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APRIGF 2026

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MSG DEBRIEF
KANCHENJUNG HAKLL
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>> For those that joined us in the room, this is the MSG Debrief. However, the Fellows presentation session is still ongoing. Here we go. I will pass the mic to Amrita.

>> HOST: Thank you Edmon, thank you for holding fort. We had the Fellowship presentation and didn't want to disrupt it. We just finished. Everyone is coming into the room. We don't have much time. The only thing which we would like to hear from each one of you is what worked, what did not work. And what are the things we can -- the learnings we had. I would like to go online first to hear from all of you. Cheryl I see you wanting to speak. Can we unmute Cheryl will.

>> CHERYL: I couldn't turn the other Group down, I have the Fellows in the become. I'm doing two things at one. My apologies.

If I can just make one very positive thing I thought. In general, I thought the time management was excellent in today's session.

I would like to suggest that we encourage our applicants -- the submitters, I should say, for sessions to not necessarily lever their Q&A only to the end. I think that is where things are running out.

I think perhaps a little bit of suggestion that, you know, the 15-minute suggestion, it could be five minutes interspaced

between some of the speakers. That sort of thing. I think it will help them do time management better.

I am come back with other points later Amrita.

>> HOST: Thank you so much, Cheryl. Anyone else online Charles I see. Can we see the entire gallery? That will be easier. I see a few people online. If anyone can jump in. I want to give you a chance because you have been following it and seeing things. Anyone?

Okay. By that time, let me see someone in the room. Anyone wants to start here. Feedback, what work, what didn't? Secretariat? Oh, all right.

>> ATTENDEE: Oh, yes, Gonella, Australia. There is a lot that worked. I think there was a great diversity of sessions with very interesting sessions.

One of the things that I was concerned about was it's very difficult to plan what room is going to be popular and which isn't.

Some of the room I was in were very packed. That made it difficult for the screen at the front. It was a bit small if you were sitting at the back.

I was rather concerned that people weren't listening. They were having chats at the back of the room.

And that was a bit of a concern if you were trying to listen to the presentation.

I want to mention as a future recommendation if this is the time? Yeah, okay.

We were very pleased -- certainly I was to have a person with a disability as a Fellow. And there were some concerns about support for an assistant for him. That was resolved.

And very much appreciated that.

Looking forward to a process to assure that it's smooth running in the future for that. So thank you. Approximate.

>> HOST: Thank you, Gonella. That has to come from MSG we had from the leadership and Secretariat appropriate it this year. Obviously, funding is important. But anyone else what worked, what didn't? What was good is we had full rooms. We may have had less space. I think more soundproof helps, so the external noise doesn't come. But I think Chengetai -- Edmon wants to share something.

>> EDMON: He's much taller than I am.

(Chuckling)

I want to say thank you for allowing us to experiment a little bit with an MSG session in the beginning of today.

I want to say this because we have been looking at the attendance for the past 16 APrIGFs, usually the last day, the first session is a little bit difficult. People don't wake up that early. It worked well today. Adding that buffer, get

people to start trickling in earlier on and then the two sessions -- I think it was well attended and I hope that part of this strategy kind of helped work.

So hopefully it becomes an interesting staple for APrIGF. And may be something for other Conferences, other IGFs to take up as well.

>> HOST: That helped. It would be good if we had the leadership, because we had quite a few Fellows that came in. Our representation would have helped a bit. Anything else what worked, what didn't? Fellowship, Mentorship? Anything? Anyone has to share something? This is the chance. Cheryl, you have your hand up, go ahead.

>> CHERYL: I am behind you, I shouldn't expect you to have eyes in the back of your head. Although perhaps you should.

One thing I want to suggest and something we tried to do before and I believe we have done some years over others.

I really believe we should give our fantastic -- and they really are outstanding, Fellowship cohort an unconflicted slot to present in.

Because it is a pivotal part of our work, getting the fabulous people there. They take their work very seriously. They work so hard.

And I thought in particular, if we'd have had an unconflicted spot, it would have done more justice to certainly what I saw this year, which was absolutely terrific.

So we really, really have to keep it unconflicted.

