



GLOBAL NETWORK OF **INTERNET AND SOCIETY** RESEARCH CENTERS

The World at a Digital Crossroads: Navigating Uncertainty, Seizing Opportunity

Hosted by the Global Network of Internet and Society Research Centers (NoC)
and the Digital Asia Hub Thailand (DAH.th)

**Thursday, October 17 & Friday, October 18, 2024
Bangkok, Thailand**

FINAL AGENDA

The 2024 annual event of the Network of Centers (NoC), convened in partnership with the Digital Asia Hub Thailand (DAH.th), aims to address the pivotal moment our societies face due to the rapid digital transformation and proliferation of AI. This year's event moves beyond routine discussions, focusing on substantial issues that shape our current global landscape in a volatile world.

An interdisciplinary examination of the “state of the world,” with a focus on the intersections of technology and society, sets the stage for mutual learning and knowledge exchange among NoC participants as well as invited special guests. The overarching goal is to accelerate the implementation of the NoC roadmap, emphasizing impact and translating research into practice while addressing broader themes crucial to our collective future.

The event will feature a variety of formats, including sparks and keynotes, panel discussions, interactive workshops, and green space sessions. Attendees will explore topics such as the societal implications of emerging technologies, digital governance, the ethical dimensions of digital transformation, and the roles and responsibilities of academia.

Additionally, the event will facilitate knowledge exchange between NoC participants and the leadership, staff, and fellows of Thailand's first AI Governance Center, hosted by the Electronic Transactions Development Agency (ETDA) and incubated by DAH.th.

To maximize global reach and inclusivity, the event will combine in-person and virtual participation. Active engagement will be encouraged through interactive questions and answers (Q&A) sessions, polls, and social media activities.

Agenda

Thursday, October 17, 2024

9:30-10:00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

PART I: EXPLORING THE BIG PICTURE

10:00-12:00 **State of the World: A Crossroads of Offline Crises and AI Possibilities**

The opening segment of the annual event will set the stage by exploiting the big picture and the main dynamics that shape it: Starting with a keynote speech, followed by NoC respondents offering different regional perspectives, we will discuss “the state of the world” at the technology and society nexus, where offline crises meet the promise of emerging technologies such as AI.

Keynote (30 minutes):

- Carlos Affonso Pereira de Souza, Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro (ITS Rio)

Respondents (10 minutes each):

- Isobel Acquah, Center for Law and Innovation in Rwanda
- Maria Isabel Mejia, Berkman Klein Center Affiliate
- Michael Latzer, Institute of Communication and Media Research (IKMZ), University of Zurich
- Jack Qiu, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, NTU Singapore

Followed by moderated discussion among all participants.

Moderator:

- Urs Gasser, TUM Think Tank, Technical University of Munich

12:00-13:30 *Lunch and Networking*

13:30-16:15 **Interdisciplinary Deep Dives in Trending Topics in Digital Society**

Drilling deeper into some of the core themes emerging from the stage-setting opening session, this session will feature two panel discussions covering challenges and opportunities that are at the forefront of current debates about the future of society in a tech-driven age. The roundtable discussions will take into account both past experiences - for instance in Internet governance – as well as recent events – including ongoing elections as well ongoing developments in the global governance space, among other issues.

13:30-14:45

Roundtable 1: Safeguarding Democracy

Initial Contributors (*5 minutes each*):

- Kyung Sin Park, Internet and Society Consortium, Korea University School of Law; Open Net Korea
- Victor Muñoz, Berkman Klein Center Affiliate
- Núria Roca Trenchs, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
- Markus Siewert, TUM Think Tank, Technical University of Munich
- Felipe Silva, Laboratório de Políticas Públicas e Internet (LAPIN)

Followed by moderated discussion and responses among all participants.

