



The Year That Was

A report on the initiatives and activities of
the Asia-Pacific Bureau for 2016

Introduction

This report was put together to outline some of the key initiatives undertaken by the Internet Society's Asia-Pacific (APAC) Regional Bureau in 2016. While it is not meant to be an exhaustive record, we do hope that it provides you with a good overview of our activities in the region.

In addition to the Bureau's core programmes, our Chapters are also very active in their local communities and, as volunteer-led entities, do amazing work in helping to support and carry out the Internet Society's mission at the local level. We invite you to find out more about our Chapters at <http://www.internetsociety.org/who-we-are/chapters>

Regional highlights

A budding digital economy continued to make its mark in Asia-Pacific in 2016, with technology firms, particularly from China, expanding to other markets in the region: Mobile phone manufacturer Xiaomi, after making headway in India, set its sights on Indonesia as car-hailing app Didi Chuxing made bets on its Southeast Asian counterpart, Singapore-based GrabTaxi.

Governments, for their part, are coming to grips with the rise of new business models and its impact on socio-economic growth. Singapore this year followed the Philippines' lead announcing regulations for ride sharing platform to legally operate in the city-state while the Philippines, with the World Bank's help, launched the Open Traffic Initiative, which uses GPS information from GrabTaxi drivers to help authorities address urban road congestion. Japan, after a period of regulatory limbo, has put together a provision, to be enforced in 2017, to allow Internet applications to rent out private lodging to tourists. India also moved to put a cap on 'surge pricing', the spike in fares that these services charge at peak hours, in an attempt to balance consumer welfare and competitiveness in the digital environment.

Most countries in Asia-Pacific have yet to pass clear legislation directed at peer-to-peer platforms, and while some consider this an advantage, others suggest having clear policies may also result in better guidelines to help direct the sector's development, as well as competition. A number of countries are also looking at the dominance of global Internet firms in local markets as well as the issue of taxes on their local activities and profits. Earlier this year, Indonesia drafted requirements for Internet-based firms to set up a permanent establishment in the country or risk having their services blocked. Similarly, Thailand is considering ways by which it can tax over-the-top players like Google and Facebook.

The year also saw a more dedicated drive by the region's biggest economies to support e-entrepreneurship. In China, Baidu has committed to investing USD50 to USD100 million in Internet firms, while in India, Reliance's new Jio Digital India Startup fund will make some USD800 million available to budding tech companies. Just as notable are efforts to widen the sector's impact in low-income areas. China's Alibaba has pledged to train college graduates who wish to return to their home provinces to start an e-business while the government sets up service stations in villages to help local communities buy and sell online.

Set against these developments is a higher concern for cybersecurity. In some countries, tighter controls on online content are being used in an attempt to prevent the spread of 'false' or culturally sensitive information. China this year cracked down on cloud storage providers and is also setting its sights on virtual private networks that are used to circumvent its Great Firewall. In India, mobile Internet services have been targeted for suspension, particularly in the aftermath of civilian dissent in the states of Kashmir, Gujarat and Haryana--measures that the Indian Supreme Court has upheld as a valid use of curfew powers. Indonesia has instructed messaging apps to remove lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) related emoticons and stickers from the local market. Pakistan, meanwhile, has unblocked YouTube nearly three years after its courts banned the video-sharing site, but only following assurances that it will insert country-specific filters to remove objectionable content. China also enacted its new Cybersecurity Law, which subjects the communications and information industry to periodic security checks while mandating them to store users' data, in an effort to centralise state control over information flows and technology equipment.

These actions by various countries have had implications not only for civil liberties but also for business. One of Malaysia's most popular media organisations, The Malaysian Insider (TMI), shut down in 2016 after failing to secure more funding, one year after the government blocked it for reporting on controversies related to the current government leadership. Netflix, a newcomer in APAC, has also backed out of China due to broader restrictions on streaming media. Yet these have not completely dampened the region's appeal to global players. AirBnB this year opened a dedicated base in China, forming cooperative agreements with local authorities, while Facebook, which has been banned in the

country, held high-profile meetings with its Internet regulator and is reportedly building ‘censorship-related’ software tools that suppress posts from appearing in news feeds in specific geographies.

The year 2016 likewise found Asia-Pacific countries grappling with an increasing number of cyberattack incidents. The Philippines suffered from a massive hack of its voter database on the eve of its national elections, compromising the personal information of some 1.3 million citizens, while China registered a new record of more than 1,000 cases of online fraud, some of which have led companies to file for bankruptcy and individuals to commit suicide.

Indeed, alongside a heightened concern for security in the region also came a greater awareness of the importance of keeping connected systems and online personal data secure. Japan for the first time recognised the ‘right to be forgotten’ in court cases. Indonesia and South Korea went a step further: The former has amended its Electronic Information and Transactions Law, which includes provisions for users to seek a court order to request that information about them online be deleted, while the latter released guidelines in April that enable people in the country to get personal information they self-posted removed from search-engine results and online sites.

E-commerce continues its growth trajectory in the region, with transactions worth some \$1 trillion dollars in 2016 and estimates approaching \$3 trillion by 2020. China continues to be the world’s number one e-commerce market, but there is also strong growth in other parts of the region including India, where the withdrawal of high value currency towards the end of the year accelerated the adoption of digital payments. Southeast Asia – in particular Indonesia with its large population base – is seen as being on the verge of a major ecommerce boom. Being a mobile-first region, greater Internet penetration coupled with improvements in regional infrastructure and an expanding middle class are some of the factors contributing to this growth. Such developments, more than ever, highlight the need for continued trust in the Internet and the digital economy it helps enable.

Some challenges do remain – the lack of digital payment systems that work globally are an issue for many of the smaller markets e.g. the Pacific Islands. There is also the issue of the unbanked population or those without access to credit/debit cards that can be used online. As well, there are issues around data security and privacy that need further attention.

All in all, it has been a hectic year, and 2017 looks to be no different!

Internal events

INET Kathmandu [17-18 March Kathmandu, Nepal]

<https://www.internetsociety.org/inet-kathmandu/home>

Last year a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck various parts of Nepal, leaving nearly 9,000 people dead and destroying over half a million homes. Relief and recovery efforts in affected areas went on for several months, involving multiple agencies, and the re-building continues. In March, our INET Kathmandu conference brought together International agencies, local stakeholders involved in emergency planning services and relief work to discuss the role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in disaster management, and what lessons could be learnt from the Nepal experience. The conference was recognised as the first of its kind that focused on the role of the Internet and ICTs in disaster management (and in particular, earthquakes). The event had very good feedback from both the local community and international organisations involved in disaster management.

