

IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: Internet Inclusion Solutions: Shaping the Digital Future
- Date: 20 December 2017
- Time: 9:00
- Session Organizer: Karen McCabe, IEEE
- Chair/Moderator: Deepak Maheshwari, Symantec and IEEE Internet Initiative Vice Chair
- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Jim Wendorf, IEEE
- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:
 - Samar Baba, IEEE SIGHT
 - Jane Coffin, Internet Society
 - Adrian Lovett, Web Foundation
 - Christopher Yoo, University of Pennsylvania
- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):
 - Based on an initial question posed to the audience before the panellists spoke, the audience believes that internet access in ten years will be invisible, open, free, easy, and sustainable.
 - There are different levels of access depending on where you live, such as someone living in a rural village may have two to four hours of access which highlights the need to consider different perspectives when we discuss access for all.
 - There is a strong need to support and promote content in local languages.
 - Considering many models of access are provided through grant money and corporate social responsibility, the issue of scalability is important to address to sustain the programs after the money is expended.
 - Unless local concerns and needs are addressed, access may be available but unused by the citizens.
 - Providing education not only how to use technology but the potential benefits, such as writing a resume or creating a website for a business, of such is use is important.
 - When providing access, it is important to ask about local needs.
 - It is important to figure out how to move from a volunteer-funded model to a sustainable business model at a local level.
 - When discussing digital inclusion in the terms of development goals, it is important to discuss economic empowerment, financial inclusion, improved healthcare outcomes and improved education.
 - Affordability is key to implementation where one gigabyte costs no more than 2% of an individual's average monthly income.

- Regulations sometimes hinder the deployment of community networks due to cumbersome regulations and excise duties on donated, used equipment.
- Building trust in the internet is vital to assuring that individuals connect and continue to utilize the internet.

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

The session focused on solutions to internet inclusion from a variety of perspectives. The participants addressed multiple issues to ensure meaningful internet access for all. When envisioning the future of internet access ten years from now, most of the panellists and audience gave optimistic views that the internet will be readily available, secure and free to access in some viewpoints.

One major point of discussion centered around the importance of considering local needs. This included all aspects of local immersion including the need to view what level of access is initially necessary for those in a particular community, the ability of developing a sustainable model for access and the importance of local content.

The session also focused on the need for education with a focus on gender equality and empowerment for women and girls. The consensus of the participants is that providing access is far from adequate and that access with education, not only on the technical aspects, but also about the potential benefits, such as financial, education and health, are vital to successful implementation.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Overall, the session participants have an optimistic view of the future provided certain issues are addressed in order to provide important and in some cases life changing access to the internet. The main theme that derived from the session was the importance of the consideration of local needs from the development of the network to what is important to the new users.

Education is foundational to the successful implementation of internet access for all. Depending on the community, some individuals are unaware of the potential benefits nor are they aware of the potential pitfalls of connectivity such as privacy concerns. Most participants agreed that the need for education and local content is essential to create an environment for all to thrive.

Affordability and the regulatory environment should be addressed to allow for widespread adoption. One panellist spoke about donated, used equipment being held in customs for months and then having to pay a significant tax on the equipment to be released for

deployment. By eliminating these barriers, the belief was that more community networks could be deployed at a rapid pace.

Reguations

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 35
- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 15
- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

The panellists discussed gender equality and women and girl's empowerment during the session.

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

The panellists discussed the need to access to the internet based on gender because in certain situations men have a greater level of access and that providing access and education in schools assists in mitigating this disparity. For example, the IEEE SIGHT Tunisia group has focused on entrepreneurship for women and girls allowing them to sell their homemade wares to a larger audience.