

Forum 2024 Proceedings Report



Maldives Internet Governance Forum
18th & 19th October 2024



SUPPORTED BY



Table of Contents

Opening Ceremony			3
Young Changemaker in Cyber Safety: Noya Sameeh			8
Maldives IGF 2024: Synthesis Report.			9
Key Highlights			11
Consolidated Calls to Action			12
Priority Recommendations			13
Success Metrics			13
Session Proceedings			14
Elderly Cyber Safety: Protecting Seniors in the Digital Age			15
Empowering Women in the Digital Economy: Opportunities and Challenges.			18
Journalism in the Digital Age: Navigating Online Harassment and Violence			21
Navigating the Future of Digital Safety: Emerging Threats and Proactive Strategies.			24
Earth Observation as a Tool for Sustainable Development			27
Fostering Inclusive Internet Governance: Engaging Communities for Sustainable Digital Futures			30
Enabling Dhivehi with AI			33
Strengthening Cybersecurity: Combating Cybercrime and Promoting Digital Safety in the Maldives			36
Empowering Maldivian Communities with AI.			39
Cybersecurity in the Digital Age: Threats, Network Defense, and Emerging Solutions.			42
The Role of Parliament in Shaping Digital Policy: Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust			45
Securing Critical Infrastructure: Challenges and Strategies for the Maldives			48
Monetization with Local Platforms			51
Future of Trade in the Maldives			54
Securing Digital Borders: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Security.			57
Open Data Policies: Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation.			60
Heylhi: Science Powered by the People for Environmental Data Collection in Small Islands			63
The Importance of AI in Today’s Workplace which makes you a Smart Knowledge Worker.			66
Citizen Centric Governance.			69
The Future of the Global Digital Landscape: Building a Resilient, Inclusive, and Secure Cyberspace			72
Digital Inclusion: From Access to Empowerment.			75
Exploring Data Privacy, Cybersecurity and Responsible Online Citizenship for the Next Generation			78
Towards the Creation of Maldives Network Operators Group: Collaboration for Better Network Operations			81
Innovate for Impact: Ideating Tech Solutions for Social Change.			84
Closing Remarks			87
Useful Links			90



Opening Ceremony





Opening Ceremony

Day 1 of the 2024 Maldives Internet Governance Forum was opened by Exco Member Abdulla Samir, who extended a warm welcome to all attendees and recognized key dignitaries, including U.S. Mission Maldives Ambassador Hugo Yon, Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Information and Arts Minister Asward I. Waheed, and other officials.

In the opening remarks by MaldivesIGF Exco Member, Mr. Abdulla Samir emphasized the IGF's mission to engage diverse voices, share experiences, and inspire policymakers to address critical internet challenges. He highlighted the importance of inclusive dialogue and collaborative efforts to shape the future of the internet in a way that benefits everyone.



Minister Waheed stressed the need for the Maldives to actively engage in the global digital world, urging the audience to be coactive participants in the evolution of digital governance. He pointed out that staying connected to global trends is essential for the nation's growth and resilience in the digital era.

Highlights

- 1** Active Engagement in the Global Digital World: Minister Waheed emphasized the importance of the Maldives being proactive and engaged in the evolving digital landscape.
- 2** Coactive Participation in Digital Governance: He urged the audience to not just observe but actively contribute to shaping the future of digital governance.
- 3** Staying Connected to Global Digital Trends: Minister Waheed highlighted the necessity for the Maldives to remain aligned with global digital trends to stay competitive and resilient.
- 4** Growth and Resilience in the Digital Era: He pointed out that the nation's continued development and adaptability in the digital age are dependent on embracing global digital advancements.
- 5** Digital Evolution as Key to National Success: The Minister stressed that participation in the global digital transformation is vital for the Maldives' economic and technological growth.



Ambassador Hugo Yon echoed these points, reaffirming the U.S. commitment to supporting the Maldives in developing a digital economy that creates inclusive opportunities for all. He emphasized that this support would help ensure that digital transformation reaches every corner of society, from economic development to youth empowerment. Both leaders underscored the critical need for collaboration, innovation, and policy frameworks that foster digital inclusion and sustainability.

