

Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum 2024

Taipei

Connecting Generations: Forging a Responsible Digital Future through Collaboration and Policy Innovation

REPORT

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Foreword

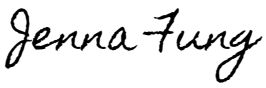
The Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum 2024 (yIGF) concluded on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at the NTUH International Convention Center in Taipei, Taiwan. I'd like to extend our gratitude to the local host of the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) 2024, the Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC), the APrIGF Secretariat, and our supporting organization, DotAsia Organisation, our community partners, supporting organizations of local hubs, and the members of the organizing committee for their unwavering support.

During this one-day hybrid event, youth leaders across our region once again demonstrated the incredible power of collaboration, showcasing their potential to make a real impact in Internet governance through innovation and creativity. Our unwavering commitment to bridging generational divides and amplifying the voice of youth within the Internet Governance landscape is truly commendable.

The active participation of all stakeholders is crucial to weaving youth into the fabric of the Internet Governance ecosystem. Meaningful youth engagement thrives through "intergenerational" and "intercultural" dialogues, which spark dynamic exchanges that enrich perspectives across all age groups.

I seize this opportunity to call upon every member of our community to unite their efforts, systemically include youth initiatives, and open doors for the next generation. Let the new blood be part of the movement to make the Internet a better place for everyone.

A heartfelt thank you to the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) secretariat and the IGF 2024 Youth Track organizing team for placing their trust in us to lead and host the youth track workshop for the global Internet Governance community. This trust empowers us—the youth—alongside stakeholders from all generations and leaders across the APAC region, to stay united with the global youth strategy. Together, we will continue shaping the future of the Internet, ensuring it is a story of inclusivity, equity, and opportunity for everyone.



Jenna Manhau Fung
Head Coordinator of Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum

About Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF.Asia)

The Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF.Asia) is one of the pioneering youth IGFs initiated in the Internet governance community. It was first initiated by a group of NetMission Ambassadors (www.netmission.asia) in 2010 in parallel with the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) and has been recognized by the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) since then.

Inspired by the multistakeholder model adopted by the IGF, the Asia Pacific yIGF also established the forum with the same approach, aiming to encourage more engagement in policy discussion and the decision-making process from the younger generation.

The Asia Pacific yIGF is usually a 3-day annual meeting held in parallel with the APrIGF. It provides an open platform for the youth to express and interchange their ideas and own thoughts on Internet governance freely. It also serves as a preparation camp for newcomers to understand various Internet issues and open their doors to international policy discussion. However, this year it was held as a one-day engagement.

About the Organizer

NetMission.Asia is a network of passionate youth from Asia dedicated to engaging and empowering youth on Internet governance discourse to enhance youth mobility and create an impact in Asia. Students from top tertiary institutes or universities are recruited every year and will be provided with a series of training workshops. We are endeavoring to empower young minds and to constructively contribute to the local, regional, and global Internet governance discourse through organizing the Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum (HKyIGF), international conferences, and community projects. NetMission Ambassadors are actively participating in various international Internet conferences, including ICANN meetings, IGF, APrIGF, Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA), and the Asia Pacific Next Generation Camp (APNG Camp). To support and encourage youth participation in Internet governance, the ambassadors have been organizing the yIGF in the Asia-Pacific region, including Brisbane, Singapore, Tokyo, Seoul, New Delhi, Macao, Taipei, Bangkok, and Port Vila since 2010.



Highlights of the Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum 2024 (yIGF)

This year's yIGF saw remarkable engagement, with **over 60 active onsite attendees, 25 remote participants, and 59 local hub participants.** In total, **more than 160 participants** from across the APAC region took part, including remote participants from youth-led yIGF local hubs in Pakistan and the Philippines.

Throughout this event, we yielded numerous key takeaways from the thought-provoking Youth track on AI & Education, the panel discussion addressing foundational values of the Internet, the engaging breakout sessions in the Meetup with Industry Experts, and the APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue focused on empowering marginalized youth through multistakeholder partnerships. Notably, our Next Gen participants took the initiative to craft their Youth Policy Statements, highlighting our collective commitment to shaping a better Internet, driven by intentional design rather than chance.

The following section provides a snapshot of the key milestones we accomplished during yIGF 2024:

IGF 2024 Youth Track Workshop

As the youth movement continues to grow globally, the yIGF organizing committee helped facilitate the IGF 2024 Youth Track Workshop under the theme “AI and Education: ChatGPT Use in Schools and AI Capacity Development”. The discussion explored issues at the intersection of education, policy, technology, and youth. It further delves deeper into emerging challenges and opportunities of AI in the education sector.

Panel Discussion

The panel discussion explores key aspects of the Internet that are vital for exercising rights in a democratic society. Like democracy, technology should be decentralized, following a bottom-up, consensus-based multistakeholder model. However, in recent years, it has faced numerous challenges that threaten its core values, including the centralization of power, exploitative business models, and Internet fragmentation—factors that have contributed to growing disparities in access and connectivity.

APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue

This year's discussion built on the collective efforts of the Asia Pacific youth community over the past two years, focusing on how to leverage multistakeholder partnerships to empower marginalized youth in the region. The conversation addressed key issues like digital literacy, equitable access to digital resources, and online rights protection. It underscored the need to adapt child digital rights frameworks to tackle regional challenges, promote grassroots youth-led initiatives, and enhance collaboration among governments, civil society, and the private sector. The discussion also emphasized the importance of combating online threats such as child sexual abuse material (CSAM) and gender-based violence through regional cooperation and youth impact assessments, while encouraging tech companies to create safer online environments.