Storify: <https://storify.com/isocapac/inet-kathmandu-2016>

Recorded Webcast: <https://livestream.com/internetsociety/inetktmd>



Asia Internet Symposium-Online [23 March]

<http://www.internetsociety.org/events/asia-internet-symposium-online>

Our first-ever Asia Internet Symposium-Online (AIS-O) was organised as a completely online event, with panellists in a virtual roundtable interacting with ISOC members and the wider community. The event focused on how we could build a better online security and trust agenda for the Asia-Pacific region. It explored the interplay of security and trust, and how these work within the Internet ecosystem while also assessing how technology (and non-technology related) policies affect them. Speakers from IBM, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, (ISC)², Internet Society and Consumer International offered their perspectives on building a secure and trusted Internet in a rapidly evolving environment.

Asia-Pacific @ InterCommunity 2016 [21 September]
<https://icomm16.internetsociety.org>



InterCommunity 2016 (IC2016), an interactive global event tapped the power of the Internet to bring Internet Society's global community together for conversations on two key topics: (1) connecting the unconnected; and (2) increasing trust in the Internet. On the day, ISOC chapters from the Asia-Pacific region came together to participate in IC2016 discussions, hosting 11 nodes in four different sub regions - all the way from the Pacific Islands to Pakistan. With over 400 on-site participants, and more than 200 online participants, IC2016 Asia-Pacific nodes demonstrated the diversity of the ISOC community and power of an open Internet that supports everyone's right to share knowledge, innovate and get their voices heard.

Storify: <https://storify.com/isocapac/intercommunity-2016-asia-pacific>

Asia Internet Symposium [22 September, Bangkok, Thailand]

<http://www.internetsociety.org/events/asia-internet-symposium-bangkok-2016>



Hosted by the ISOC Thailand Chapter, the Asia Internet Symposium in Bangkok discussed the technology, legal, regulatory and societal issues of the “Internet of Things (IoT)”. Representatives from Software Industry Promotion Agency of Thailand, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, CAT Telecommunication Public Limited, Thailand Technology Start-ups Association and the Thai Netizen group shared their views on the opportunities presented by IoT, and how we could respond to related challenges of interoperability, user privacy, security, and further support for future innovation.

Recorded Webcast: <https://livestream.com/internetsociety/aisbkk>

APAC Workshop on Gender and ICT [2-3 October, Bangkok, Thailand]

<https://isoc.box.com/s/sa5hh0bmn45wuoqbr5ug57q2o2u7drpi>



The Internet Society (ISOC) Asia-Pacific Bureau in partnership with the Association for Progressive Communication (APC) organised the ‘Workshop on Mainstreaming Gender in Internet and Development in the Asia-Pacific Region’ from 2-3 October 2016. The event brought together 19 women leaders from across the region to discuss strategies for

mainstreaming gender in Internet and development discourse, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop was organised in parallel with the ISOC Asia-Pacific Regional Chapter Leaders Meeting 2016 that was attended by 19 ISOC Chapter leaders in the region. During the workshop, there were opportunities for participants from both workshops to come together to exchange views and ideas, identify challenges and work towards solutions, as well as discuss opportunities for collaboration.

Regional Internet & Development Conference [3-4 October, Bangkok, Thailand]

<http://www.internetsociety.org/ridd>



The Internet Society (ISOC) Asia-Pacific Bureau and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) co-organised the ‘Asia-Pacific Regional Internet and Development Dialogue’ (APRIDD) from 3-4 October 2016. The event brought together over 200 participants that included high-level government officials from Asia and the Pacific, and a multidisciplinary group of leading regional experts, civil society organizations, industry representatives, entrepreneurs, and academic and research institutes.

The APRIDD convened a multi-stakeholder regional dialogue on policy issues around ‘Internet for Development’ and addressed some of the opportunities and challenges towards achieving the SDGs and the WSIS Action Lines in the Asia-Pacific region.

Conference report: <http://bit.ly/riddreportapac>

Storify: <https://storify.com/isocapac/apac-regional-internet-development-dialogue>

Asia Internet Symposium [11 November, Hong Kong]

<http://www.internetsociety.org/events/asia-internet-symposium-hong-kong-2016>



Hosted by the ISOC Hong Kong chapter, the Asia Internet Symposium in Hong Kong provided a forum for different sectors to deliberate on the wider aspects of the ‘Internet of Things’ ranging from applications, potential implications on

other areas of technology, and social and political landscapes. Representatives from Innovation & Technology Bureau of the Government of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Police Force, Internet Architecture Board, Ranking Digital Rights and Inha University, Korea shared their views on the 'Angels and Devils' of the Internet of Things. This symposium was organised along with ISOC Hong Kong's 10th anniversary celebrations.

Recorded Webcast: <https://livestream.com/internetsociety/aishk>

External Events

Convergence India [20 – 23 January, New Delhi, India]

The ISOC Asia-Pacific Bureau attended the 24th edition of Convergence India. The theme of the exhibition and conference track was Digital India - roadmap, opportunities, challenges, infrastructure and investments. The three-day expo had 434 companies from 29 countries from around the world showcasing the latest technologies and innovations. The Bureau spoke at the Telecom Summit on 'rural broadband experience from other countries', showcasing our [Wireless for Communities \(W4C\)](#) project.

APRICOT 2016 [15 – 26 February, Auckland, New Zealand]

The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) is the premier technical Internet event in the region, providing a unique forum for Internet builders to learn from their peers and other leaders in the Internet community. APRICOT 2016 hosted the annual meetings of several regional groupings, including the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), Asia Pacific Internet Association (APIA), Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD), and APStar. The Internet Society APAC Bureau team had a productive and action-packed week, having several speaking slots, and numerous engagement and partnership development opportunities with regional Internet organizations and community leaders.

The Bureau also sponsored the APRICOT 2016 [fellowship program](#), providing financial support for individuals from developing economies to attend the event, exchange ideas and take their learnings back home. Our priority for this year's fellowship programme was on the Pacific Islands with a special focus on women.

