

**Workshop Title**  
**Defining the Successful Factors of Different Models for Youth Participation  
in Internet Governance**

**I. Brief Background:**

Youth is an important component of the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. Their participation is always encouraged and welcome in IGF. Though an increase of youth awareness of Internet Governance is observed, the general involvement of the worldwide youth especially from the less developed countries is still low. Furthermore, only raising awareness and hearing their passive voices is not enough. It is more important to find out what makes them stay and contribute to the Internet world and on Internet governance, which ensures the longevity of this stakeholder group. Therefore a discussion on how to sustain in engaging the active contributions from the participating youth and their further influence to their peers is a highly relevant topic to the development of Internet Governance.

**II. Past Experience:**

For instance, in IGF Vilnius 2010, we NetMission.Asia hosted the workshop “Developing Civil Society and Youth Participation in Internet Governance” where various programs for preparing civil society and youth participation were explored and introduced such as NetMission Ambassadors Program, Youth IGF Camp, IG Summer School, etc. These different innovative and new approaches in encouraging the participation from youth on Internet Governance have achieved some proven results.

**Youth IGF Camp:**

YIGF is a youth-driven initiative by NetMission Ambassadors hoping to create more peer influence on Internet Governance. The idea of YIGF was originated from their participation in IGF Egypt 2009 which gave rise to the first YIGF Hong Kong in 2010. The success of the YIGF Hong Kong was then reported in IGF Vilnius 2010 by NetMission Ambassadors and the YIGF delegates. Amazingly, the passionate youth continue to spread the impact to other cities in the Asia Pacific Region. Delegates of the YIGF Hong Kong joined NetMission as Ambassadors who then carry on the mission and have organized YIGF Singapore in 2011. Now they are planning the YIGF Tokyo in 2012. This symbolizes the success in engaging active contribution from youth.

**APNG (Asia Pacific Next Generation) Camp:**

The APNG Camp is a camp for the future internet leaders in the Asia Pacific Region. One of our NetMission Ambassadors Matthew joined the APNG camp in 2009 which he was amazed by the experience and the geo-diversity of the camp. After that, he took the initiative to organize a local APNG camp in Hong Kong in 2010 to enable more youth to have the same experience. His contribution and effort was recognized which he was then appointed to be the chief secretariat of main APNG Camp 2011 which was held in Hong Kong with youth coming from over 20 countries such as Myanmar, India, China, Bangladesh, Korea, etc. He now continued his contribution in APNG as the Camp Chair for 2012.

NetY Ambassador Program:

With the many successful ambassadors as above, NetMission Ambassadors Program has extended to the secondary schools level – NetY Ambassador Program. NetMission has partnered with a local chapter of the International NGO, Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong, to organize an essay competition which the winning team will become the NetY Ambassadors and be subsidized their participation to the UNIGF Azerbaijan 2012.

With the above successful experience, we hope to share with and further exchange ideas with other organizations on how to stimulate and sustain the active youth participation and contribution by different methods.

### **III. Proposed Structure of the workshops:**

The workshop will mainly be divided into 3 parts which features experience sharing, discussion and implementation plan.

#### **1. Exploring the Impact on Youth themselves from their Participation**

To set the start of the session, there will be experience sharing from various organizations. Representatives from those aforementioned youth programs introduced in IGF 2010 or other relevant entities will be invited to share their different models and format of activities for Youth Participation in IG, which includes:

- Training Camp (e.g. YIGF Camp in Asia, IG Summer Camp in Europe)
- Competition (e.g. NetY – Essay Competition)
- Ambassador Programs ( e.g. NetMission Ambassadors Program)
- International Conference Opportunities (e.g. APNG)

Through the case studies, we try to analyze the successful stories on the following aspects:

- Progress of the program/model
- Impact to the Youth Involved, any positive changes?
- Specific examples of youth with active contribution
- Sustainable development of the program/model

#### **2. Looking for the Common Successful and Failing Factors**

Following the experience sharing, the panel will be open for discussion which aims to find out the similarities and differences between the various programs and models. This helps to identify some common successful or failing factors for the future references. We will try to find out the answers to the following questions:

- Any common characteristics/backgrounds of the active youth?
- Any common elements of those programs?
- What are the key attractions/rationale for Youth to participate in IG?
- What are the key resources needed?
- Any common challenges faced by youth/organizations?
- What format/activities draw the most interest from youth?

### 3. Developing the Relevant Materials for Youth Participation

In order to enable more organizations around the world in facilitating youth participation, we hope to develop relevant materials or guidebook. Therefore we will moderate a discussion on how the valuable experiences and collaborative ideas deduced in the workshop be consolidated and shared with the public. We hope to generate suggestions on the implementation plan and inspire post-IGF follow-up work among the workshop participants themselves.