



Asia-Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG)

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AP* Retreat 2021

Overview

- **Background**
- **APSIG 2020 Virtual Edition**
 - Program
 - Fellowship
 - Virtual Events: The Pros and Cons
- **The Future**

Background

APSIG: The Background

- **Founded in 2015, 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 SIGs 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 2020

APSIG 2020

- In 2019, it was decided to co-locate APSIG 2020 with AprIGF 2020 as a face-to-face session at Kathmandu, Nepal
- In view of the global pandemic, APSIG consulted its Advisory Council which recommended that we go ahead in the virtual mode as this was the first time the new Committee was organizing the event
- APSIG also held a community consultation at which the virtual edition was finally decided

Program Schedule

- The Program Committee, chaired by Dr Govind, recommended a 3-day virtual session with a Day 0 for participant intros
- The following was the final schedule:
 - Day 0: 21 Nov 2020, 11:00 UTC: Welcome, Fellows intro, Introduction to Core Internet Technologies
 - Day 1: 26 Nov 2020, 11:00-13:30 UTC: Inaugural and 2 sessions
 - Day 2: 27 Nov 2020, 11:00-13:30 UTC: 3 sessions
 - Day 3: 28 Nov 2020, 11:00-13:45 UTC: 3 Sessions & Closing Session

Sessions Covered

- **The sessions covered included:**
 - Address by IGF MAG Chair and Prof Kilnam Chon
 - IG Landscape & Ecosystem
 - AI, Smart Cities & Human Rights
 - Access, Gender and the Digital Divide
 - Recap from APriGF 2020, ICANN69 and IGF2020
 - Issues in the Governance of Social Media, Content and Data
 - Diversity & Disability on the Internet
 - Digital Economy - Challenges & Opportunities
 - Cyber Security: End-user Perspectives and Cross-Border Cooperation

Fellowship

- APSIG had already put out a call for Fellows before the decision to go virtual. The shortlisting for these were already completed
- After the decision, a second call was made for Fellows
- The Fellowship Committee, chaired by Mubashir Sargana, announced 60 Fellows after the merger of both the lists
- Of the 60 Fellows, 52 attended at least one day. However, only 39 Fellows attended all sessions (and got certificates of participation)
- Those awarded certificates will get preference for the next face-to-face edition

Virtual Events: The Pros and Cons

- **Pros:**
 - Low funds requirement
 - Simpler logistics—no venue arrangement, visa, travel funding etc
 - Allows speakers to freely participate, subject only to time zone issues
- **Cons**
 - Participant engagement is a challenge
 - Participant interaction, which adds much by way of learning, community building and fun, declined significantly
 - There was no time to go in depth into subjects as the length of the virtual event (approx 9.5 hours) was much lower than the F2F edition (23 hours)

The Future

- There was good feedback from participants and also a request for inter-sessional events. Currently APSIG is gathering topics for inter-sessional events
- All funds raised for 2020 are being held for the next F2F edition. There is no indication when this is likely to be
- During the year, pkSIG, inSIG, and bdSIG were conducted. Unfortunately, the All SIG group could not meet in 2020
- APSIG would like to thank its Advisory Council, Speakers, Fellows, Donors, Partners and the APSIG Community for their steady support during these difficult times

Thank You!