

Asia-Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG)

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Need for SIGs

- Internet Governance is often a difficult domain for newcomers, given multiple barriers:
 - Need for an interdisciplinary background (Technology, Law, Business, Social issues)
 - Complex processes for policy development
 - While most IG organizations are open, there are cultural specificities for each organization
 - Attending global meetings require resources and time
 - There are often have geopolitical challenges (eg., visas and time zone challenges)
- At the same time, it is very important that more newcomers are brought into the pool of IG practitioners
- Schools on Internet Governance (SIGs) are an important way to address these challenges

The Asia-Pacific Region

- The Asia-Pacific region is home to over 60% of the world's population
- The region is extremely diverse, containing the largest and some of the smallest countries in the world. The region has considerable linguistic and cultural diversity, and has significant differences in education, incomes and social systems
- Historically, the representation of the region in the global IG processes has been disproportionately low given its population

SIGs in Asia-Pacific

- The Asia-Pacific region has several IGs (this is a partial list):
 - APSIG, a regional school
 - Asia-Pacific Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA), organized annually by ICANN and KISA, also a regional school targeting youth leaders
 - NetMission
 - National Schools:
 - pkSIG (from 2015)
 - inSIG (from 2016)
 - bdSIG (from 2017)
 - twSIG (from 2020)
 - Several other including slSIG, npSIG
 - There is also the Asia-Pacific Alliance for Schools and Academies of Internet Governance (APASA), formed to support SIGs

APSIG

- While there are some international SIGs (EuroSSIG, South School), it was considered important to have a regional SIG for APAC
- Discussions on an Asia-Pacific SIG started after 2010, and APSIG was started in 2015 as a virtual organization by a small group of people led by Prof Kilnam Chon
- The first edition of APSIG was organized in 2016 at Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok
- Subsequently there have been annual face-to-face meetings every year except 2020, when it was virtual

2021

APSIG

Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance

Colombo, Sri Lanka

13-15 December 2021
(Face-to-face edition)

Fellowship Application deadline: 22/10/2021
www.apsig.asia









Objectives

- APSIG has the following broad objectives:
 - Provide capacity-building services for intermediate-level IG practitioners through an annual training program
 - Support national SIGs
 - Get representation for the region in global processes (eg., the UN IGF)
 - Provide special capacity building services to groups (eg., Persons with Disabilities)
 - Provide a community-driven platform to promote capacity building services for the IG community in Asia-Pacific
- APSIG is governed by a 5-member Executive Committee elected from its members

Plans for 2022

- APSIG is joining hands with APriGF and APNIC in organizing a joint event in 2022
- The joint event is scheduled during 9-14 Sep 2022 at Singapore, shortly before the ICANN75 meeting in Kuala Lumpur
- About 30 Fellows will attend the common APSIG/APriGF Fellowship
- In addition, APSIG is organizing a special train-the-trainer event for Persons with Disabilities, jointly with the ISOC Standing Group on Disability, as a pilot for a larger initiative aimed at promoting inclusion of PwDs in IG

Conclusion

- Starting out as an initiative launched by a small group, APSIG has transformed itself into a community-driven organization that provides a significant set of services to the APAC IG community
- APSIG will continue to partner with regional IG organizations, national SIGs and other global IG initiatives to promote IG in Asia-Pacific
- Given the growing importance of IG in the region and globally, APSIG will continue to be an valuable partner in the AP* community

Thank you!