



CyFy 2016

Digital Asia: Scripting the New Governance Order

Asia has become the digital pivot of the world for three reasons: *first*, it hosts the fastest growing digital economies; *second*, it has become the site for the creation and evolution of cyber norms; and *third*, nation-states in Asia-Pacific have witnessed a substantial increase in their cyber capabilities, awakening the possibility of conflict/ tensions. Is Asia set to incubate the new digital governance order? What rules of the game will define state and non-state engagement in the region? The answers to these questions will illuminate the way forward not just for Asia but also for the world, as it attempts to create regimes and architectures to govern the internet. Therefore, we are pleased to announce the theme for the 2016 edition of CyFy – “Digital Asia: Scripting the New Governance Order”.

Into its fourth edition this year, CyFy: The India Conference on Cyber Security and Internet Governance has emerged as a global platform to discuss, debate and deliver digital policy solutions. CyFy 2015 featured nearly 110 participants from over 33 countries, with nearly 800 delegates in attendance. Prominently, the conference sessions featured several experts from Africa and the Asia Pacific, who addressed the policy priority of connecting the next billion. The 2016 iteration of CyFy will highlight the political, economic and strategic questions that underpin this imperative.

Digital governance regimes are quite unlike their counterparts like multilateral trading or climate regimes. The sheer diversity and capacity of stakeholders make digital regimes the site of many contested narratives. CyFy 2016 will explore the ideal of the global digital governance regime, and Asia as its laboratory featuring smaller, plurilateral regimes like the TPP and RCEP. Are regional regimes “fragmenting” the internet, replacing its unified technical architecture with political boundaries? What can be done to ensure that cyber regimes are inclusive, and respond to the differences in capacities of their constituencies? If the trans-Atlantic regimes of the previous century saw a homogenous group of countries coming together to create a common political economy, the disparate interests of Asian, African, European and American powers make this a more complex task in cyberspace. And yet, to harness its economic potential, cyber regimes must seamlessly engage with existing realities.

CyFy 2016 will also highlight the role of technology in creating and destroying global cyber regimes. Norms or instruments negotiated by nation-states must be dynamic and absorb rapid advancements in technology. If treaties were designed to achieve a common goal – “peace” or “unified markets” – cyber regimes can at best manage technological outcomes that have already occurred. These outcomes will disrupt markets and societies in the emerging economies of Asia, further stressing the need for adaptable cyber norms. The unique ethos of engagement that first-generation internet users in developing economies bring to the table must also be accounted for, in these instruments.

Finally, CyFy 2016 will comprehensively examine the non-state actor in cyberspace: taking on a range of roles, from good to bad, and endowed with enormous capacity, the non-state actor will play a crucial part in shaping the digital governance order. On the security front, the role of non-state actors in disrupting technical infrastructure as well as using the internet to deploy radical narratives will be examined closely. The role of individuals, groups and organisations in bringing the civil liberties

debate to cyberspace has been welcomed, and CyFy 2016 will explore ways to institutionalise and weave the non-state actor into digital regimes.

These strategic questions which will animate the 2016 edition of CyFy require a frank and inclusive conversation between governments, private sector, civil society and the technical communities. CyFy has risen to be a global platform in no small part to the central players who have participated in digital debates. We expect the 2016 edition to be no different.

Panels, roundtables and interactive sessions at CyFy 2016 will broadly cover the five areas:

1. **Digital Economy:** CyFy will feature sessions on legal, regulatory and economic aspects of digital development in India and the Asia Pacific. In particular, we are focusing on the role that start-ups and 'unicorn' companies can play in driving the digital economy, as well as taking stock of recent developments in the fin-tech and the Internet of Things sectors.
2. **International engagement:** 2016 is expected to be a crucial year for the conception and evolution of cyber norms – by September, a draft version of Tallinn 2.0 is expected to be ready and the 2016 UNGGE too may have produced their report. We will be discussing those norms at CyFy, and in particular their relevance to the Asia-Pacific context.
3. **Security:** CyFy will host three to four sessions on cybersecurity, highlighting critical information infrastructure protection, CSIRT cooperation and supply chains integrity in Asia. Jurisdiction will be a key theme this year, and we expect to host law enforcement agencies and Interpol officials to deliberate information sharing/ MLAT channels.
4. **Access and inclusion:** CyFy 2016 will host a few roundtables and plenary sessions on making digital spaces inclusive and more plural. This is an area of high priority for the Indian government and we hope to build on our conversations from last year around safe and accessible electronic platforms. One session would focus on the contribution of women in leadership roles who have leveraged technology for successful social/political/commercial purposes.
5. **Capacity building:** CyFy's capacity building module will essentially weave the four themes together, and use the conference as a platform to bring together 20-25 ICT specialists from Africa and the Asia Pacific. We are currently working out how best to create capacity building exercises during the conference - this could take the form of interactive workshops or a roundtables. Two areas in particular will be highlighted: legal/policy training on reporting hate speech/ abuse, and workshops on ICT innovation for women.