Summary Report Civil Society Session 4: Tuesday 17th May, 9:00-11:30.

Adam Peake GLOCOM

Comment.   On behalf of civil society participants, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Japanese government for their support for civil society in the conference, and particularly the creation of a fellowship fund, which has enabled 17 people from 15 countries to attend the conference as "conference fellows". Enabling participation of people from developing nations and civil society is very necessary and much appreciated.

And we would like to thank the chair for inviting a multi-stakeholder process for the initial drafting of the report of the meeting.   Again, this is very much appreciated and is important aspect of the process we are all involved in these two days.

The session.   Introduction:

We set the scene introducing civil society (CS) and civil society's role and contributions to the WSIS process and thoughts on the nature of Information Society. With focus on text from civil societies vision of Ubiquitous Network Society as a human centered society.

Specific Session Recommendations

Ms. Karen BANKS, Association for Progressive Communications, United Kingdom, expanded on   many of the CS roles, activities and outcomes achieved in WSIS and global lICT policy forums:

1. ICT policy processes impact on all people in more and more aspects of their daily lives.

2. The complexity of the ICT policy landscape requires enormous range of skills, resources, capacity and competencies.

3. Civil society can bring much of this to the policy process, which can contribute to more successful, inclusive public policies that reflect the realities and needs of people: such as (creating an enabling framework for CS participation, education capacity building, providing technical expertise and as a source of innovation. etc)

4. Provides a space between the state and the market:

Keywords: social responsibility, transparency, accountability, advocating the public interest, civil society values

5. and she described a series of challenges we face considering ubiquitous network society .

Mr. Eung Hwi CHUN, PeaceNet, Korea. Described how we must ensure social/human rights are maintained by declaring the goal of ICTs as "universal, equitable, ubiquitous and affordable environment". He examined the limits and barriers to allowing, for example, access for all, considering poverty eradication, ensuring privacy (e.g. use of RFID, biometrics), empowerment, Sustainable Development, consumer rights and choice, and the preservation of cultural identity.

Civil Society can prevent public and private sector abuses. Civil Society can participate in shaping Internet Governance.

2. **Prof. Divina FRAU-MEIGS**, Université Paris 3-Sorbonne, France.

Promote Education as a means of capacity building and knowledge sharing utilising distributed knowledge and open access.

a. She prioritized scalability and sustainability by ensuring:

i. what she described as a full open source back bone (of open standards, from code to the desktop)
ii. education exception for IP rights
iii. a universal service fund
iv. interoperability and open-endedness (e.g. support for Internet end-to-end)

b. to be achieved through employing strategies of:

i. open courseware, through a UNESCO recommendation.
ii. with media and ICT curricula at the centre of the education process, for critical and informed use.
iii. teacher training, especially primary through open cognition pedagogy (should be collaborative and distributed).
iv. international researchers assuring openness/independence of researchers, especially in education (research and collaboration, socially-oriented)

3. **Mr. Hirotaka FUJIWARA**, an attorney and privacy expert described how privacy information of over 11 thousand citizens of Yuzawa city was leaked. This was due to a virus on a city office computer. The PC

which included personal information should not have been connected to the network, security should be higher. The City employee installed Winny file sharer on City PC thus exposing private data. The employee was not aware of security issues. These highlight problems of limited understanding of new systems and lack of education. Similar leaks occurred with an Hokkaido police officer. So countermeasures include: awareness raising of risks and considering pitfalls of Ubiquitous Society. This is especially important for E-government.

4. **Mr. Junichi HIBINO** from Kobe, Japan, CEO of a community FM radio station called FMYY. Spoke about how 30, 000 non-English speakers were involved in Hanshin (Kobe) earthquake a decade ago creating barriers including language and culture which led to inter-cultural confusion. Therefore there is a need for precise information and psychological support in disasters. FMYY is a local FM radio station that was set up by volunteer citizens after the earthquake to provide such information.   Initially in Vietnamese, Tagalog and English. To empower minorities and to enable access to critical emergency information, and raise awareness of multi-cultural issues. In the recent Niigata earthquake, FM YY played an important role in providing information to non-Japanese communities effected by the disaster.   It is an example of citizens and the community rallying to address critical needs using ICTs.

5. **Mr. Hiroshi KAWAMURA**, DAISY Consortium, Japan. Discussed the importance of ensuring ICT accessibility for all including persons with disabilities, through assistive technology development based on open, non-proprietary and inter-operable standards. This should result in Universal design development of mainstream ICTs. Persons with disabilities are partners and resources in this respect.   A planned global forum as a parallel event in the Tunis WSIS Summit should accelerate implementation of this target, with the active participation of persons with disabilities in the forum and in the WSIS process.

6. Final speaker was Mr. Wainaina MUNGAI from Kenya, discussing ***Inclusion of the Excluded***. He explained there is a need to work towards the goals of sustainable development and millennium development goals in order to promote inclusion and reduce poverty. He gave the example of the project he works on, **OKN Mobile**, using SMS mobile telephones in Kenya (with support of the Vodafone Group Foundation). *They help provide opportunities to improve life through various means: e.g. notification of employment opportunities via SMS, providing health information such as reminders of medication regime for HIV/AIDS medicine, clinic locations, etc.) and as a communications platform for disadvantaged communities. It is a sustainable business model that has evolved from funder-started project.*

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