Highlights

- 1** U.S. Commitment to Supporting Digital Economy: Ambassador Hugo Yon reaffirmed the United States' ongoing commitment to helping the Maldives develop a robust digital economy.
- 2** Inclusive Opportunities for All: He emphasized that the U.S. support is aimed at creating digital opportunities that are inclusive and accessible to all segments of Maldivian society.
- 3** Digital Transformation for All Sectors: Ambassador Yon highlighted that digital transformation should reach every corner of society, spanning areas such as economic development and youth empowerment.
- 4** Collaboration and Innovation for Success: Both Ambassador Yon and Minister Waheed stressed the importance of collaboration and innovation in driving the digital economy forward.
- 5** Need for Policy Frameworks for Digital Inclusion: The leaders underscored the critical role of comprehensive policy frameworks in fostering digital inclusion and ensuring sustainable growth in the digital age.



Young Changemaker in Cyber Safety: Noya Sameeh

At the IGF opening ceremony, Young Changemaker in Cyber Safety, Noya Sameeh, delivered an inspiring keynote speech, sharing key lessons from her awareness campaign on cyber safety for teenagers and students. Drawing from her experiences, she emphasized the importance of fostering kindness in online spaces and urged collective action in combating cyberbullying.

Her campaign serves as a call to action, encouraging individuals and communities to stand together in making the internet a safer and more inclusive space for everyone.

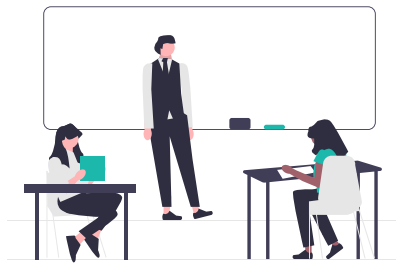




Maldives IGF 2024: Synthesis Report

Maldives IGF 2024: Synthesis Report

The Maldives IGF Successfully hosted 26 sessions across two days. On-site, 300 participants actively engaged, while more than 3,200 individuals participated online or viewed the sessions remotely. The event featured 59 distinguished speakers, contributing to a rich and diverse range of discussions.



26

Sessions



59

Distinguished Speakers



300+

On-site Participants



3,200+

Remote Participants

Key Highlights

Digital Inclusion & Innovation

- 1 Strong focus on developing local language solution and locally adopting them
- 2 Emphasis on making digital services accessible to elderly citizens and persons with disabilities
- 3 Recognition of women's empowerment through digital literacy and economic opportunities
- 4 Development of local platforms for content monetization and cultural preservation

Digital Governance & Transformation

- 1 Focus on citizen-centric governance through digital services
- 2 Need for parliamentary engagement in digital policy development
- 3 Emphasis on open data policies and transparency

Cybersecurity & Safety

- 1 Financial impact of cybercrime revealed: over MVR 16 million in losses
- 2 Common threats identified: impersonation fraud, marketplace scams, cyberextortion
- 3 Need for enhanced protection of critical infrastructure across sectors
- 4 Growing concerns about online harassment of journalists and cyberbullying
- 5 Importance of BGP security for protecting digital borders

Local Technology Solutions

- 1 Strong focus on developing local language solution and locally adopting them
- 2 Emphasis on making digital services accessible to elderly citizens and persons with disabilities
- 3 Recognition of women's empowerment through digital literacy and economic opportunities
- 4 Development of local platforms for content monetization and cultural preservation

Consolidated Calls to Action

For Government

- 1 Establish comprehensive legal frameworks:**
 - + Pass data protection and privacy act
 - + Create policies for elderly and disability inclusion
- 2 Enhance digital infrastructure:**
 - + Improve internet accessibility and affordability
 - + Support local language digital services
 - + Invest in cybersecurity capabilities
- 3 Foster collaboration:**
 - + Strengthen public-private partnerships
 - + Support multi-stakeholder engagement
 - + Facilitate international cooperation

For Private Sector

- 1 Invest in cybersecurity:**
 - + Implement robust security measures
 - + Conduct regular security audits
 - + Train staff in cyber hygiene
 - + Collaborate for threat hunting, reporting and prevention
- 2 Promote innovation:**
 - + Develop local language solutions
 - + Create accessible digital services for everyone
 - + Support local content creators
- 3 Enable digital inclusion:**
 - + Design accessible platforms
 - + Provide Dhivehi language options
 - + Support digital literacy initiatives

