

IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

Session Title	WS14: Asia and the Next Billion: Challenges in Digital Inclusion
Date	6 Dec 2016
Time	12:00 – 13:30
Session Organizer	Satish Babu (APRALO, ISOC-TRV), Maureen Hilyard (ISOC, Cook Islands)
Chair/Moderator	Satish Babu
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Lianna Galstyan, ISOC-Armenia
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Abdul Rahim, Rinalia, ICANN Board Ang, Peng Hwa, Nanyang Technical University, Singapore Astbrink, Gunela, GSA Infocomm, Australia Chharia, Rajesh, President, ISPFI, India Galstyan, Lianna, ISOC Armenia Jayakumar, Arjun, SFLC.in, India Kovacs, Anja, Internet Democracy Project, India Park, KS, Korea University School of Law, Korea Rayamajhi, Shreedeep (Remote), Rayznews, Nepal
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic Introduction • Infrastructural and Economics Issues • Social Issues • Technology issues • Policy Issues
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	No presentations were used.
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	<p>The session started off a welcome from the Moderator, and an introduction to the Workshop theme by Rinalia Abdul Rahim.</p> <p>After this, the session split into 4 breakout groups on the four themes identified, which were chaired by four participants as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructural and Economics Issues (Prof Peng Hwa Ang) • Social Issues (Anja Kovacs) • Technology issues (Prof KS Park) • Policy Issues (Rajesh Chharia) <p>The group chairs presented their findings after which four invited interventions were made as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherine Chalaby, ICANN Board (comparing Asia-Pacific with other regions, particularly Africa)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunela Astbrink (Disability and Access) • Rajesh Chharia (Specific access issues in India) • Arjun Jayakumar (Policy issues) • Shreedeeep (Specific access issues in Nepal) <p>The open discussions that followed saw active participation from the floor, with several specific country cases being talked about (such as Afghanistan) and several broad concerns being raised (such as access for the disabled, Internet blocking, fake news, Universal Acceptance issues for IDN-based emails, women’s exclusion, overbearing governmental control, zero rating, net neutrality and the fact that new digital divide was perceived to be as bad as Apartheid in Africa).</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>The key takeaways included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and costs still an impeding factor in Asia-Pacific • Local content and IDNs/UAI is likely to be one of the future bottlenecks, so work is required on these • Empowerment of communities as well as specific segments (including women) would enable off-take • The new digital divide was not just about access, but about equitable and effective ways of leveraging the Internet • Access needs to be specified to be measurable (ie., some current definitions such as ‘one Internet access per month’) are no longer tenable • Policy coherence was extremely important in effectively bridging the digital divide • A co-ordinated multistakeholder process would be an effective and appropriate way of approaching these challenges to digital inclusion in Asia Pacific