

# APrIGF 2024 Event Committee Report

**Co-convenors:** Cheryl Langdon-Orr and Lokendra Sharma

**Members:** Abdullah Mamun, Amrita Choudhury, Ashirwad Tripathy, Ashrafur Rahman Piaus, Gunela Astbrink, Kasun Tharaka, Lennon Chang, Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, Rohana Palliyaguru, Sayda Kamrun, Saima Nisar, Swaran Ravindra, Winston Roberts, Yien Chyn Tan

As the 2023 host representative, Michael Lewis served in an ex-officio capacity, and Anthony Lee, as the 2024 host, with others of his team as required, also attended most meetings.

Appendix 1 shows the attendance record of the APrIGF 2024 Events Committee members for the MSG's review and consideration in establishing membership of next year's various committees.

**Secretariat:** Jasmine Ko

**Number of EC meetings:** 10 pre-event (8 joint committee meetings)

## **Preamble**

Taipei hosted the 2024 Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF), which took place both onsite and online via Zoom. Day 0 was 20 August 2024, while Day 3 was 23 August 2024.

Recommendations from several previous years of APrIGF Committees, including but not limited to the ECs, were considered and discussed with the Local Host at the start of planning proceedings.

This year, visa-related issues were limited, and the Local Host played a crucial role in arranging for e-visas for a select set of participants including fellows. The event itself was overall well organised; the social events and the provision of food were more than

satisfactory. The Local Host also made efforts to ensure that accessibility concerns flagged by the EC were met — including on the website, usage of sign language in the opening and closing plenaries and accessible washrooms and lifts. There was some confusion regarding badges at the event, and the EC has made recommendations on this and other issues in a dedicated section below.

### **Physical Event Details**

Number of proposals received: **92**

Number of proposals selected: **27**

Total registrations: **2,345**

In-person: 671

Online: 1674

### **Pre-event planning**

The EC engaged in thorough planning for months before the event in August 2024. In terms of meetings, ten were held among the EC members to discuss various aspects of logistics, including the allocation of rooms in the venue and, very importantly, accessibility concerns. The EC also played the key role of bringing together the leadership teams of all APrIGF committees, the MSG, the Secretariat, and the Local Host representatives in the joint committee meetings (8 such meetings were held in the run-up to the event). A highlight of this year's EC planning was an opportunity to have a digital walk-through of the event venue facilitated by the local host. This gave the EC a better idea about event logistics.

## Overarching comments of 2024 EC

<b>Observation</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p>The event was well organized, with more than adequate arrangements made for food, audio/video (technical), and social events. The local host's allocation of human resources at the venue was also reasonable.</p>	<p>It would be helpful if next year's EC learned any best practices the local Taiwanese host followed.</p>
<p>There was some confusion regarding the allocation of badges — VIP, speaker and participants.</p>	<p>Next year's EC may be mindful at the outset and raise the EC's understanding of the name badges that must be printed, including categories, if any, with the local host. However, we note the Local Host had organised badge options that were not made clear to either VIPs, Speakers, or the EC onsite.</p>
<p>Joint calls between co-conveners are beneficial, especially on the days/weeks leading up to the event.</p>	<p>In the final month before the APrIGF is organized, more joint calls can be planned to improve coordination and ensure efficient event management.</p>
<p>A venue video 'walk-through' is a valuable activity that should be a regular requirement. This is not only for the EC but also so that the co-conveners of other committees can see various aspects of the venue, give specific feedback, and discuss any additional requirements, such as additional signposting and/or room identification.</p>	<p>Conducting provisions, preferably early in the venue contract finalisation process, should be essential, and all local hosts should be required to make provisions.</p>

<p>Variability in the <b>actual</b> versus '<b>stated in planning for sessions</b>' interactions with attendees/audience needs to be addressed; whilst not a logistics matter, it affects the event overall and the desirability of future APrIGFs being well attended.</p>	<p>The Programme Committee, Events Committee, and MSG must address this matter. Some suggestions include notifying session proposers that failure to address these aspects of their session planning will result in such failure being considered in reviewing any future session proposal(s).</p>
<p>The inclusion of remote participants in the event was variable; some sessions were again wholly unsatisfactory for remote participation and equitable inclusion.</p>	<p>The Programme Committee, Events Committee, and MSG must address this matter. Some suggestions include specific requirements for remote participation (perhaps a 'Remote First' methodology) and specified requirements for remote participation facilitators in session proposal design <i>*and*</i> most notably, the execution of the session.</p>