That brings me to the second point. That is something the public raised earlier. The attendees raised earlier. That was trying to give longer times for the sessions. I have no problem with quality over quantity. But we would have to have a serious conversation with our community to see what they expect an APrIGF to be.

Because if we will have more meaningful conversations with longer session times, sure it would affect the number of people we can get in. It also impacts the way things run and other things. I think it is a conversation to have. I'm not suggesting we need to go one way or another. But unconflicted times to the Fellows needs to be sacrosanct if my view.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you, Ronnie here thank you, Cheryl. There was the session regarding the unconflicted slot. The Fellow presentations to be done early in the morning. First session in the morning.

>> CHERYL: No, that is a shit piece of time to get anyone to turn up. Unless you have Edmon's idea of smashing everybody in, you couldn't get the bloody MSG into the room early enough! No. Middle of the day. Prime time. Treat them with the respect they deserve. You got my cranky voice. I'm sorry.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you.

>> HOST: Thank you, Cheryl. Anyone else? What worked, what didn't? Sponsors? Members? Anything? Any feedback? Yeah, sponsors? Fellowship sponsors? Yes, sonny?

>> ATTENDEE: I will start on the that one. Sonny from APNIC, I agree with Cheryl to give prime time to the Fellowship. I was in the room.

They deserve that. It is the pivotal work they do and our sponsorship also for the Fellow.

I have one positive comment and one general improvement maybe in the future.

Will being here, seeing the Conference, you know, I can 100% say that, you know, it was good, organized, well participated. I can see the energy level and the participation is good in terms of asking questions, et cetera.

The soundproof that you brought it earlier is, I think there is good sound proofing between the rooms, but not outside of the room.

I think if we could -- I do acknowledge that and understand that every location is different.

But if we can put the tea break somewhere separate to the meeting room. That will help soundproof. The general noise is people talking outside of the rooms. That is part of the Fellowship.

>> HOST: The tea break further, they will not come up. It is difficult to get it right.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you for the MSG Group. It is an honour to be part of this APrIGF Fellowship Committee. It is my first time here. I think as first-time, fresh eyes, in terms of the programme itself. The content was really good I think.

I learned a lot. But probably one thing that I have observed is that probably the timing of each session is a bit tight. Each speaker is trying to finish the presentation in a very quick time.

I think we might need to push -- not put too tight of programme content for each slot.

In terms of the Fellows, the Fellows, I find that they're really proactive in participation and also asking a lot of questions. I think that there is a handful of them are really good and potentially moving forward for other programmes as well.

I find that there is a very strong Group of people. They have very good quality as well.

Yeah, I'm happy to be part of the Group for next year. Thank you.

>> HOST: The MSG, which is very good. Any other feedback, comments? I think some lessons also include prior with our

hosts.

I think we have a guide but also how, as you all had pointed, how the Internet sharing of the creating a drop, et cetera. Perhaps those Best Practices can go into our document which is shared.

Yeah? You want to add something?

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you. I wanted to say this year in particular I saw very good Fellows, I believe all of them did well.

I have had sort of pocket meetings with many of them. They wanted at the time, I see MSG members in the making in this batch of Fellows we have. Kudos to everyone that contributed to that.

I do agree. The rooms were a little too congested for some of us. I personally had to go out a few times because it was quite congested. We can work on these things. We have seen what work and what hasn't. Maybe sitting in such a case. But when we have the sudden changes, it is difficult to very swiftly move furniture around and all. I think we learned from that. But given the fact that even this year we were contemplating whether we should go on with this or not. I think we have done brilliantly well.

>> HOST: Thank you. Anyone else wants to add. New members, MSG members, old members.

>> ATTENDEE: I have also been a Fellow here. I recently joined MSG. I have not been that active, I am with ISOC in the chapter. The quality is topnotch.

I would like to thank everybody that before the event as well, there was a lot of participation, even the mentors put in a lot of effort in there.

This is like a gentle observation from my end.

What I felt is when we have parallel simultaneous sessions going on, I think at one point of time of course I want to be in both of the sessions, but that can't really happen. I feel that as Swaran ma'am mentioned, the time could be more. Each if moving to each session. The breaks in between has helped. If we can work around sometime around that transition period as well. That would be great.