For Civil Society

- 1 Build capacity:**
 - + Conduct digital literacy programs
 - + Raise cybersecurity awareness
 - + Support vulnerable groups
- 2 Advocate for inclusion:**
 - + Promote accessible design
 - + Support minority rights
 - + Encourage women's participation
- 3 Foster community engagement:**
 - + Participate in policy discussions
 - + Share local knowledge
 - + Support digital initiatives

Priority Recommendations

1 Immediate Actions

- + Establish cybersecurity response mechanisms
- + Implement digital accessibility standards

2 Medium-term Goals

- + Develop comprehensive digital governance frameworks
- + Create sustainable funding mechanisms for digital initiatives
- + Build local technology capacity

3 Long-term Objectives

- + Achieve universal digital access
- + Establish robust digital economy
- + Create inclusive digital ecosystem

Success Metrics

1 Digital literacy rates

2 Cybersecurity incident reduction

3 Digital service adoption rates

4 Local content creation growth

5 Digital inclusion indicators

Session Proceedings



Elderly Cyber Safety: Protecting Seniors in the Digital Age

Round Table Discussion by **Women in Tech Maldives**



Moderator
Mihna Zahir
Vice President
Women in Tech Maldives



Discussant
Mohamed Fayaz
Chief Inspector
Maldives Police Service



Discussant
Aminath Shehenaz
President
Women in Fuvahmulah



Discussant
Hawwa Sheeza
Happiness Coach
Happiness Club Maldives



Discussant
Razeena Tuttu Didi
Director
Aged Care Maldives



Discussant
Aishath Ashna
NOC Technician
Raajje' Online



Discussant
Abdul Rasheed Mohamed
Treasurer
Maldives Senior Citizen's Association



Discussant
Ibrahim Shuhail
Head of Distribution
Maldives Islamic Bank



Discussant
Abdul Azeez Yoosuf
Vice President
Maldives Senior Citizen's Association



Discussant
Ahmed Shinau Abdul Gadhira
Manager B2B Products
Dhiraagu



Discussant
Adam Naveed
Inspector
Maldives Police Service



Discussant
Naifa Ahmed
Assistant Manager Brand
Ooredoo Maldives

Elderly Cyber Safety: Protecting Seniors in the Digital Age

Session Summary

This session focused on challenges elderly citizens face with digital services, including scams, language barriers, and lack of targeted support. Key solutions discussed included Dhivehi language options in banking apps, scam awareness programs, and dedicated assistance points to help seniors access digital services safely and independently.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Older adults are especially vulnerable to scams, including misuse of their electronic devices and banking cards.
- 2 Many of the public and private digital services such as banking are available primarily in English, creating challenges for elderly citizens who may not be fluent.
- 3 Existing digital literacy programs are often generalized and do not specifically address the unique needs of the elderly.
- 4 There is a need for targeted initiatives to increase awareness about digital scams and provide practical strategies to prevent them.

Call to Action

- 1 Establish laws and regulations to protect seniors, including provisions to adjust biometric IDs for age-related or mental health changes, ensuring their rights are upheld in authentication processes.
- 2 Integrate more inclusive features like voice controls and simplified navigation to make apps more accessible and user-friendly for seniors, reducing their dependence on others.
- 3 Set up dedicated locations or checkpoints where senior citizens can receive assistance with using digital banking and service apps.
- 4 Develop banking and service apps in Dhivehi to better support elderly citizens who may not be comfortable with English.
- 5 Create scam awareness programs specifically designed for elderly audiences, focusing on risks such as misuse by family members and other scams.



Empowering Women in the Digital Economy: Opportunities and Challenges

Round Table Discussion by **Women in Tech Maldives**



Moderator

Mihna Zahir

Vice President
Women in Tech Maldives



Discussant

Bishara Hameed

Manager CSR
Dhiraagu



Discussant

Nabeela Shiyam

Luscious Layers
Entrepreneur and Event Planner



Discussant

Aminath Suzan

CEO
MATATO



Discussant

Shehenaz Rasheed

Executive board member
Addu Women's
Association



Discussant

**Fathimath Naduha
Abdul Muhsin**



Discussant

Aminath Inaya

Council Member
Fuvahmulah City Council



Discussant

Fathimath Nahidha

Assistant Engineer Core
Planning
Ooredoo Maldives



Discussant

Mariyam Raya Ahmed
Social Services Coordinator
Ministry of Social and
Family Development