**Observed event and any post-event issues and feedback received:**

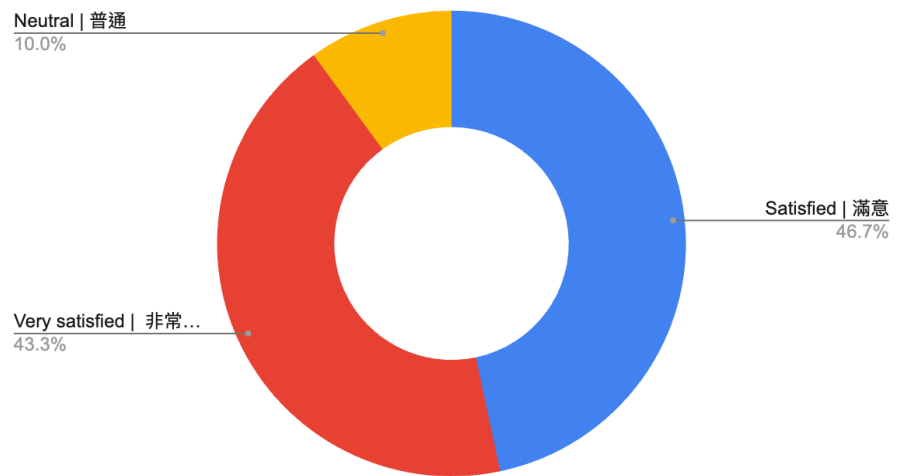
- A requirement for specific statistics to be collected and provided
  - To address this issue, the local host should be required to provide a larger and more detailed data set regarding both registration and attendance.
  - Specific data points should be listed by EC/MSG, etc., as a requirement early in the planning process with the Local Host to ensure the most valuable data points are collected for annual reporting and cumulative analysis perspectives of APrIGF(s)
  - Specifically, we propose an SLA-style agreement for a reasonable response time to requests from committees via the Secretariat or directly from the Secretariat for returning messages from the local host.



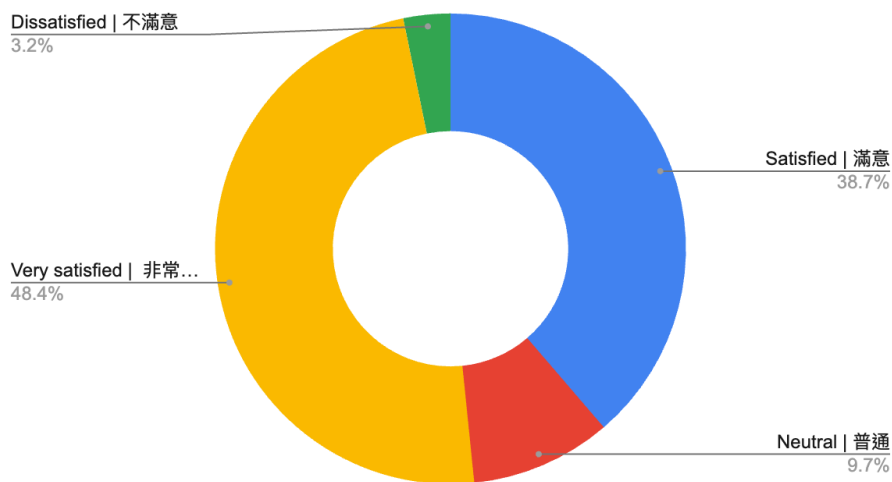
## Survey Results:

### Overall services

#### Time of the forum



#### Venue



[Staff services 工作人員服務]

[Hospitality 餐點]

[Live streaming 線上直播]

[Sign language interpretation 手語]

## Local Hubs

- Total number of Local Hubs: 5

<b>Hub</b>	<b>Economy</b>
DAV College Amritsar India	India
University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS)	Bangladesh
Myanmar Internet Project	Thailand
Heimdall Digital	Philippines
Samoa Information Technology Society (SITA)	Samoa

All Local Hub Reports received are included below and reproduced SIC; images are all courtesy of these hubs. It should also be noted that it is recommended that in the future if Local Hubs fail to provide a report in a timely manner, this failure be taken into consideration when approving future Local Hub venues.

