

ASIA INTERNET COALITION

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Policies and regulations: the economic and social *context* of the Internet

- Context: we are now living in a **non-linear** world
 - From **high** culture (pre-1914) to **mass** production/comms (1990s *fin de siècle*) to **interconnectedness**/fragmented/user-generated social media (21st century)
- Interconnectedness: **innovation** is a digital fact of life = basis of **digital economy**
- Major challenge for young people = life long **adaptability** = **Internet is technological basis** for this (learning, work, leisure, etc.)

Policy & Regulation: Help or Hindrance in a Changing World?

- Legacy issue = how to adapt policy/regulations?
 1. **Preserve *status quo*** (industrial/political) by extending the Old to the New?
 2. **Pragmatic** response to ***fast changing*** new challenges? See what makes sense, what works? = requires ***stakeholder involvement***
 - Requires learning from '***good***' ***practice*** elsewhere
 3. **Pro-active** policies to promote a digital economy
 - Infrastructure + innovation, e.g. TVWSDs
 - Lower barriers to business and to user demand
 - Digital literacy promotion at *all* levels

The Status Quo Option? Our Big Concern



WCIT 2012

Back to the future of regulations,
restrictions and state controls?

Ouch!

WCIT-12 Resolution

“all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance” and calls for the ITU and member states “to elaborate on their respective position on international Internet-related technical, development and public policy issues within the mandate of the ITU at various ITU fora.”

AIC

- At odds with assurances that the ITRs would **not** be about the Internet.
- The differences of opinion within the ITU threaten to **polarize attitudes towards the Internet** at member state level.
- A “**multi-stakeholder** approach” is at risk of becoming a “**multi-shareholder** approach” (Govt holding majority!)

Less Ouch?

AIC

- To our understanding, several – *maybe most* – member states signed the resolution on the understanding that a “multi-stakeholder” approach does not imply a widening of state regulation

Singapore

- In our opinion, this Resolution **does not purport a move away from the multi-stakeholder model**. We believe it serves to encourage all stakeholders to continue discussion and collaboration on Internet matters.

(Singapore Ambassador to WTPF in Geneva, May 2013)

AIC therefore calls for



- No intermediary liability = no shutting the door to the Internet
- Open access to the Internet for everyone
- Nothing to impede benefits to the community in terms of access to information, to learning, to services, etc.
- Freedom of expression, but in a responsible way
 - **users** don't ruin it for others; **states** don't ruin it for users!

References

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- AIC: Trade in the Digital Age: helping small businesses think big
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Thank Q

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