Meetup with Industry Experts

The Meetup with Industry Experts is an interactive session where participants can engage in breakout discussions with professionals from various backgrounds. The focus is on securing truth in an age of information overload, deepfakes, and artificial intelligence. The session also encourages participants to discuss relevant events in their countries, such as elections, and the significant impact of social media on shaping public opinion.

Organized in a Hybrid Model

The yIGF 2024 was held in a hybrid format, allowing participants to attend in person while also facilitating remote participation. This approach was designed to ensure that the next generation not only has access to opportunities but also a platform to amplify their voices equally. Continuing a valued tradition, yIGF 2024 maintained its commitment to including youth policy statements. Notably, both on-site and remote participants collaboratively developed the Youth Policy Statement, providing an opportunity to explore the complexities of the multistakeholder model and navigate the diverse interests within the realm of Internet governance.

Youth-Led Session at APrIGF 2024

This year, NetMission Ambassadors Socheata Sokhachan, Iqra Ejaz Bhatti, and Aviral Kaintura spearheaded a workshop at APrIGF 2024 titled "Is Asia-Pacific Ready for AI? Balancing Innovation, Ethical Governance, and Marginalized Needs." The panel featured voices from various stakeholder groups, including youth, academia, civil society, and the private sector across the Asia-Pacific region. Participants at yIGF 2024, both in person and online, shared valuable insights on the implications of AI for marginalized communities, the need for ethical oversight, and the future of AI development in the region.

We also hosted another youth-led session titled "Securing Trust: Ethical Governance in Championing Children's Digital Rights," co-organized by NetMission Ambassadors Stella Anne Teoh Ming Hui, Bea Guevara, and Luke Rong Guang Teoh. This session highlighted the crucial role of ethical governance in protecting children's rights in the digital realm and empowering them to advocate for accessibility and inclusivity in creating safe online spaces. Participants

from various backgrounds shared their insights on building trust and safeguarding the most vulnerable online.

These sessions created unique platforms for yIGF participants to actively engage in youth-centered discussions at the regional level, showcasing how youth-led conversations can drive forward important dialogues on emerging technologies, children's digital rights, and ethical governance, while fostering sustained engagement beyond youth-oriented initiatives.

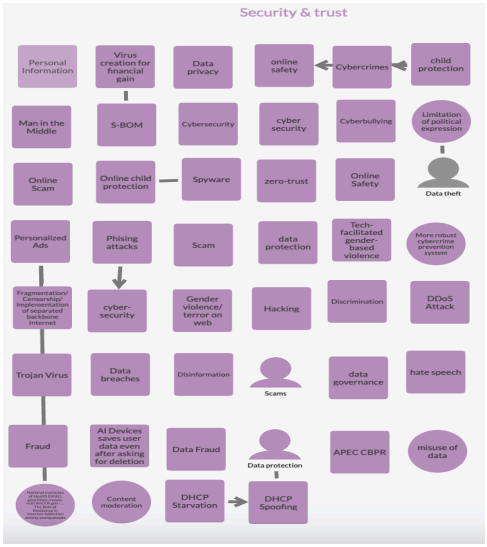
Contribution to Regional Discussion

Building upon the discussions that originated during yIGF 2024 and the APrIGF 2024, our initiative placed a significant emphasis on fostering "constructive contribution" and delivering "tangible outputs". These guiding principles became our motto as we meticulously crafted our program.

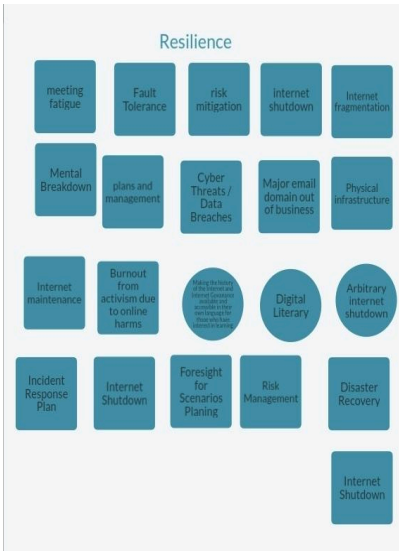
In keeping with our commitment, yIGF continued its tradition of introducing the Idea Wall to a new cohort of participants. This served as a valuable tool to prepare them for active participation in the Townhall at the APrIGF while also encouraging the generation of ideas that gave rise to the Youth Policy Statements.

Below, you will find a selection of mind maps created by our participants during the event:

Security & Trust



Resilience



Ethical Governance



Youth Statement

The youth statement for yIGF 2024 was crafted by this year's participants, who explored the key focus areas of this year's yIGF overarching theme, "Connecting Generations: Forging a Responsible Digital Future through Collaboration and Policy Innovation", as well as the APrIGF overarching theme, "Evolving Ecosystems, Enduring Principles: Shaping Responsible Internet Governance".

Securing Truth in the Age of Information Overload

The growing sophistication of AI-generated synthetic content, such as deepfakes, highlights the urgent need to secure authenticity in the digital age, particularly during democratic processes like elections. Governments must actively regulate AI to protect democratic integrity, promoting voter education to equip the public with the tools to recognize and resist misinformation, especially during election periods. Meanwhile, the private sector should collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure transparency and fairness within the digital economy, empowering individuals to think critically. Civil society has a pivotal role in educating the public about the dangers of AI-generated misinformation, while the technical community must uphold ethical standards, innovate detection tools, and ensure the security and reliability of these systems.