The Thailand-based Myanmar Internet Project Local Hub, which has not yet provided a written report for inclusion here, approached the secretariat when presenting this 2024 EC Report to the MSG, outlining some difficulties they were having in complying promptly. However, a representative of the organising group stated that they had made ‘Updates on the event’ “with his few communities”, but this does not comply with our reporting requirements, so they have been reminded about the opportunity to provide the secretariat with even a brief written report. On receipt of any written report and/or images, we will request that the secretariat append it to this document.

Hub #1: Report from DAV College Amritsar India [SIC]

Around 100 registered participants participated enthusiastically in various onsite and offsite events.

(Day 1) Town Hall Session (Parallel Session) on Hybrid Platform

On Day 2, Physical Hub organised Tech Trends in Emerging Trends and Disruptive Technology for the next billion citizens.

ICANN LEARN Workshop on Cyber Security Trends

On Day 3 , Certificates and momento were awarded to stakeholders

EVENTS NAME :

Quiz Computation;

Seminar on Cyber Governance ;

Birds of a feather session on DNS Ecosystem Panel discussion by Industry experts on AI and ML



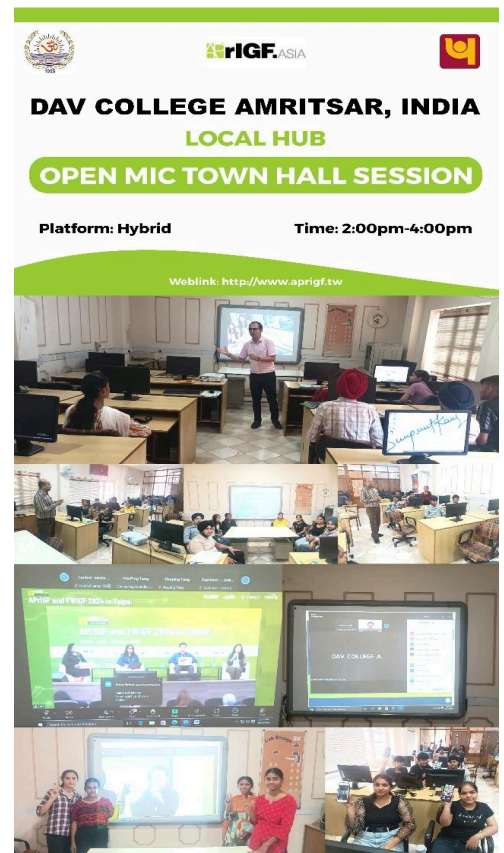
Open Mic Session by Post Graduate students

Welcome Remarks by : Gauranshi Sharma

Event Moderator: Prof. Kapil Goyal

Event Speaker : Prof. Vikram Sharma

Remote Event coordinator: Prof Preeti Kamra



Event Sponsored Partner : Punjab National Bank, DAV College, Branch , Amritsar

Hub #2: Report from University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) - Bangladesh [SIC]

Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) has been selected as the local hub for the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APRIGF 2024). APRIGF serves as a platform for discussion, exchange and collaboration at a regional level, and also where possible to aggregate national IGF discussions, ultimately advancing Internet governance development in the Asia Pacific region. The APRIGF 2024 is a Hybrid Event held in NTUH International Convention Center, Taipei, Taiwan on 21-23 August 2024. UITS is delighted to be [a local hub for] APRIGF. Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC) is delighted to host this significant event, bringing together stakeholders from across the Asia Pacific region to discuss and collaborate on crucial matters related to Internet governance. Under the hybrid model, all sessions are conducted through a virtual platform, with live streaming to various channels, while the physical venue provides a space for participants to gather face-to-face.



UITS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Md. Abu Hashan Bhuiyan, Treasurer Professor Dr. Siraj Uddin Ahmed, Dean, Faculty of Science & Engineering Professor Dr. Md. Ashraful Islam, Engineer Md. Safaet Hossain, Director of IQAC at UITS, Heads and Faculty Members of the Department of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) and Information Technology (IT) participated at the virtual local hub for the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APRIGF 2024).



