South East Asia Internet Governance Forum (SEA-IGF) 2021

"Digital Transformation in Southeast Asia: The COVID-19 Pandemic"

Bali, Indonesia 1-2 September 2021

Digital transformation must be realized through the development of digital infrastructure and digital talent, as well as the formulation of supporting policies. As part of the Internet Governance ecosystem, Ministry of Communication and Informatics always considers aspirations, and even seeks the involvement of other stakeholders in carrying out its policies. Indonesia is open to collaborating to discuss international data protection and proposes four principles to be adopted in cross-border data flow such as: lawfulness, fairness, transparency, and reciprocity in order to create a safe and productive digital ecosystem. We welcome a wide range of stakeholders in policy making, through public consultations, public discussions and public communications, including on international platforms.

Johnny G. Plate
(Minister of Communication and Informatics, Indonesia)

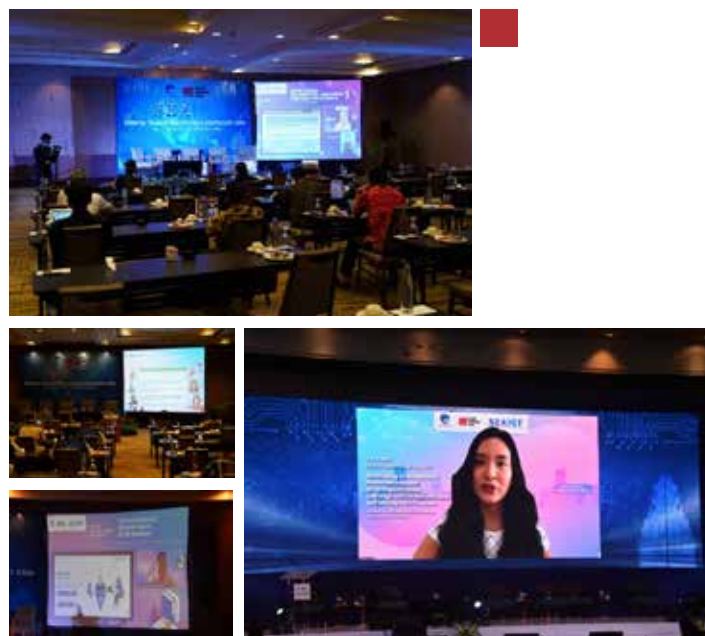
Sub-theme 1

ICT Infrastructure and Cybersecurity

The subtheme has five sessions that discussed a variety of issues on internet connectivity challenges and cybersecurity trends, lessons, and policies during the COVID-19 pandemic; the need to prioritize individual protection and internet access with human rights framework; impact of cybersecurity policies towards the fulfilment of human rights and democracy in the Southeast Asia region; and looking at digital economy and economic recovery during COVID-19. It also touched upon the inclusivity of women and the worsening internet user gender gap and the topic of the implementation of Universal Acceptance (UA) for Email Address Internationalization (EAI) in the region.

Sub-theme 2

Digital Rights and Society

The five sessions on this subtheme mainly discussed the use of national-based digital contact tracing applications as an effort to handle COVID-19 spread, and it's relation to data governance, digital rights, and data privacy; data protection law in the Southeast Asia region; inclusivity towards people with disabilities, women and LGBTQI+ and the challenges and obstacles they experienced because of norms and cultures held in the society; and internet intermediary liability from the digital platforms, such as accountability and transparency over content moderation.

Youth and Innovation Development

The discussions on this subtheme evolved around the idea is to promote and defend the local language and characters in the internet in hope the effort would trigger the youth awareness on the spoken and written culture in the past; empowering learners, especially the younger generation, to adapt to digital technology that ensures people-centric digitalization benefitting the community. One of the session addressed the promotion of digital inclusion for marginalized youth, including people with disabilities (PWDs). Another session was addressing the importance to strengthening the synergy and the collaboration between multistakeholder for public health communication as COVID-19 has taught to all of us. It's also important to recognize that multistakeholder collaboration with ICT volunteers and integration of them in the education system could lead countries to better development.

Additional Sessions

The major discussion in this sessions highlights several topics, such as the cyber norm practices in the ASEAN community; how technology becomes so fundamental to everything we do, therefore it is important to protect human rights and the data entity and to discuss it's rapid expansion of infrastructure. Another session discussed best practices and efforts in creating future digital talents through innovative programs and developing new skillset in the future. There was a session focusing on health misinformation and at the same time showcased the value of Google's tools, and initiative to address the misinformation.

Mariam F. Bharata
(Indonesia IGF Coordinator)

The Southeast Asia Internet Governance Forum (SEA IGF) aims to map the potential for transparent, accountable, inclusive and professional internet governance in the Southeast Asia region. Also, expanding the network and strengthening the collaboration of stakeholders who can actively contribute to building internet governance in the SEA region, as well as formulating a number of recommendations as a support for development in the region in the corridor of digital transformation and the internet economy.

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