Moderator:

- Wolfgang Schulz, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG)

14:45-15:00

Short Break

15:00-16:15

Roundtable 2: Future of Global Cooperation

Initial Contributors (*5 minutes each*):

- Ashish Narayan, Programme Coordinator, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Guest)
- Isobel Acquah, Center for Law and Innovation in Rwanda
- Shashank Mohan, Centre for Communication Governance at National Law University Delhi (CCG)
- Wolfgang Schulz, Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (HIIG)

Followed by moderated discussion and responses among all participants.

Moderator:

- Sandra Cortesi, Institute of Communication and Media Research (IKMZ), University of Zurich

16:15-16:30

Short Break

16:30-18:00

Roles and Responsibilities of Academia in the AI Age

Against the backdrop of the trending topics and substantive deep dives, the following session explores the roles and responsibilities of academia - spanning activities such as research, education, and outreach – when navigating the big challenges and opportunities of our time at the intersection of technology and society. It takes a bottom-up approach by inviting participating NoC Centers to feature some of their work in the substantive areas mentioned before, pointing towards roles and responsibilities.

16:30-17:30

Highlights and Updates from the NoC Centers

Initial Contributors (5 minutes each):

- Nagham El Houssamy, Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D), American University in Cairo
- Rodrigo Ferreira, Center for the US & Mexico, Baker Institute at Rice University
- Armando Guio, Global Network of Centers Secretariat (NoC)
- Andres Lombana-Bermudez, Javeriana University
- Maria Fernanda Martinez, Centro de Estudios en Tecnología y Sociedad (CETyS)
- Kyung Sin Park, Internet and Society Consortium, Korea University School of Law; Open Net Korea
- Jack Qiu, Wee Kim Wee School of Comm & Info, NTU Singapore
- Kevin Sanson, QUT Digital Media Research Centre (DMRC)
- Markus Siewert, TUM Think Tank, Technical University of Munich

Moderator:

- Celina Bottino, Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro

17:30-18:00

Introducing “HEMISPHERES”

The HEMISPHERES initiative is a new collaboration between EU and Latin American higher education institutions — several affiliated with the NoC — to address critical challenges in technology policy. This session provides an opportunity to learn more about the project and consider it a model for similar initiatives in other regions with potential NoC involvement.

Panelists (5 minutes each):

- Maria Isabel Mejia, Universidad del Norte
- Victor Muñoz, Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano
- Núria Roca Trenchs, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
- Enrique Stiglich, UTEC: Universidad de Ingeniería y Tecnología del Peru

Moderator:

- Christian Fieseler, Nordic Centre for Internet and Society

18:15-19:00

Special Session (Online)

- **Spark** “Global Digital Futures Architects - a research-to-action community to co-design public interest technology for a sustainable and inclusive digital future.” Nicole Manger, Federal Foreign Office of Germany (Guest)
- **Keynote** “Civil Discourse and Academic Freedom.” Charles Nesson, Berkman Klein Center

19:30

Departure to NoC Annual Dinner

PART II: DISCUSSING PRACTICES

10:00-12:00

Learning and Working Together in the Technology & Society Space

Moving from big-picture developments to actual on-the-ground practices of NoC participants, the second day starts with a series of sparks followed by moderated conversations that feature lessons learned as well as open questions and possible areas of future inquiry regarding core stakeholder engagement. What can we learn from each other across cultures, geographies, and contexts when engaging with private and public sector actors – and the public at large – on a broad range of technology and society issues?

Invited Sparks: Engaging with communities, governments, media, and companies: Lessons learned, open questions, and future directions.

Initial Contributors (7 minutes each):

- Isobel Acquah, Center for Law and Innovation in Rwanda
- Maurizio Borghi, Nexa Center for Internet & Society, Turin
- Nagham El Houssamy, Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D), American University in Cairo
- Martin Krzywdzinski, Weizenbaum Institute
- Dandy Rafitrandi, Safer Internet Lab (SAIL), CSIS Indonesia
- Felipe Silva, Laboratório de Políticas Públicas e Internet-LAPIN

Followed by moderated discussion and responses among all participants.