Discussant

Aminath Efasha

Vice Chairperson
Women Entrepreneurs
Association of Maldives



Empowering Women in the Digital Economy: Opportunities and Challenges

Session Summary

This session highlighted the importance of digital literacy for women, focusing on opportunities in e-commerce, remote work, and tourism. Key barriers such as cyber safety concerns, societal stigma, and limited access to targeted training were addressed. The session underscored the need for tailored programs, short-term courses, and mentorship to empower women in the digital economy, along with awareness campaigns and accessible learning resources, especially for those in rural areas.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Emphasized the importance of digital literacy for women, showcasing opportunities in e-commerce, remote work, and tourism.
- 2 Addressed barriers, including cyber safety concerns, societal stigmas, and limited access to targeted training.
- 3 Highlighted the need for tailored programs to empower women to fully engage and succeed in the digital economy.

Call to Action

- 1 Offer short-term courses in digital marketing, e-commerce, and financial literacy, plus workshops on free digital tools for business growth. Emphasize personalized sessions and consistent follow-up for lasting skill retention.
- 2 Create accessible learning resources to build digital skills for women in rural areas.
- 3 Provide mentorship programs to facilitate knowledge exchange across generations.
- 4 Launch awareness campaigns highlighting opportunities for women, including in traditionally male-dominated fields.
- 5 Emphasize remote work options to expand women's access to job markets.
- 6 Focus on short, personalized sessions for effective skill-building, with consistent follow-up for knowledge retention and practical application.



Journalism in the Digital Age: Navigating Online Harassment and Violence

Panel Discussion by **Maldives Journalists Association**



Moderator

Junayd Saleem

Executive Director
Maldives Journalists
Association



Panelist

Aishath Alsan Sadig

Senior Legal Coordinator
Transparency Maldives



Panelist

Ali Nishan

Photojournalist
Member of Maldives
Media Council



Panelist

Ahmed Aaid

Journalist
Adhadhu



Panelist

**Aasima
Nizar**

Sub-Editor Mihaaru
Exco Member Maldives
Journalists Association



Journalism in the Digital Age: Navigating Online Harassment and Violence

Session Summary

This session highlighted the growing issue of online harassment targeting journalists, especially when covering sensitive topics. Key challenges include anonymous abuse, lack of cybercrime laws, and inadequate detection of hate speech in Dhivehi. Participants emphasized the need for regulations to trace harassment, a cybercrime bill, and improved support and training for journalists. Collaboration with social platforms to enhance hate speech detection in local languages was also recommended.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Online violence and harassment have increased, particularly targeting journalists as news consumption shifts online.
- 2 Many perpetrators operate anonymously, making accountability challenging.
- 3 The absence of specific cybercrime laws leads to inaction on cases of online harassment and cyberbullying.
- 4 Journalists frequently face targeted hate when covering sensitive topics like politics and corruption.
- 5 Algorithms often fail to detect hate speech in Dhivehi written in Latin script, resulting in unaddressed reports.
- 6 Many journalists lack awareness of how to handle online harassment and are deterred from pursuing investigative journalism due to associated risks.
- 7 Harassment is increasingly directed at journalists' families, extending beyond professional boundaries.

Call to Action

- 1 Implement regulations that allow tracing and addressing anonymous harassment while safeguarding privacy rights.
- 2 Advocate for the swift passage of a cybercrime bill to protect against digital threats.
- 3 Offer training and support for journalists covering sensitive topics to manage online abuse effectively.
- 4 Partner with social platforms to enhance detection of hate speech in local languages.



Navigating the Future of Digital Safety: Emerging Threats and Proactive Strategies

Round Table Discussion by **Teachers Association of Maldives**



Discussant

Ibrahim Muzaah

Member
Teachers Association
Maldives



Discussant

Aishath Naziya

Financial Controller
Teachers Association
Maldives



Discussant

Mohamed Adhuham

Member
Teachers Association
Maldives



Discussant

Hussain Naushad

Senior GDS Specialist
National Center for
Information Technology



Discussant

Mariyam Shimaanath

Cyber Security
Professional



Navigating the Future of Digital Safety: Emerging Threats and Proactive Strategies

Session Summary

The session focused on enhancing cybersecurity awareness among teachers, students, parents, and school management, addressing the rise of cyberbullying and cyber threats across new platforms. Key discussions included the need for monitoring systems, digital safety programs, and support mechanisms. It emphasized providing digital training for teachers, improving IT support, ensuring legal protections for teachers, and incorporating student perspectives in digital safety and technology integration efforts.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Emphasized the importance of raising cybersecurity awareness among teachers, students, parents, and school management.
- 2 Recognized the emergence of new platforms for cyberbullying involving students, teachers, and parents, highlighting the need for proactive solutions.
- 3 Stressed the necessity of establishing robust monitoring systems and policies to effectively manage and mitigate cyber threats within the school community.

