APrIGF 2017
"ENSURING AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
ASIA PACIFIC: A REGIONAL AGENDA FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE"
BANGKOK, THAILAND
JULY 27, 2017

OPENING PLENARY
9:00 A.M.

    (Video in non-English language)
    (Music)
    >> MODERATOR: Ladies and gentlemen, the APrIGF 2017 is a
very important regional event that we will be discussing
Internet governance, particularly Internet policies that have
both economic and social impacts nationally and internationally.
    This year, ladies and gentlemen, Thailand has been selected
for the forum's venue, and Chulalongkorn University, together
with the Office of the National Broadcasting and
Telecommunications Commission or NBTC of Thailand, feel
extremely honored to cohost this event from July 26th-29th of
2017 at the Mahitaladhibesra Building, in Bangkok, Thailand.
    For those who flew in, welcome to Bangkok. This was
established for everyone to exchange knowledge and discuss
problems and directions the Internet is taking us here within
the Asia Pacific region, as well as provide the venue for
collaboration of different sectors related to Internet
governance, whether it's government, private, or the Civil
Society sectors, so without further ado, ladies and gentlemen, I
would like to welcome up on stage the president of Chulalongkorn
University, who is the cohost of this event, to officially
welcome you all, so please welcome Professor Dr. Bundhit Eua-

arporn.
    (Applause)
    (Music)
    >> DR. BUNDHIT EUA-ARPORN: Good morning, everyone,
distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, friends and fellows,
Internet users from Asia Pacific and beyond. A very warm
welcome you all for this morning. I am very pleased to have a
chance to be addressing all of you at this important event,
which is, indeed, momentous for the Asia Pacific region, as well
as for all humankind in this day and age of unprecedented
interconnection.
    It goes without saying that the Internet has now become a
common resource for every living being. This network of
networks has made the once far-fetched metaphor "The global
village" by writer Marshall McLuhan a reality, but as the
Internet progresses, issues surrounding its development also
increase in scope and complexity, particularly those concerning
public policy.
    Pressing issues that are of common concern to countries
worldwide include right to access, cybersecurity, freedom of
speech, critical network resource management, privacy,
copyright, and the list goes on.
    With the various groups that the Internet touches, it is
daunting to expect any consensus, let alone agreement on topics
that cut across ideas, values, and political standings. Forum,
like Internet Governance Forum, or this IGF event and this
regional spin-off, Asia Pacific IGF, are indeed necessary for
stakeholders from all related sectors to exchange, debate, and
hopefully find resolution on timely issues that affect the
future development of the Internet.
    The principle of multi-stakeholderism is critical to help
facilitate an open and transparency environment that is
conductive for the desirable governance of the Internet. I,
therefore, feel deeply honored that Chulalongkorn University,
together with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications
Commission or NBTC, are selected as cohosts for this important
event of Asia and the Pacific.
    I would like to thank all concerned parties and the
generous sponsors that have contributed to make the organization
of APrIGF possible. I wish the meeting success and an enjoyable
stay in Bangkok for those who travel here from afar. Thank you
all for joining us.
    (Applause)
    >> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Professor Dr. Bundhit
Eua-arporn, professor of Chulalongkorn University.
    Our next speaker, ladies and gentlemen, will be
representing A-P-N-I-C, or APNIC, as we call it, which is the
regional Internet registry administering IP addresses for the
Asia Pacific. So, ladies and gentlemen, please welcome the
Director General of the Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre,

APNIC, on stage, Mr. Paul Wilson.

(Applause)

>> PAUL WILSON: Thank you. Thank you very much, and good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for being here at the 7th Asia Pacific Regional IGF meeting, "Ensuring an Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific: A Regional Agenda for Internet Governance." Very important topics for us this week.

It's fantastic to have a record-setting nearly 700 people here for the 8th Asia Pacific Regional IGF, including nearly 300 from Thailand, I understand, 45 other economies represented in the audience today, and over 40% of registrants being women as well. Welcome. That's -- those are fantastic numbers.

Welcome, in particular, to all of the younger attendees as well, the fellows, students, Youth IGF participants, and those who attended the School of Internet Governance in the last few days, a special welcome to you too.

In opening the event and speaking at this opening, I would like to especially thank the Chulalongkorn University for hosting, in particular Mr. Bundhit Eua-arporn and the university itself, along with the NBTC of Thailand. I especially thank you for stepping up to host the event after the change of arrangements fairly late in the piece.

Now, the Internet Governance Forum is a global movement, and this event is part of that, and it's also an honor to have representatives of the IGF here from the U.N. Secretariat in Geneva and from the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group of the -- of the IGF, and we'll be hearing from them shortly.

The Asia Pacific Regional IGF has its own steering group, the Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group, and as chair, I want to thank especially all those members of the MSG who contributed to this event, who worked hard in attending many teleconference meetings, in giving guidance, selecting the location and the programme. It's been a lot of work and a lot of meetings over the past year.

Most of all, thanks to those who made it happen, Pirongrong and her team here in Bangkok, and thanks also to the APrIGF Secretariat, Yannis, Jennifer, and Edmon of DotAsia. These people have worked consistently all of last year for the preparations of this event to make sure we have a successful time here in Bangkok.

So we're about to start a packed three-day programme addressing all aspects of Internet governance in the Asia Pacific. We've got a great array, I hope, of experts and panelists to give local and global perspectives to current topical issues in Internet governance.

A reminder to all of us that we try at APrIGF to capture what happens at this event in the form of an outcome document, and that's going to be developed over the next three days, and that's something that I urge you all to contribute to to make

sure that what we produce out of this meeting in the form of that outcome statement actually represents all of the discussions and all of the views that are expressed here because that not only serves as a record of what happened here in Bangkok, but it also will serve as input to the global IGF process itself.

I think the most important thing here is for all of us to participate openly and fully, all on an equal footing with one another. We're actually all here to learn, whether we're on the stage or in the audience, and there's no great difference between speakers and those of you who are participating in the audience, so especially for the young people and the newcomers here, I'd like to remind you of the opportunity and also the obligation to really occupy this event and to make it your own, and that goes for this week and also for the APrIGF in the future.

With that, I really hope to see and hear from all of you over the next three days. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Paul Wilson, Director General of the Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre, APNIC.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, next will be the representative from NetMission. NetMission is the Ambassador's programme supported by DotAsia Organization to bring together young volunteers to promote digital inclusion, so I present to you NetMission Ambassador, Ms. Jianne Soriano.

(Applause)

(Music)

>> JIANNE SORIANO: Good morning, everyone. It is an honor for me to stand here today and address you all. My name is Jianne, and I'm one of the organizers of the YIGF 2017, and this year also marks my third year in organizing the YIGF, and over the past three years, I have bear witness to the changes and development of YIGF in such a short time.

One of our biggest accomplishments of this year is having the greatest number of diverse participants. Our youth fellows are from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Milan, and Thailand. By being diverse, we hope that more and more youth initiatives can spring from different regions.