The APriIGF 2024 session titled “From Innovation to Impact: Responsible AI – challenges and opportunities to tackle online fraud and scams” held on 21st August, 2024 (Wednesday) in Taipei, Taiwan from 12:00 PM to 1:45PM virtual local hub at Conference Room, UITSS. This session explores how AI-generated threats impact users and discusses emerging countermeasures. It will also delve into the role of governments, companies, and civil society in promoting responsible AI development, mitigating risks, and fostering a safer online environment. Experts from various stakeholders share their insights and experiences, providing a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in tackling fraud and scams in the age of AI. By harnessing AI capabilities, the security community can develop innovative solutions to outpace threat actors. AI-powered tools can be used to analyze vast amounts of data, identify patterns of fraudulent behavior, and proactively detect and mitigate emerging threats.

The APriIGF session titled “Is Asia-Pacific ready for AI? Balancing Innovation, Ethical Governance and Marginalized Needs” held on 22nd August, 2024 (Thursday) in Taipei, Taiwan from 9:30am to 10:30am virtual local hub at Conference Room, UITSS. This session explores



the complex nature of the AI governance ecosystem in the Asia-Pacific, with a focus on balancing innovation with ethical governance and insights from established frameworks, which emphasizes human rights, accountability, and transparency. These models offer valuable lessons, allowing us to learn from their successes while identifying existing gaps and challenges. As AI becomes more integrated into daily life, it is crucial to address governance challenges to ensure societal benefits and mitigate risks. The IGF is a global multi stakeholder platform that facilitates the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.



### Introduction

The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) serves as a platform for stakeholders from across the region to discuss critical internet governance issues.

Samoa Information Technology Association (SITA) is one the remote hubs of the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF2024) held at Taipei Taiwan from 21st to 23rd August 2024. However, SITA managed to join from its remote hub on 22nd and 23rd August due to the availability of the selected venue.

As a multi-stakeholder dialogue forum, SITA brings together governments, private sector actors, civil society, academia and technical community representatives to engage in inclusive conversations.

### Overview

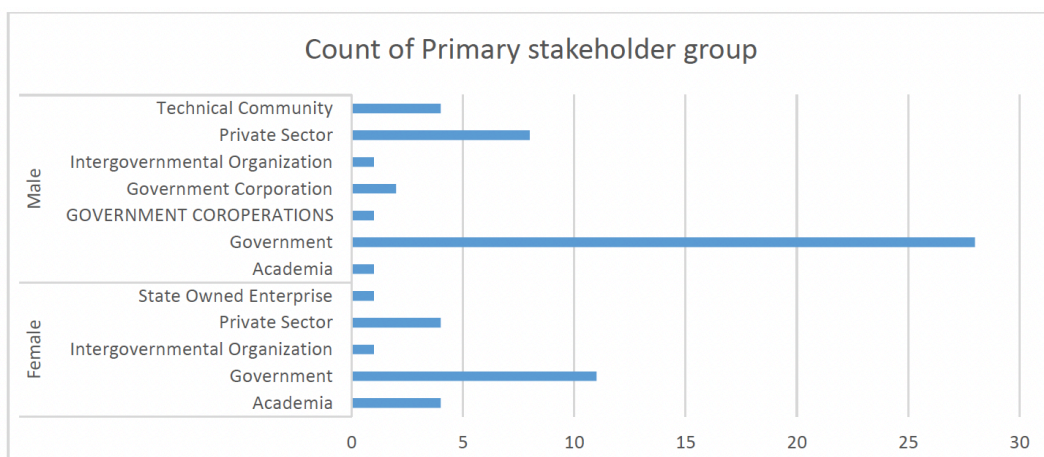
SITA organized the remote hub by sending out invitations to its stakeholders to send their representatives, especially those with IT knowledge and those who are interested in internet governance discussions. SITA also engaged with social media to advertise topics that will be presented and discussed at the hub from the APrIGF program. SITA even went on TV stations to advertise more on this event.

Due to the critical importance of internet governance topic now in Samoa because of the increasing internet or online services, there were more than 50 people who attended the 2 days remote hub event.