Championing Youth: Rights, Safety, and Well-being

Multistakeholder collaboration is crucial in empowering youth across the Asia Pacific region, ensuring equitable access to digital resources, protections, and opportunities while fostering a safe and trustworthy online environment. Governments should focus on inclusive digital infrastructure, implement cybersecurity training, and contribute to collective safety efforts. The private sector bears the responsibility of balancing technological innovation with user safety. Civil society must advocate for a safe, inclusive digital space for youth, especially ensuring that marginalized groups are not left behind. This requires stronger support for role models, awareness campaigns, and tangible actions to combat online harassment and gender-based violence. At the same time, the technical community should prioritize building AI and digital systems with safety, reliability, and accountability at the forefront.

Empowering Access: Democratizing the Internet for All

Decentralized technologies, such as Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs), hold the potential to democratize Internet governance by making decision-making more inclusive and accessible. Governments must take a proactive approach to closing the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to the Internet, particularly in underserved regions. The private sector should lead efforts to create an accountable digital economy by fostering innovation, ensuring transparency, data protection, and promoting equitable access. Civil society organizations must advocate for diverse representation in Internet governance discussions, while the technical community should embrace decentralized, multilateral collaborations that prioritize inclusivity and transparency.

Ethical Governance of Emerging Technologies

Emerging technologies like AI offer transformative potential, but they also present significant ethical challenges. As youth, we believe that governing these technologies responsibly requires a careful balance between innovation and regulation. Governments should develop legal and regulatory frameworks that promote responsible innovation while protecting fundamental rights. The private sector should invest in ethical AI development, collaborating with civil society to address issues of digital trust and safety. Civil society should advocate for robust AI governance, ensuring that discussions about emerging technologies include marginalized communities. Meanwhile, the technical community must prioritize building AI systems that are as ethical as they are efficient.

To view the full version of the Youth Statement, please go to Appendix 3: Youth Policy Statement

Session Reports

In this section, you will find summaries of key sessions at the yIGF 2024. This includes the APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue, Panel Discussion, Meetup with Industry Experts, and the IGF 2024 Youth Track Workshop II.

APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue
Championing Youth: Rights, Safety, and Well-being

On 20th August 2024, youth leaders from various youth initiatives in the Asia Pacific region gathered for the fourth edition of the Asia Pacific Youth Leaders Dialogue. The session was Moderated by Ankita Rathi (onsite) with assistance from Bea Guevarra (online). This initiative aimed to foster continuous conversation within the youth community and keep young people informed about ongoing Internet governance discussions in the region.

Speakers for this year's event included Nurul Kabir (TdhNL Bangladesh), Boris Lo (Dynamic Teen Coalition), Felicia Yunike (SEA yIGF), Ihita Gangavarapu (India yIGF), Wei Ting Hung (a youth Leader from Taiwan), and Ananda Gautam (Nepal yIGF).

The session brought together youth experts to explore strategies for empowering marginalized youth in the Asia Pacific regions, focusing on digital literacy, access to resources, online safety, and the role of multistakeholder partnerships. The discussion centered on the challenges youth face in the digital landscape and proposed actionable solutions to ensure their equitable access to digital resources and protections. Below are some key takeaways from the session:

Digital Literacy and Education

The session emphasized the critical need to address digital illiteracy among youth, particularly in underserved regions like the Philippines and Indonesia. Speakers focused that digital education is a fundamental pillar of youth empowerment, as it enables young people to navigate the digital world safely and creatively. One of the speakers highlighted that educators must be equipped with technological skills to guide young people effectively. This approach ensures that they are not just passive consumers but active innovators in maximizing technology use. Initiatives to create dedicated forums were discussed, providing spaces where governments, youth, and private sectors can engage equally, fostering digital inclusion and mutual learning.

Multistakeholder Partnerships

Multistakeholder partnerships were identified as essential for developing comprehensive strategies to empower marginalized youth. Panelists pointed out the importance of forming committees and creating interlearning laboratories to consolidate efforts in digital campaigns and local advocacy actions. The panelists highlighted that the coordinated efforts of civil society,

governments, private companies, and youth groups can bridge the digital divide and foster youth-led innovations in activities such as local advocacy, digital campaigns, youth meetings, etc. Regional forums like APrIGF and yIGF were noted to be vital platforms to foster collaboration between stakeholders, promote youth engagement, and create a conducive environment for youth participation in important discussions.

Call for Child Digital Rights Frameworks

The discussion also delved into tailoring existing child digital rights frameworks to address the unprecedented challenges faced by youth in the APAC region. Speakers stated the need to have legal protection for children's digital rights while also balancing the privacy and autonomy of the victim, especially as youth interact more deeply with digital technologies. The session also focused on considering the economic, social, and cultural contexts of different countries while ensuring informed consent in data collection from youth & enhancing data protection measures.

Combating Gender-Based Violence and CSAM

Panelists called for regional collaborations to combat gender-based violence and Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), proposing joint initiatives that involve youth in the design and implementation of policies and programs. They recommended the development of enforcement mechanisms and policy frameworks, modeled after initiatives like India's Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) to enhance accountability and protection in other regions facing similar issues. The session also focused on having youth impact assessment tools to gather insights into how young people experience and respond to online threats. The session also threw light on the need for incentives that encourage youth participation in combating these issues.