In Hong Kong, where I'm from, we started the Hong Kong Youth IGF that targets high school students, and it's now in its second year.

Among the YIGF organizers are also Hong Kong Youth IGF alumnus. In order to encourage youth from different countries, NetMission has also prepared resources and materials, like toolkits to help youth-driven initiatives take root. Some examples include the YIGF Bangladesh, and NetMission continues to support these initiatives.

I myself started my Internet journey when I was 17 as a participant, and four years later I'm now an organizer, and that is because of the training and the local initiatives that I have experienced in Hong Kong. Through the YIGF, we continue to train and encourage today's young people, like myself, as the next generation of Internet leaders to pass down what they have learned to others, to involve, cultivate, and give platform to engage in such dialogues that would hopefully empower them as future leaders of the Internet.

NetMission creates by the principle of for youth by youth, and I think there's no better way to participate in the community. As such, some NetMission and YIGF participants and alumnus have continuously participated in the Internet governance space after the past YIGFs, such as being APrIGF fellows or as Youth at IGF fellows, and myself, being the youngest member of the APrIGF Multi-stakeholder Steering Group. This shows our continuous dedication in shaping the youth to engage in policy discussions, host local initiatives, and participate in capacity building.

So on behalf of NetMission, I would like to thank everyone who contributed and helped motivate more young people to join these discussions and dialogues. I'm thankful and hopeful that youth voice, youth opinion, and youth participation would continue to be valuable to IGF, not only this year but also in the coming years. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Ms. Soriano, NetMission Ambassador.

Our next speaker will be representing DotAsia, which is the registry operator of the DotAsia top-level domain and Secretariat of the APrIGF, so ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Mr. Edmon Chung.

(Applause)

(Music)

>> EDMON CHUNG: Good morning. And, first of all, I'd like to extend my welcome to you all to this -- actually, this -- time flies, Paul, this is the 8th installment of the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum, and I would like to start by thanking all the sponsors that made this possible, especially those on the wall, but also those not on the wall, especially ICANN APAC Hub for supporting the remote participation for this event, and also a special thanks to the local hosts, as Paul has mentioned, stepping up to help us organize this event this year.

The gracious venue, Chulalongkorn University, this, I understand, is the country's oldest university, and this is a very nice facility that we're in, and, of course, NBTC, the media regulator of Thailand. And I'd like to especially thank the heroic effort, really, from Pirongrong and Arthit and the host. Please join ...

(Applause)

So as Paul mentioned, we are closing in on 700 participants this year, and one of the highlights coming from the Secretariat is they're coming from over 40 countries and economies and a highlight of which is there is over 120 participants coming from the government side of the stakeholder group, which shows the growing strength of this event. We also -- this is the first year that we have been able to support a very big fellowship programme and also achieve a gender balance in the fellowship programme selection process. Even though we have over 160 participants, we eventually selected 50, of which -- half of which is gentlemen and half as ladies, coming from 19 economies, and also this special thanks going to APNIC and Internet Society for their support to make this happen.

One of the things that we're excited about is not only celebrating gender diversity but also accessibility. Accessibility to this venue has been one of the things that we worked on in the process, but also in terms of fellowship, we included a visually impaired person to join us, and we hope that with the accessibility, more -- more diverse participation can happen here at the APrIGF.

As Jianne has mentioned, the Youth IGF programme, which actually started as a side event for APrIGF, this year is now being a completely integral part of the IGF, and -- the APrIGF, and this is also the first year that it's opening up to regional application. It used to be mainly for the local students. This is the first year we opened up and, again, special thanks to the local hosts to support that, bringing in 20 -- 20 youth fellows for the YIGF programme, and that also, in a total of 60 participants, we almost achieved gender -- gender balance. We have 31 gentlemen, and we're pretty much -- and that's also a pretty exciting part.

Another high feature I want to point out this year, which I'm excited to see, is the development of side events that are happening, not only the prep day, the orientation day yesterday -- hopefully you've enjoyed -- a lot of the newcomers have enjoyed the discussions there, but also a number of side events that are happening. The cybersecurity training by GP Digital, Digital Asia Hub meeting, UNESCO and APC meeting, of course the Thai IGF, Youth IGF, as I mentioned, and the Asia Pacific Legislative -- Legislators Roundtable. We, as the -- as the Secretariat, is really excited to it see happen, and it also presents a growing interest in the APrIGF.

And this year it is also -- as the eighth installation -- it is the seventh year; that is, the eighth installation of the Multi-Stakeholder Group -- Steering Group, and this year also marked one of the busiest years, especially with the change in the location that happened. One of the interesting things that we've observed is that perhaps it requires a little bit of crisis to bring everyone together, and I'm glad that the

committees have worked very hard to make this happen.

　　With this, I also would like to especially note the importance of -- from my own staff, David and -- to support the YIGF programme and also Yannis, and please join me in a round of applause for them as well. Thank you.

　　(Applause)

　　>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Edmon Chung, DotAsia Organization.

　　And now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to invite up on stage our fifth speaker this morning, the Programme and Technology Manager at the United Nations Secretariat for Internet Governance Forum, please welcome Mr. Chengetai Masango.

　　(Applause)

　　(Music)

　　>> CHENGETAI MASANGO: Thank you very much. Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum, please allow me to congratulate you for organizing the 8th IGF, Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum.

　　It is a pleasure to be with you all here today, and thank you for the invitation.

　　For the past eight years, the IGF Secretariat has had excellent cooperation and collaboration with the Asia Pacific Regional IGF. The main theme of this meeting, "Ensuring an Inclusive and Sustainable Development in Asia Pacific: A Regional Agenda for Internet Governance," has never been more important as the United Nations Member States are committed to work hard on achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

　　To successfully walk this path, the General Assembly developed 17 comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals, all in order for people to build a more prosperous future for all, leaving no one behind.

　　The innovation and technologies in the ICT arena has been recognized as a very powerful, in some cases necessary tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We are more and more dependent on computers, our mobile phones, giving us access to our emails and services on the worldwide web, as they enable us to communicate, work, and learn.

　　Having access to and knowing how to use these technologies in a safe eEnvironment are part of our daily concerns with more or less intensity, depending on which part of the world we are in.

　　All this makes the existence of the Internet Governance Forum initiatives organized on a national, regional, or global level, of critical importance. This unique collaborative forum works in accordance with the key principles of being bottom up, open, transparent, inclusive, within a multi-stakeholder environment, giving all of us a chance to speak, hear from others, and exchange ideas and brainstorm for the best

solutions.