ASEAN Digital Innovation Policy Lab [15-19 February, Singapore]

The AADCP II and ASEAN Connectivity Division of the ASEAN Secretariat held a series of policy labs from 15 -19 February in Singapore as part of the process to formulate the Post-2015 Agenda for ASEAN Connectivity. The labs brought together some 100 key experts from various government line ministries, the private and social sectors to brainstorm on five prioritized and strategic areas of connectivity and sustainable infrastructure: digital innovation, seamless logistics, regulatory excellence, and education, skills and travel mobility. The labs sought to develop specific initiatives and implementation plans. The ISOC Asia-Pacific Bureau attended the lab, providing its input on the areas under discussion.

IoT Asia [30-31 March, Singapore]

IoT Asia is an event targeted at governments, industry and technology leaders with a focus on creating opportunities for the public and private sectors to embrace the Internet of Things. This tradeshow event highlights key areas critical to the development and future of the Internet of Things in Asia. The ISOC Asia-Pacific Bureau attended this event and held several key meetings with attendees as part of its outreach.

Pakistan Mobile Apps Award Launch Ceremony [04 April, Islamabad, Pakistan]

The ISOC Asia-Pacific Bureau together with the Pakistan Telecommunications Authority, Telenor Pakistan, National ICT R&D Fund, Ministry of Information Technology, Special Talent Exchange Program and Pakistan Foundation Fighting Blindness announced the 2016 edition of the [Pakistan Mobile App Awards](#).

This year's award was organised under the theme, 'Embracing Mobile Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities in Pakistan' - and focused on the development of ready-to-use mobile applications addressing the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the country.

ION Dhaka [11 April, Dhaka, Bangladesh]

The Internet Society Deploy 360 team in partnership with Bangladesh Network Operators Group (bdNOG) organised an ION Conference at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka. The conference hosted presentations and discussions on IPv6, Routing resiliency, DNSSEC and IETF. ION Dhaka attracted a high turnout of over 150 participants.

IXP Workshop [18 – 22 April, Islamabad, Pakistan]

In partnership with the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority and Network Startup Resource Centre, the Internet Society organised a four days' [workshop on Internet Exchange Point](#) (IXP) in Islamabad. The workshop was structured to facilitate discussions on the setting up of an IXP in Pakistan. Stakeholders including IT & telecom industry experts, representatives of telecom companies, ISPs and the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan attended the workshop.

Internet Community Meetup with ISOC CEO [27 April, Tokyo, Japan]

In conjunction with the ISOC CEO's visit to Japan for the G7 Ministerial summit, a [one-day meeting with the Internet Community](#) was organised at the JPNIC office in Tokyo. The meeting was attended by the ISOC Japan chapter, JPNIC, IGCC, JPIX, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, ISOC Board of Trustee Hiroshi Esaki and Jun Murai, known as the 'father of the Internet' in Japan. The ISOC APAC Bureau was part of the organizing team and also present on the ground, highlighting our work in the Asia-Pacific region.

C-Level Meeting on Advancing Thailand Digital Strategies [27 April, Bangkok, Thailand]

Facilitated by the ISOC APAC Bureau and ITU APAC, this high level dialogue was hosted jointly by the honourable Vice Minister for ICT for Thailand and the President of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand. The meeting mobilized and sought input from public and private sector C-level executives for the development of plans for Digital Thailand.

Asia-Pacific Digital Societies Policy Forum [27-28 April, Bangkok, Thailand]

Co-organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and GSM Association (GSMA), the forum convened senior officials and executives from around the region to discuss policy issues around innovation and the digital economy. The APAC Bureau presented during sessions on Internet Security and Internet of Things.

7th APT Workshop on Disaster Management [27-29 April, Bangkok, Thailand]

The 7th APT Workshop on Disaster Management/Communications (WDMC-7) was organised by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to assist members in improving disaster preparedness, early warning systems, and rescue and recovery efforts through the use of ICTs. The APAC Bureau presented on lessons learnt from the Nepal earthquake highlighting key discussions and outcomes from INET Kathmandu.

IXP Workshop [13-20 May, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea]

Supporting our regional engagement in the Pacific Islands, the Internet Society organised an IXP workshop targeted at Internet Service Providers, Network Operators, and National Research and Education Networks in Papua New Guinea. The workshop was designed to provide a learning opportunity and forum for discussion on policy, community, and technical matters related to setting up an IXP. ISOC staff facilitated the workshop that included sessions on best practices and technical training on BGP for IXP development. The Internet Society has played a key role in assisting with the steps required in setting up the country's first neutral IXP.

AVPN Conference [24-25 May, Hong Kong]

The APAC Bureau attended the 4th AVPN (Asian Venture Philanthropy Network) Conference in Hong Kong. The conference looked at how social investing has impacted Asia. Over 600 delegates from 39 countries attended the event, and the Bureau explored funding opportunities for some of its programmes.

IDA Ministerial Forum [30 May, Singapore]

The IDA Ministerial Forum on ICT was held on the theme, 'Connectivity, Content, Cybersecurity'. Over 110 attendees from 21 countries participated in this year's forum. The participants included 21 Heads of Delegations. The APAC Bureau participated in the high-level sessions.

CommunicAsia Summit [31 May - 3 June, Singapore]

Recognised as Asia's largest integrated info-communications technology event, CommunicAsia 2016 provided over 35,000 local and international attendees with an opportunity to connect and network. The APAC Bureau attended the event which was held concurrently with BroadcastAsia, EnterprisEIT 2016, and SatComm 2016. The theme this year was 'Connecting the Future Now'. The CommunicAsia 2016 Summit covered 12 tracks including digital transformation, cybersecurity, smart cities, Internet of Things (IoT), software-defined networks and network function virtualisation (SDN and NFV).

A-Gile GovtTech [03 June, Islamabad, Pakistan]

To allow stakeholders to engage in a dialogue and share best practices, opportunities and challenges, CIO Pakistan & IDG Enterprise hosted this first ever public sector technology forum, inviting Top IT executives from the public and private sectors of Pakistan. The APAC Bureau presented on cloud computing and Internet governance.

ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum [6-7 June, Manila, Philippines]

The Forum was organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with and hosted by the Department of Science and Technology - Information and Communication Technology Office (DOST-ICTO), Philippines with support from the Department of Communication, Australia. The APAC Bureau presented in the session on the development of broadband access and broadband adoption.

