Youth Statement by NetMission Ambassadors
@ yIGF 2013 Seoul, South Korea

Introduction

This year NetMission Ambassadors (http://www.netmission.asia) continued one of its flagship programs - Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF) in Seoul, South Korea during 3rd to 6th September 2013.   Held in State University of New York (SUNY) in Incheon, the 4-day camp aligned with Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) serving as a platform for the Youth to discuss IGF issues and ultimately advancing the Internet governance development in the world.

YIGF was initiated by NetMission Ambassadors in 2010 with the mission of raising the awareness and participation of Youth on Internet governance issues and policy making process.   Inspired by United Nation's Internet Governance Forum, multi-stakeholders' approach was adopted in which participants are assigned with roles of the interest groups such as government, business sectors and community expressing and interchanging their ideas and thoughts on Internet governance. Past YIGF were held in Hong Kong (2010), Singapore(2011) and Tokyo(2012).

This time, under the main theme of "Sustainable Development of Healthy Internet", 8 NetMission Ambassadors together with more than 30 international students were role-playing various stakeholders in three working groups of Access, Openness and Security conducting their research and discussions.   Highlighting the entire yIGF, the last session of the forum in which each working group presented their research results was open to all other APrIGF participants and fellows.

This youth statement, as an official final report of yIGF 2013, presents and summarizes the results and achievements made throughout the forum.   All these are the collective efforts and achievements by NetMission Ambassadors along with all participants based on their endeavors during the camp. Here are the summary reports by each working group respectively.

(A) Access

Research Question: Is "Blocking" a necessary way to tackle cyber addiction?

The effectiveness and feasibility of blocking was discussed during our Access's external meeting. We all believed blocking was a direct method to tackle cyber addiction tentatively.   Nevertheless, if the problem has to be addressed in the long run, other measures have to be adopted along with blocking. Suggestions were proposed to the three stakeholders: Government, Business and Community.

The game industry is suggested to create more educational games. It is because the content of the game is a crucial factor of determining whether users addicted to the game or not. If the content is healthy, there is no reason to prevent users from playing games for a long period of time.

The community is suggested to hold more outdoor activities that serve as an entertaining alternative to game addicts. Moreover, campaigns and programs raising the awareness of cyber addiction and providing the latest information could be launched so as to update youth online users. Hence, they will not only understand the bad consequences of online addiction and also familiar with how the Internet works.

The government is regarded as the coordinator between Business and Community. She is advised to allocate resources wisely in order to make a balance among the three parties. Nevertheless, the government is suggested to focus more on the growth of the children who are the future pillars of the society. More resources should be put in educating our younger generation how to use the Internet appropriately. In addition, the government could support the business and community in developing strategies of preventing cyber addiction through offering financial incentives.

If the above suggestions could be adopted, it is believed that cyber addiction could be addressed significantly.   Nevertheless, we still face three limitations as a youth.

Firstly, we are confused with our responsibility and obligation in contributing to the healthy Internet. We were born in the Net-century that was already set up by the older generation. We are not familiar with the operation of the Internet, not to mention the structure of organizations responsible for Internet maintenance and operation like ICANN. Thus, we could not truly identify what constructive things we can do with the Internet even using the Internet is just like breathing to us.

Secondly, we feel powerless in raising our voice towards Internet issues related to us. It is because we have no authority in the decision making process of formulating Internet policies. For instance, youth is not regarded an official stakeholders in many formal meetings. Therefore, we could attend the meetings as a guest only and our opinions will just taken for reference. Hence, we are forced to be passive, as we are not recognized by the society.

Thirdly, we lack the professional knowledge and experiences in participating Internet conferences. Due to our age, we are still too young to be familiar with all the technical terms discussed in professional forums held in ICANN. Furthermore, we find difficulties in engaging in such conferences not only because of the technical constraints but also the atmosphere. It is too boring and tired for energetic teenagers to sit for a whole day and discuss the same issue repeatedly. Hence, the technical aspect and atmosphere are one of the major obstacles preventing us from contributing the healthy Internet by joining conferences.

To break through those limitations, we need empowerments from different stakeholders in order to support our ideas. We hope our opinions could be heard. Otherwise, it will be meaningless. Furthermore, it is hoped that our opinions could be actualized so that we can gain social recognition. Also, if we can be involved in the policymaking, we could truly contribute constructive ideas or at least share our views to the adults.

Research Question: Should Internet censorship exist?

We broke the word openness into O-P-E-N-N-E-S-S to deliver our answers by 8 words starting with the alphabets.

O-riginality   by Taewoo, yIGF Participant

If you want to know something, what do you do these days?   Google it right? The Internet has become a major source of information and knowledge. We can soothe our thirst for quality knowledge there! At home, we can access to almost all information, it directly stimulates people's intellectual potential! Amazing! Securing openness of the internet is an indispensable part of making the best use of the Internet.

P-articipation   by Sangmin, yIGF Participant

I think openness is participation. If people do not know their responsibilities, we will not reach agreement. To achieve openness, we need help every stakeholder and every internet users. I think that the effort of everybody can make openness circumstance and better internet governance because all of internet users have responsibilities. We need to know this, we try to achieve it and we educate people that all of internet users have freedom to use internet while keeping responsibilities.