In the age of emerging issues related to safety in the cyber world and, accordingly, low number of population has a decent quality of access to the Internet and the privacy of end users is at stake, freedom of expression is sometimes in question, and there is agenda and digital divide. I am still optimistic that we, as a global community, are on a good path to find collaborative approaches together with all stakeholders working in their respective roles to solving these issues. This optimism also comes from the fact that there are more than 90 countries and regions worldwide that have chosen the multi-stakeholder model of the IGF to be the conduit of their communities to discuss the public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

When one is aware of their extensive processes that stand behind every IGF, then the existence of more than 90 national and regional initiatives has even bigger value. The Asia Pacific Regional IGF is an example of a profoundly developed IGF process that culminates with an excellent annual meeting. This is why I would like to compliment the Asia Pacific Region IGF Multi-Stakeholder Steering Group and the Asia Pacific Regional Secretariat for working hard to gather relevant inputs from the community, develop a substantive programme accordingly and for organizing this great meeting.

Due to the complexity of the Internet governance-related issues, it is important for us to stay on track of the IGF processes and core organizing principles to remain bottom up, open, transparent, and inclusive in our work, and, of course, with a multi-stakeholder approach, where everyone can invest their portion of expertise, the governments, Civil Society, private sector, and technical community.

In addition, the inclusion of youth into the IGF-related processes and discussion is important, as it ensures having experts for the future. I must say that the Youth Asia Pacific Regional IGF is a showcase example of a successful capacity-building initiatives and it's also a very inspirational entity for all of us, as it brings fresh and innovative approach to the current issues.

I would also like to kindly use this opportunity to invite you all to attend the upcoming 12th Annual IGF meeting hosted by the Government of Switzerland in Geneva from 18th-21st of December. The main theme of this year is "Shape Your Digital Future." The meeting will reflect many topical sessions as well as the vast stakeholder and regional diversity of its participants.

With this, I once again thanks the organizers and look forward to the fruitful discussions with all of you in the next three days. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Chengetai Masango,

Programme and Technology Manager at the United Nations
Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, may I have the honor to
invite up on stage the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group member
for the Internet Governance Forum and Deputy Chairman and
Secretary General of China Energy Fund Committee to come up on
stage. Please welcome Mr. Patrick Ho Chi-Ping.

(Applause)

(Music)

>> PATRICK HO CHI-PING: Good morning, everybody. Ladies
and gentlemen, we are gathered at this forum to advance and
develop Internet governance for our beautiful region. The Asia
Pacific region is home for 4.3 billion people or 60% of the
world's population, including 1.75 billion living in extreme
poverty, based on U.S. dollars, $1.51 per person per day by the
Asia Development Bank.

The overall Internet penetration rate for the region is
43.1%, a far cry from the 83.8% in developed countries, and over
a third of its 31-component countries are least developed
countries, with penetration rate in the 20% to 30%. If ICT can
promote national economic growth and show inclusiveness, it
should be widely deployed in this region.

At the very same time, we should also be mindful of our
privilege and conscious of the limitations of our
representation. We exemplify only a minute section of our
already diverse societies. Most of us are experts and
professionals, versed users of information and communication
technologies. We are only a minority distant from the everyday
needs and exigencies of many, if not most, of our region's
citizens, many of whom are still digitally illiterate.

More than half of our region is still without access to the
Internet. One-third of the region lives in extreme poverty.
30% lack access to electricity. Large portions of our urban
population inhabits in slums, while hundreds of millions in the
rural areas are isolated from education, health care, and jobs.
These are just some of the people not here today whom it is our
job also to serve and from whom we shall derive our mandate.

It is our duty, therefore, not only to listen to the voices
that are present in this room but also to remember and recognize
those that are not, because one day, and not before long, they
will be one of us, as the Sustainable Goal 9C aims to promote
universal and affordable ICTSs in least developed countries by
2020.

Indeed, in light of this context, I believe our foremost
goal remains to connect the disconnected. Those are the yet
nonusers. Here and at home, we must continue to advocate for
investment in ICT infrastructures with broadband coverages and
promote education in digital literacy. We must champion the
potential of the Internet to serve our neediest and its ability
to accelerate the eradication of all forms of poverty.

We owe a parallel duty to those in our regions who do have access to Internet. Those are the users. In their regards, our tasks must be to connect them to the Internet governance process. Most of the users know little more than to type, point, and click, and have only very vague notions of how the Internet is regulated or governed. They do not have to worry about TCP/IP protocols, locations of ISP servers, the routing of messages, choices of backbone server connections, data stream conversion, or network packages or the like. These are all handled for them with little transparency of rooms of choice, in the field bearing high stakes in terms of privacy, security, and freedom of speech.

Too many of our end users have been left in the dark, unaware, not only of how the Internet is governed but also of whom has been tasked to represent the interests and make decisions on their behalf.

So, ladies and gentlemen, it falls on us to rectify the situation, to find ways to educate, to empower, and to include our end users in our work. The regional and national IGFs are uniquely situation -- situated to help address these deficiencies. Our Internet users should be consulted, invited, and educated to participate in a discussion on issues pertaining to their virtual world, such as the cultural and legal differences of online attitudes towards, for example, gambling, of sex, religious jokes, racial slurs, language choices, and other local content, which varies widely among communities in a diverse region like ours.

Here at Asia Pacific Regional IGF, distance -- we are, ourselves, maybe from everyday users, we are still more closely linked to our respective communities than the international institutions. We are better attuned to the sensitivities of our cultural, the political, social, and economic realities of our nations, so it is up to us to pursue real change, to bring our people onboard and to channel our voices upwards.

At this forum, it is cogent that we discuss some pertinent issues thoroughly, such as how do approaches of Internet governance differ internationally and among regions and among countries? What role do Internet users have in Internet governance? Who are or should be the stakeholders in Internet governance, and what does each of them want? Where does the mandate come from or who grants us the right to determine Internet governance for our society as a whole? Should we discuss public interest and accountability alongside with net neutrality, data privacy, surveillance, and security?

All ideas and initiatives with the aim of actualizing progress on these should be welcomed, and I hope that in our time here and beyond we can all dedicate our energy and talents to these problems with an open heart and an open mind, which are critical to ensuring the legitimacy, as I said, in all our work, and achieving a Sustainable Development Goal and promoting the

use of ICT to improve the quality of life of people in this part of our world. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Patrick Ho Chi-Ping.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, next I would like to invite on stage as our seventh and last speaker for this opening session, the advisor to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, please welcome Mr. Wanawit Akhuputra.

>> WANAWIT AKHUPUTRA: Good morning, and welcome to the first time in my home, which, in fact, when I work in Internet, it's always a pleasure to be in the meeting. It's a homecoming day for me everywhere I go. It's good to meet with all friends and people interested to work in Internet.

You see I came out with an empty hand -- they asked about a speech -- with an empty hand, but we speak right from the heart how we manage the Internet.

So I used to be on the Government Advisory Committee of ICANN, and I'm so happy to see that so many governments participate in this Internet Governance Forum. The roles of government, it's so important, not to mention a lot of work that has been talking about government captures or -- I used to have the joke that the only capture I have is having with the Samsung phone and I talk capture, but, in fact, government been captured now with the -- there are a lot of things coming out, and there are several sessions that talk about this in this IGF that will be a benefit for every government to see how could we work with the communities.