Empowering Youth through Funding and Support

The panelists also highlighted that funding and institutional support play a critical role in empowering the meaningful contribution of the youth. The panelists being youth leaders themselves, underscored the importance of trusting youth with leadership roles and resources, which enables them to initiate and sustain their initiatives. Speakers shared their experiences on how they were successful in mobilizing local communities and driving digital awareness and motivated the participants to start their initiatives or join their regional youth initiatives to promote cyber hygiene and digital well-being.

Visit https://nma.asia/yigf2024-playback to rewatch the Livestream!

Panel Discussion
Empowering Access: Democratizing the Internet for All

The session featured four speakers: Elia Kostopoulou (Internet Society Ambassador 2024), Edmon Chung (Dot.Asia), Pablo Hinojosa (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre), and Veronica Deutrom (Australian Government, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications), and was moderated by Sameer Gahlot (NetMission Ambassador). The discussion centered on analyzing the essential elements of the Internet for exercising rights in a democratic society. Here are some key insights and noteworthy highlights from the session:

Are DAOs Democratic or Not?

The panelists examined key components of Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs), including blockchain and smart contracts, and their significance. They discussed the decentralized nature of the Internet as the foundation for DAOs and the challenges to democratizing its use. The conversation also advocated for inclusive policies and regulations. Smart contracts, like democratic rights, are crucial—offering automation and efficiency, while democratic rights ensure responsive and accountable governance. Balancing these elements could lead to innovative solutions that harness both strengths.

Demystifying Multistakeholder Model

Like democracy, technology should be decentralized, following a bottom-up, multistakeholder model. However, it faces growing challenges, including the centralization of power, exploitative business models, and internet fragmentation, which have worsened disparities in access and connectivity. To address these issues, the panelists examined current Internet governance structures, emphasizing the need to reflect diverse perspectives, particularly those of marginalized and underrepresented groups, to help democratize the Internet and shape a responsible digital future.

Way Forward

A more sophisticated approach is required to deal with emerging issues in this dynamic environment based on accountability, trust, and transparency. Though DAOs follow the decentralized approach, there are certain shortcomings within these systems in terms of privileged groups. With the Internet and DAOs, we can revisit democratic principles and processes to broaden the role of diverse stakeholders not only during meaningful dialogues but also during the implementing and executing processes to make collective decisions for the welfare of all.

Visit https://nma.asia/yigf2024-panel-playback to rewatch the Livestream!

Meetup with Industry Experts
Securing Truth in the Age of Information Overload

A 40-minute hybrid breakout session featured onsite, online, and local hub speakers, including Alban Kwan, Noelle Francesca de Guzman, Sara Pacia, Isaac Liu, Dikchya Raut, Kohei Kurihara, Preeksha Malhotra, and Tayyaba Iftikhar. The session highlighted internet safety risks, focusing on the rise of fake news and synthetic content, which often spreads unnoticed. The discussion explored the challenges of AI-driven misinformation and disinformation, particularly their impact on democratic processes like elections. Participants engaged with experts on media literacy, policymakers, and educators, gaining insights into the forces behind false narratives and practical skills to enhance digital literacy and critical thinking. Key takeaways include:

Risks of Synthetic Contents and Deepfakes

There is a growing challenge across the Asia Pacific on the prevalence of misinformation and disinformation, especially in the digital age where information is rapidly distributed. Risks involving synthetic content and deepfakes are multifaceted due to their ability to create highly realistic but fabricated forms of media that can mislead and manipulate audiences.

This results in the spread of false narratives and erosion of public trust, as it becomes increasingly difficult for the public to discern the authenticity of digital content. During elections, such interference can weaponize the democratic process, undermining the integrity of elections and exacerbating social and political polarization as these fake contents deliberately target specific groups and may fuel conflicts within society.

Ethical and Legal Challenges of AI

The discussions address the ethical implications of AI in the digital age and the need for ethical guidelines that prioritize responsible AI creation and use. Currently, there are difficulties in crafting appropriate legislation due to the unpredictable evolution of technology. Speakers emphasize the ongoing need to review copyright laws, privacy, and data protection, along with ethical considerations specific to different regions.

Roles of Government

The government plays an active but complex role in curbing the spread of misinformation and disinformation. It must carefully balance fostering innovation with ensuring that new technologies don’t lead to harmful outcomes. Government efforts include creating a supportive environment for innovation, implementing targeted regulations to protect society, safeguarding democratic processes, and working with various institutions to tackle challenges posed by emerging technologies. Key measures like ensuring data integrity, applying digital watermarking, and using provenance tracking are crucial parts of a comprehensive strategy.

Cultural and Contextual Sensitivity

In shaping policies, cultural and contextual sensitivity is crucial for effectively tackling the challenges of fake news and emerging technologies. The diversity of the Asia-Pacific region highlights the difficulty of implementing one-size-fits-all solutions. Instead, localized approaches that take into account specific cultural, social, and political contexts are likely to be more effective. Policymakers need to balance global standards with local realities, ensuring that policies are both globally aligned and locally relevant.

