2019 Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) Report

Theme: Internet Governance Policy and Fundamentals

Venue: Center of Information Technology and Systems, University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria
Date: 23 January 2019

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Overview

AfREN through WACREN is collaborating with Internet Society (ISOC) to increase the participation of African NRENs in Internet development conferences to become catalysts in building the African Internet economy and encouraging Internet entrepreneurship and innovation. (https://www.internetsociety.org/news/press-releases/2016/the-internet-society-pledges-support-to-african-research-and-education-networks/)

In order to fulfil this objective to promote Internet governance within NRENs and higher education institutions, the Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) was formed. One of the goals of this youth-led initiative is to raise awareness about Internet governance issues among the vast pool of the Nigerian young population offered by higher institutions.

In accordance with the principles of multistakeholderism in Internet governance, the NYIGF has adopted a free, open and inclusive means for all interested Internet stakeholders in Nigeria to collaborate and host an annual event for students and young professionals within the Nigerian Internet ecosystem.

Supporting Organizations:

- Eko-Konnect Research and Education Initiative
- West and Central Africa Research and Education Network (WACREN)
- Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF)
- Internet Society Nigeria Chapter (ISOC NG)
- Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- Nigeria Internet Registry Association (NIRA)
- University of Lagos
- Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)
- Paradigm Initiative

Multistakeholder Organizing Team

The role of the team is to act as a steering committee and establish the governance mechanism for decision making and program planning within the NYIGF.

FULL NAME	ROLE	ORGANIZATION	STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Uffa Modey	Community outreach coordinator	Eko-Konnect	Academia
Tomisin Awosika	Computer Engineering Student	University of Lagos	Academia
Bolutife Adisa	co-founder	Digital Grassroots	Civil Society
Charmaine Eweka	Solutions architect	MainOne Cable	Private sector
Femi Daniel	Team Lead for Regulations Monitoring and Compliance	NITDA	Government
Jacob Danguduro	Senior Network Manager	IXPN	Technical Community
Gabreal Odunsi	Program Officer	Paradigm Initiative	Civil Society
Kemi Adepoju	Head of Business Development	NIRA	Technical Community

Reporting on the preparatory process

The preparatory process for the event commenced in September 2018 and was carried out by the organizing team. Through a series of communication carried out through online and in person meetings, emails, letters and instant messaging group chats, there following activities were executed as part of the event preparatory process.

1. Drafting of event proposal: September - October 2018
    a. The first draft of the event proposal detailing the initiatives objectives, expected outcomes and deliverables was created by Uffa Modey. The document was reviewed by the multistakeholder organising team to accommodate suggestions made by the team.
    b. The theme of the event, “Internet governance policy and fundamentals” was decided by the organizing team. This event was aimed at addressing the problem of low awareness of Internet governance issues among Nigerian youth by introducing them to the concept of Internet governance and explaining their role as youth in creating solutions to Internet governance issues.
    c. Through our interactions with students in higher institutions across Nigeria, we learned of the areas of Internet governance in Nigeria which required youth awareness and contribution. These areas formed the discussion topics for panelists at the meeting;
        i. Internet Policy
        ii. Challenges and opportunities for human rights online
        iii. Cybersecurity
        iv. Internet for economic development
        v. New and Emerging Technologies - Tech Entrepreneurship
        vi. Opportunities for Youth in the global Internet Ecosystem

2. Event sponsorship: October - December 2018
    a. The organizing team was tasked with engaging organisations in the Nigerian ecosystem to provide the support required to carry out the event

3. Event logistics: October 2018 - January 2019
    a. The organizing team identified all the items required for a successful event, created a budget and set up a committee for student volunteers who were in charge of ensuring all these items were available for the event

4. Invitations to event participants: November 2018 - January 2019
    a. The organizing team identified the target audience for the event and sent out written and electronic invitations to enable interested participants register to participate online or in person at the event.

Reporting on the meeting day

Gallery of photos from the event: https://photos.app.goo.gl/fpCxVh438WveU46c9

Rapporteur

- Enoch Adediran

Social media hashtag: #NYIGF2019

Speakers

- Mrs Mary Uduma (Convener, NIGF)
- Bolutife Adisa (Digital Grassroots)
- Charmaine Eweka (MainOne)
- Femi Daniel (NITDA)
- Gabreal Odunsi (Paradigm Initiative)
- Jacob Dangunduro (IXPN)
- Sean Burrowes (Ingressive)
- Mrs Bukola Oronti (ISOC NG)
- Kemi Adepoju (NiRA)
- Adaora Okoli (Tech Culture Nigeria)
- Ridwan Oloyede (ISOC NG)
- Sophina Kio-Lawson (SheSecures)
- Temi Afeye (Bleep.me)

