East Asia: 3
- Western Asia: 0
- North Asia: 1

Stakeholder Balance
- Academia: 3
- Civil Society: 8
- Government/IGO: 4
- Technical: 7
- Private Sector: 1
- Students: 3

Name	Gender	Nationality	Stakeholder
Vashkar Bhattacharjee	M	BD	Civil Society
Ahmad Waleed Khaliqi	M	AF	Technical
Shakiba Ibrahimkhail (withdrawn)	F	AF	Inter-governmental Organization
Man-Ju CHEN	F	TW	Civil Society
Nguyen Thi Le	F	VN	Civil Society
Shaila Sharmin	F	BD	Technical
Swaran Sanadhika Ravindra	F	FJ	Academia
Shane Walter Hurrell	M	TO	Government
Nindya Miesye Agita Pasaribu (withdrawn)	F	ID	Civil Society
Jan Jacob Glenn Martinez Jansalin	M	PH	Civil Society
Sudha Bhuvaneswari Narayanaswamy	F	IN	Academia
Paska Bayu Darmawan	O	ID	Academia
Muhammad Farhan Khan	M	PK	Civil Society
Nurulnabillah Binti Ahmad Hijazu	F	MY	Civil Society
Mohamed Shareef	M	MV	Government
Eijun Kim	M	KR	Students
Heng Sok Lay	M	KH	Students
Subhashini Kadurugasyaya (withdrawn)	F	LK	Technical
Galbaatar Lkhagvasuren	M	MN	Civil Society
Hiu Tung Chim	F	HK	Students
Farha Diba	F	BD	Technical
Roy Netvurak	M	VU	Government
Jhulindra Monger	M	BT	Private Sector
Sandi Win Naing	F	MM	Technical
Sayda Kamrun Jahan	F	BD	Technical
S M Sowmyashree	F	IN	Technical

Agenda

Day 0 - 27 Sep

04:00 - 07:00 UTC	**Capacity Building Program for Fellows and Newcomers** Details: https://ap.rigf.asia/#day0program

Day 1 - 28 Sep

04:00 - 05:00 UTC	**Opening Plenary - Dealing with a Pandemic in a Digital Era** Details: https://ap.rigf.asia/#openingPlenaryProgram
05:00 - 05:15 UTC	**Break**
05:15 - 06:15 UTC	**M01. Accessible digital information, training and libraries: Reducing discrimination for persons with disability** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/1281c1adf9
	S03. Not just 0s and 1s: discussing the increasing role of technology in 'women's safety' Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/29b7685fed
06:15 - 06:45 UTC	**Social (trivia quiz)**
06:45 - 07:45 UTC	**S08. Promoting internet and human rights: Challenges in Establishing Multistakeholder Collaborations** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/9d7f519016
	S05. New approaches to technical capacity building: an action-oriented dialogue Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/c324f9feea
07:45 - 08:00 UTC	**Break**
08:00 - 09:00 UTC	**S13. Learn from Home During COVID-19** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/e75340601e
	S01. Do cybernorms help or hinder incident response activities? Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/483c0571a4

Day 2 - 29 Sep

04:00 - 05:00 UTC	**Townhall Session** Zoom one-click join: http://igf.asia/2020zoom-townhall
05:00 - 05:15 UTC	**Break**
05:15 - 06:15 UTC	**S11. The Single, Global Internet – A Technical Discussion** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/141ce75654
	S09. Jack and the Tech Giants: Freedom of Expression and Information in the Tech Era Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/1a292ed512
06:15 - 06:45 UTC	**Break**

06:45 - 07:45 UTC	**S02. Combating Live Streaming of Online Child Abuse Content** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/e88f4dec2f
	S12. The Internet's Environmental Impact: an action-oriented dialogue Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/2f5f7539c4
07:45 - 08:00 UTC	**Break**
08:00 - 09:00 UTC	**S07. Bridging the digital gender divide: Learnings from the digital gender gap audit scorecard** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/8d35e696a8
	S10. The digital rights landscape in Asia Pacific after COVID19 Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/ba3c359cfe