Media and Digital Literacy

During the discussion, a strong emphasis was placed on enhancing digital literacy and critical thinking skills among the general population. In an age where synthetic content can easily distort reality, digital and media literacy become a powerful defense on how to critically evaluate online content and effectively differentiate between authentic and manipulated media. Media and digital literacy should be integrated into the curricula of educational institutions from an early age to discern and identify credible sources. This foundational knowledge will empower future generations to navigate the digital landscape more safely and responsibly.

Collaborative Approaches

There is a need to take on a collaborative approach involving multiple stakeholders such as civil societies, policymakers, and the private sector. Each stakeholder will bring in a unique perspective, contributing to a more comprehensive and effective strategy.

Visit https://nma.asia/yigf2024-playback to rewatch the Livestream!

IGF 2024 Youth Track Workshop

IGF 2024 Youth Track Workshop II was hosted in a hybrid format at the Asia Pacific regional IGF (APrIGF) at 09:30-10:30 local time (01:30-02:30 UTC) in Taipei, Taiwan on 20 August 2024 under the theme of AI and Education: ChatGPT use in schools and AI capacity development.

This workshop featured several expert speakers, ensuring representation of both youth and senior backgrounds: Milagros Urtasun (Research analyst at SmC and ISOC Youth Ambassador), Joshua Garretson (Certification Officer at Office of the Board of Senior Secondary Studies at the Australian Capital Territory Government), Eve Gaumond (the University of Montreal CIFAR Chair on AI and Human Rights), and Mr. Ashirwad Tripathy (Vice-Chair of APrIGF MSG and Managing Director at Empowering Asia, Nepal). The session was moderated by Ananda Gautam (Nepal YIGF) and Jenna Fung (Asia Pacific yIGF) with assistance from remote moderators, Umut Pajaro (Youth LACIGF) and Thoko Miya (ISOC South Africa), and three rapporteurs, Phyo Thiri Lwin and Zin Myo Htet (Myanmar Youth IGF), and Saba Tiku Beyene (Ethiopia Youth IGF).

The discussion focused on the importance of ethical governance in AI deployment across sectors, particularly in its role in education. A multistakeholder approach to AI governance is critical to ensure equitable access and ethical use. Clear guidance, continuous monitoring, and capacity-building for educators and students are necessary to navigate the evolving technological landscape. While it is good that individuals and institutions are embracing AI in education, there should be a balance between innovation with safety and prioritizing ethical considerations on its usage.

Visit https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/327/28045 for the full report.

Visit https://nma.asia/igf2024-youth-track-ii-playback to rewatch the Livestream!

Call For Action from the Asia Pacific yIGF 2024 Organizing Committee

Youth from across the Asia Pacific are invited to join our movement to enhance youth representation in Internet Governance. In today's rapidly evolving world, it is essential to build a supportive youth community and create an inclusive ecosystem for both current and future generations. As part of our ongoing efforts to promote youth engagement in Internet Governance, we aim to achieve the following:

Empowering Youth in Leadership Roles

We aspire to see more young people transition from the Asia Pacific yIGF to leadership roles within the APrIGF Multistakeholder Steering Group (MSG). Many youths possess valuable insights and experiences that can greatly enrich the governance landscape. Joining the MSG offers a unique opportunity not only to share this knowledge but also to foster cross-generational understanding. By bringing fresh perspectives to the table, young leaders can engage with seasoned professionals, creating a dynamic exchange of ideas that bridges generational gaps. We encourage all youth leaders to step forward to take on leadership roles in the region, ensuring the voices of both youth and experienced stakeholders are heard and respected.

Establish a Local Hub Network

Local hubs serve as accessible gateways for youth participation, enabling newcomers to join discussions, share ideas, and build connections within the community. By creating a supportive local hub network, we can encourage diverse voices and perspectives, enriching the dialogue around Internet Governance. A strong network of local hubs is vital for promoting inclusivity and ensuring that youth from all backgrounds can meaningfully contribute to the conversation. We urge all initiatives in the Asia Pacific region to support this local hub model to help expand our reach and foster deeper youth engagement.

Co-creating a 3-Year Blueprint

As we set forth on this three-year journey, we call upon the members of the Asia Pacific yIGF community—youth leaders, local yIGF organizers, and regional stakeholders—to take decisive action in advancing the strategic objectives outlined in this blueprint. We envision a collaborative process that brings together diverse voices to shape initiatives that resonate with the needs and aspirations of young people. This is a unique opportunity to create meaningful impact, foster collaboration, and drive innovation across the Asia-Pacific region. Click here to view the full version of the 3-year blueprint.

Appendix 1: Program Agenda

Day 0 - August 20 2024 (Tues)

0900 - 0910 Introduction of yIGF 2023

0910 - 0930 Opening Remarks & Introduction of IGF & APrIGF/ Synthesis Document

- **Jennifer Chung**, APrIGF Secretariat

0930 - 1030 **IGF 2024 Youth Track:** AI and Education: ChatGPT use in schools and AI capacity development

1030 - 1100 Morning Tea

1100 - 1120 Ice-breaker

1120 - 1135 Basics of Internet & Internet Governance

- **Edmon Chung,** CEO of DotAsia Organisation

1135 - 1235 **Panel Discussion**: Empowering Access: Democratizing the Internet for All

1235 - 1250 Introduction of Youth Policy Statement

1250 - 1300 Q&A

1300 - 1400 Lunch Break

1400 - 1445 Idea Wall + Preparation on Youth Policy Statement

1445 - 1500 Presentation of Youth Statement

1500 - 1530 Afternoon Tea

1530 - 1630 **APAC Youth Leaders Dialogue**: Championing Youth: Rights, Safety, and Well-being

1630 - 1715 **Meetup with Industry Experts**: Securing Truth in the Age of Information Overload

1715 - 1730 Debriefing and Wrap-Up

1730 - 1745 Closing Remark

Appendix 2: Photo Gallery



yIGF 2024 participants with the speakers from IGF 2024 Youth Track.