I have been working in Internet not very long, about five years, and Internet is about almost 30 years in Thailand, compared to university that just celebrated the 100th anniversary, so we are just -- just kids of the Internet. We are in the changings. You see the vibrancy of the City of Bangkok. Regional of 56 nations, very diverse, one of the most diverse. When I sit as a government advisory representing Asia Pacific, it's the most difficult time because in government we also count 75 economy, not 56. I don't want to go into that detail because there are differences on how we divided the regions, and to find a common consensus among government, community is the one who's helping us, the voice from the community is important, especially the youth.

So the theme has been discussed in several aspects, but I only want to mention about how we ensure the sustainabilities, not to mention the late king, philosophy of sufficient economy, that concept, was in line with what SDGs have been mentioned, on the moderation, how we built the community to immune themselves to the impact of the change. Internet is one of the most important changes that will affect the communities. How we outreach the one billion is in your hands to work together and share your ideas, working with regulators, governments to

achieve the goals, especially when Chengetai mentions about the theme we have is shaping your digital futures, and yours means all us sitting here, and I do hope that this event could bring more people into the communities and we become families and then every time we meet up in several meetings -- and I'm warning you, if you already turn to the Internet cyber -- or Internet event, you count 19 sessions a year because there's so many talking about this, and then welcome to the clubs and then hope you have fruitful meetings here and then enjoy your stay in Bangkok. Thank you.

(Applause)

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, Mr. Advisor to the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Mr. Wanawit Akhuputra.

and as all the speakers have mentioned, that the topics that we are going to be discussing between now until the 29th will be, indeed, affecting everybody in the world, especially within this region.

So before we head on to the first panel discussion, Longstanding and Emerging Issues and Development of Internet in Asia, please allow me to go with the important item on my agenda here, which is the official opening of the APrIGF 2017.

Without further ado, I would like to invite Assistant Professor Dr. Pirongrong Ramasoota, who is the Vice President for Social Outreach and Global Engagement of Chulalongkorn University, as the organizer and host of the APrIGF 2017, to come up on stage for the official opening.

(Applause)

(Music)

All right. If all members of the media are ready with their cameras and smartphones, let's all count down together, shall we? From five, four, three, two, one.

(Music)

And there we have it, ladies and gentlemen, the official launch of the APrIGF, Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum 2017. Thank you very much. Professor Pirongrong, please remain on stage, and I would like to invite the -- all the speakers who were earlier up on stage to come up on stage to join the vice president for the group photo session, please.

And also, I would like to invite on top of the list would be Surangkana Wayuparb, Executive Director of Electronic Transactions Development Agency; Dr. Prawit Leesatopornwongsa, Commissioner of the NBTC Thailand, Assistant Professor Thawatchai Jittrapanun, also commissioner from NBTC, and from Line, if you'll join as well.

After this group photo session, ladies and gentlemen, may I remind you that there will be a -- the first panel discussion, where we'll be seeing up to five speakers on stage plus another moderator, and after that, we'll be heading to the coffee break before we spread out to different lectures and discussions,

which will take place in the Rooms 202, 207, and 208, all of which beginning at 11:30 a.m.

A big round of applause for all on stage, please. Oh, sorry, one more shot, one more shot without the podium. A big round of applause for all on stage, please. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Dr. Bundhit Eua-arporn, Paul Wilson, Jianne Soriano, Edmon Chung, Chengetai. Yes, and at the end of the day, all the pictures taken today will be available on the official Facebook of the APrIGF Facebook page, I believe.

All right. So now heading on to the first panel discussion, I believe. And please allow us to settle the couches and chairs and seats.

All right. So as I mentioned, that it's time for the first panel discussion, entitled "Longstanding and Emerging Issues in Development of Internet in Asia," which we'll be seeing five speakers coming up on stage all together. At this point, I would like to introduce to you the moderator, who will then reintroduce all five speakers. Please welcome the Regional Bureau Director, Asia Pacific Internet Society, Mr. Rajnesh Singh.

(Music)

Okay. Mr. Rajnesh Singh, the stage is yours.

(Music)

>> RAJNESH SINGH: Good morning to you all. Thanks to the emcee for doing a great job this morning. Thanks very much. So if you've been to the regional IGF before, this is something new that we're trying out this year. Previously what we've had is, you know, lots of very good speeches and keynote addresses, but this year we thought we'd try and set up what's coming up in the next three days, so what we've got is a number of various team speakers who will try and tell us a little bit about what they see will be on the agenda over the next three days, but as well some of the things that you perhaps should look out for as you go into the sessions and as you listen in and, of course, interact with the various workshops and sessions we have.

So if I could have all my speakers on stage, please, Anju Mangal. Anju, are you here? There she is. Thank you. Thitirat. Malavika Jayaram. I'm not sure if Malavika is here yet. Anja Kovacs, and Supinya. It appears that Malavika is not here yet, so we'll continue and hopefully she can join us a little bit later on.

So the plan for this session is I'll get our panelists to share some of their thoughts on what they think are the subthematic issues we have at this event, but what I'd also like to do is go to the audience to see if you have any questions you'd like to ask and you'd like to intervene from the floor as well.

We'll try to make it as interactive as we can. We have

constraints on how interactive it can be, but let's hope we can do that. When Patrick was making his comments earlier on, he said the region is so diverse. Every time we talk about the Asia Pacific, that's one thing that comes up, we have many cultures, many religions, and within the countries there's multiple cultures and religions as well, so that adds to the mix of the Asia Pacific. You can't boilerplate everything, you can't template everything and hope it works, you can't copy things in other countries and replicate that wholesale, as it were.

So there are four thematic areas that we would like to a talk about today, access, empowerment, and diversity, which Anju has said they would speak about, and Internet, privacy, security of the Internet, which Thitirat will address, and Anja will cover human rights and the Internet. Malavika was going to talk a little bit about the digital economy and enabling innovations, but we'll try and figure out what we can do with that in her absence. And Supinya, of course, is a former commissioner with NBTC, and what I'm hoping she can do, of course, is give a bit of government perspective on how all these issues are panning out, and, of course, particularly, we have Thailand's Digital Economy Ministry in full gear now, and the Thailand 4.0 objectives that they have, so it would be good to hear how that -- what sort of learnings we have from Thailand, not just for Thailand itself and South Asia, but the region at large.

So can I begin with Anju first from the Pacific, and maybe you can also talk a little about the Pacific Islands as well. Thank you, Anju.

>> ANJU MANGAL: Thank you. My name is Anju. I was actually forced to do this, so it's not my plan.

(Laughter)

Anyway, so I represent the Pacific community. There's 22 Pacific Island countries, and the smallest country is Pitcairn, which is -- it has only about 49 to 56 people, so you can imagine how it is in terms of connectivity or accessibility.