Agenda

S/N	TIME	ACTIVITY
1	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Registrations
2	10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Welcome Address ● NYIGF Coordinator - Uffa Modey ● NIGF representative - Mrs Mary Uduma
3	10:15 AM - 11:15 AM	Panel session - Internet governance fundamentals Moderator - Adaora Okoli - Tech Culture Nigeria ● Internet Policy - Femi Daniel - NITDA ● Challenges and opportunities for human rights online - Gabreal Odunsi - Paradigm Initiative ● Cybersecurity - Jacob Dangunduro - IXPN ● Internet for economic development - Charmaine Eweka - MainOne ● New and Emerging Technologies - Tech Entrepreneurship - Sean Burrowes - Ingressive
4	11:15 AM - 11:45 PM	Interactive discussions ● Event participants are encouraged to share their opinions, comments and questions about the issues addressed by the panelists
5	11:45 - 12:00 PM	The launch of NYIGF website - www.youthigf.ng
6	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Group Photographs/Networking / Tea Break
7	1:00 PM - 1:10PM	Presentations ● Kemi Adepoju - NiRA ● Bukola Oronti - ISOC NG

8	1:10 PM - 2:00 PM	Panel session - Opportunities for Youth in the global Internet Ecosystem Moderator - Bolutife Adisa - Ernst and Young ● Adenike Ajuwon - African Academics Network on Internet Policy ● Adaora Okoli - Tech Culture Nigeria ● Sophina Kio-Lawson - SheSecures ● Temi Afeye - Bleep.me ● Kemi Adepoju - NiRA ● Ridwan Oloyede - Internet Society Nigeria Chapter
9	2:00 PM - 2:45 PM	Interactive discussions ● Event participants are encouraged to share their opinions, comments and questions about the issues addressed by the panelists
10	2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	Next steps and closing formalities
11	3:00 PM	Lunch

Onsite registration for the event began by 9:00 AM. The registrations were carried out by two 400 level University of Lagos student volunteers from the Department of Computer Engineering. All event registered participants were given branded souvenir gift items from the event supporting organizations. A networking breakfast was provided for event participants to encourage them to arrive earlier to avoid the perennial Lagos traffic.

By 10:00 AM, the event commenced with a welcome address by the NYIGF coordinator, Uffa Modey. Uffa introduced the NYIGF initiative and stated the need for young people to be involved in Internet governance discussions on a national and global level. Thereafter, the convener of the Nigerian Internet Governance Forum (NIGF), Mrs Mary Uduma using video conferencing provided by WACREN, remotely addressed the youth stating the plans of the NIGF to include the voices of more youth in its dialogues.

The first panel session titled “Internet governance fundamentals” followed immediately. The panel moderator Bolutife Adisa introduced the panelists who were youth representatives from MainOne, NITDA, Paradigm Initiative, IXPN and Ingressive discussing the following topics;

1. Internet Policy
2. Challenges and opportunities for human rights online
3. Cybersecurity
4. Internet for economic development
5. New and Emerging Technologies - Tech Entrepreneurship

During the interactive discussion session, the event attendees shared their comments and questions relating to these issues. Some of the main points addressed included;

1. The threat to online freedom of expression of Nigerian bloggers by the government.
2. Creation of policies which govern infrastructure used in Nigeria but not built in Nigeria
3. Deployment of IPv6 in Nigeria
4. Ways to raise awareness of Internet governance issues among the youth in Nigeria

The NYIGF website (www.youthigf.ng) was launched. The website was developed by the organizing team with technical support and hosting provided by Eko-Konnect. It will act as an interface between the initiative and the rest of the world to keep the NYIGF community up to date with all activities and relevant news and information. It also contains the profiles of the NYIGF Ad-hoc steering committee. This 7 man committee made up of youth volunteers from the various Internet stakeholder groups are charged with managing the activities of the initiative and establishing its longer-term governance

During a 30 minutes tea break, refreshments were served to the participants and group photographs were taken.

The head of business development, NiRA, Kemi Adepoju, spoke on the .ng country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD). She explained the role NiRA plays in managing Nigeria's unique identity on the World Wide Web and the process involved in registering a .ng Internet Domain Name (IDN).

In a presentation by the Financial Secretary of ISOC NG, Mrs Bukola Oronti talked about the activities of ISOC both globally and locally and the fellowship programs by ISOC to promote the inclusion of youth in Internet governance.

The second panel session, "Opportunities for youth in the global Internet Ecosystem" was moderated by Adaora Okoli and consisted of youth representatives from the following organisations; NiRA, ISOC NG, SheSecures and Bleep.me. The panelist discussed the role of youth in the global internet ecosystem and provide information on how youth can contribute to the development of the internet ecosystem in Nigeria.

