

Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 2, 2018

Successful Conclusion of the Second Internet Governance Forum Afghanistan (IGFA) 2018

May 2, 2018 (Kabul): The second Internet Governance Forum Afghanistan (IGFA 2018) was organized in Kabul, Afghanistan between 2–3 May, 2018. The event was organized by the Internet Society Afghanistan (ISOCA), with the support of Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), IO Global Internet Services, IGF Support Association (IGFSA), Internet Corporation on Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Afghan Ministry of Communications and IT (MCIT), TechNation and TechTV.

The event was preceded by a three day School of Internet Governance (AfSIG 2018) which was co-organized along with National IT Professionals Association of Afghanistan (NITPAA), and “Day 0” event which had sessions including celebrating Girls in ICT, co-organized along with TechWomen Afghanistan and TechWomen.Asia, that set the stage for policy discussions and debates for the IGFA 2018.

Over 300 participants including technical professionals, academia, civil society, business, government officials, students, youth had registered for participating in this three day event. The conference provided simultaneous interpretation in English, Pashto and Dari and had remote participation facility for those who could not attend the meeting in person.

With the Internet becoming all encompassing in the lives of people, the participation in discussions related to governance of Internet is gaining importance. The objective of IGFA 2018 was to build awareness of the different issues being discussed at the global Internet governance platforms, initiate a dialogue within the country with special emphasis on issues relevant to Afghanistan and broaden and increasing the diversity of voices in these dialogues.

Speaking at the occasion, Hon. Minister of Communication and IT, Shahzad Gul Aryobi highlighted the Open Access Policy launched by the Government of Afghanistan and Cyber Crime Law, stating “these initiatives will help create an enabling environment and encourage private investment. We are reducing costs of the bandwidth by 80% in the coming future.”

At the IGFA 2018 the key issues discussed were Access and Diversity, Cyber Security, Youth and Gender and emerging issues. The session format included a number of public forums that allowed the community to ask questions and provide suggestions for improvement.

IGFA2018 Coordinator at the Internet Society Afghanistan (ISOCA), Omar Mansoor Ansari elaborated “issues critical to the growth and development of Internet in Afghanistan include: connectivity- availability, affordability of price and quality of services; local content and technologies; collaboration among diverse stakeholders in Internet Governance; online safety, privacy and cyber security.”

An Academy for Children between the ages of 6 and 12, was designed to stimulate and provide the children an experience to engage and ask questions about the Internet, which is a unique practice among 100 countries and regions that are running their national and regional IGFs.

About IGFA:

The Internet Governance Forum Afghanistan (IGFA) is an annual meeting of key Internet stakeholders in Afghanistan, which brings together expert speakers and mentors from across the country and abroad to discuss issues related to the Internet Governance (IG) with a specific emphasis on issues of most pressing relevance to Afghanistan. The IGFA participants are expected to play an important role in shaping the future of Internet in Afghanistan. For more details visit www.igf.af

About Internet Society Afghanistan (ISOCA):

Internet Society (ISOC) Afghanistan, is an association of Internet Users and Non-users, in Afghanistan, set up to identify and bring together key Internet stakeholders under one platform to discuss the most pressing issues around Internet Governance, and development, openness, expansion and accessibility of the Internet. For more details visit www.internetsociety.af

For more details contact:

Email. press@igf.af

Tel. +93 +93(0) 788 161 862

Web. www.igf.af