In terms of what I'm going to discuss is the access, diversity, and empowerment. I'd like to just talk about the development goals, starting from the development goals, it quite clearly states Development Goal 9, which says we need access to ICTs and access to connectivity, and going back to the conference that we had, which was on the small island developing states in 2014, we basically reiterated the same thing, that we need access to ICTs and access to ICT hubs around the region.

We're still finding it difficult in terms of connectivity. A lot of our rural and remote countries are still not connected, and, for example, 22 -- 20.4%, there's Internet penetration in the Pacific, and this is excluding Australia and New Zealand, so you can imagine how difficult it is for the rural communities to access the Internet.

But having said that, there are countries that are doing a

lot in the terms of universal access and also broadband policies and also ICT policies, so, for example, Tonga, they're working on a fiber optic cable, and this is great, because they're not only connecting to their urban, but now they're reaching out and extending it out to other parts, the remote parts of Tonga. And we've got Vanuatu, which is already connected, but in their policy they clearly state that 90% should be connected to the Internet, and I think this is something great, and it can be achieved, but by 2020, I'm not sure, but there is still hope.

     And then there's Fiji and there's some more -- I think they're working on the Fiji -- the World Bank connectivity projects, and, again, I think it's all about connecting to not just to urban but also the rural and remote areas, so -- in terms of -- yeah, that's good.

     >> RAJNESH SINGH: So let me ask you a question. We often refer to the Pacific Islands as the liquid continent, so if you're not aware of that, the Pacific Ocean in its entirety is 30% of the world's surface, so -- and if you could put all the continents into it and Greenland, you'd still have space left over to fit other pieces of land into that vast ocean. Obviously, it's small population, small economic markets. How do you think that impacts -- when we start talking about policy and regulation, when we start trying to see what's happening in, say, developed countries or other parts of the region or other parts of the world, how do you see the Pacific trying to cope and trying to replicate what's there or trying to aspire to be what's -- what else is in other countries, for example?

     >> ANJU MANGAL: I'd like to acknowledge there's a lot of things happening around the world, and especially in the developed countries. I think one point that I would like to mention is that we need to learn from your experiences, the developed countries, and also apply to what we have in the less developed countries.

     Now, one thing that I would like to appoint -- sorry, point out is that regional organizations or partners and donors, I think we need to talk about what's happening and also share what's happening in the different developed -- in the different countries, but coming back to your point, I think it -- sorry, to your question, we're still -- we're still forgotten, I have to say.

     I mean, Asia Pacific, I think one of the panelists mentioned that there's 40% to 50% Internet penetration, and I think 20.4 in the Pacific, and I think we're still forgotten, so I speak out to the -- I'd like to reiterate to the donors and partners and also regional organizations that we need to work together to sort of get us connected to reach 86 or point something percentage.

     >> RAJNESH SINGH: So those who are not aware, next year the regional IGF will be in the Vanuatu in the Pacific, so we're coming to you.

Thitirat, secret and privacy, of course, in recent months, but not just in recent months, for quite a while now, security has been a concern, but more so, you know, we had that Ransomware incident recently. There have been all sorts of things happening which has had mass media impact, the media has taken it up, so people are far more aware of what those issues are. How do you see that panning out? We want to be connected, we want to be hyperconnected. We have, you know, these objectives and aspirations to connect everything everywhere, the Internet of things is coming, so how do you see that playing out, and what would you suggest people look out for over the next couple of days in the sessions we have here in terms of, you know, some key ideas and thoughts perhaps that could be shared?

>> THITIRAT THIPSAMRITKUL: Okay. Thank you for inviting me to this panel. So, actually, I -- I see the problem of security as very closely related to the data privacy, data protection, and as we have seen in, I think, the last few years, that a lot of new rules of data protection and data security has been issued by many authorities in the world, including this region, Asia Pacific region, as well, and I think what is quite obvious for everyone is that we have so many different sets of rules, which create some conflicts and also uncertainty for everyone, especially the business, and as I -- from experience, the big business, they do not really have problem with this adaptation to the new rules, the new different set of rules that sometimes they are not really consistent which each other.

The big businesses, they have the capacity, the resources to deal with this kind of thing and also have access to the authorities, but what I think is very problematic is the small business, the small business and those who want to enter to the industry. It's really confusing for them, so I think the law of data protection and data privacy that aims to help people, that aims to help facilities, small business and interconnection in the region, in many ways turns out to be a barrier for many actors.

The other thing that I want to emphasize here is the issue of data transfer, because we have -- when we have different rules in different jurisdictions. The problem is that when we want to transfer data from one country to the others, there are so many problems, there are so many negotiations going on, you cannot get the consent of the customers or the users and send out the data. That's something -- something that should be as easy as possible becomes very, very complicated, and, again, those who affect a lot the small businesses, the SMEs, so -- and at the end, I think in this region, we don't really have dialogue or conversation about how to make a comprehensive set of rules that will give the free flow of data rather than controlling or regulating what authorities consider necessary for other aims such as political or social aims, rather than

creating the business opportunities and also people's freedom.

>> RAJNESH SINGH: So let me just pick up on something you mentioned earlier. You know, you talk about how larger companies, it may be easier for them to adopt various frameworks; for smaller businesses it's a bit harder, but then, of course, we have many economies in the region which are not developed as, let's say, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Asia, et cetera, et cetera. The smaller countries have smaller resources in terms of policy capacity as well as technical capacities, so what happens in that case? You know, you have -- now, we said that the Internet provides a global marketplace for everyone, that anyone anywhere can sell anything to anyone anywhere, right, but when you start looking at these issues, if there's a seller in the middle of the Pacific and trying to sell something to someone in, let's say, Hong Kong, what happens then? How do they cope with all these frameworks and, you know, things that we want to try and impose from the developed part of the region to the other part? So that's one question.

The other one perhaps, if you could expand a bit more, is the issue of cross-border data transfers, which, again, is sort of connected to my first question, but, you know, not all countries in the region have frameworks in place, and sometimes if they do have the frameworks in place, they're not entirely compatible with each other, right, they're not harmonized, they're not in sync with each other, so how do we address that issue? Is there some way forward?

>> THITIRAT THIPSAMRITKUL: Okay. Very difficult questions, the two. I mean, honestly, I don't have answer for the first one. For the first one, I think it's not only about laws, it's not only about policy, I think it's also about the resources of that country, the digital literacy, the education that would help build up the environment for digital business or what we call digital economy in the less developed country, but what I think we can learn from each other is that many countries in this region have implemented many laws, data protection, data security within these four or five years, and I think we saw a lot of practice happen, and we can see that what was the -- the good part of it and the bad part of those legislations, and also we see that how these legislations, sometimes they're not compatible with the other part of the world, which is also another problem, because we do not only connect -- we do not want to connect only within the region, right, we want to connect with the other regions as well, and we need to accept that in terms of rules, in terms of the practice or the guidelines that this region is not the region that decides or determines the way that business practice would be in the world.