So ...

>> HOST: I think Jane wants to speak. Also in the morning we had this discussion. It is difficult to actually get the balance. We had 100-plus Workshop proposals and only took 28, 29 of them. We just try to be representative. We can't stretch the day after 5:30 people get exhausted. It is tricky and Jen will explain it more.

>> ATTENDEE: Not plain, the Secretariat team I have had other roles. There is a minimum time. It is how efficient and

effective our host support team is. Over the days you improve because the nuances are worked out.

One thing I will suggest continue it is provocative and controversial. I know the PC has talked about and community has talked about it. If we extend the timing of the workshops we have to think about expanding back to three tracks. Because we don't want to lose the diversity of the really good proposals we get from this community. Then we have the problem of you want to be in three rooms at once. That is impossible. We need to plans -- balance what we much looking for and find the sweet track. And then we decided two tracks. And the burden of the Secretariat. And the host has the rooms. We had 75 minute sessions. They don't want 90 minute. They want the shorter span, lightning talks. We never had lightning talks before others. It is a work in progress. No one has the ideal solution. But we can just improve things as we go. Swaran, you want to add something?

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you. So as rightly put. We have had lots of obligations, some good. We couldn't accommodate all of them. We had other tracks. Maybe we could consider that could work for us. You know we have local hubs as well. If they would like to be more vested toward 2027, we could have built up events, building up to the main event. Technical sessions can happen and APNIC can provide technical sessions as well. We can have a plans and they have visibility in APrIGF overall. That gives a space. Every month. One event a week.

>> CHERYL: You must have more spare time than I do, darling.

>> HOST: She has a point. If local hubs want to have a discussion.

>> CHERYL: I absolutely support that. But also. They've got to be tied in.

>> HOST: (Audio skipping) suppose we have an overarching theme, subtheme. Any local hub wants to have a pre-event session, that would be good. And that can feed into our session. That is a good idea. I do see a hand up. Please come in.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you, Amrita, first of all, congratulations to everybody. Finally, we did it in Nepal. That is a celebration in itself.

I think most of us agree, I'm not on the ground there, but from what I heard online and what Swaran said, we have a nice bunch of Fellow this year, right? There is something, the fossils of APrIGF agree we need fresh voices because of the fact in our meetings and sub-Committee meetings, we have new people but somehow they don't open up or just don't contribute in that way as we would like them to.

So since you are on the ground, you see potential in these people try to encourage them to join MSG and contribute that contribution where we can see the next phase of leadership in people. How we can encourage them to be more active and pass the baton to them?

So I think that is what the on-ground MSG members, I request them to take note of this as well.

>> HOST: Thank you, that is a fair ask. We are encouraging not even just the Fellows, but the local young people who are here.

This time there are a lot of youth around. Keeping them engaged is obviously the thing.

I can see 10 minutes. Asharbad, for the record.

>> ATTENDEE: I want to talk about the Fellowship programme, this time the Mentorship and Fellowship programme was very good. The daytime I found very interactive. I think we should continue to keep it an informal and interactive rather than just showing slides to newcomers and Fellows. (Audio skipping)

But one thing I think we missed out on is informing Fellows how much we have invested in them and what are the roles.

The first day I could see Fellows were not each in the opening. We should make them understand they should be on time. They should network. After 5:30. We can go, enjoy, network, make friends.

Fellows need to be clearly stated if they're participating in this, if they want the stipend, they're obliged to join on time, help us any way possible and join the sessions, rather than roaming around the halls.

The first day it was quite disappointing.

We had to collect the Fellowship Committee had to kind of intervene. And individually talk to the Fellows.

And keep count.

But I think everything in the programme went well. I think we missed out on that aspect.

Next time we have to be a little stricter in that aspect.

>> HOST: Thank you. That is a fair point. Just as we talk about the Code of Conduct, what is expected. Because they sign up for it. No one pushes them into it. We invest heavily. With Mentorship, trainings, et cetera, I think that is a fair ask. Phil, I will put you on the spot. What worked, what didn't for you.