Sameer Gahlot, Co-Chair of yIGF 2024, at the APrIGF 2024 closing ceremony.



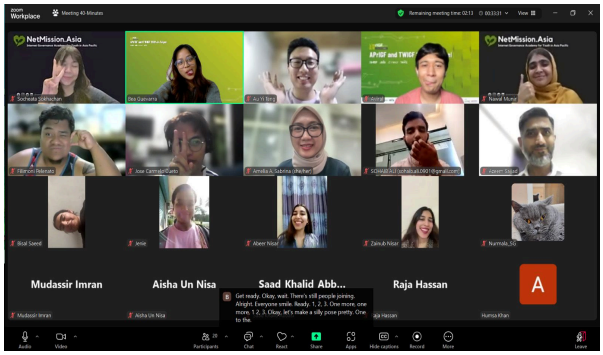
Accommodation Support yIGF participants with the co-chairs and the committee lead.



Youth participants at the APrIGF 2024 closing ceremony.



Youth-led Session at APrIGF 2024.



Online youth participants during yIGF 2024.



Asia Pacific yIGF participants at the APrIGF social events.



Youth participants sharing their perspectives during yIGF 2024.



Group photo of Asia Pacific yIGF participants after the event.

Appendix 3: Youth Policy Statement

The theme of yIGF 2024, “Connecting Generations: Forging a Responsible Digital Future through Collaboration and Policy Innovation,” aligns with APrIGF 2024’s overarching theme, “Evolving Ecosystems, Enduring Principles: Shaping Responsible Internet Governance.” Together, these themes emphasize the importance of cross-generational cooperation and forward-thinking policies in promoting inclusive Internet governance. This youth statement was collaboratively drafted by young leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region during the Asia-Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF) 2024 and the Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) 2024, held from August 20 to 23, 2024, in Taipei and online. It addresses the needs, challenges, and opportunities young people face in the region, providing a platform for them to share their unique perspectives on pressing issues.

Securing Truth in the Age of Information Overload

The growing sophistication of AI-generated synthetic content, such as deepfakes, highlights the urgent need to secure authenticity in the digital age. Misinformation campaigns, particularly during democratic processes like presidential elections, pose serious threats to information integrity. This underscores the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation to tackle these challenges.

The constantly evolving Internet ecosystem, driven by innovation and emerging technologies, introduces new complexities to security and trust. To address these, enduring principles must be collaboratively developed to mitigate cybersecurity risks, protect data privacy, ensure information integrity, promote online safety, safeguard children, and foster trust in innovation.

As youth advocates, we call on governments, civil society, the technical community, and the private sector to take proactive steps in addressing these pressing issues and shaping responsible Internet governance.

Government

Government must take the lead in ensuring a safe and inclusive digital environment for all. With a focus on gender-inclusive safety measures by providing education and resources, particularly for marginalized communities, governments can empower individuals to navigate the digital world responsibly. Additionally, they have a responsibility to safeguard democratic integrity by regulating AI and promoting voter education to help the public identify and resist misinformation, especially during elections. We recommend governments to:

- **Promote ethical AI development** by establishing robust frameworks that prioritize safety, ethics, and human-centric values, ensuring responsible AI design that aligns with societal needs.
- **Implementing regulations against misinformation** and supporting voter education initiatives to help citizens detect and resist false information, especially during election periods.
- **Support digital literacy campaigns** through public education programs and inclusive initiatives like hackathons, empowering citizens and youth to critically evaluate

AI-generated content and emerging technologies.
- **Invest in resilient infrastructure** and collaborate on policies that promote digital inclusion, protect against misinformation, and strengthen cybersecurity, especially in underserved and vulnerable areas.

Private Sector

The private sector plays a crucial role in fostering trust and ensuring the safety of digital platforms. We expect companies to take responsibility not only for preventing the spread of misinformation but also for educating users on how to identify and combat fake news. By collaborating with influencers and AI developers, companies can promote transparency and fairness in the digital economy, empowering the public to critically evaluate the information they consume. We urge the private sector to:

- **Invest in public workshops** that teach critical analysis of information, equipping citizens with skills to discern truth from disinformation, particularly during election cycles.
- **Prioritize human-centric values** to ensure transparency, fairness, and the integration of ethical practices in AI systems, prioritizing human-centric values in digital governance.
- **Support cybersecurity education** and collaboration across sectors to protect critical infrastructure, develop incident response plans, and foster a digitally resilient workforce.

Civil Society

Civil society plays a vital role in empowering communities and raising awareness about critical issues, such as misinformation and online safety. To address the growing threats of misinformation, especially on social media platforms, civil society organizations need to collaborate with other stakeholders. These collaborations can drive fact-checking initiatives and promote digital literacy, protecting vulnerable communities from manipulation, especially during elections. We call on civil society to:

- **Advocate for partnerships between civil society, governments, and tech companies** to promote transparency and accountability in information-sharing, ensuring that fact-checking and verification systems are accessible and widely used.
- **Develop a fact-checking coalition across the Asia-Pacific region** to ensure organizations, governments, and tech companies work together to support grassroots initiatives and educate younger generations to maintain optimism for tackling misinformation.
- **Lead efforts to promote media literacy**, teaching people how to discern credible sources from fake news. Youth can be engaged as ambassadors of these initiatives to spread awareness and skills within their communities.