I mean, again, when we talk about data protection in this region, we need to look -- to look at the EU regulations, we need to look at the U.S. business practice because we need to do business with them, so that's what we need to accept.

For the second question about data transfer, so usually, many -- in Asia, some countries already have rules for data transfer, such as Singapore, Malaysia. The rules establish that if the receiving country -- the country that receives data does not have the equivalent law or the equivalent protection of data as the sending country, they can -- the business cannot send any data to that country, so -- unless the business gets consent from the users, from the customers, and also -- or maybe the business can make sure that the partner in the third country will follow the same Data Protection Law or data protection standards, so that's what happened, and we also have this rule in EU as well.

So what's happened is that those countries who do not have the Data Protection Law are left out in this situation, and the businesses need to struggle to get the same standard as the other countries, not only with their own legislation, which, again, is such a big burden for many businesses.

>> RAJNESH SINGH: Okay. Thank you. I'll turn to Anja now, and what I'm hoping she'll cover a little bit is, you know, human rights on the Internet. I think over the last several years now and perhaps in the last couple of years in particular, I think, the human rights issues have come to the fore and in these various forums we're doing, which I think is a good thing, but there are many issues on human rights issues when we talk about the human rights and the Internet.

One of the speakers mentioned earlier the gender issues, of course, there's accessibility issues, there's more recent things like hate speech and so on, so could you offer some thoughts on where you see that heading? You've done a lot of work on this over the years, so perhaps some comments on what people should be looking out for over the next few days, but as well all of your perspectives, Anja, on how things are shaping up.

>> ANJA KOVACS: Thanks, Raj. I think you're right that there are many, many issues, and I'm not going to be exhaustive for that reason either. What I really want to do is rather draw context that we are in at the moment. I think what does unite us, not just in Asia Pacific but in the world, is a global context where human rights are increasingly under threat, where there is more and more support for exclusionary ideologies, sometimes on the part of governments as well, in many countries definitely on the part of population.

I think it has created massive new challenge for the defense and promotion of human rights that also has an impact on Internet governance.

There may be three points I want to make around this. The first is there is an issue with how this affects people offline, which I do always hope we will bring back into fora, like this as well. We've seen, for example, in South Asia from Pakistan to the Maldives, activists continue to be killed because they express themselves using the Internet. When we speak about the

empowering of the Internet, I really think we need to keep these people on the agenda as well because this wasn't a case of online censorship, I think sometimes those issues get kind of sidelined in one particular session, but really what we do across all sessions, whatever touches promotion of human rights touches the space these people have to speak, and people do continue to be killed. I think that's definitely in South Asia a very big issue.

    The second point I wanted to mention, I think there will be more talk about privacy. You've also spoken about data protection. I won't go into detail about that, but I do think that these issues around privacy, security are very important. We see more and more that, for example, countries use national ID systems, often in the names of either development or security but without having strong privacy protections in place, and I think in Asia Pacific we really need to ask ourselves what does that mean, then, for our vision of good development and security?

    If you see that in Europe, whatever the shortcomings are, there is a much stronger push towards greater privacy protections, are we actually creating two rungs of people, one set of people who do see the right to privacy protected as a fundamental right and the rest of the world that doesn't, and what's that going to mean for our futures then, not just for the right to privacy, because, again, since human rights are interconnected, I think they have overall impact.

    And my third point is around the issue of gender, gender and sexuality both. There are some very strong sessions around that issue on the programme here. If you want to dig a little deeper, a group of feminists are organizing a feminist pop-up on the 31st of July, so that gives you a chance to go deeper, but, again, I think it's really important to highlight the intersectionality of these issues, so we sometimes think, well, there is a session on gender on the agenda, so if you're interested on that, go there, but really, if you look, for example, at an issue like surveillance, both research that we have -- at the Internet Democracy Project have done and others like the Digital Rights Foundation in Pakistan, finds that women are more mentally impacted by surveillance than men are. This is not just a session that should be addressed on a session on gender, this is an issue that should be addressed in any session around security surveillance, et cetera, including sessions that look at more technical aspects of these, because user's different, the impact will be different.

    I also think it's really important that we think very deeply about the solutions we propose to some of the gender challenges. To use the example of online abuse against women, which is something we definitely want to see addressed, but what you see, for example, in India, is that often the solutions that are proposed are of a very protectionist nature, seeing online

safety as an end in itself rather than a goal to empowerment, and in the context of India, which has one of the largest gender digital gaps in the world, that actually feeds into arguments to keep women away from the Internet, so it -- even though we're saying we're doing this in the name of women's rights, we're actually undermining women's rights in other ways.

We also see it's increasingly being used as an argument to promote censorship across the board, to limit intermediary or increase intermediary liability, for example, so again, I think we should be really careful not to look at these issues as something we can address on a session on gender, it needs to be there throughout.

And one final point I wanted to make is about the question of so, then, who should address this? I think if we look at this global context, many people in this room, I think, know that I've always been a very strong defender of multi-stakeholderism, but I'm also conscious of the fact it is the Civil Society that is often the most dogged defender of human rights, and dogged in terms of how it puts human rights on the agenda.

If there is such a pushback against human rights, what does that mean? Can we really count on a multi-stakeholder model to continue to promote and protect human rights, and what is the thing that all stakeholders should do? I would really like us to have that conversation in the meeting, how are we going to push back against this global context where human rights are under threat?

>> RAJNESH SINGH: Thanks. So, you know, just picking up on one of your points about gender, I really think gender should be mainstreamed in the discussions. Last year we were involved in a session on that elsewhere.

But, you know, I don't think it should be a -- as you said, it's a gender session, so when we're done, you can go attend that if you wish, but we need to mainstream it in the discussions. It should not be -- it should be part and parcel of everything, and not just gender, I would say, but also other minority groups, you know. We say that the Internet provides equal opportunities for all. Then it should also be for segments of community as well.

One very quick question. Recently we've been doing a little bit of thinking around the social implications of the Internet. Now, we often in these sort of venues, we talk a lot about the positives of the Internet and how it's changed and transformed people in their lives, but sometimes we don't pay enough attention to the larger social implications. You know, some of them, of course, you've already mentioned, so I'm just wondering where do you see that sort of discussion heading and how should those discussions, the social implications of the Internet, should be a part of fora such as these?

>> ANJA KOVACS: What do you mean by social implications?