Moderator:

- Armando Guio, Global Network of Centers Secretariat (NoC)

12:00-13:15

Lunch and Working Meeting with Invited Stakeholder Representatives

- Sophie Evers and Dr. Carolin Höhle-Wortmann, Accenture (Guests)
- Dr. Sak Segkhoonthod, Senior Advisor, Electronic Development Agency, Thailand (Guest)

13:30-16:00

Spotlight: AI Governance – NoC Meets AIGC Thailand

Building on the conversation about on-the-ground-practices, this segment is dedicated to knowledge sharing between NoC participants and members of Thailand's AI Governance Center (previously Clinic) hosted by ETDA, which was incubated with the help of the DAH.th. The session starts with reports from different countries about AI governance developments – with focus on legislative efforts – and continues with presentations of AIGC fellows and staff, who will share insights from Thailand's rapidly evolving AI governance landscape, including a pending AI Act.

13:30-15:45

Reports on AI Governance from NoC Centers from Different Parts of the World

Presenters (*10 minutes each*):

- Africa – Isobel Acquah, Center for Law and Innovation in Rwanda
- Europe – Markus Siewert, TUM Think Tank, Technical University of Munich
- Latin America and the Caribbean – Celina Bottino, Institute for Technology and Society of Rio de Janeiro (ITS Rio)
- MENA – Nagham El Houssamy, Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D), American University in Cairo
- North America – Florian Martin-Bariteau, Centre for Law, Technology and Society uOttawa

Learning from Thailand: Featuring Projects and Work by AIGC and Fellows (Guests)

AIGC:

- Dr. Sak Segkhoonthod, Senior Advisor, ETDA
- Rojana Lamlert, Advisor, ETDA & Team lead of AIGC by ETDA
- Hataichanok Puttaraksa, Specialist, AIGC by ETDA
- Krittamate Thanapoompronprom, Specialist, AIGC by ETDA
- Thitikorn Trakoonsirisak, Expert, AIGC by ETDA

AIGC Fellows:

- Dr. Poomsiri Dumrongvute, Head of Legal UTC and Vice Dean Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University
- Sathapon Patanakuha, CEO & Founder Guardian AI Lab
- Dr. Panraphee Raphiphan, CEO, aHappener Co., Ltd.
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Somchai Ratanachueskul, Legal Counsel Alongkorn Business Law Co.,Ltd.
- Dr. Pinnaree Tea-makorn, Lecturer and AI Strategist, Sasin School of Management
- Dr. Saliltorn Thongmeensuk, Research Fellow, Digital Law and Infrastructure Regulation, Thailand Development Research Institute (TDR)

Moderator:

- Urs Gasser, TUM Think Tank, Technical University of Munich

15:45-16:00

Short Break

PART III: CHARTING FUTURES [NoC ONLY]

16:00-17:30

NoC Governance & Roadmap

The final part of the annual event returns to questions of internal governance and activities of the NoC. It introduces the next version of the NoC governance model, based on previous discussions, consultations and also deliberations of the Executive Committee. The session also takes a look at the implementation status of the current NoC Roadmap, with updates from the NoC Secretariat.

16:00-17:00

Introducing the Next Version of the NoC Governance Model

Presentation by Sandra Cortesi and Wolfgang Schulz.

17:00-17:30

NoC Roadmap 2024-2025: Updates on Activities and Opportunities

Presentation by Armando Guio.

17:30-18:00

Pitching New Ideas

To conclude the event, NoC participants are invited to “pitch” new ideas for future collaboration.

Initial Contributors:

- Isaac Newton Acquah, International Trade Centre of Ghana (ITC)
- Nagham El Houssamy, Access to Knowledge for Development Center (A2K4D), American University in Cairo
- Fabienne Marco, Technical University of Munich

Followed by a space for participation by all participants.

18:00-19:00

Closing and Farewell Reception