Day 3 - 30 Sep

04:00 - 05:00 UTC	**Townhall Session** Zoom one-click join: http://igf.asia/2020zoom-townhall
05:00 - 05:15 UTC	**Break**
05:15 - 06:15 UTC	**S06. Access to information: a holistic approach to meaningful digital inclusion** Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/b5f46a3acd
	S04. Breaking Encryption: Is it the Panacea for addressing security issue online? Details: https://www.jotform.com/pdf-view/1fbada6c65
06:15 - 06:45 UTC	**Break**
06:45 - 07:45 UTC	**Closing Plenary - Closing the Digital Divide Gap - Post COVID-19 Contingency Plans** Details: https://ap.rigf.asia/#closingPlenaryProgram
07:45 - 08:00 UTC	**Break**
08:00 - 09:00 UTC	**Post-conference Social**

Sessions

Number of session proposals received: 65
Number of selected sessions: 14
Total number of speakers: 75
Gender ratio of speakers (Male : Female : Non-binary): 41 : 39 : 2

Photos

Day 0
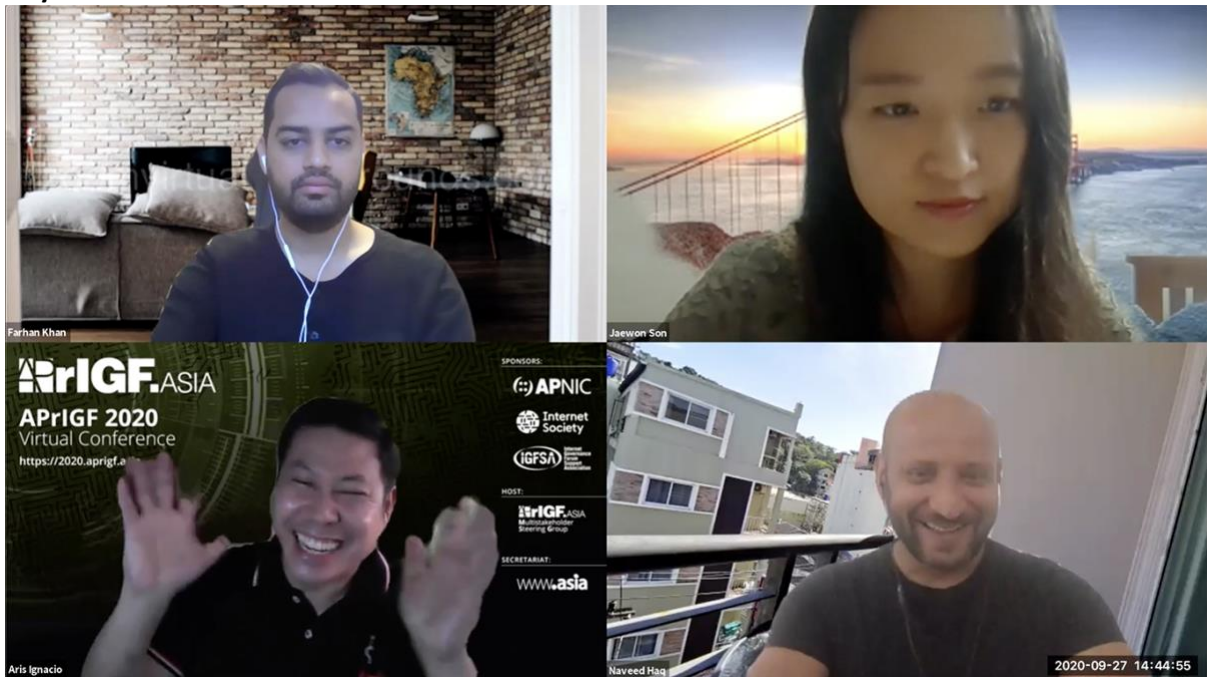
Top left: Muhammad Farhan Khan (2020 fellow)
Top right: Jaewon Son (2019 fellow)
Bottom left: Aris Ignacio (Fellowship Committee Co-chair)
Bottom right: Naveed Haq (Fellowship Committee Co-chair)