Call to Action

- 1 Expand education and awareness programs on digital safety and responsible online conduct.
- 2 Establish comprehensive support systems, including hotlines and access to counseling services.
- 3 Provide specialized digital training programs for teachers to strengthen their digital competencies.
- 4 Implement structured reporting mechanisms within schools to address cyber-related issues effectively.
- 5 Address the shortage of IT staff in schools to support and sustain digital initiatives.
- 6 Ensure legal protections for teachers affected by reputation-damaging misinformation.
- 7 Integrate technology and digital literacy modules into student teacher curriculums.
- 8 Encourage the inclusion of student perspectives in discussions on digital safety and technology integration and topics related to them.



Earth Observation as a Tool for Sustainable Development

Flash Talk by **Maldives Space Research Organisation**



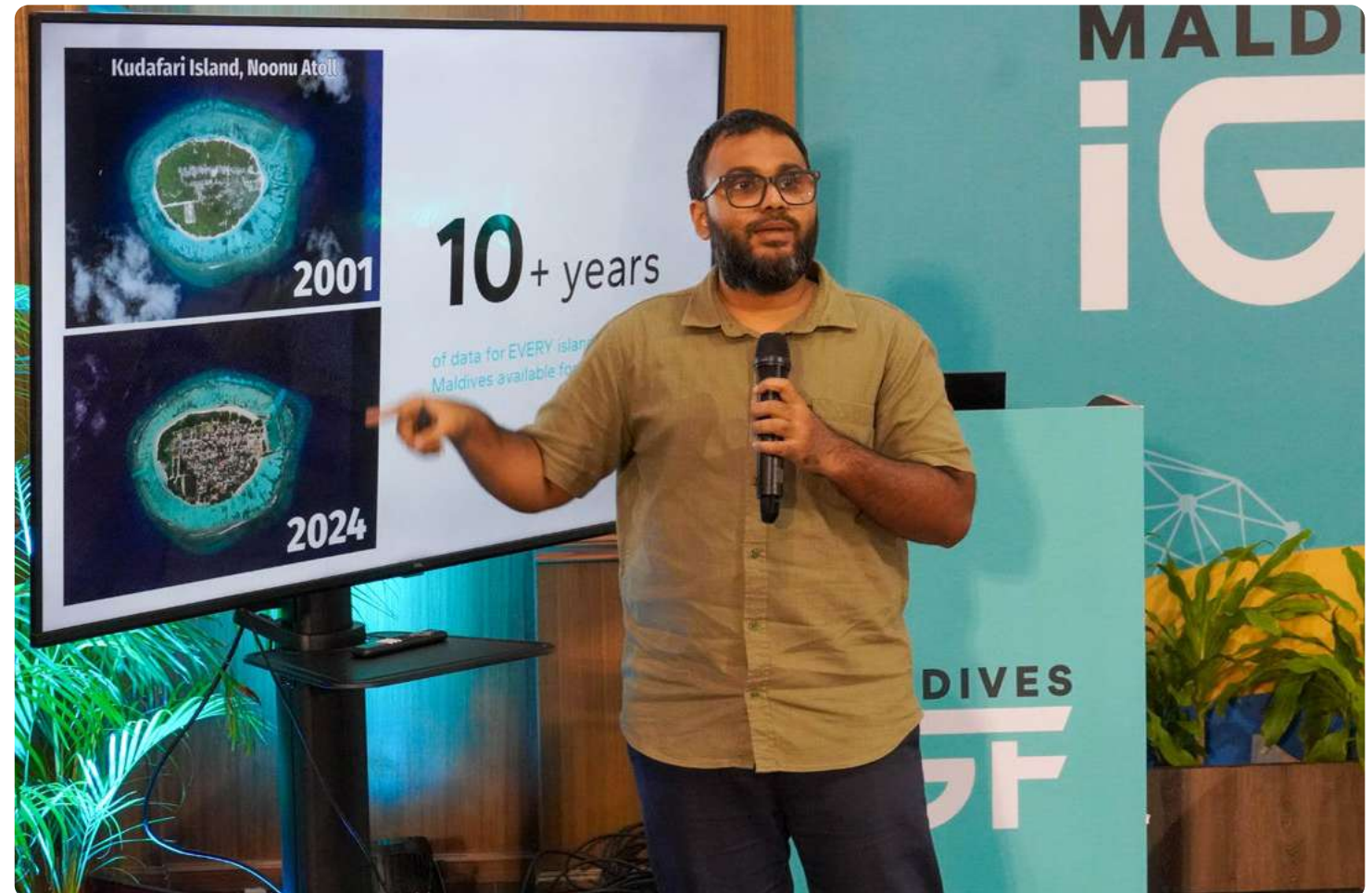
Empowering Maldivian Communities through Technology



