



CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

IGF Session

Asia and the Next Billion: Challenges in Digital Inclusion

Satish Babu
APRALO

BoG Session on Asia Pacific

- The session “Asia and the Next Billion: Challenges in Digital Inclusion” was organized as a Breakout Group session
- The main objectives of the session were to:
 - Project the importance as well as the size and diversity of Asia-Pacific in terms of Internet access
 - Consider specific challenges and opportunities under four categories:
 - Infrastructure & Economic
 - Social
 - Technology
 - Policy
 - Explore how the APRALO/At-Large community could contribute to bridging these gaps

The Session

- The session was attended by close to 50 participants (about 20 women)
- Speakers included two Board members of ICANN and several from the At-Large community
- Breakout groups were chaired by eminent IG practitioners:
 1. Infrastructural and Economics Issues (Prof Peng Hwa Ang)
 2. Social Issues (Anja Kovacs)
 3. Technology issues (Prof KS Park)
 4. Policy Issues (Rajesh Chharia)
- Full transcript as well as session video is available at:
 - <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2016-day-1-room-7-ws14-asia-and-the-next-billion-challenges-in-digital-inclusion>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGlpHKF23mw>

Findings (partial list)

- The great diversity in Asia-Pacific poses special challenges, and a single solution will not be universal. Localized approaches need to be developed
- The traditional digital divide is making way for technology-based divide (ie., bandwidth, language, type of access device etc)
- Social factors (such as gender, education & disability) still remain a very significant constraint impeding universal access
- A strong policy framework is a good starting point for enabling access

IGF 2016 - Day 1 - Room 7 - WS14: ASIA AND THE NEXT BILLION: CHALLENGES IN DIGITAL INCLUSION

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The following are the outputs of the real-time captioning taken during the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Jalisco, Mexico, from 5 to 9 December 2016. Although it is largely accurate, in some cases it may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription







Thank You!

(Photographs courtesy Glenn McKnight, NARALO)