Innovative Strategies for Development [8 – 10 June, Manila, Philippines]

Innovative Strategies for Development Summit 2016 (ISDS 2016) was designed to look at technology, particularly ICT, as an enabler for innovation and effecting developmental impact. The summit brought together a range of high-level thought leaders from various local, national and international organizations. The APAC Bureau was part of a panel on 'connectivity and its role in implementation of SDGs'.

APT 3rd Preparatory Meeting on WTSA-16 [14-17 June, Kathmandu, Nepal]

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organised the 3rd Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2016 (WTSA16-3), hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC), Nepal. The objective of WTSA16-3 was to assist APT Members in preparations for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2016 (WTSA-16) which took place in Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia, from 25 October to 3 November 2016. WTSA16-3 discussed key issues for WTSA-16 and developed candidate Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs) for WTSA-16 based on contributions from APT Members. The APAC Bureau attended the meeting and followed discussions on PACPs.

9th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum for the Pacific [28 – 30 June, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea]

The PRFP is a key forum for regulators and policy makers from the Pacific Islands sub-region. The forum is a key sub-regional activity of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, attracting high-level participants from ministries and regulatory authorities from the Pacific each year. This year's PRFP focused on emergency communications, shared infrastructure and competition issues. The APAC Bureau presented on over-the-top services.

Mobile World Congress [29 June - 1 July, Shanghai, China]

The GSMA's fifth annual Shanghai-based event, Mobile World Congress Shanghai, was the GSMA's largest-ever mobile industry event in Asia, with over 53,000 participants. The three-day exhibition and conference attracted executives from mobile operators, device makers, equipment providers, software companies and Internet companies, as well as technology-savvy consumers. Under the theme, 'Mobile is Me', MWC Shanghai focused on how mobile technology – from connected cars and wearable technology to the Internet of Things and smarter cities – will impact people's lifestyles. The APAC Bureau attended and organised several engagement and outreach meetings.

16th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum [12-14 July, Tokyo, Japan]

The 16th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-16) was hosted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan. The forum is one of the most important regular high-level events of APT. It provides a platform for policy makers, regulators and industry to network and discuss policy and regulatory issues that are of common interest to the region in the telecommunication/ICT sector. PRF-16 addressed recent development in policy and regulatory issues and include thematic sessions on the following topics: (a) policy and regulatory impacts of over-the-top (OTT) services; (b) Issues and use cases of IoT and smart cities; (c) digital inclusion for all; and (d) promotion of mobile services including reducing global mobile roaming charges. The APAC Bureau presented on over-the-top services.

ION Hangzhou [14 July, Hangzhou, China]

ION Hangzhou took place alongside the CNNIC IP Address Allocation Alliance, and was hosted by the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC). ION conferences, part of the ISOC Deploy360 programme, brings together network engineers and leading industry experts to discuss emerging technologies and hot technology topics such as IPv6, DNSSEC and Secure Routing. The APAC Bureau provided support for the event.

Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum [26-29 July, Taipei, Taiwan]

Some 26 workshops, a 2-day pre-event and a 3-part Asia-Pacific Internet Leadership Program on Internet governance, critical Internet infrastructure and the IANA stewardship transition was held over five days in Taipei, the venue for the 7th edition of APriGF. Centred on the theme, 'The new Internet era – Merging Physical Space with Cyberspace' participants discussed a range of Internet Governance issues including Net neutrality, access for the next billion, security and privacy in the era of IoT and big data, digital rights, internationalized domain names, ccTLDs, and online safety and transparency. The APAC Bureau organised two workshops. The first one, entitled "MSME participation in the digital economy", and the second on 'Promoting Alternative Access Models at the Last Mile', and team members spoke at and/or facilitated a further 7 sessions.

APAN42 [31 July – 5 August, Hong Kong]

The 42nd Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN) was held at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). There was a dramatic twist to the event as Tropical Storm Nida hit Hong Kong at the same time. This led to a compression of the event and rescheduling of the plenary. The Bureau attended the 9th TEIN4 Project meeting and TEIN*CC Governors' meeting and presented on the Wireless for Communities (W4C) projects in India, Nepal and Pakistan.

1st APT Prep Meeting for WTDC-17 [2 August, Singapore]

The 1st Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for WTDC-17 (APT WTDC17-1) was hosted by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA). The main objective of the meeting was to initiate the preparatory process of the APT for the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17). APAC Bureau staff attended the meeting.

13th APT ICT Development Forum [3 – 5 August, Singapore]

The 13th APT Telecommunication and ICT Development Forum (ADF-13) was hosted by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA). The APT ADF has played a unique role in providing a platform for APT members including governments, regulators, industry players and other stakeholders to discuss the further development of telecommunications and ICT. Among other topics, this year the Forum addressed the issue of Universal Service Funds

(USF), Stimulating ICT Business and Industry, and Increasing Access and Connectivity in rural areas. The APAC Bureau moderated a panel session and also presented at the Forum.

APAC Internet Governance Academy [8-12 August, Seoul, Korea]

Co-hosted by KISA and ICANN, the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy was a 5-day workshop on Internet governance and related topics. It was targeted at, but not limited to, undergraduate and graduate students from universities and tertiary educational institutions in South Korea and from around the Asia-Pacific. The APAC Bureau sponsored the academy and was part of the faculty, delivering lectures on IoT and privacy. Participants also took a customised version of the ISOC Inforum online course on Internet governance as a prerequisite to the workshop.

Workshops on Mobile Accessibility [11, 16 and 18 August, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar, Pakistan]

A series of workshops on mobile accessibility was organised in Pakistan, inviting mobile application developers and students to learn about technologies, design standards, and accessibility issues associated with the mobile environment. The APAC Bureau was a key partner as well as part of the organizing team.

4th APT Prep Meeting for WTSA-16 [23-26 August, Da Nang, Vietnam]

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organised the 4th Meeting of the APT Preparatory Group for ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2016 (WTSA16-4), hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communications, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The objective of WTSA16-4 was to develop and finalise the Preliminary APT Common Proposals (PACPs) based on contributions from APT Members for the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2016 (WTSA-16). WTSA16-4 also discussed the issues and coordination arrangement for WTSA-16. The APAC Bureau attended and followed discussions in preparation for ISOC's involvement in WTSA16.

ITU APAC Forum on Smart Cities [30 August – 1 September, Phuket, Thailand]

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the World e-Governments Organization of Cities and Local Governments (WeGO), Software Industry Promotion Agency of Thailand (SIPA), and Electronic Government Agency of Thailand (EGA) organised the 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Smart Sustainable Cities and e-Government. The forum provided an opportunity for high-level dialogue among development partners, policy makers, decision makers, industry and enterprises including small and medium enterprises. The APAC Bureau presented on IoT and online privacy.

