

## **Reporting for IGF Workshop Sessions**

**Session title:** WS #130 How does social media shape our minds?

**Date:** 20 December 2018

**Time:** 10:10 - 11:40

### **Workshop Organisers:**

Mr. David NG, Civil Society, NetMission.Asia

Mr. Hans MARTENS, Civil Society, European Schoolnet

### **Chairperson/Moderator:**

Ms. Jianne Soriano, NetMission.Asia (Asia Pacific)

### **Rapporteur/Note Taker:**

Ms. Yannis Li, DotAsia Organisation

### **List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:**

Mr. David Ng, eHelp Association (Asia Pacific)

Ms. Sabrina Vorbau, European Schoolnet (WEOG)

Mr. Michael J. Oghia, Steering Committee of YCIG (MENA)

Ms. Heiki Tsang, NetMission.Asia (Asia Pacific)

Mr. Guilherme Alves da Silva, Youth Observatory (LAC)

### **Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):**

How to address the fake news on social media?

Responsibility of individuals and the role of media literacy

Potentials on social media

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

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

The participants were divided into three groups for breakout group discussion on the topics: 1) methods of receiving information, 2) communication patterns and 3) new innovations on social media.

Participants had raised the concern about the fake news on social media, balance between regulation and freedom of expression was discussed. However, the issue was challenging that Internet is with no geographical border, multi-stakeholders should be engaged in the discussion to balance the views. In fact, fake news is not just existed on social media, for long it also appears on traditional one, people should be aware of the type of mind manipulation in different ways and formats.

Meanwhile, there were also touches on social media addiction, cyberbullying and personal privacy. Education was an essential tool to foster the positive usage and teach a responsible

behaviour. At the same time, Internet users should get prepared to deal with online issues and avoid from being trapped by social bubbles.

In conclusion, to address the challenges facing on social media, not only the role of private sector and government are important, but also the individuals, parents and schools.

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

Fostering the critical thinking of Internet User is the key, media literacy education is needed to remind people being responsible of their action, as well as to get know their own rights, which may ease the situation of misinformation spreading, cyberbullying and neglecting own privacy.

The suggestion about the fact checking sources on social media platform was also raised, it could act as a reliable method to verify the information. Labelling system could be put in place for verification and fake information removal. But at the same time, the transparency of the system is vital in the process.

**Gender Reporting Questions**

**Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:**

Around 100

**Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:**

About equal mix between men and women

**To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?**

The discussion is about internet users and their challenges on social media in general

**If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:**

The suggestion on promoting media literacy education is for all regardless of their gender, age, race and geographical location.