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*Executive Director*

APrIGF  
*Seoul 4-6th September 2013*
Policies and regulations: the economic and social context of the Internet

• Context: we are now living in a non-linear world
  – From high culture (pre-1914) to mass production/comms (1990s fin de siècle) to interconnectedness/fragmented/user-generated social media (21st century)
• Interconnectedness: innovation is a digital fact of life = basis of digital economy
• Major challenge for young people = life long adaptability = Internet is technological basis for this (learning, work, leisure, etc.)
Policy & Regulation: Help or Hindrance in a Changing World?

• Legacy issue = how to adapt policy/ regulations?
  1. **Preserve** status quo (industrial/political) by extending the Old to the New?
  2. **Pragmatic** response to *fast changing* new challenges? See what makes sense, what works? = requires *stakeholder involvement*
     • Requires learning from ‘*good* practice’ elsewhere
  3. **Pro-active** policies to promote a digital economy
     • Infrastructure + innovation, e.g. TVWSDs
     • Lower barriers to business and to user demand
     • Digital literacy promotion at *all* levels
The Status Quo Option? Our Big Concern

Back to the future of regulations, restrictions and state controls?

ITU

WCIT 2012

Asia Internet Coalition
WCIT-12 Resolution

“all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance” and calls for the ITU and member states “to elaborate on their respective position on international Internet-related technical, development and public policy issues within the mandate of the ITU at various ITU fora.”

AIC

• At odds with assurances that the ITRs would not be about the Internet.
• The differences of opinion within the ITU threaten to polarize attitudes towards the Internet at member state level.
• A “multi-stakeholder approach” is at risk of becoming a “multi-shareholder approach” (Govt holding majority!)
AIC
• To our understanding, several – *maybe most* – member states signed the resolution on the understanding that a “multi-stakeholder” approach does not imply a widening of state regulation

Singapore
• In our opinion, this Resolution *does not purport* a move away from the multi-stakeholder model. We believe it serves to encourage all stakeholders to continue discussion and collaboration on Internet matters.

(Singapore Ambassador to WTPF in Geneva, May 2013)
AIC therefore calls for

• No intermediary liability = no shutting the door to the Internet
• Open access to the Internet for everyone
• Nothing to impede benefits to the community in terms of access to information, to learning, to services, etc.
• Freedom of expression, but in a responsible way – users don’t ruin it for others; states don’t ruin it for users!
References

• **AIC Policy Paper on the Outcome of WCIT-12**
  [http://www.asiainternetcoalition.org/advdoc/2021cfecdc650457ac300ae728af1c.pdf](http://www.asiainternetcoalition.org/advdoc/2021cfecdc650457ac300ae728af1c.pdf)

• **EIU for AIC: Good to Grow**
  [http://asiainternetcoalition.org/advdoc/2c083eb6cd1ae38cee3826e1ad6a2a6e.pdf](http://asiainternetcoalition.org/advdoc/2c083eb6cd1ae38cee3826e1ad6a2a6e.pdf)


• **AIC: Trade in the Digital Age: helping small businesses think big**

Thank Q

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