Asia-Pacific School of Internet Governance [11 – 15 September, Bangkok, Thailand]

The APSIG, launched this year, aims to build the capacity of Internet leaders to spur local Internet governance initiatives in the region. The APAC Bureau sponsored and participated in the programme.

Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Members Meeting [13 – 16 September, Bangkok, Thailand]

The APAC Bureau attended the 70th APTLD meeting in Bangkok and provided an update on ISOC's activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

APAC Coalition against Child Pornography [15 September, Bangkok, Thailand]

APAC Bureau staff attended the Asia Pacific Financial Coalition against Child Pornography Roundtable in Bangkok. Topics covered by the roundtable included the use of payment and technology platforms for online child sexual abuse materials, the Thai legal framework, perspectives from law enforcement and the financial and technology industries, and reporting mechanisms.

APNIC 42 [28 September – 5 October, Colombo, Sri Lanka]

Internet operations experts from ISPs, data centres, Internet exchange points, content providers, governmental organizations, and research and educational institutions gathered in Colombo for APNIC 42. The APAC Bureau presented at the co-located APStar meeting and provided an update on activities during the APNIC conference. ISOC was also a sponsor of the meeting's fellowship programme, which had 52 fellows.

7th APT Cybersecurity Forum [11-13 October, Phnom Penh, Cambodia]

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organised the 7th APT Cybersecurity Forum (CSF-7), hosted by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia (MPTC). CSF-7 focused on emerging trends in IoT, Big Data and security. The forum covered a variety of issues, from identifying and analysing current and potential issues for each different stakeholder to seeking possible ways to deal with those issues in order to leverage the opportunities provided by new technology. The APAC Bureau presented and highlighted ISOC's Collaborative Security Framework and the importance of maintaining trust on the Internet.

Spectrum Futures Conference [19-21 October, Singapore]

Spectrum Futures was organised by the Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) in Singapore. The APAC Bureau spoke on the panel, "How ISPs are working to expand Internet Access" and focused on its Wireless for Communities project.

Indian Telecom [1 - 2 November, Delhi, India]

India Telecom was jointly organised by the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India, and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), with support from several industry associations. The APAC Bureau participated as a panellist in the session on 'M2M and IoT'.

ICANN Hyderabad [3 – 9 November, Hyderabad, India]

The Bureau participated in ICANN Hyderabad where, in addition to tracking developments around the post-IANA stewardship transition process, it undertook significant ISOC community engagement. On the sidelines of ICANN were meetings organised with the Indian government and ISOC chapters in India, as well as a number of Indian and regional stakeholders.

Digital Citizen Summit [11 November, Bangalore, India]

The first Digital Citizen Summit was organised by the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) in association with the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit (FNF). The summit focused on the areas of access, privacy, violence against women and communication blackouts with the objective of facilitating the exchange of information and ideas, and creating a blueprint for future understanding of the concept of individual digital rights, and how it may evolve. The APAC Bureau moderated a session on access and spoke during the opening plenary.

IETF Seoul [13 – 18 November, Seoul, Korea]

The APAC Bureau assisted with the ISOC Policy Programme at the 97th Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) held in Seoul, Korea. This was the last meeting held during the 30th anniversary year of the IETF. Close to 1,400 people registered for the event, which saw some 1,000 people attend on site. The Jonathan B. Postel Service award prize was presented to Dr Kanchana Kanchanasut from Thailand for her outstanding contributions to the data communications community. There were 4 technical fellows and 9 policy guests from the Asia-Pacific region at this IETF meeting.

ITU Telecom World [14-17 November, Bangkok, Thailand]

ITU Telecom World is a conference and exhibition organised annually by ITU. The Internet Society's CEO spoke at the event, and together with members of the APAC Bureau Team held a series of bilateral meetings. ISOC was also a sponsor of the GEM-TECH Awards, organised by ITU and UN Women, and held alongside Telecom World. GEM-TECH celebrates personal or organizational achievements and innovative strategies to advance gender equality and mainstreaming in the area of ICTs.

World Internet Conference [16-18 November, Wuzhen, China]

The Third World Internet Conference was held in Wuzhen, under the theme, 'Innovation-driven Internet Development for the Benefit of All – Building a Community of Common Future in Cyberspace'. The conference hosted several forums, in addition to the opening and closing ceremonies. The APAC Bureau was part of a panel discussion and held several bilateral meetings.

pkSIG [26-29 November, Lahore, Pakistan]

The [Pakistan School on Internet Governance](#) (PKSIG) 2016 was hosted by Virtual University of Pakistan, Lahore. Participants from various stakeholder groups including government, industry, academia, technical community and civil society attended the school along with five participants from Afghanistan. The school hosted lectures and open discussions on Internet governance related subjects focusing on political, legal, economic, socio-cultural and socio-technical aspects of the Internet in general as well in Pakistan's context. The APAC Bureau was one of the sponsors as well as part of the school faculty.

PacNOG [28 November – 2 December, Nadi, Fiji]

PacNOG was organised by the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), with support from APNIC, ICANN and NSRC. The event was divided into a conference (28 November) and technical workshops (29 November – 2 December). The APAC Bureau attended and presented on open networking.

Singapore IT Leaders Awards Judging Panel [29 November, Singapore]

Established in 1997, the Singapore IT Leaders awards celebrate the significant achievements and contributions of outstanding individuals in Singapore's information technology and digital media industries. Rajnesh Singh from the APAC Bureau was part of the judging panel.

IGF [06-09 November, GDL, Mexico]

The 2016 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) took place in Guadalajara, Mexico and in a series of remote hubs located around the world. The APAC Bureau participated and had speaking roles in sessions tackling the Internet of Things and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and realising the WSIS vision of creating an Internet of women by 2020.

Programs and Reports

APAC Mobile Internet Usage Trends

Mobile broadband networks have - in most countries in Asia-Pacific - overtaken fixed broadband as the main mode of Internet access, with more than a third of the region's population going online using mobile networks and devices. Fuelled by a combination of low-cost smartphones, 3G and LTE rollouts, and an abundance of content—particularly applications--from over-the-top providers, mobile is driving Internet adoption in the region, and will continue to do so for at least the next few years.

