Event Summary and Highlights
## EVENT SUMMARY

**http://www.internetsociety.org/events/asia-internet-symposium-islamabad-2014**

**Event Title:** Asia Internet Symposium, Islamabad  
**Theme:** Internet Governance in Pakistan - Building Multistakeholder Collaboration  
**Date:** 10 May 2014  
**Location:** Islamabad Serena Hotel  
**Host:** Internet Society Pakistan Islamabad Chapter

### Agenda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 10:45</td>
<td><strong>Registration / Participants to be seated</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 - 10:50</td>
<td>Welcome and Event highlights, ISOC Pakistan Islamabad Chapter</td>
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| 10:50 - 11:00  | Speech by Chief Guest:  
|                | Dr. Syed Ismail Shah, Chairman, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority    |
| 11:00 - 11:10  | Opening Remarks:  
|                | Rajnesh Singh, Internet Society, Asia-Pacific Bureau                   |
| 11:10 - 11:20  | Key Note (Access and Internet Resources):  
|                | Muhammad Amir Malik, Member (IT), Ministry of IT & Telecom            |
| 11:20 - 11:30  | Key Note (Multilingualism and Diversity):  
|                | Dr. Sarmad Hussain, Professor and Head, Center for Language Engineering |
| 11:30 - 11:40  | Key Note (Privacy and Freedom of Speech):  
|                | Wahaj us Siraj, Chief Executive Officer, NayaTel Limited.              |
| 11:40 - 11:50  | Key Note (Social and Economic Development):  
|                | Parvez Iftikhar, International ICT Consultant                         |
| 11:50 - 12:20  | Session Wrap up and Networking Break                                    |
| 12:20 - 13:30  | Moderated Panel Discussion with:  
|                | Ameen Sharif, CTO, ITnIS Consulting (Moderator)                        |
|                | Muhammad Aslam Hayat, Chief Corporate Office, Telenor Pakistan          |
|                | Badar Khushnood, Google Pakistan Country Consultant                    |
|                | Fouad Riaz Bajwa, Internet Policy Analyst                               |
|                | Ali Asghar, Director General, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority     |
|                | Khurram Rahat, Managing Director, Teradata Pakistan                    |
|                | Naveed Haq, Internet Society                                            |
| 13:30 - 14:00  | Question & Answer Session and Note of Thanks                            |
| 14:00 - 15:30  | Lunch                                                                   |
Number of Participants: 100 delegates representing Government departments, Industry players, Academia, Civil Society and media attended the symposium.

Live Streaming: Recorded Live Streaming can be watched at:

http://www.livestream.com/internetsocietychapters/video?clipId=pla_8fe5d572-9b69-45d1-8921-03f8677f1e27

Local Sponsor: We would like to thank you Ultra Spectra (Pvt) Ltd. a local event management company for providing event management services worth 500 USD free of charge.

Media Links:

http://propakistani.pk/2014/05/12/govt-should-make-internet-more-accessible-affordable-and-secure-ais/

http://www.moremag.pk/2014/05/12/internet-security-must-be-considered-seriously-pta-chairman/

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

As we rapidly embrace the digital age with innovation and creativity enabling and enhancing what we do and how we do it, it is important and timely to look into larger governance issues around these information and communication medium and particularly the Internet.

Internet governance subjects such as management of critical resources, Security and Privacy, Access and Diversity, Piracy and Innovation, Content Regulation, Network Neutrality and Internet for Development have provided the need for a new working agenda for developing and developed nations and calls for multi-stakeholder collaboration in achieving what is truly possible with the empowering nature of the Internet. Much more attention is being placed on multi-stakeholder dialogue about the Internet and its future – and this is being pursued globally, regionally and locally.

The Internet Society’s Asia Internet Symposium Islamabad hosted focused discussions on topical and current Internet Governance topics and includes multi-stakeholder dialogue on building a strong future for the Internet in Pakistan. The event highlighted importance of Internet as a tool for progress and prosperity especially for a country with 60 percent of its population based in rural areas. The speakers and panelists urged the government to consider Internet as a driver of change and built an enabling policy development environment taking in stock all relevant stakeholders.

Chairman Pakistan Telecommunication Authority expressed his support on structuring a multi-stakeholder dialogue that can provide tangible suggestions to government on important issues of Internet development and governance in Pakistan.

An in-house survey was carried out inviting participants to share their views on Internet usage and rank the top 3 Internet policy issues for Pakistan. The results are mentioned as follow:
**Stakeholder Group:**

- Government: 27%
- Private Sector: 13%
- Technical Community: 8%
- Civil Society: 19%
- Academics / Education: 33%

**How often you use Internet?**

- Everyday: 95%
- Almost Everyday: 5%
What do you usually use the Internet for?

Based on your observations of the current internet landscape in Pakistan, which of following issues require attention?
Some of the key issues highlighted:

- **Freedom of usage** – YouTube is still blocked in Pakistan and it came up as an important topic of discussion. Participants were of the view that likewise in other Muslim economies, a workable solution is much awaited as Internet users in Pakistan are suffering from this shutdown especially the student’s community who regularly consult this largest video sharing portal to seek help on their courses material. An update was shared by concern authorities on latest proceedings of YouTube issue inside legislative corners as well as legal courts of the country. Panelist and speakers affirm the need of educating legal community including lawyers and judges on Internet subject; especially topics that would help them to better understand the Internet’s structural principles to assist them in such cases.

- **Policy Development Process** – A general consensus was observed among the speakers, panelists and the participants on promoting an Internet policy development process in Pakistan lead by a multi-stakeholder approach. It was discussed that existing telecommunication and IT policies don’t address Internet as a separate policy subject and that only the Internet Access is covered under existing policies framework. However, if we want to take in account the impact of the Internet in our society and want to promote online productivity, there is a dire requirement of initiating such policy dialogue. Internet Governance has now became a more local subject rather a global and regional only, we are already behind this discussion, shared the panelists.

- **Mobile Internet** – A number of points were raised with regards to recent spectrum auctioning in Pakistan to introduce 3G & 4G mobile data services. It was believed that government needs to support and facilitate the mobile Industry through certain measures including tax reductions. The cost of service would appear as big price dissatisfaction to present and future mobile Internet subscribers in Pakistan, in case these measures are not taken in account. It was also agreed that much needed high speed mobile Internet services will open new opportunities and usage experiences.
Photos:
Asia Internet Symposium 2014 – Islamabad, Pakistan

[Internet Society APAC Bureau]