



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



APSIG 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

APSIG Executive Committee

- The elected EC consists of:
 - Satish Babu, Chair (India)
 - Mubashir Sargana, Vice Chair (Pakistan)
 - Dr Govind, Vice Chair (India)
 - Shreedeeep Rayamajhi, Secretary (Nepal)
 - Ms. Nadira Al Araj, Treasurer (Palestine)

APSIG Advisory Council

- 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!