Amidst this landscape of great contrasts and potential, the Internet Society Mobile Internet Usage in Asia-Pacific study sought to capture mobile users' online habits. Conducted online in September 2015 using the Survey Monkey platform, the survey had 1,620 respondents across 37 economies. Analysis of the survey finds a segmented market whose behaviour largely corresponds with regional projections, but whose future growth requires further cultivation through forward-looking measures and policies to ensure that the mobile Internet remains a truly transformative force for the region's economies, and for its people. The full report [is available here](#).

APAC Regional Policy Survey 2016

An initiative of the Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau, the Internet Society Survey on Policy Issues in Asia-Pacific is an annual, cross-sectional study of the attitudes of Internet stakeholders toward topical Internet policy concerns in the region. Now in its third instalment, this year's study took an in-depth look at multi-stakeholder participation in Internet policymaking, and on two important areas of concern in the region: Internet access and online security. The report provides an overview of the survey's findings, which has helped contribute to informed policy debates and discussions - both in the region and globally.

The survey was conducted online using the Survey Monkey platform, and ran from 25 March to 25 April 2016. Links to the questionnaire were disseminated via email to and through the 20 Internet Society Chapters, as well as to individual members, in the Asia-Pacific region. It was also opened up to non-members of the Internet Society to gain as wide input as possible, and was promoted via various online channels, including social media. The full report [is available here](#).

Wireless for Communities (W4C)

Since 2010, the award-winning Wireless for Communities (W4C) project has demonstrated the transformational power of the Internet and how it can contribute to socio-economic development at the bottom of the pyramid. W4C, with ISOC-led locations in India, Pakistan and Nepal, has inspired numerous other projects in South Asia and highlighted the value of community networks as an alternative last mile option.

In 2016, the project work included establishment of network infrastructure at 14 rural locations in Nepal; providing connectivity to 12 schools, 2 health centres and covering 7 villages. The project also established a rural innovation lab; providing mechanical and electronic tools, as well as a space in which community members can build and experiment with technology. [A case study](#) from one of the W4C project sites in India was also released. In the later part of the year, the ISOC CEO and Regional Director for Asia-Pacific [visited Tilonia](#), a rural village in Rajasthan, India. Tilonia was among the villages that benefited from the community wireless network deployed during Phase II of W4C in 2011-2012 and provides an example of a holistic whole-of-community approach.

We also began work on two further initiatives as part of the W4C project. The first is the 'Agariya' community in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, India. This is a traditional salt-mining community that spends a part of the year mining for salt in desert areas and has limited access to infrastructure and basic services. The second is working with Safa India to help enable a community wireless network in slum communities in Hyderabad. This will be an extension of the W4C project to cater for another largely underserved community, even though they live in an urban demographic.

Continuing Support for Network Operator Groups

The Bureau continued its engagement with the regional Internet technical community and put in place a programme for supporting the establishment and support of country-level Network Operator Groups. In 2016, this included the Philippines Network Operator Group (phNOG) and the Bangladesh Network Operator Group (bdNOG). Larger regional and sub-regional forums were also supported, including the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) and the South Asia Network Operator Group (SANOG). Support for these focused on the fellowship programme with an emphasis on fellows from developing countries and female participants.

IETF Outreach Program

The Bureau worked with partners including ISOC chapters in three countries - Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines to bring about awareness of the IETF to students and professionals through technical community meetings, ICT community-operated workspaces, tertiary institutions, technical/professional associations, private companies and network operator groups. We reached out not only in the capital cities but second tier cities such as Surabaya (Indonesia) and Cebu City (Philippines). In total, over 1,000 people attended 16 events across these locations, and participants also wrote two Internet drafts as a result.

High-Level Country Engagement

The APAC Bureau carried out high-level engagement in several countries under its regional engagement strategy. Following are some of the highlights.

Nepal

In addition to securing support and sponsorship from several high-level organisations for INET Kathmandu, the APAC Bureau enhanced its relationships with Internet Service Providers and community-based organisations in Nepal. During the year, the Bureau also carried out work with the Nepal Wireless Networking to deploy its W4C project in earthquake-stricken areas.

Pakistan

High-level engagement in Pakistan included liaison, and partnerships, with the Ministry of Information Technology, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Higher Education Commission, Telenor Pakistan, National ICT R&D Fund and National Telecommunication Commission. These involved speaking opportunities, joint events, consultation on policy issues, and collaboration around Internet development matters. Relationships with civil society and media organisations were also furthered.

Papua New Guinea

Working with the Regulator, the Bureau worked to facilitate the establishment of Papua New Guinea's first neutral Internet exchange point. This included convening a meeting of local stakeholders to discuss working arrangements and facilitating collaboration between various actors on the ground.

Singapore

Being a major regional hub, the Bureau continued its engagement in Singapore with a range of private sector and civil society organisations, as well as the government. The Bureau Director served as a judge for the Singapore IT Leaders Awards, the premier national recognition for those working in the IT industry. There was also a range of speaking engagements in various events through the year, including ministerial meetings.

Thailand

High-level engagement in Thailand involved several bi-lateral meetings with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunication Commission, Ministry of ICT, the National Science and Technology Development Agency, and Electronic Transactions Development Agency of Thailand. The APAC Bureau also strengthened its partnership with the regional offices of the Internet Telecommunications Union, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, all of whose offices are located in Bangkok.

Chapter and Member Engagement

Internet Society @ APRICOT; Chapter and Member Meeting [23 February, Auckland, New Zealand]



The Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) is a forum for key Internet builders in the region to learn from peers and other leaders in the global Internet community. The APAC Bureau organised its regular ISOC@APRICOT meeting with ISOC members on 03 March, hosted jointly by ISOC Australia and Pacific Islands Chapters. The agenda consisted of:

- Welcome and Introduction
- ISOC Pacific Islands Chapter Update
- Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau Update
- ISOC Technology Team Update
- Open Discussions

Regional Chapter Workshop [2 October, Bangkok, Thailand]



The Internet Society Regional Chapter Leaders workshop brought together chapter leaders from 19 chapters to discuss Internet policy issues in the region. Each participant's contribution was shared in a collaborative exchange format. There were three sessions organised in the morning covering Access, Cyber Security and Internet of Things. Participants shared opportunities and challenges from the point of view of their local experiences, and these were then discussed from the regional and global perspective.