Technical Community

We, as young people, trust the technical community to create and uphold the highest

standards in digital privacy and cybersecurity. In the age of AI, tech developers, engineers, and leaders must work ethically and transparently to protect our data and privacy and implement ethical standards with consideration of fairness and accountability when developing the technology. As the architects of the systems that power our digital world, the technical community has a unique responsibility to ensure the safety and security of those systems. We call on the technical community to:

- **Collaborate with governments, educational institutions, and private organizations** to establish robust cybersecurity standards, including advanced technology, employee training, and transparent data breach policies.
- **Mitigate algorithmic bias** by implementing robust detection techniques, ensuring that AI systems do not perpetuate discrimination and foster trust in technology.
- **Adopt technical standards for information integrity**, such as watermarking AI-generated content and using blockchain for news verification to combat deepfakes and protect digital content credibility.

Championing Youth: Rights, Safety, and Well-being

As youth advocates, we stress the need for inclusive strategies that ensure equitable access to digital resources, protections, and opportunities while fostering a safe and trustworthy online environment. This effort must address specific issues such as Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) and gender-based violence online, ensuring that the rights, safety, and well-being of young people are protected. Moreover, a resilient Internet is key to youth safety and well-being, as it can provide them with safe, reliable access to information, education, and mental health resources. We call on all stakeholders—governments, civil society, the technical community, and the private sector—to take the following proactive steps to make this vision a reality:

Government

Governments hold a pivotal role in creating inclusive digital infrastructures that empower youth. We urge governments to prioritize providing equitable digital access, fostering collaboration with educational institutions, and promoting policies that protect young people online. We call on governments to:

- **Provide subsidized high-speed Internet in underserved areas**, ensuring all youth—especially in rural regions—have equitable access to the digital world.
- **Implement cybersecurity training** that ranges from basic digital literacy to advanced skills, building a digitally competent workforce capable of addressing cyber threats.
- **Work across borders to establish international standards and collective efforts** to combat cybercrime, protecting digital infrastructures on a global scale.

Private Sector

The private sector has a unique responsibility to balance innovation with user safety. We call on tech companies to collaborate with governments, academia, and civil society to create robust digital protections, foster trust, and address inequities in digital access. We call on the

private sector to:

- **Improve content reporting mechanisms** by considering diverse cultural contexts and local nuances. While users should still be able to report potentially false content, policies must be more inclusive and adaptable to prevent misuse. This should be paired with robust, context-sensitive fact-checking processes to avoid the perception of censorship, particularly in regions with varying cultural and societal norms.
- **Improve cybersecurity through shared expertise** from academia and the technical community to develop and implement safety measures, ensuring that digital platforms are secure, especially for young people.
- **Support initiatives that provide access to education and technology** for underserved communities, ensuring that underprivileged students and older generations are included in the digital economy.

Civil Society

Civil society organizations must advocate for a safe and inclusive digital space for youth, ensuring that marginalized groups are not left behind. We call for greater support of role models, awareness campaigns, and concrete action against online harassment and gender-based violence.

- **Promote positive role models:** Civil society must elevate role models who demonstrate ethical Internet use, inspiring youth to engage in positive online behavior.
- **Combat gender-based violence online** by implementing stronger deterrents on social media platforms to protect female journalists and others from online harassment while promoting gender equity in the digital space.
- **Become actively involved in community-based resilience programs** to strengthen youth's rights and ensure equitable access to a secure Internet that protects their well-being.

Technical Community

The technical community must focus on building AI and digital systems that prioritize safety, reliability, and accountability. We urge developers to enhance AI accuracy, transparency, and ethical governance to protect youth and marginalized communities from harm. We call on the technical community to:

- **Enhance AI accountability** by ensuring the transparency and reliability of an AI system, especially in fields like medicine, where accuracy can have life-changing impacts.
- **Protect users from harmful material** by designing algorithms that effectively filter harmful content while balancing user safety with the freedom to create and share content online.
- **Embrace decentralized governance** to increase transparency and inclusivity in decision-making processes while addressing security challenges that may arise.

Empowering Access: Democratizing the Internet for All

The younger generation believes that decentralized technologies, such as Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs), can democratize Internet governance, making decision-making more inclusive and accessible. It addresses both the opportunities and challenges of integrating these technologies while ensuring current Internet governance frameworks serve the diverse needs of all stakeholders, particularly underrepresented and marginalized communities. To build a more equitable digital future, we call upon governments, civil society, the technical community, and the private sector to take the following actions:

Government

Governments must play a proactive role in closing the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to the Internet, particularly in underserved areas. We urge governments to prioritize digital inclusion for all, including marginalized and disabled communities, and to encourage digital literacy programs that support these groups, including older generations. Additionally, efforts should ensure that Internet access is equitable, open, and aligned with net neutrality principles while fostering collaboration across borders. We urge governments to:

- **Make broadband affordable and accessible to underserved areas**. Governments should collaborate internationally to secure funding and implement innovative projects that drive meaningful connectivity.
- **Prioritize the adoption of assistive technologies** that empower people with disabilities to participate fully in Internet governance and digital decision-making processes.
- **Foster public-private partnerships to strengthen youth-led digital innovation** and sustainable development in the digital economy.

