

IGF 2016 Workshop Report
WS250 - How to Make Remote Participation Sustainable?

Date: 6 Dec 2016

Time: 09:00 - 10:00

Workshop Organiser:

David NG, Director of Community Development, DotKids Foundation

Chairperson/Moderator:

[Facilitators of the breakout group discussion]

David NG, Director of Community Development, DotAsia Organisation

Bianca HO, Director of International Relations, DotKids Foundation

Renata Aquino Ribeiro, professor and researcher, E. I. Consulting

Ginger Paque, Program Coordinator, DiploFoundation (Remote)

Hailey Yang, Ambassador, NetMission.Asia (Remote)

Rapporteur/Note Taker:

Yannis Li, Secretariat of APrIGF

List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

Breakout groups discussion, open to floor

Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

How to accommodate remote participants to ensure the sustainability and inclusiveness of discussions at the annual IGFs and intersessional work with the 3 key areas identified: 1) Organization 2) Motivation & Timezone 3) Capacity Building.

If there are Presentations during the workshop session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation

A 10-question survey about remote participation experience was circulated from 5 Nov to 6 Dec among the community with a total of 28 responses collected. Although the number of responses are not representative but the result aims to give a preliminary clues and suggestions to kick-start the session discussions. The result revealed that technical facilities may not be the only factor but there are more challenges such as timezone difference, motivation of the participants and how workshops are designed as well as most often the case remote participants comments are undervalued by moderators or organizers which suggested improvements are then discussed during this workshop.

Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRPD3QG>

Result: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-JY8LP9TN/>

**Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session:
(3 paragraphs)**

1) Organisation

It was suggested the Integration of online chats to the discussion, such as broadcasting the online chats in the meeting room. Meanwhile, online moderator should be dedicated solely to the online participants for better coordination, and easy to use remote participation tool should be introduced. Remote participants of session also suggested organiser should also be aware of the format, which panel discussion will be easier for remote participants to attend, and extra tools should be introduced to fit other formats.

2) Motivation

For the motivation, it was suggested to raise awareness by introducing Internet Governance discussion in the education, to give awards of certificates of participation, and inclusion of remote inputs in workshop reports could be an incentive for people to engage in remote participation, as well as setting remote hub for the meeting to collect voices from the community. Meanwhile, it was also raised that attention should be given to online participants during the meeting, which will be very discouraging for their participation by just observing instead of involving.

3) Capacity building

The discussion included different phases i.e. before, during and after a meeting. Before a meeting, it was important to prepare registration for remote participants and provide respective document and guidance for them to access the meeting. Remote participants of this session made an important remarks that moderators shall also be provided with trainings to equip them on how to engage remote participants such as asking if any remote questions or comments periodically, however it is also crucial to get more of them to attend the training and follow the disseminated guidelines. During the meeting, it is suggested to experiment different remote participation tools to ensure they are familiar with the usage. And after the meeting, discussion records and archives should be well kept, as well as translate to different UN languages at least for people to take reference.

Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)

A guideline for being remote participants inclusive is suggested to be developed. It is agreed that more effort shall be put to change the mindset of workshop organizers so that they would have taken remote participants into account when they plan their workshop as well as giving fair opportunities for them to speak during the workshop.

Suggestions on exploring other remote participation tools that could support break-out group discussions and other up-to-date technologies that can reach young people are also raised.