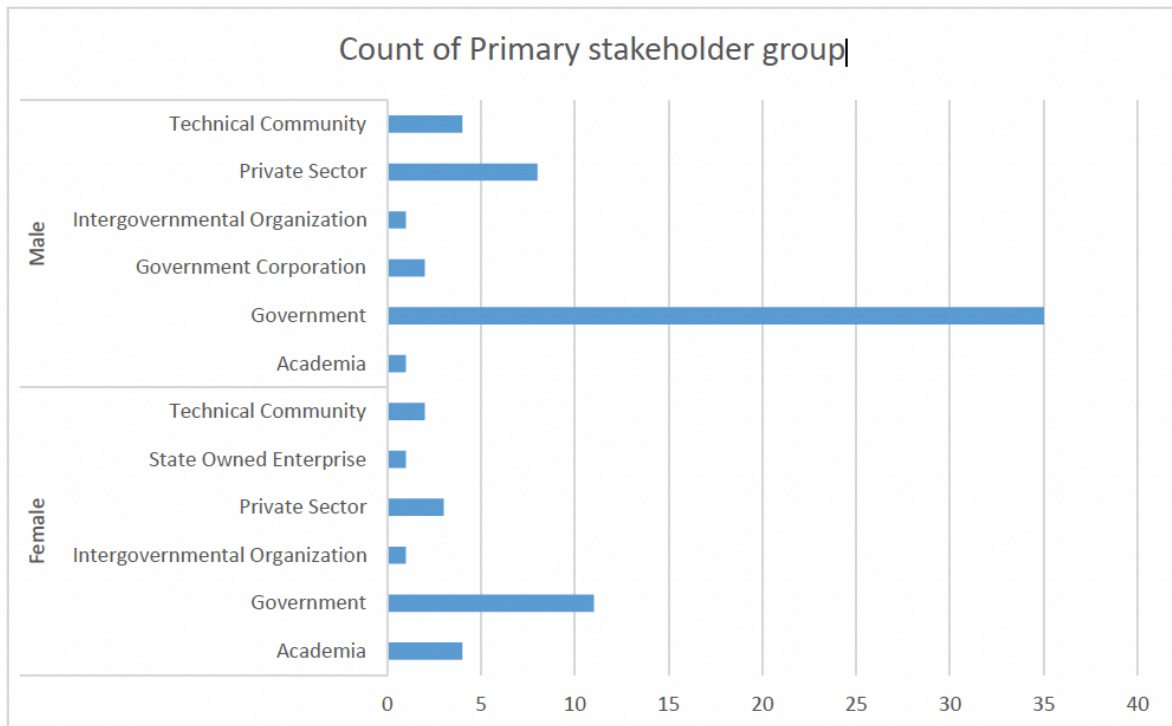
SITA prepared refreshments to cater to these people because the time is not on our side, its 9am in Taipei but its 2pm in Samoa, so SITA has to do something to keep people until the end and we did.

### Number of Attendees by Gender by Stakeholder group.

Day 1 – About 66 attendees on day 1 as illustrated below by gender and stakeholder group.



**Day 2 – About 73 attendees in day 2 as illustrated below.**



### **Main Discussion**

There were 2 rooms set up to run parallel sessions as per program of the APrIGF2024.

### **Day 1. 22nd August 2024**

**Room 1** – Participants joined the Break the Silo – Streamlining Gender Safety in the Digital Space, Digital Frontlines : Safeguarding Human Rights Defenders in the Cyber Age, Multistakeholderism in the post GDC era and Digital Bill of Rights sessions. According to the participants were in this room and some of them being moving around to room 2, they were very interested in discussions of the Digital Bill of Rights as a new topic to them and the Safeguarding Human rights defenders in the Cyber Age. These discussions were amongst the government and state owned enterprises representatives. The technical people in this room were interested and more discussions on the roundtable on streamlining gender safety in the digital space.

**Room 2** – Participants joined the Bottom-up Advocacy for a Resilient Internet, a multistakeholder approach to safeguarding information integrity through advancing internet governance in Asia and the Pacific, Is Asia Pacific Ready for AI? And Health data governance through AI Booming Age sessions. Participants mentioned that lots of

information discussed and its good that there are discussions in these areas, especially with AI and internet governance so that people wont be afraid of using the new technologies.

**Day 2 – 23rd August 2024**

**Room 1** – Participants joined Building Holistic Resilience to Address Emerging Ethical and Social Challenges in the Digital and AI Age, Infrastructures of repression and Freedom online coalition regional dialogue sessions. Participants in this room had an interesting discussion on challenges in the digital and AI age due to AI it’s a new thing to most of the participants especially from the Pacific. So it’s a good platform with mixture of stakeholders





that you heard the views of a manager from the corporate service, a rep from the technical community and private sector.

