Summary Report for Korea Government's Open Forum at IGF 2014

Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning (MSIP) of the Republic of Korea and Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA) jointly held an open forum to introduce the various efforts that have been made by different stakeholders in order to advance the Internet environment and the Internet governance process. The official title of the forum was "Korea's Efforts to Advance Internet Environment Including IPv6 Deployment."

The session began with presentations prepared by five panelists and had a round of Q&A. It was moderated by Mr. Jaechon Park, a Professor at Inha University in Korea.

Assistant Deputy Director in the Internet Policy Division of MSIP, Mr. Hwayoung Cheon, started by introducing Korean government's policy efforts to improve and develop the rapidly changing Internet environment. He first touched upon the role of the Internet in the "Creative Economy" strategy, the Korean Government's major policy vision to facilitate economic growth through the creation of new industry and market by combining creative ideas with the science technologies and ICTs. It was stressed that the role of the Internet in achieving this Creative Economy is especially important as it innovates the communication platforms as well as the traditional distribution system. Mr. Cheon explained that the Internet was used as an engine for economic development, which resulted in Korea's current highly competitive Internet ecosystem. It was noted that the platform through which the overall Internet economic activities are held is quickly transitioning from PC to mobile. Lastly, he described that Korea's Internet policy directions reflect four objectives: expanding and enhancing network infrastructure, improving the existing regulations, enhancing the web environment and promoting sound Internet ecosystem.

General Researcher in Korea Internet & Security Agency, Jungmin Lee, introduced Korean government's ongoing efforts for expanding IPv6 deployment. She explained that the government introduced the "IPv6 Expansion Roadmap" this year and also established the IPv6 Transition Strategy Discussion Board to further discuss the political tasks and issues that could arise from the IPv6 deployment. She also mentioned that it is now mandatory for government and public organizations to use IPv6. It was noted that this roadmap implements a comprehensive approach to provide customized professional training and technical consulting services to small and medium companies for successful IPv6 diffusion.

Dongman Lee, Professor at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), introduced the development and the current status of the local Internet governance process. Professor Lee viewed the past efforts for Korea's Internet governance discussion in two phases, before and after the Korean government's establishment of Internet address regulation in 2004. He mentioned while there were more community-driven efforts to build multi-stakeholder Internet governance structure before 2004, the discussion and efforts to build the local Internet governance mechanism became more government-driven as the governmental engagement and interest in the Internet increased. He introduced that the collaborative efforts to build multistakeholder Internet governance structure have

recently been made between government and other stakeholder communities in Korea. He wrapped up his remarks by highlighting four important tasks to be taken account: capacity building to balance between the government involvement and multistakeholderism, the open and transparent process, the accountability of the system and the continuity of discussion and collaboration.

A representative from Jinbo NET, a civil society organization based in Korea, Mr. Byung-il Oh, gave the Korean civil society perspective on Internet governance process development in Korea. He pointed out that the present policy making process has limitations such as the ineffective use of public hearings, unavailability of feedback from the government and the closeness of the policy advisory committees and the untransparent member selection process. However, he mentioned that they achieved an important step forward last July in the Internet governance discussion as various stakeholders, including government officials, gathered together to discuss how to build and develop "Korea Internet Governance Alliance (KIGA)", the national multi-stakeholder Internet governance body in Korea. He said while there are a number of difficult issues to address such as KIGA's legal status and financial stability, KIGA should not be a mere discussion forum but a body, which produces concrete outcomes that could be reflected in actual policies.

Hyunjae Lee, General Manager from Daum Corporation, one of the leading Internet companies in Korea, gave an overview on the Internet market and industry in Korea. He noted that the two big local companies, Daum and Naver, are dominating the Internet market in Korea as they account for 97% of market traffic. He mentioned that the presence of local players is especially strong because they provide unique and localized service as well as proprietary content and highly sophisticated services for Korean users. He emphasized that the industry is making efforts for the better Internet use and safer Internet environment in Korea by increasing web accessibility, using open platforms, promoting fair systems and policies, protecting user privacy and rights. He also expressed the indsutry support for the decentralized and accountable Internet governance mechanism.

During the Q&A session, the questions were raised on Korea's children online protection law, specifically "Shutdown Law," which forbids children under aged 16 from playing to play computer games from midnight to 6am; Korea's nationwide broadband plan; the certificate authorizing system for foreign companies willing to enter Korean market; and the difficulties that were experienced in the process of forming the Internet governance discussion body in Korea, particularly when trying to increase the awareness or interest from wider range of stakeholders on the Internet governance issue as a policy matter.

The session successfully addressed various ongoing efforts that have been and are being made in Korea in order to make better of the Internet environment. Also, it provided a useful opportunity to get a glimpse of how the Internet governance discussion has evolved over time and the implications it may convey in Korea.