

## IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	TechWomen: Driving ICT, Innovation and Collaboration in Central Asia and South Asia (CASA)
Date	7 December 2016
Time	15:00 – 16:60
Session Organizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TechNation and TechWomen Afghanistan</li> <li>• Maria Beebe, Ph.D. (TechWomen Afghanistan, Global Networks, and Portland State University)</li> </ul>
Chair/Moderator	Maria Beebe, Ph.D.
Rapporteur/Notetaker	James Beebe, Ph.D.
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	<p><b>Country Presentations:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Omar Mansoor Ansari (TechNation) and Shabana Mansoor (TechWomen Afghanistan)</li> <li>2. Ambassador Latha Reddy (India)</li> <li>3. Sahar Habib (Code for Pakistan) and Naumana Suleman (Bytes for All)</li> <li>4. Zuhra Halimova (Tajikistan) Unable to participate remotely due to technical glitch and then time constraint.</li> <li>5. Lira Samykbaeva and Tattu Mambetalieva (Kyrgyzstan)- did not make it to the IGF</li> </ol> <p><b>Resource Speakers:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Marilyn Cade - IGFSAs, Global Connect, DNS Women (emailed her comments)</li> <li>2. Sylvia Cadena – APNIC</li> <li>3. Joseph Gattuso - Department of Commerce</li> <li>4. Sheen Handoo - Facebook</li> <li>5. Karen McCabe – IEEE</li> <li>6. Lorraine Porciuncula - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</li> </ol>
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low Internet use of women in the region, data on Internet use is not disaggregated by gender.</li> <li>2. Diversity of languages and ethnicities in the region and the need for local content and local technologies.</li> <li>3. Similarity of issues faced by women across the region with the difference being a matter of degree and lack regional level programs to help with transfer of knowhow, technologies and experience and knowledge sharing.</li> <li>4. There are important lessons from South Asia that could be of relevance to Central Asia, thus a regional initiative to enhance cooperation among women-led and women-focused programs.</li> </ol>
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Over view of the workshop (Maria Beebe):</b> The overview reviewed (a) the session objective -- To explore collaborative programs that will focus on women and technology and its implications for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth among players in Central and South Asia (CASA); (b) the key Internet</li> </ol>

<p>Presentation</p>	<p>Governance (IG) topics -- Decision Making Processes whose outcomes affect how the Internet works and develops in a country; Issues of concern related to the IG; and Stakeholders (men, women) who participate in the discussion of those issues and who are affected by the decisions; and (c) country presentations to highlight Gender Policy and Practice, to summarize current engagement with women and technology in their countries, and to suggest way forward for capacity building of women in the ICT sector and through ICTs.</p> <p><b>2. Country Presentations:</b></p> <p><b>Pakistan: Sahar Habib and Naumana Suleman</b></p> <p>Women in Pakistan face restrictions on access to the Internet due to cultural and societal factors particularly in rural areas. There is a need for advocacy to change attitudes. There are online crimes against women. A problem is that the solutions to online crime can be used to curb expression. There are problems with infrastructure. Minorities face double the problem faced by women. There is a need to learn lessons from other countries about how to address problems.</p> <p><b>Afghanistan: Omar Mansoor Ansari and Shabana Mansoor</b></p> <p>Afghanistan shares problems of South and Central Asia. A major problem is access to the Internet. Afghanistan has an internal fiber link with links to neighboring countries. Major problem is cost, a one MP Internet bandwidth costs USD 150 (non-redundant) and USD 300 (redundant). Even higher for fiber, fiber to home (150-300 of dollars a month bandwidth cost, about USD 550 monthly maintenance, and with up to 30,000 dollars for installation), with additional problems and costs due to security issues. Afghanistan has one national data center, but no IxP. Problems with human resources, that require continued capacity building in technical, professional, policy and regulatory areas. Resources being provided by World Bank and USAID projects. It is estimated that 80% of women have access to mobile phone. Corruption is an issue.</p> <p><b>India: Ambassador Latha Redd</b></p> <p>Indian women share the problems of women throughout Central Asia and South Asia, but degree of problems varies. There are two ministries with roles in the Internet and many, many organizations. Efforts underway to reduce overlaps. Estimate India has second largest number of connected women but many are unconnected. Problems with literacy, the use of English, and online crime. Civil society has role in identifying issues and making views known. Looking for solutions that have been</p>
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successful in other countries.

### **3. Resource Speakers:**

**Sylvia Cadena:** Works with APNIC foundation. ANPIC provides a significant amount of capacity building for network engineers to set up ISPs and IXPs and network around the region and covers 56 economies from Afghanistan to the Pacific. Has fellowship programme that encourages women engineers to build the network that they want for their daughters, their mothers, and the other women. It is important to acknowledge what already exists by doing a mapping exercise. There are women network engineers in the region who can build the platform. There are capacity building resources in the region available free of charge, however the diversity of local languages makes translation complicated. Collaboration is recognized as great but it is important to set up clear expectations about what that collaboration looks like in terms of commitments of time and resources. APNIC will be able to provide support on the technical side.