Presenter

Dr Nashwan Matheen

Research Coordinator,
Earth Observation
Maldives Space Research
Organisation (MSRO)



Earth Observation as a Tool for Sustainable Development

Session Summary

The session showcased the potential of Earth observation data in supporting sustainable development. Using satellite imagery, the MSRO illustrated how environmental data aids in monitoring erosion, tracking land-use changes, and guiding eco-friendly infrastructure planning. It highlighted the need for accessible platforms that provide actionable insights for both technical and non-technical users. Emphasis was also placed on collaboration to avoid duplication, integrate socio-economic factors, and develop tools for informed, sustainable decision-making.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Satellite imagery provides consistent, large-scale environmental data, allowing over ten years of retrospective analysis for Maldivian islands.
- 2** Earth observation data aids in monitoring erosion, identifying land-use changes, mapping shorelines, and classifying benthic ecosystems, which supports coastal management and conservation efforts.
- 3** The data supports infrastructure planning, such as optimal harbor placement, and enables natural capital accounting for cost-benefit analysis of development projects versus ecosystem services.
- 4** Environmental data is turned into actionable insights for decision-making, including creating risk maps to assess island vulnerability.
- 5** The lack of consistent environmental data hinders sustainable development efforts, limiting ecosystem assessments and conservation initiatives.

Call to Action

- 1** Foster collaboration and outreach to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure the development of user-friendly platforms that provide valuable, actionable products for end users.
- 2** Invite stakeholders with similar interests to join efforts, particularly in ensuring the data is accessible, usable, and compatible with existing systems to support informed decision-making.
- 3** Prioritize the development of platforms that allow both technical and non-technical users to easily access and interpret environmental data, empowering diverse sectors to make data-driven decisions.
- 4** Advocate for the integration of Earth observation data with socio-economic data to create comprehensive risk maps and better assess environmental vulnerabilities.
- 5** Support the creation of tools and resources that enable sustainable development practices and enhance the understanding of long-term environmental impacts.



Fostering Inclusive Internet Governance: Engaging Communities for Sustainable Digital Futures



Promoting Sustainable Development and Digital Governance in the Maldives

Lightning Talk by **National Democratic Institute DEMTECH**



Presenter

Sarah Brett Moulton

Deputy Director of NDI's Democracy and Technology (DemTech) Team



Fostering Inclusive Internet Governance: Engaging Communities for Sustainable Digital Futures

Session Summary

The lightning talk highlighted the importance of an inclusive approach to Internet governance, focusing on the need for a democratic and open digital ecosystem. The upcoming WSIS Summit and Global Digital Compact (GDC) are expected to play key roles in shaping the future of global Internet governance, encouraging countries to adopt principles that ensure a secure and open digital environment. Emphasis was placed on multi-stakeholder engagement, involving civil society, private sector, technical experts, and academia, as well as efforts to connect those not yet online to foster more impactful policy development.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Engaging diverse sectors enhances policy discussions and decision-making.
- 2 Key pillars of effective multi-stakeholder engagement: education, collaboration, and advocacy.
- 3 Successful examples: Bolivia, Chile, Uruguay, and Serbia, with digital governance laws and improved data protection.
- 4 Challenges: Achieving broad participation and transparent handling of technical issues.
- 5 Data-driven, evidence-based approaches strengthen policy influence and support informed decisions.