E-ssential   by Emily, NetMission Ambassador

It is essential to keep the Internet as open as we can. Openness is a significant feature of the Internet. An open Internet is a very important platform for innovation, creativity and exchange of ideas. But actually people sometimes say something that will harm the society on the Internet. That's why the government implements Internet censorship. As a teenager, we can overcome the dilemma by doing two things. First, to do what we can do and to say what we can say based on our moral and social benefit. Second, to be observers of the Internet by discussing others' behavior on the Internet to remind other Internet users they have to think twice before they make comments and write posts on the Internet. We can protect the open Internet and prevent Internet censorship is controlled by governments only.

N-eutral   by Haejin, yIGF Participant

Hello! Distinguished delegates! Let me put this question to you! Can you ID me? First, internet users could be stifled by me but I also could protect them! Second, if I am designed only for a certain interest group, I am called a method of dictatorship! Indeed, I have been love by dictatorships such as Adolf Hitler and the Kim dynasty in North Korea! However, if I am designed reflecting all stakeholders, then I can be a safeguard against the drawbacks of the internet such as cyber bullying or scam? Does it ring any bell to you? The answer is "censorship!" Censorship cuts both sides, to make the right use of it, it is imperative to put "neutrality" or, "a censorship program considering public interest" in a top priority!

N-ationality   by Cherry, NetMission Ambassador

The openness of internet means the situation in all countries including the rich and the poor. The pursuing of openness of internet that assessing to a variety of websites and high degree of freedom of expression should be applied in both developed and developing countries.

For the youth contribution, we can actively participate in public forum such as IGF and APrIGF to voice out our opinion that the degree of internet censorship should be minimized as much as possible except for some special circumstances.

We can also give out our own opinion during public enquiry of legislation of law and policy related to internet openness. So the government of different countries can understand the youth's emphasis on freedom of speech and access to internet.

E-xposure   **by Sojeong, yIGF Participant**

Internet is spreading different culture and knowledge beyond the borders. It already penetrates everyday life. Literally we're exposed to the Internet minute by minute! Of course, it has some negative sides such as internet identity theft or easy access to child pornography. Still, the Internet openness, in other words, this open space empowers users. Now they can expose dirty secret at ease (whistleblowers). Censorship of the internet would hinder empowerment of users. Cyberspace should remain as open space!

S-ociability   **by Seungjae, yIGF Participant**

In my opinion, openness means sociability because openness of the Internet influence on the sociability. Today's communication is active in the Internet as much as what is happening in the real world. Openness makes people share their ideas about social issues freely and they can share their social life together on the Internet. Most of people can make a balance between social life and virtual internet life. However, some people might not have social skills and just turn to the computer for their social life. Some people are single handedly raised by computers and the Internet. Then they have no idea of how to properly interact with people when they start working and communicating in person. As a result, there is a need to improve sociability both in the real world and the Internet world.

S-ensible   **by Subrata, yIGF Participant**

I just simply want to emphasize that we should use the internet sensibly so that we could enjoy blessing of open platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and etc.

(C) Security

Research Question : Who should bear the greatest responsibility of safeguarding privacy on the Internet?

This question addresses the concern of online security. By security, it means "netizens" can stay safe on the Net. Theoretically speaking, Internet should be a platform allowing free flows of information where Internet users retain the right to share, the power to decide who can view as well as make use of their own information. In short, they are the ultimate master of their details.

Unfortunately, the above notion is merely an ideal type that does not exist in reality. What we did observe is pervasive leakage of personal information on the Net. Worse still, personal data could be easily accessed and tracked by strange third parties. In other words, netizens do not have the full control of their information on the Net.

In view of such a gap between the reality and ideal, we believe that all stakeholders including government, business and individual Internet users are jointly responsible.

In the first place, government has the responsibility of its insufficient and lenient regulations in which hackers are likely to take advantage of the loopholes. While for business party, their self-control is not enough neither. Some of them misuse clients' data with permission, leading to the above-mentioned leakage problem. Last but not least, individual users tend to over-estimate the reliability of businessmen protecting their own data thereby over-sharing their personal and private information online. We believe no single stakeholder bears all responsibility of protecting online privacy. It is every stakeholder that shall take initiatives.

As the Net generation, we would like to make the Net a safer place to be as well. We promise to be self-disciplined and avoid over-sharing our private details online.   In the meantime, we urge government to enact a more restricted legal framework.   But without empowerment, Youth could barely contribute ourselves. We hope that government could involve more Youth in the legislation of law and regulations. We hope that business could adopt user control scheme monitoring their use of clients' data.   We hope that there will be more resources on promotion of online discipline in the community.

We convince that through the contributions from different parties, Internet would become a safer place and the gap between the reality and ideal will be narrowed where Internet users can share their information without worries.   One day, Internet will eventually be a pleasant, vibrate and harmonious place with all our collective efforts.

Conclusion

Youth are energetic and creative. As the major users of Internet, we pledge to continue our active participation in and making tangible contributions to the Internet governance. With the dedication to raise the awareness and involvements of Youth on Internet governance policy discussion, we believe that youth voices count and matter. See you soon in the next yIGF.

Supporting Organizations:

Asia Pacific Region Internet Governance Forum	APrIGF	Korea Internet Governance Alliance	KIGA
DotAsia Organisation	DOT.ASIA ORGANISATION	Ministry of Science, ICT & Future Planning	Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning
Korea Internet And Security Agency	KISA	Internet Corporation Assigned Names and Numbers	ICANN
NETMISSION.ASIA	NET MISSION .ASIA	SUNY Korea	SUNY Korea The State University of New York 한국뉴욕주립대학교