>> ATTENDEE: About the Fellowship Fellows? Ha-ha. Thank you for giving me the floor.

I want to point out one thing importantly with the Fellow. To be honest, when I'm trying to take the attendance of the Fellow, some people don't like it, to be honest.

So it would be great if mentor can be together with the Fellow on-site or be helpful if the Fellow at the event and also we can cross check with the Secretariat at the end. That would be helpful.

This year, we also need to have more logistics and stuff.

Trying to collect the attendance as much as possible. On one hand, if the MSG member or mentor can also support to meet and chitchat with the Fellow, otherwise interact whether at the Fora, it is helpful. Yeah.

>> HOST: I think they want to say at the IGF when we get a Fellowship, every day we have to go to the particular place and sign the document.

It should be made mandatory you which to the Secretariat and sign it. You don't have to follow-up with them. This is something we need to set. They are bound to give attendance.

>> ATTENDEE: From APNIC. I manage the APNIC Fellowship programme for three years. I went through a big cohort. Last year was the biggest cohort in Vietnam. We had 40 Fellows.

So how you actually discipline and get the Fellows to be independently managed by themselves is that you need to be very clear -- put very clear guidelines for them at the start before the Conference starts we would do a briefing with them. After that, we would have a debrief.

I think it is important for them to be independently bind themselves. They're here for the Conference. There's a purpose for them. If you need any support or tips I'm happy to support the team moving forward. Thank you.

>> HOST: Thank you so much. Jane? Kazi.

>> ATTENDEE: Quick thought, since the Fellows are visiting the Host Countries, is it possible to think about the idea of some kind of knowledge visit in the host country between the Governance with the Governance and Constitutions.

>> HOST: Budget, time management?

>> ATTENDEE: What I'm saying is engaging the local stakeholders, something in Governance, exposure visit in the host country. An interactive visit is.

>> HOST: The time management. It is a great idea. It is a time management and everything budgets. Dollars is the main thing.

>> ATTENDEE: We're here. The Fellows.

>> HOST: We can think about it.

>> ATTENDEE: To your point. It is a good point. The local host has to make sure Government Representatives are here. If they attend the session they can get that insight. That is what IGF is for. If we take them out, there are other complications we have to face. It is not that we have to do it. I prefer them being in the venue and connecting with the

official Governments in Civil Society, everything within the Conference area.

>> ATTENDEE: All the Fellows may not have the same interest.

Which Government department, which project? Is it AI, connectivity, there are multiple different hats every Government has. Not every same department. There are challenges. Yes, it is a part that we can think of.

Anyone else? Last chance, Gonella. Go ahead.

>> ATTENDEE: Thank you. I want to commend the local host volunteers. I think they've been excellent and very attentive to everyone's needs. I think it is always good to recognize that.

And I think Wakas, we have all talked about the Fellows and how good they are.

And it is always good for people who are in an older age group to be able to say hey, we have this new generation coming up, and I'm one of those.

I'm very excited to see those Fellows working on very much all of the topics we are passionate about.

Including my topic, disability and digital inclusion. It helps me to know when I am retiring very soon. There will be all of the people that continue the work.

>> HOST: Thank you so much. Cheryl, quickly?

>> ATTENDEE: I want the MSG know, there will be a report from the complaints Committee. The complaints Committee was activated during the event. We had a formal complaint. We did the initial reaction to the complainant. We believe the complainant is happy they have been heard. We will be needing to work with some of the sub-Committees, the leadership team and eventually report by to the MSG as well. Thanks.

>> HOST: (Audio skipping) who acted promptly on the complaint which came in.

I think those are some lessons which we have. And it is very unfortunate thing which happened, but once again, we would like to thank all of the volunteers. All the local volunteers are not there, the MSG and all of those who had been working -- who wants to speak. We are out of time at this point in time. Sorry.

Thank you so much. All of you, all of the volunteers, everybody who worked. Please mention it to your friends. Thank you so much.

Go have your lunch.

>> The Roundtable is at 1:00 p.m. it's level 1. Yeah. Level 1 floor. Yeah. We only have 30 minutes to have lunch, quickly.

(Concluded)

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