**Marilyn Cade:** A Board member of WAVE, with members from the MENA countries. WAVE has much in common with TechWomen. On behalf of WAVE Board member, offers congratulations for this session and offer assistance to follow up activities on advancing women in ICTs and in Internet governance activities to address the challenges that face women in ICT, especially access and use.

**Joseph Gattuso:** The United States Department of Commerce Commercial Law Development Programme (CLDP). The CLDP provides training, workshops, and technical assistance that helps grow the sector or that affects the investment climate in countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Topics include: connectivity, cyber security that affects the network and therefore affects investment. Other issues include trust in the network, feeling safe on a social media platform, cybercrime law. Raises questions about how law affect women. CLDP sponsors internships and fellowships on a limited scale.

**Sheen Handoo:** Facebook has an SME programme for women entrepreneurs to help them build and grow their businesses online. More than 1800 women entrepreneurs in India have been helped and has been expanded to Pakistan. FB develops engagement and innovation through partnerships with fast moving startups to help them test and develop new platform technologies that would benefit developers everywhere. FB works with startups and entrepreneurs and developers to scale their products and gives them the tools, mentorship from the developer round tables and advisory councils. FB lives by the principle of open source, making available 387 solutions,

	<p>including cross platform applications that are use internally at FB to any startup or developer at code.facebook.com.</p> <p><b>Karen McCabe:</b> IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) is one of the largest international professional program dedicated to promoting women engineers and scientists and inspiring girls around the world to follow their academic interests to a career in engineering. Over 600 WIE groups around the world including in South and Central Asia provide girls and women with mentors and topical subject matter experts as well as providing training on technical skills, soft skills such as leadership, project management, and entrepreneurship skills. These skills are especially important for advancing girl's and women's interest in working in technology, and provide a foundation for confidence in being community and business leaders.</p> <p><b>Lorrayne Porciuncula:</b> The OECD created the <a href="#">Gender Portal in 2015</a> through the OECD Gender Initiative. The Gender Portal compiles good practices, analytical tool, and data on gender across all OECD policy work. Examples include the <a href="#">GENDERNET</a> and our <a href="#">Wikigender</a>. On science and technology, OECD has <a href="#">statistics</a> and model surveys that can help countries to assess the gaps on ICT access and usage by gender and on the differences in the availability of male and female ICT specialists. For the OECD, it is imperative to compile data to develop evidence-based policies and to monitor their implementation.</p>
<p>Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>The participants of the workshop were divided into three discussion groups (DGs)—DG# 1 to discuss issues around collaboration, DG# 2 capacity building and DG# 3 technologies. Each group had a moderator and reporter, who reported on the discussion outcomes:</p> <p><b>DG# 1:</b> Foster collaboration among target countries by creating a network of women in technology. Report back by <b>Qasim Nasimee</b>, reporter of the discussion group 1 (GD# 1), who works with Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority. First, there is a need to identify organizations in each country which are working and engaging with women activities and technology. And the next is to do research and provide capacity building through fellowship programs such as ICANN. IPNIC or GSMA. Goal is to connect countries and regions of CASA for technical exchange that foster collaboration for capacity building and better network.</p> <p><b>DG# 2:</b> Explore capacity building ideas, including online learning that could be done on a collaborative basis in the region. Report back: <b>Brandy Nonnecke</b> from CITRUS, University of Berkeley. Not only technology capacity building but also capacity building around the technology. Looking at training and online safety are critical issues especially when engaging young women and girls in technology. Other issues include retention of women in the</p>

	<p>field and building a culture of acceptance in the professional workforce for women. Making sure women speak out.</p> <p><b>DG# 3:</b> Explore what technologies could facilitate empowering women and collaboration among women, for example a platform for networking, an online repository of resources. Report back: <b>FCC Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn.</b> What is being proposed is "the hive." The hive would be a resource hub or ecosystem where women in this region who are interested and want to gain more from the technology space will be able to post and join events, have access to educational resources that would be uploaded and populated by those potential members, and collaborate on ICT projects. The Hive would have links to common social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn. The Hive would be multipurpose, multidimensional, ever evolving.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proceed with the development of a regional network of TechWomen CASA with clear expectations from potential country members. Do a mapping exercise to identify which organizations are led by women and implementing ICT research and capacity building in the ICT sector interventions for women. This can be done through a monkey survey.</li> <li>2. As part of the mapping exercise, identify existing capacity building content in the ICT sector. This could include telecom infrastructure, the protocol standards and services, cyber security and online safety, and content and applications; decision-making processes; and, the engaging stakeholders (men, women) who participate in the discussion of those issues and who are affected by the decisions.</li> <li>3. Develop a HIVE that would serve as a knowledge exchange for building capacity of women through ICTs and in the ICT sector. This would include links to resources identified by the resource speakers, such as GENDERNET, links to social media, links to free and open source materials, such as code.facebook.com, scholarships and fellowship offered by various organizations, such as APNIC, CDLP, IEEE, among others, and other content that could be localized and translated to local languages.</li> </ol>