In the afternoon, the workshop hosted a group discussion on 'Gender and ICTs' bringing together women delegates (from the regional gender mainstreaming workshop running in parallel) and chapter leaders to discuss and strategize on how best to integrate gender issues in their respective work areas. Results of the ISOC Survey on Policy Issues in Asia-Pacific 2016 were shared with delegates to help inform the discussion, and a set of action items were proposed. The Internet Society Thailand chapter was our host for this year's workshop, providing excellent facilities and support.

Regional Chapter Calls

The quarterly regional Chapter call is an avenue for the Bureau and ISOC Chapters in the region to regularly provide updates on their ongoing projects and upcoming events. The virtual meetings provide chapter leaders with an opportunity to discuss collaboration opportunities with each other. ISOC staff from other departments also frequently attend the calls to share their respective initiatives.

India Chapters Meeting

Capitalising on the presence of chapters leaders and staff at the ICANN Hyderabad meeting in India, a meeting was organised with all five ISOC chapters in India. The meeting was structured as a dialogue to explore and discuss ISOC chapter activities and focus areas in India, and to facilitate a discussion by chapters to identify collaborative work areas. The ISOC CEO and Regional Director were part of the meeting, along with other ISOC staff.

Other Chapter Outreach Activities

Over the course of the year, the APAC Bureau had several outreach opportunities and meetings with ISOC chapter leaders and members from Australia, Bangladesh Dhaka, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pacific Islands, Pakistan Islamabad, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Regional Chapter Updates

We invited chapters in the region to provide highlights of their activities through the year such that they could be included in this report. The following are contributions received from chapters by the deadline. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of all chapters or all their activities, but an indication of some of the good work done by our chapters at the local level. The full list of ISOC chapters around the world is available [here](#).

Internet Society Philippines Chapter (ISOC-PH)

ISOC-PH started the year with involvement in the APAN/TEIN conference held in Manila, which included the annual PhNOG event. ISOC-PH continued its involvement in initiatives for quality and affordable Internet access in the country, starting with the launch of the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce’s “Philippines: Broadband Policy Brief”, penned by ISOC-PH’s VP for Policy Grace Mirandilla-Santos. Following the sudden joint buy-out by the country’s dominant duopoly of the telecom assets of a potential challenger, ISOC-PH became active and visible in the domestic competition landscape, including a technical comment transmitted to the Philippine Competition Commission. ISOC-PH also co-organised an experts’ forum with the Ateneo School of Governance on the matter.

Throughout the year ISOC-PH increasingly engaged lawmakers, attending several hearings at both the (Philippine) Senate and Congress (lower House) and otherwise assisted in crafting legislation. Of note are several briefings provided by ISOC-PH VP Policy Grace M. Santos to both Senate and Congressional staff. Aside from the Philippine Competition Commission, ISOC-PH also engaged with other newly formed government agencies such as DOST-ICTO (now the Department of ICT) and the National Privacy Commission, as well as with the Department of Justice. ISOC-PH also attended several events such as those held by the ITU and the ADB, and engaged at business/industry events such as Thomson-Reuters’ Asia Legal Business Forum. ISOC-PH Policy team also met and consulted with various key stakeholders and decision makers, as well as several foreign researchers and representatives of multilateral and government agencies. ISOC-PH maintained a high profile with several appearances and mentions in mainstream media (print, radio and TV), in addition to its online social media presence.

ISOC-PH Tech’s IETF Awareness series provided diverse audiences such as the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), the Institute of Electronics and Communications Engineers (IECEP) and the University of the Philippines Diliman Chapter of the IEEE with a solid introduction to the IETF’s work and processes as well as ISOC policy. The well-attended “Tech Together” forum in Cebu was the first major event held outside of Metropolitan Manila. ISOC-PH representatives also attended the first Asia-Pacific School of Internet Governance held in Bangkok, and facilitated a substantial Philippine delegation to yIGF at APriGF in Taiwan, and were also at IGF 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

ISOC-PH also participated substantively at this year’s InterCommunity, featuring two panels - one each on both Technical (peering) and Policy (access) aspects. ISOC-PH and the other I* orgs (APNIC and ICANN) were also highly popular presenters at this year’s Y4IT event attended by nearly 10,000 students from all over the Philippines. ISOC-PH also conducted an IG seminar and provided support for IN2ITION as well as numerous other on-campus engagements with students, and was also awarded Beyond the Net funding for an UAV-DRRM project with the Ateneo Innovation Center. Last but certainly not the least, ISOC-PH continues in its bridging and support role for an Open Internet, bringing together civil society and other stakeholders at this year’s Philippine Internet Rights and Principles forum focusing this year on policy shifts given the new Philippine administration.

Internet Society Malaysia Chapter (ISOC-MY)

In May 2016, ISOC-MY co-organised the 2016 National Seminar on Future Internet Research (FIRE2016) at the Regency Jerai Resort, Kedah, held in collaboration with IEEE Malaysia Student Branch and the Malaysian Research and Education Network (MYREN). The national seminar aimed at bringing Internet users, academics and practitioners together to share their vision and ideas about Internet of the future. FIRE2016 attracted 60 participants, mostly ISOC-MY Chapter members.

In October 2016, ISOC-MY participated in Malaysia Internet Exchange (MyIX) Peering Forum, at the Aloft Kuala Lumpur central. The event brought together managers, engineers and business decision makers from both local and international networks, content, cloud, data centers and related entities to discuss issues and challenges of peering and Internet traffic exchange. The event attracted more than 200 participants from major Internet stakeholders in Malaysia.

In November 2016, members of ISOC-MY Chapter were involved in the 2016 MYREN Futurescape event organised by the Malaysian Research and Education Network (MYREN), held at the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. The two-day event showcased innovation and research projects from Internet research communities in Malaysia, including projects from the IPv6, InterNetWorks, Telemedicine, Green Technology and Digital Culture working groups.

[Internet Society Australia Chapter \(Internet Australia\)](#)

In 2016, Internet Australia continued to develop its positioning as the peak body representing Internet users, and we have increased significantly our recognition as a neutral and respected advisor along with our ability to help shape the debates that matter in relation to the promotion and defence of the Internet.

Top of the list, of course, has been the “inferior copper-based NBN” that continues to be rolled out despite mounting evidence that we are being left behind globally and in our region - <http://www.itwire.com/telecoms-and-nbn/76240-global-competitors-%E2%80%98outplay%E2%80%99-australia-on-nbn-choice-of-technology,-claims-ia.html>

In addition to pointing out the essential technical flaws in the MTM strategy, Internet Australia also supported the case for better broadband in regional, rural and remote Australia, including participating in a Broadband for the Bush Conference.