**Room 2** – Participants joined the Making AI responsible for financial inclusion, internet infrastructure resilience during disaster event, enhancing internet and web standards to address DNS tampering. There was lots of discussions on the internet infrastructure resilience during disaster event because Samoa is one of the vulnerable place during Tropical cyclones and natural disasters. So more discussions on this issue because we are related to it.

### Challenges

**Connectivity Issues** – There were a bit of unstable internet connections on day 2 that some part of virtual discussions didn't get it in full.

**Time zone differences** – This is very difficult to the organizing committee because we have to convince people to come to the hub to join at 2 pm to 8 pm Samoa time. This time people



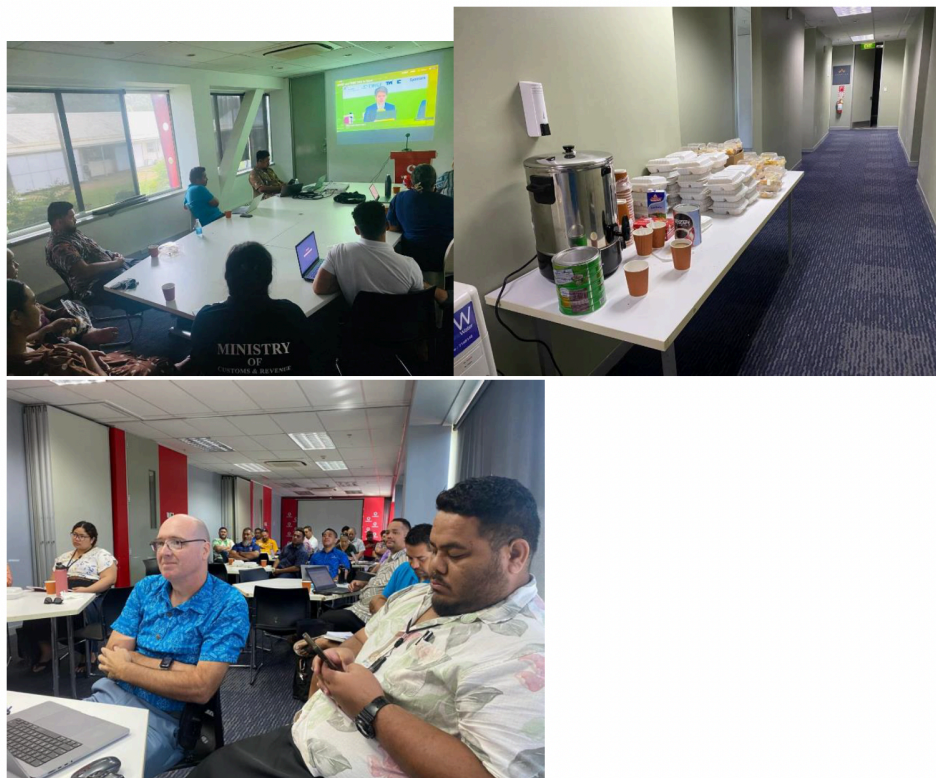
especially public servants have to engage to their daily work and commit to the other priorities that they got paid from and its late for them to join the hub from 5pm to 8pm as that's after work time. However, SITA convinced them by providing some tips and refreshments to last them until the end.

## Reflections

**Increased Participation.** – the SITA Remote hub attracted a significant number of participants from different stakeholders and this expanded the diversity of perspectives in the forum discussions.

**Greater inclusivity** – voices from underrepresented groups including small businesses in the private sector and people with limited knowledge in ICT were heard during the discussions.

**Successful hybrid format** – This sets a precedent for future events to continue the inclusive format.



## **Hub #4: Report from Heimdall Digital - Philippines [SIC]**

### **APRIGF 2024: Impacting Philippine IT Youth and Educators through Heimdall Digital**

The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) continues to be one of the most important gatherings for Internet Governance policymakers and stakeholders in the region. Heimdall Digital is honored to serve as the local hub for the Philippines for the second consecutive year.

#### **Event Overview**

As the local hub for APrIGF 2024, Heimdall Digital partnered with universities—National University Lipa in Batangas and Philippine Women's University in Manila—along with the IT youth organization Junior Philippine Computer Society of Laguna College to host a three-day event that drew 187 attendees. These venues span a wide area of the National Capital Region and Southern Luzon, encouraging participation from students and educators across the region.

