

Thematic Track

Avoiding Internet Fragmentation

Proposal Information

Title

Leapfrogging: Internet Technology Role in post-pandemic era
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Description

Background

The Internet's rapid growth has also spawned technical crises, such as congestion and scarcity of network addresses, and social dilemmas, including malicious and illegal activities and persistent digital divides based on income, location, age, gender, and education. Such problems continue to demand creative solutions from scientists, policymakers, and citizens.

African countries and other developing countries, as well as the private sector and development partners, must be willing to take chances and learn from setbacks, and leapfrogging must be considered a feasible growth strategy for their respective countries with the help of Internet technology. Thus, we need to provide an accessible, inclusive and affordable Internet to all to succeed in this leapfrogging strategy.

Introduction (10 mins)

Moderator will begin the session by introducing the agenda, speakers, and the background of the topics of the workshop, in order to build the ground for a discussion.

Panel Discussion (30 minutes)

A total of 5 speakers will be invited to present their insights, practices, experiences on digital infrastructure and strategies to handle Internet technology gaps in terms of policies and suggests the framework to develop the best approaches for leapfrogging digital technologies by collecting the inputs from different stakeholders. We hope this session can come up with a complete overview of the challenges of Internet technology faced by stakeholders to the identified issues together with all attendees.

Questions & Comment (10 minutes)

This session acts as a buffer of the workshop and enables speakers to quickly respond to the sharings or presentations of other speakers. We believe it will help form the ground for the discussion in the next agenda item. Attendees can also ask a few questions if the audience believes it is a critical point in shaping the direction of the open-floor discussion.

Open-floor Discussion (30 minutes)

Moderator will continue the session by opening the floor for questions and comments to spark up the discussion. The comments, responses or questions do not have to point to the speakers only but everyone in the workshop.

Q&A and Wrap-up (10 minutes)

Moderators to summarize the discussion and wrap up the session.

The issues, challenges and/or opportunities we intend to address

Nowadays, Internet technology is crucial for us every day, everywhere, in everything we have to do. During and in post-pandemic and chaotic situations, we can see Internet technology as a medium for doing business, interactive communication, continuing education and so forth.

On the other hand, the Internet technology gap is causing the digital divide problems due to governments' policies. For example, Myanmar, one of the Southeast Asian countries, has been left behind because of the Internet technology gap caused by the political turmoil. Moreover, other countries like the United States of America, Australia, Syria, Pakistan, and India also face Internet technology gaps.

From these issues, the need for "leapfrog" development has increased in favour as the development community seeks new ways to utilise technical progress to promote growth and assist emerging economies in escaping the so-called "middle-income trap." For example, in Africa, to jump further into the future, a number of prerequisites must be addressed, including investments in infrastructure, the correct regulatory environment for testing innovative business models, and an intentional focus on R&D, science, and technology.

We need to provide an accessible, inclusive and affordable Internet to all so leapfrog will succeed. African countries and other developing countries, as well as the private sector and development partners, must be willing to take chances and learn from setbacks, and leapfrogging must be considered a feasible growth strategy for their respective countries with the help of Internet technology.

In this session, through the speakers' perception, we would like to hear the strategies to successful leapfrog according to their expertise. We would like to collect the inputs from the diverse participants through the participants' discussion regarding the challenges of leapfrogging, how to overcome them, what the strategies are and how we can ensure the leapfrogging produces the real value and what the key requirements are to succeed. Afterwards, we would like to deliver the report of our session as a consolidated document or framework where respective stakeholders can be used as a reference or see the problems from different people's perspectives for balancing concerns and achieving progress.

References

- Chaudhary, A. (2022, January 4). *World's Worst Internet Clampdown Cost Myanmar \$3 Billion in 2021*. Bloomberg.com. Retrieved June 8, 2022, from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-04/world-s-worst-internet-clampdown-cost-myanmar-3-billion-in-2021>
- Digital Divide: The Technology Gap between the Rich and Poor — Digital Responsibility*. (n.d.). Digital Responsibility. Retrieved June 8, 2022, from <http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/digital-divide-the-technology-gap-between-rich-and-poor>
- Godinho, M. M., Abbate, J., & Ceruzzi, P. E. (n.d.). *The Internet: Global Evolution and Challenges | OpenMind*. BBVA OpenMind. Retrieved June 8, 2022, from <https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/the-internet-global-evolution-and-challenges/>
- Zhenmin, L., & Burden, A. (2019, March 27). *Frontier technologies: A window of opportunity for leapfrogging! | UN DESA | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. the United Nations. Retrieved June 8, 2022, from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/policy/opportunity-for-leapfrogging.html>

Policy Questions

1. What are the challenges of innovating Internet technology and strategy or policy to leapfrog in the post-pandemic era?
2. What will be the role of multi-stakeholders for innovation of the Internet technology gap between developing and developed nations to produce the real value of leapfrogging?
3. How should the international community respond to fill the Internet technology gap, such as Digital Divide, to help the developing countries?

Expected Outcomes

In order to achieve expected outcomes, organizers and speakers will work together in the months leading to the forum to set up a mutual understanding of the workshop topic and possible questions that will build the foundation of fruitful discussion. Before, during, and after this session, we will create publications on local and global Internet Governance Organisation news sites, both on social media platforms and official websites such as Internet Development Institute and Taman Digital (local), ISOC Chapters, NetMission.Asia or Youth4IG, APSIG, APriGF, a network of Youth IGF and Youth Southeast ASEAN Leaders Initiatives (regional), ISOC Special Interest Groups (SIG) (Global). The primary outcome is to create a framework to contribute to the stakeholders, such as local initiatives, technical community, and government, to handle the internet technology gap by knowing a variety of perspectives from speakers and people working in the world of technology and society. It will provide best practices for technology leapfrog by understanding the policy gaps concept. This session aims to enhance the knowledge of the technology and policies from the diverse perspectives to handle future possible global technology gaps among countries as well as encourage other stakeholders such as the technical community to develop better policies and incentivize researchers to find the solution for balancing the technology gaps regarding ICT in the future. The session will also explore how the leapfrog technology gap is defined, identify the challenges and the role of multi-stakeholders and establish the resources that need to be used to handle the leapfrog gap.

Workshop Session Format

Round Table - Circle - 90 Min

Session Interaction and Participation

Discussion Facilitation

The roundtable will be moderated along a set of questions and the organizers will develop and discuss with the speakers in the months leading up to the event. The moderator will ensure the active participation of the audience, who will be able to intervene and ask questions to the speakers. Sufficient time will be given to online participants to ask questions. The moderator and organizers will work with speakers in advance as to ensure the quality and the content of the discussion

Online Participation:

Onsite or online moderator will encourage online participants to ask questions or comment before and throughout the workshop, moderator will choose a few questions during the Q&A sessions