Asia-Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG)

Satish Babu, Chair, APSIG
Overview

- Background
- Governance
- APSIG 2020 Annual Meeting
- The Future
APSIG: The Background

- The Asia-Pacific region is large and considerably diverse
- Participation from different regions and nations in Internet Governance (IG) was somewhat low and variable in the last decade
- Many IG practitioners felt the need for a capacity building initiative in the region
- In 2015, Prof Kilnam Chon and a few others took the initiative to found the Asia-Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG)
**APSIG: Objectives**

- **APSIG has the following objectives:**
  - Provide a capacity building mechanism to IG practitioners & national and sub-regional SIGs organizers in Asia-Pacific through its annual meeting, in both traditional IG topics as well as emerging technologies
  - Provide support to existing SIGs in the region
  - Provide support for setting up new SIGs and related initiatives
  - Provide a platform (“The All SIG Group”) for SIGs to network and discuss matters relevant to them
  - Participate in SIG-related international activities (eg., the IGF DC on SIGs)
  - Provide support to other IG initiatives (including IGF and APrIGF)
APSIG: Work so far

- APSIG has held annual meetings each year since 2016, all of them at Bangkok
- These have been supported by inTERLab and Prof Kanchana Kanchanasut and AIT Bangkok
- The focus of these meetings have been, in addition to the governance of names & numbers, emerging topics such as, AI Governance, Data Governance, Blockchain Governance and Social Media Governance
From 2015 to 2019, APSIG was governed by a small committee chaired by Prof Chon.

In Jan 2019, a committee was set up from the APSIG community to draft APSIG bylaws.

The drafting was completed in Jun 2019 and the bylaws formally adopted in July 2019.

Membership was opened to the community (37 members joined).

Elections were conducted under the new Bylaws in July 2019, and the new Executive Committee took charge on 1 Sep 2019 for a 2-year term.
The elected EC consists of:

- Satish Babu, Chair (India)
- Mubashir Sargana, Vice Chair (Pakistan)
- Dr Govind, Vice Chair (India)
- Shreedeep Rayamajhi, Secretary (Nepal)
- Ms. Nadira Al Araj, Treasurer (Palestine)
According to the provisions of the bylaws, APSIG constituted its Advisory Council in Dec 2019

The following are the members of the Advisory council:

- Prof Kilnam Chon
- Pablo Hinojosa
- Ms. Shita Laksmi
- Leonid Todorov
APSIG: Administration

- No plans to register APSIG immediately. Registration has been kept pending for a period of two years of pilot phase.
- The location of registration as well as the form of registration are still being discussed within the community.
- Financial arrangements, particularly receiving funding support, has been organized through DotAsia.
APSIG 2020, Kathmandu

• After discussions within the APSIG and APrIGF communities, it was decided to co-locate APSIG with APrIGF for 2020
• An MoU for this was signed between APSIG, APrIGF Secretariat and the APrIGF 2020 local hosts
• The annual APSIG event is therefore scheduled for 30-31 May 2020 at Kathmandu, just after APrIGF
• Approximately 40 Fellows + 10 local Fellows from Nepal will participate in APSIG 2020
• Details on the program will be available shortly on the APSIG website
APSIG 2020: Support

- APSIG 2020 works on a tight budget
- The supporters of 2020 include:
  - APASA (ICANN, APNIC, Internet Society, DotAsia)
  - PIR
  - Fellowship funding
  - Opening Balance transferred by Prof. Chon
  - Still exploring with FB and Google
- Almost the entire funds raised goes to the program
Future Plans

- With its new bylaws and an elected EC, APSIG has progressed closer to being a community-driven initiative
- The APSIG leadership has decided to work closely with other community organizations within APAC including APTLD
- The co-location of APSIG was also in this spirit
- For the future, APSIG hopes it can work effectively as a part of the Asia-Pacific Internet Governance community
Thank You!