#### **Breakdown of attendees:**

- Student Attendees: 90.48%
- Faculty Attendees: 8.42%
- Admin Attendees: 1.10%

#### **Gender distribution:**

- Female: 35%
- Male: 65%

#### **Age distribution:**

- 18 years old: 21.61%
- 19 years old: 23.44%
- 20 years old: 24.91%
- 21 to 56 years old: 30.04%

Around 70% of the attendees pre-registered online, while the rest were walk-ins. All sessions were streamed live from Taipei, except for Engels Antonio's in-person presentation on AI and Cybersecurity, which was the featured local discussion.

## **Key Insights**

### **Most Valuable Topics**

Attendees highlighted the following as the most valuable discussions:

1. Artificial Intelligence
2. Cybersecurity
3. Misinformation

These topics reflect the pressing issues in today's Internet Governance landscape.

### **Data Protection Awareness**

Participants reported an increased understanding of the importance of data and its protection. This is essential, as data continues to be central to the evolving Internet Governance environment.

### **Shared Regional Concerns**

The event revealed that many of the challenges faced locally are also experienced by other Internet communities in the Asia Pacific, such as:

- Raising awareness of AI policies and best practices
- Recognizing the critical role of Internet Governance in addressing challenges and securing funding for research and development
- Cybersecurity threats
- Data privacy issues

## **Collaboration Opportunities**

The forum emphasised the need for discussions and partnerships that include multistakeholders from:

- Government bodies
- Technical communities
- Private sectors and civil society
- Youth representation

Such collaboration is vital in addressing fraud and preventing the misuse of emerging technologies.

## **Impact of Remote Local Hubs**

The remote local hubs greatly expanded access to the event, allowing those unable to travel to participate. These hubs helped:

- Promote awareness on a local level
- Support the goal of understanding and tackling Internet Governance issues in the Asia Pacific
- Encourage active engagement of Internet communities on common regional concerns

## **Conclusion**

Conferences like APrIGF are essential for:

1. Learning from experts and peers
2. Understanding the challenges and solutions in Internet Governance
3. Encouraging youth involvement in shaping the future of the internet

The insights gained from APrIGF 2024 will guide the development of more inclusive and informed Internet Governance policies, not just in the Philippines but throughout the Asia Pacific region.

For more details, please visit <https://heimdall.digital/aprigf-2024>.

## Appendix 1:

### Attendance Record for the Events Committee Members

Members	16 Feb	27 Feb	12 Mar	26 Mar	9 Apr	22 Apr	7 May	21 May	4 Jun	18 Jun	2 Jul	16 Jul	30 Jul	13 Aug
Abdullah Mamun	√		√	√	√	x	x	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Amrita Choudhury	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	apo	√	√
Ashirwad Tripathy	√	√	√	√	√	√	apo	√	apo	√	√	√		√
Ashrafur Rahman Piaus	√	√	√	√	√	late	√	√	x	√	√	√	√	
Aysha Labiba (removed)	√	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Cheryl Langdon-Orr	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	apo	√	√	√	√	√
Gunela Astbrink	√	√	√	√	√	x	√	√	x	√			√	
Kasun Tharaka	√	√	√	x	√	late	√	√	x	√		√	√	
Lennon Chang	√	√	√	apo	√	apo	√	√	apo	x	√	√	√	
Lokendra Sharma	√	√	√	√	v	apo	√	√	√	apo		√	√	√
Michael Lewis	apo	√	apo	√	√	√	apo	√	√	late	√		x	
Mohammad Kawsar Uddin (removed)	√			x	x	x	√	x	x	x		x		
Rohana Palliyaguru		√		x	x	√	x	x	x	√		√		

Sayda Kamrun	√	bot	bot	x	bot	x	√	√	bot	apo	√	bot	bot	
Saima Nisar	√	√	√	√	√	apo	√	√	√	√	√	√		
Shankar Kumar Mondol	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	√		5 min		
Swaran Ravindra	√	√		apo	√	apo	x	x	x	x				
Winston Roberts	√	√		√	√	x	x	apo	√	apo	√	√	√	√
Yien Chyn Tan	apo	√	apo	√	apo	x	x	√	√	√	apo	√		√
Hsuping			√	√		√		√	√	√		√	√	√

Previous EC Report Reference 2023: <https://igf.asia/EC2023report>