The chapter has been active in the National Year of Digital Inclusion, participating in a number of events and co-hosting one at Parliament House - <https://www.godigi.org.au/NYDI>

Internet Australia also provided advice to a number of government departments and agencies, including the Productivity Commission, the ACCC and the Digital Transformation Agency- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/national/public-service/digital-government-could-become-just-more-cost-cutting-warns-internet-australia-20161202-gt2q07.html>

We’ve continued to note the pointlessness of Internet site-blocking - <https://www.internet.org.au/news/179-15-december-2015-news-release-we-ve-been-conned-ia-responds-to-pointless-site-blocking-move>

The chapter was also involved in creating the Internet of Thing Alliance (IOTAA)- <http://www.iothub.com.au/news/iot-key-to-australias-innovation-aspirations-418527>

During the year some of our board members have contributed beyond our shores through their involvement in ISOC and other Internet-related agencies and associations.

[Internet Society India Delhi Chapter](#)

Internet Society India Delhi and Trivandrum Chapters organised the First India School of Internet Governance (inSIG 2016) in Hyderabad, India between 31 October and 2 November 2016. The program was aimed at sensitising community members on Internet Governance issues in order to equip them with the necessary skills to enable them to participate effectively in global Internet Governance platforms, processes and institutions; ultimately creating champions in the community. Apart from 34 Indian participants, there were 16 International participants hailing from 9 countries. There were 22 eminent speakers both from India and overseas. Care was taken to ensure a good representation of gender, age and professional backgrounds. The participants were encouraged to discuss and exchange views and perspectives, both with speakers and fellow participants to ensure a holistic view amongst participants.

For more details on the school refer to the following blog: <https://blog.apnic.net/2016/11/21/insig-2016-initiative-engage->

[community-internet-governance-discussions/](#) or the website www.insig.in

Internet Society Japan Chapter

During the year, the Japan Chapter carried out a number of activities. First, the chapter organised events for the Japanese community, which included three IETF update meetings and monthly workshops. Second, the chapter held a special lecture at Yamagata University on the history and mechanisms of the Internet and related topics. Third, the chapter established a new working group to translate IETF educational materials to help the local technical community better engage in IETF activities. As well, the chapter facilitated a meet-up with the ISOC CEO during her visit to Japan with the Japanese Internet governance community. Discussions focused around Internet governance and activities in Japan. The chapter also hosted an interactive node for InterCommunity 2016, and held broad discussions on the topic of Trust of the Internet.

Welcome Aboard

This year, Internet Society Afghanistan Chapter was added to the ISOC Asia-Pacific family.

Communication

The Bureau continued to enhance its communication channels in 2016. This included increased publicity for its events through both social and traditional media, as well as revamping its regional newsletter. Through the course of the year, the Bureau had several media spots around the region, including national and regional publications for op-eds, articles, and stories.

Follow us on Twitter @ISOCapac and visit our [Scoop.it page](#) where we curate Internet related news and articles from the Asia-Pacific region.

Regional Newsletter

APAC Connections is a monthly e-newsletter released towards the end of every month. It has updates on the Asia-Pacific Bureau's activities and features insights on the transforming Internet landscape in and around the Asia-Pacific region from guest writers and Bureau staff. We published 12 newsletters in 2016 with an average open rate of 32%. The newsletter has more than 450 subscribers.

Newsletter archive: <https://www.internetsociety.org/apac-connect>

Newsletter subscription: <http://bit.ly/ISOC-APAC-signup>

Social Media Activity

The Bureau expanded its social media footprint in 2016, with the launch of a [Facebook Page](#). Our [scoop.it page](#) features Internet related news and updates from the region. Real-time updates on ISOC and other regional events were broadcast through our [Twitter account](#), whose followers have more than doubled since 2015. Some of our regional events, in particular the Regional Internet and Development Dialogue (#APRIDD), trended in the top five in a number of countries, including number one in Bangkok and Malaysia.

Regional Blog

APAC Bureau staff also wrote a number of blog posts through the year, covering activities in the region as well as topical Internet issues. These are available at <http://www.internetsociety.org/blog/asia-pacific-bureau>

APAC Express

To keep our colleagues at the Internet Society better informed, the APAC Bureau introduced 'APAC Express' this year. This is a monthly internal one-page newsletter to provide a snapshot of what Team ISOC APAC have done in the past couple of weeks and what is coming up in the next few. This helps us to coordinate better internally across teams.

Media Engagement

Throughout the year, our activities attracted coverage by a range of local and regional media outlets. These included:

APPS Policy Forum <http://www.policyforum.net/making-multi-stakeholder-governance-work/>

Bangkok Post <https://www.pressreader.com/thailand/bangkok-post/20161117/281852938154717>

BusinessWorld Philippines <http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Technology&title=is-this-the-start-of-a-new-digital-era-for-the-philippines&id=129402>

IDG Connect <http://www.idgconnect.com/abstract/18256/one-post-earthquake-nepal-tries-online>

MIT Technology Review Pakistan <http://www.technologyreview.pk/pta-moves-beyond-3g4g/>

ProPakistani <https://propakistani.pk/2016/04/07/mobile-app-awards-pakistan-2016-launched/>

Radio Nepal <http://radionepal.gov.np/radio-nepal/embracing-ict-for-disaster-management>

Teletimes International http://teletimesinternational.com/documents/2016/TT_Jan16.pdf

The Economic Times <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/here-are-the-five-challenges-to-internet-of-things/articleshow/52729093.cms>

Xinhua http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-11/17/c_135837834.htm

Regional Events Live Streaming

All of the regional 'Internal Events' were live streamed hosting an audience of thousands around the world. People were able to watch these events live over the Internet, or catch up on them later via the archives.

Webcast archives of these, and other ISOC related events from around the world, are available on the Internet Society [Livestream channel](#).

APAC Bureau Team

The Internet Society's Asia-Pacific Bureau covers South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania and has team members located across the region. The APAC Bureau Team with its strong network of contacts, collaborators and contributors, as well as its region-wide reach and relationships, is well positioned to help ISOC face the future of the Internet and the many opportunities it will provide to improve and enhance people's lives across the region.

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