>> RAJNESH SINGH: Let's say the bad things on the Internet.
>> ANJA KOVACS: Okay. I think we need to continue to keep
the good things in mind first and foremost. There are the ways
in which -- so maybe to come back to the problem of online
abuse, because I think that's a good example, right, so a lot of
people will say, well, anonymity is the cause of all of this, so
we should do away with anonymity. Well, if you actually look at
research from the U.S. shows that accounts that were identified,
the abuse that was done by them was qualitatively worse than
accounts that were anonymous, so those arguments often don't get
support and practice anyways.
Beyond that, though -- I lost my train.
(Laughter)
Sorry.
>> RAJNESH SINGH: It's okay. We can come back to that
later, if you so wish.
>> ANJA KOVACS: I'm just blanking.
>> RAJNESH SINGH: Yeah, it's okay. It's okay. So just to
sort of recap that, I really think we should think a little bit
harder about some of the social implications of the Internet,
and, again, mainstream those discussions because, you know, as
kids literally born digital these days, you know, they will face
greater -- their challenges will be quite different to all of us
on the panel or in the room perhaps.
Malavika, if we could turn to you. You know, you've heard
our other panelists talk about various things related to the
thematic sessions, so if I could get you to talk a little bit
about the digital economy and where that's headed because, you
know, that's where, of course, everything seems to be converging
on, we want to go digital everything everywhere.
Of course, one of the things that is quite necessary, and I
know we've said the Internet has -- it's allowed innovation to
breed, if you like, in its creativity. The open Internet, of
course, has played a big role in that as well as the multi-
stakeholder model that Anja mentioned as well which has been
allowed to grow and flourish across the world. We do know that
is not available across all countries, but people are working on
those issues, right.
So perhaps some thoughts on you where you see the digital
economy heading, particularly from the context knowing that
there's so many digital gaps between countries and economies in
this region, and how do you see that playing out? And, again,
is there anything people should be looking out for in the next
few days in the sessions we have around that topic?
>> MALAVIKA JAYARAM: Okay. I think one of my favorite
quotes in this space comes from science fiction, as do a lot of
our technologies today, from William Gibson when he said: The
future is already here, it's just not evenly distributed, and I
think that is so true of everything, that we set up planning for
something that may happen in the future except they're already

here. Artificial intelligence is here. It's not something
that's going to come into a product near us, it's in our phones,
it's in our search engines, it's in everything we already do, so
I think this idea that it's something we need to prepare for in
the future, we're already behind, right, we're already playing
catch-up.

     And I think the best way to put it is sort of we have this
gap between Technology 4.0 and Policy 1.0, you know. I think
that's a very sort of simple way to think about just how big
that gap is, so I think that's something we really need to focus
on.

     I think accompanying that, there is this huge thing at the
government level about making everything digital, right, and I
think for all the reasons that Anja and everybody has mentioned,
you can't make everything digital as sort of technology-enabling
driver when not everyone is online. I think the -- you know,
right now we already have issues where people have more access
than others, there's a huge digital divide, there are issues of
literacy, you know, there are pockets of people affected and
impacted differently, but I think when you're forcing everything
to become an online delivery of services, of interaction with
government, but not everybody is online, I think that's even
worse than the situation wherein in where people have unequal
access because in a situation where you don't have this
everything is going to be digital, people still have alternate
ways to access and interact with government, but when you push
everything onto an online platform, you're basically saying if
you're not online, you don't count, right, and that's why I'm a
little disturbed by the rhetoric that we use when we talk about
the SDGs, when we talk about, you know, let no one be left
behind. Actually, they are left behind, but if your government
is proceeding at a different pace than efforts to actually bring
people online, this gap that I talked about is going to get even
worse, and it's actually going to affect the most marginalized,
even worse than we currently have.

     So I think in this sort of, you know, race to actually
innovate, we're going to leave behind more people, and the
people who actually need the Internet more than anyone else
because they have no other way of showing that they exist, they
have no way of interacting with the government because their
voice doesn't really count, they don't have any power, and I
think everything we're talking about here is essentially about
power dynamics and just how asymmetrical that is.

     At the same time, I think one of the other things that we
need to worry about is because a lot of governments who want to
innovate in this space, who want to sort of do all the right
things for the right reasons, they don't have the in-built
capacity within government to be technically savvy, right, so
what do they do? They sort of say, oh, my God, we want to do X,
we don't know how to get there because we're bureaucrats, we're

civil service people, we don't know how this whole artificial intelligence thing works. What do they do, they turn to the private sector to help them, and in some ways that sort of public-private partnership and that nexus can be wonderfully enabling and empowering, but you have to ask questions about the terms on which that's done because for two reasons.

One, I think, you know, you've got huge privacy implications when a private company has access to citizens' data at a level that is unprecedented, and they're using it for personal reasons, for marketing reasons, for all kinds of other things that we sort of expect government wouldn't do, right? We have this sort of naive assumption that government will use it for the purposes we ask it to, you know, from the NSA and other things. It doesn't work that way, but with a private company we know for sure that's going to happen.

And I think the problem is one -- issues of sort of geographic and national boundaries when that happens because if you think your data and ID project is going to stay within your own country, you might sort of have some level of apprehension about it, but if you think it's going to be handled and pulled in and referenced with all other kinds of data held by an international company, you might feel very differently about participating in that ID programme thinking, wait, I don't know how this is going to be used.

And I think the second reason why this matters is a lot of the protections that we have against government, you know, constitutional rights that we have for free speech, for equality, for rights of assembly, for rights not to be discriminated against, those apply only against government, so, you know, particular constitutional rights, you can exercise them and you can sue the government. You don't have exactly that same set of rights against a private company, so I think as increasingly governments are digitizing things and they're using private companies to -- you know, as proxies for themselves, you need to think about that nexus.

There are wonderfully successful examples where, you know, people from industry being embedded within government has proved wonderfully transformational and the OECD is doing a great Going Digital programme, looking at how digital transformation adopts a whole-of-government approach and is actually not as top-down as other programs and you actually build in grass-roots interests. There are ways that it can be done really well, but I think we need to also look at the failures and see what can we learn from where, you know, the public-private nexus has gone wrong.

I think the other thing that's a really great opportunity is we tend to think -- you know, I'm a lawyer, so I'm as guilty of this as anyone. We tend to think of the law as something that has a constraining function. We think law holds people back. We think law says you can't do this, you can't do that,

but what about if we thought of law as actually enabling innovation? We've seen that in a lot of countries governments that come up with very forward-looking legal policies actually end up kickstarting innovation, you know, if you have really sensible tax laws, if you have sensible things around how service tax works or how easy it is for a company to incorporate. You can actually use the law as a way to get competitive advantage and actually say, oh, look we're a company that helps you incorporate with a single window clearance in, you know, two days vs., you know, a country that needs 97 permits and going through, like, 100 levels of bureaucracies before you can even set up a company, and you might be a small Mickey Mouse operator who has a really cool idea, but if the system is against you even to sort of get into the space, all this metric of saying, oh, we're going to create Silicon Valley in Singapore or Myanmar, the barrier is never going to take off, and, again, it's going to be unequally distributed because big companies with more money with more resources with bigger legal teams are always going to win. The little guy with the cool idea will never get anywhere, so I think we need to do that, and I think we need to recognize that Silicon Valley was an anomaly.
        (Captioner lost connection due to Internet outage in room)
        >> PANELIST: -- it's very important that we include all communities. I can take one question from the audience, if someone -- you are the first with your hand up, so, please, can someone hand him a mic, and then Anja, I'll come back to you and we can wrap up here. Mic, please. And if you could be quick with your question.
        >> AUDIENCE MEMBER: Okay. I'll be very quick because we are -- my question is related to access and empowerment. Because of the role like coming from things like in 2020 there will be, like, five million jobs will be lost, but there is, like, as a 60% of the Asia Pacific people who do not have the Internet access. The concern in the 2020 after, like, for the peoples who are going to be joining the job market because no one's talking about what would be the role for the young people who are going to be joining the job market who don't have access to the Internet, so I don't know if you guys can talk about, like Raj and Malavika, can you talk about the role of access and empowerment. Thank you.
        >> RAJNESH SINGH: Okay. So Anja, you want to answer -- no, no, your previous comments, and then --
        >> ANJA KOVACS: I just wanted to come back to my earlier comment. I need to comment about anonymity being a double-edged sword, but I guess building on that, if we look at the so-called bad tendencies on the Internet, I think there are always two sides to that story, right, and why I'm worried often about the solutions that are made because often only one side of that story is recognized so when you look for example at cyber security, governments are constantly telling us that we need to