Private Sector

The private sector must lead in creating an accountable digital economy by fostering innovation while ensuring transparency, data protection, and equitable access. By leveraging global partnerships and setting high ethical standards, companies can drive meaningful change in the digital ecosystem.

- **Collaborate globally to develop and fund initiatives** that ensure equitable access to education, digital resources, and the Internet for underserved communities.
- **Establish clear and transparent frameworks** to protect users' data and privacy, ensuring algorithms are explainable and are regularly audited.
- **Support youth participation** in digital governance to ensure decisions reflect the needs and aspirations of the broader community.
- **Innovate responsibly by implementing ethical standards** in AI-driven decision-making, data collection, and platform governance to maintain accountability.

Civil Society

Civil society organizations have a unique responsibility to advocate for diverse voices in Internet governance. By promoting digital literacy, cultural relevance, and resilience, they ensure that marginalized communities are not left behind in the digital age.

- **Encourage the creation of meaningful content in local languages** to increase accessibility and cultural relevance for diverse communities, empowering youth to engage more deeply with digital resources.
- **Address the link between climate change and digital infrastructure**, especially how climate disruptions affect Internet access in vulnerable areas.
- **Support inclusive governance by ensuring that diverse voices**, including underprivileged students, older generations, and marginalized communities, are actively engaged in policy-making processes.
- **Grassroots resilience programs** should be built focusing on digital literacy and disaster preparedness, ensuring communities are equipped to maintain Internet access even in challenging circumstances.

Technical Community

The technical community should embrace decentralized, multilateral collaborations that prioritize inclusivity and transparency. Moving away from top-down governance models is essential to creating a more resilient and democratic digital ecosystem.

- **Adopt collaborative and inclusive approaches** to Internet governance that facilitate **problem-solving across borders**. These models should ensure that **youth and marginalized voices** are actively involved and heard in the **decision-making process**.
- Use **decentralized technologies** like **DAOs** to improve **decision-making transparency** and **accountability** in digital governance processes, ensuring decisions reflect a broader range of perspectives.

Ethical Governance of Emerging Technologies

Emerging technologies like AI offer transformative potential, but they also present significant ethical challenges. As youth, we believe that the responsible governance of these technologies requires a careful balance between innovation and regulation. This balance is crucial to ensure AI enhances our societies while addressing critical issues like transparency, bias, data protection, and human rights. Youth should also be involved in governance discussions, bringing innovative solutions to the ethical challenges posed by emerging technologies and helping to build resilient systems for the future. We advocate for different stakeholders to take the following action proactively:

Government

Governments are central to shaping the future of AI by creating legal and regulatory frameworks that promote responsible innovation while protecting fundamental rights. We urge governments to prioritize ethical concerns such as transparency, fairness, and privacy while ensuring human rights remain at the core of technological development. We call on governments to:

- **Foster multi-stakeholder dialogues**, incorporating youth perspectives into AI policy decisions. This ensures that AI innovation benefits society while safeguarding individual privacy and human rights.
- **Create robust legal frameworks that protect digital rights**, ensuring individuals can choose their participation in the digital world and are protected from exploitation by AI-driven systems.

Private Sector

The private sector holds significant power in shaping the ethical development of AI. We, as youth, call on companies to invest in responsible AI development that considers social and ethical impacts, particularly in collaboration with civil society and marginalized communities. The private sector must lead by example, ensuring that AI innovations promote digital trust, safety, and inclusivity. We call on the private sector to:

- **Invest in responsible AI infrastructure that integrates ethical standards from the start**. This includes respecting Indigenous knowledge and employing ethical data collection practices that protect vulnerable communities.
- **Collaborate with civil society and governments** to address online fraud, scams, and cyber threats. Youth should be included in these partnerships, helping to create solutions that promote digital trust and safety for all.

Civil Society

Civil society has a crucial role in advocating for ethical AI governance and ensuring that discussions about emerging technologies include marginalized groups. We, as youth, believe that women, rural populations, and indigenous communities should be at the forefront of these conversations to ensure that AI's benefits reach all corners of society. Preventing digital fragmentation requires inclusive, community-driven dialogue. We call on civil society to:

- **Collaborate with youth to deliver AI literacy programs**, particularly targeting marginalized groups. These programs will equip communities with knowledge about ethical AI practices and how to protect their rights in the digital space.
- **Advocate for broader participation in AI governance**. Inclusive engagement ensures that AI development reflects the values of all communities, not just those with more technological access.

Technical Community

The technical community has the responsibility to build AI technologies that prioritize ethics as much as efficiency. As youth, we believe that the technical community must address issues like the environmental impact of AI, transparency in AI systems, and the development of tools that detect and prevent digital threats. We seek to work closely with developers to ensure these innovations are responsible and accessible to all. We call on the technical community to:

- **Work to reduce AI's carbon footprint**, particularly in energy-intensive areas like Generative AI. Youth should be involved in projects aimed at monitoring and mitigating these environmental impacts.
- **Continue enhancing AI tools that prevent fraud, scams, and misinformation** while improving transparency in content recommendations. Youth can actively contribute to testing and refining these tools to better serve diverse users.
- **Must ensure the development of** ethical, scalable solutions that can adapt to new challenges, ensuring that emerging technologies contribute to a resilient, inclusive Internet.