Day 1 Opening

Top left: Jordan Carter, CEO, InternetNZ, NZ
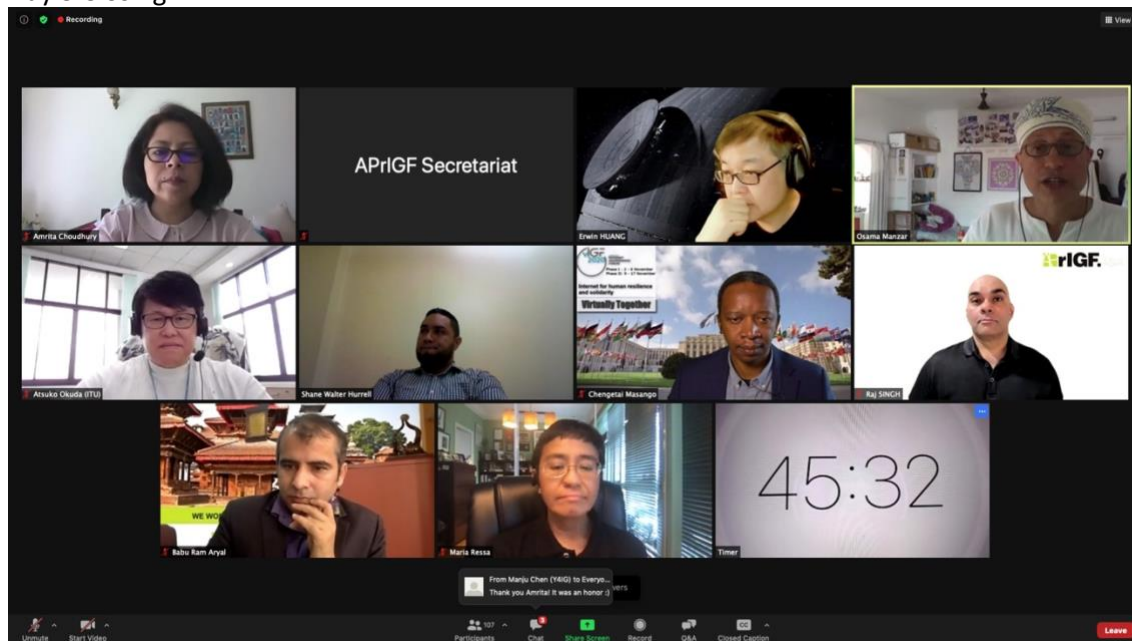Top right: Audrey Tang, Digital Minister, Government of Taiwan, TW
Bottom left: Harish Pillay, Global Head, Community Architecture and Leadership, Red Hat Inc., SG
Bottom right: Vashkar Bhattacharjee, Program Manager, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), BD

Sessions

Day 3 Closing

Top row from left:
Amrita Choudhury, Director, CCAOI (IN)
Erwin Huang, Senior Advisor (Entrepreneurship), HKUST (HK)
Osama Manzar, Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation (IN)
Middle row from left:
Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU
Shane Walter Hurrell, Chief Information Officer, Ministry of Health (TO)
Chengetai Masango, IGF Programme and Technology Manager
Rajnesh Singh, Regional Vice-President, Asia-Pacific, Internet Society (ISOC) (SG)
Bottom row from left:
Babu Ram Aryal, Founder/CEO, Internet Governance Institute (NP)
Maria Ressa, CEO & Executive Editor, The Rappler (PH)

Day 3 Social

Event Backdrops

Virtual Backgrounds

Event Website

http://2020.aprigf.asia

Social Media

Facebook: @aprigf.asia
Number of posts: 68
Total number of engagements: 4645

Twitter: @aprigf_official
Number of tweets: 41
Total number of engagements: 1486
Tweets with #aprigf2020 and @aprigf_official: 451

Synthesis Document

This framework document for APrIGF 2020 was open for public input on https://comment.aprigf.asia. It was promoted on social media and mailing lists for the community to contribute to the document. Join us online at the virtual Townhall sessions.

All APrIGF participants are encouraged to attend the Synthesis Document Townhall Sessions during the conference to make conversations and give comments verbally or via chat on the virtual platform.

Total number of comments received: 123

Final Synthesis Document:
https://www.aprigf.asia/documents/APrIGF_2020_Virtual_Synthesis_Document.pdf
It is the key output from the collaborative effort of the Internet Governance community to document important issues which were discussed during conference, and may be used in the coming global UN vIGF 2020.

Synthesis Document