give up privacy in the name of cybersecurity, et cetera, et
cetera, like at the same time, though, many governments actually
make us more insecure on the Internet because, for example, they
hang on to back doors, try to exploit them, do not allow
companies to inform users in time about those back doors, so I
think there's a clear -- the simplicity at play, and you see the
comments about the fake news, very worrying, apartment the same
time, though, there are -- at the same time, there are plenty of
governments actually paying people to make certain statements on
the Internet without those being identified, so I think often in
these trends we need to dig deeper.

     We also need to start thinking more out of the box for
solutions. For example, on this trend of paying people to make
statements, if we say that advertisements in a newspaper need to
be clearly distinguished from editorial content, why can't we
say that paid statements always have to be identified as such?

     For example, I think also, for example, with online abuse,
again, there are other solutions we can find than only looking
at censorship. Why not start thinking about what it means to
build online communities where actually people in the middle
ground feel much safer to speak up, where extremes are not
rewarded so much because the way the platforms function now,
something, for example, rewards the extremism because of the way
it's set up.   I think we need to start thinking of much more of
those approaches rather than saying let's shut it down.

     >> RAJNESH SINGH: Thank you. So -- what I will ask my
panelists very quickly to do, imagine if you had to tweet your
closing comments, so 140 characters, please, so after Anja, if
you could please go quickly through that and we can close it.

     >> ANJA KOVACS: I'm not sure I understood your question,
but like the rural -- sorry, the youth population is -- in terms
of the percentage, I think it's about 60% or something for the
Asia Pacific. I'm not sure, don't quote me, please, but most of
them are living in rural and remote areas, and they're focusing
a lot on the agriculture sector, on subsistence economy, so like
I said earlier, to bring them back to the 2020 plan in terms of
connecting them is going to be a really big challenge. It's a
mammoth task, but having said that, it's important that we need
to work together to get this youth population connected in the
rural and remote areas, but I'd also like to say that there are
also -- persons with disabilities, especially young people that
are not able to connect to simple applications like JAWS for --
for the persons who cannot see, so I think it's -- again, it's
not just about looking at the 2020 plan but also looking at
capacity-building approaches, how to look at training
opportunities for the rural or remote sectors, but before we get
there, we need to actually connect them, so that's one of the
key concerns.

     And we do have, like, for example, agriculture sector, a
lot of the youth are working in the agriculture sector, but

we're looking at eAgriculture as one of the solutions, and we're doing that in the Pacific, so one other good example is taking these applications like market information situations to the rural and remote areas, registering farmers, 31,000 or plus farmers, to the database, and then trying to get them to access, for example, to market, to domestic market, taking their produce to the market, and I think this is one of the steps that we are looking at, but, again, it's quite huge. We're looking at eAgriculture strategies in Vanuatu, Fiji, and PNG, and we're looking at maybe future collaboration with ITU, World Bank, to look at how we can connect these youths in the rural, remote areas, but also focusing on the urban because there's still some people that are not connected because of the issue of affordability, and, yeah, that's it.

>> RAJNESH SINGH: So if I could have your tweets, please, your closing comments. Thanks.

>> PANELIST: Okay. Okay. So from what I have heard the other panelists talk about today, one of the most important things is that there are many competing values within the context of Internet governance. Sometimes security goes against privacy; sometimes privacy goes against some other public morals, so I think the first thing we need to do there is try to make everything go together as long as they can go. We don't need to choose between security or privacy, we can have both, and I think technology will help us to have both, so that should be the first step.

And if it is really impossible to have both and we need to choose between one values -- only one values, the way that it should be is that we should let the people choose, we should not let someone to tell us that, okay, we choose security over privacy, this is the way we have chosen, follow us. We should not let anyone to do that, so the choosing -- the process of choosing what will be the prioritized value should be in the hands of people in Democratic way.

>> RAJNESH SINGH: I've just been told we need to get off the stage, so please, very quick comment.

>> PANELIST: A tweet. Promoting and protecting human rights. Looking forward to three days of working with all of you to continue to do that.

>> SUPINYA KLANGNARONG: First of all, my Twitter account is @Supinya, and the hashtag will be digital citizenship and access, communication, commerce, literacy, adequate law, right, responsibility, health and wellness and security.

>> PANELIST: Good tweet storms. Mine is I think, users are not targets or objects of development, they're equal participants.

(Applause)

Okay. My last one is believe in the multi-stakeholder process, like what our panelists said this morning, and also, this is your event, so make it your event, and we're looking

forward to talking to you even more.

>> RAJNESH SINGH: Okay. Thank you very much to my panelists, and please stay engaged, and we look forward to interacting over the next few days. Thank you.

(Applause).

>> MODERATOR: Thank you very much, all five ladies, Ms. Malavika Jayaram, Ms. Anja Kovacs, Thitirat Thipsamritkul, Ms. Supinya Klangnarong, and Ms. Anju Mangal. And, of course, a big round of applause for our moderator, Mr. Rajnesh Singh, please.

(Applause)

All right. I'm going to try to keep this under 140 characters, but it's likely impossible.

So first off, I'd like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank all of you for participating in this opening ceremony, and I'd like to thank you our key -- thank our key sponsors, which are AIS, True, 3BB, Google, Siam Commercial Bank, and the Bank of Ayudhya, and for the next three days we'll have an opportunity to exchange knowledge and ideas. I hope the APrIGF 2017 will help you gain new understandings and make new friends and sustain a development network that can become a regional part of our Internet sector. In addition, ladies and gentlemen, our organizing team would like to inform you that we would like to have you join the coffee break, which is set up outside. All the food and drinks are (Speaking in non-English language), so don't worry about that, and also reminding you that the different lectures and discussions will take place in the rooms 202, 207, and 208, all of which will begin at 11:30 on the dot. Hope to see you again next time.

Until then.

(Applause)

(Session concluded at 11:00 a.m.)

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