At the end of the event, Uffa thanked all the event participants and supporting organizations presents and provided the next steps for engaging the young people in Nigerian Internet governance.

Lunch was served to all the attendees.

Meeting Proceedings

Students and young professionals present at the event were able to;

I. Recognise the role of young people in the global Internet ecosystem
II. Identify some internet governance issues currently faced in Nigeria and proffer some solutions
III. Launch the NYIGF website www.youthigf.ng and introduce the NYIGF Ad-hoc steering committee.
IV. Learn about the work being carried out by two Nigerian Internet organizations (NiRA and Internet Society Nigeria Chapter)
V. Discuss opportunities available for young people in the global Internet ecosystem

Recommendations

The NYIGF participants deliberated on issues relating to Internet governance and made the following contributions:

1. **The role of young people in Internet governance**
    a. Young people (majorly millennials and generation z) make up a great population of Internet users and contribute to the creation of a large percentage of online data. Hence, they should be involved in enacting laws which determines how this data is managed.

b. Youth are at the forefront of using the Internet as a tool for development, justice and social change in communities. Their advocacy activities promotes the core principles of the network.

2. Internet Policy

a. The Internet should be kept open rather than restricted. It is a shared global idea and hence should be governed by policies which are formed by delibrations by all Internet stakeholders. These policies should not be rigidly defined but rather be able to accommodate a revision based on the needs of Internet users within a region.

b. Law makers should enact laws which will address the collection and use of personal data of Nigerians

3. Cybersecurity

a. Youth should be be cautious when giving out their private data online in order to avoid issues relating to identity theft.

4. Challenges and Opportunities for Human Rights Online

a. Encourage youth to advocate for online freedom of expression in Nigeria which is currently being threatening the recent jailing of journalists.

b. Urge all data collection bodies (governments, schools, churches, banks) to set up data privacy laws which will protect their users data. Data breaches often lead to third party data usage which creates further issues such as unsolicited SMS

c. Encourage and educate the government to not embark on digital rights abuses in Nigeria such as Internet shutdown

5. Internet for Economic Development

a. Encourage small business to be more technology friendly

b. Advocate for young people to build government IT solutions for economic development in Nigeria and for the government, academia and private sector to create opportunities and platforms for IT projects for start-ups and young people.

c. The Nigerian IPv6 council should drive awareness on IPv6 deployment, its challenges and implementation.

6. New and Emerging Technologies

a. Recommended that curriculum in higher institutions be updated to include education for technical skills for new and emerging technologies

7. Opportunities for Youth in the Global Internet Ecosystem

a. Internet stakeholder organisations should come up with more innovative ways to engage young people in Internet governance discussions.

b. Youth were advised to explore fellowship opportunities provided for youth inclusion in Internet governance by some organisations such as AfriNIC, ICANN, ISOC, IETF, IFF and IGF

c. Urge youth to subscribe to Internet stakeholder organizations mailing lists, participate remotely in their public meetings and volunteer for working groups

Reporting on meeting records

Prior to the event, we received registrations from 228 interested participants across Nigeria. About 60% of the registrants resided in south-west Nigeria.

On the day of the event, the were 94 event participants present with about 40% of the participants as female while 60% were male.

32 youth participated remotely. 11 of these youth were female while 21 were male.

Reporting on budget

ITEM	UNIT PRICE (NGN)	AMOUNT	TOTAL (NGN)
Refreshments	635	100	63 500
Event Banners	12500	2	25 000
Registrations Name Tags	200	100	20 000
NYIGF Branded Souvenir items Gift bags Notebooks Pens T-shirts stickers	 290 320 310 1000 -	 100 100 100 100 100	 29 000 32 000 31 000 100 000 700
TOTAL			**301 200**

Funding was received from the event supporting organizations to sponsor the event. These organisations included;

- Nigerian IGF
- ISOC Nigeria Chapter
- IXPN
- WACREN

In kind support was also received from the following organisation

- University of Lagos - Venue
- Eko-Konnect - Internet connectivity and multimedia equipment
- NIRA - NYIGF branded notebooks
- Paradigm Initiative - Digital Rights brochures and fliers

Contact details and meeting main information sources

I. Official website/webpage of the initiative; www.youthigf.ng
II. Official email address of the initiative; info@youthigf.ng
III. Official social media account information with official #hashtag
    - facebook @YouthigfNG
    - twitter @youthigf_ng
    - instagram @youthigf_ng

IV. Link to the report on the initiative's website as well as on the IGF website; https://youthigf.ng/2019-nigerian-youth-internet-governance-forum-communique/
V. Link to the meeting program agenda https://indico.wacren.net/event/75/