Call to Action

- 1 Raise awareness about digital rights and the impact of policies on daily life.
- 2 Foster continuous, open dialogue among stakeholders—civil society, private sector, academia, and technical experts—to build trust and support informed policymaking.
- 3 Utilize unified, evidence-based approaches to align voices across sectors, leveraging data and research to effectively influence digital policy.
- 4 Advocate for inclusive design standards in digital spaces, similar to physical accessibility requirements, to guarantee that all users can fully participate in the digital ecosystem.
- 5 Broaden policy discussions by including diverse voices, even those without technical expertise, to enrich policy outcomes and foster greater inclusivity.
- 6 Acknowledge the complexity of technical issues and encourage policymakers and civil society to be transparent about challenges and knowledge.



Enabling Dhivehi with AI

Lightning Talk by **Synetecs**



Advancing Digital
Innovation for Local
and Global Impact



Presenter

Mohamed Dharis Ilyas

Chief Technology Officer
Synetecs



Presenter

Mohamed Jinas

Chief Executive Officer
Synetecs



Enabling Dhivehi with AI

Session Summary

This session showcased Synetecs, an AI startup, and its innovations in AI-driven solutions transforming the Maldives, particularly in the local language. The demonstration included speech-to-text and summarization tools in Dhivehi and English, AI-generated children's stories, and the Thaana.AI tool for text input via audio. The session also highlighted future plans for age-based AI story generation and potential collaborations with the Maldivian Dhivehi Academy. Emphasis was placed on the importance of local content development and support from local authorities for future progress.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Demonstration of the products Speech-to-Text Magic: Real-time Dhivehi and English transcription with edit, save, and export features (Word/PDF).
- 2 Walkthrough of the App Dhivehi Tales for Kids: AI-generated, animated stories tailored to user input, creating up to 5-chapter tales—making learning Dhivehi fun!. Plans for age-based AI story generation and potential collaboration with the local authorities to enhance local content.
- 3 Demonstration of Thaana.AI: AI-Powered Dhivehi Writing Platform to create, edit, and perfect Dhivehi documents with ease.
- 4 Allocate resources for expanding features, such as age-based storytelling, to enhance personalization and relevance of AI-generated content.

Call to Action

- 1 To further develop local content, it is crucial to get support from local authorities such as the Dhivehi Bahuge Academy to gather necessary data.
- 2 Collaboration with local institutions is key to empowering AI initiatives and ensuring the creation of rich, localized content.
- 3 Promote the use of these tools within educational and cultural institutions across the Maldives to encourage adoption and gather user feedback for further improvements.



Strengthening Cybersecurity: Combating Cybercrime and Promoting Digital Safety in the Maldives



Focus Group Discussion by **National Cyber Security Agency**



Presenter

Raufuddheen Saeed

Chief Inspector of Police, Deputy
Head of Cyber Crime Center
Maldives Police Service



Strengthening Cybersecurity: Combating Cybercrime and Promoting Digital Safety in the Maldives

Session Summary

The session provided an in-depth look at the current landscape of cybersecurity in the Maldives, identifying key challenges, common cybercrime trends, and strategies for improvement. The Maldives Police Service (MPS) highlighted the importance of focusing on devices, user behavior, and public awareness to enhance cybersecurity. Participants were briefed on the financial and social impacts of cybercrime, as well as ongoing efforts to disrupt criminal networks and educate the public on effective cyber hygiene practices.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Emphasized the importance of protecting devices, educating users, and raising awareness to strengthen overall cybersecurity.
- 2** Impersonation fraud, Facebook Marketplace scams, cyberextortion, ransomware, and phishing attacks are common in the Maldives due to low public awareness.
- 3** Cybercrimes have resulted in over MVR 16 million in financial losses, with online scams and phishing attacks being major contributors.
- 4** MPS has been conducting regular cybersecurity awareness sessions, with increasing public participation and engagement.
- 5** Notable criminal networks have been disrupted, but these groups often operate like businesses, requiring sophisticated countermeasures.
- 6** Share some of the cyber hygiene tips.

Call to Action

- 1** Introduce a certification framework for apps and platforms to ensure they meet essential security standards.
- 2** Develop new strategies and partnerships to enhance public education on cybersecurity, targeting schools, communities, and online platforms.
- 3** Enhance cooperation between Maldives Police Service, the private sector, and civil society to create a unified front against cybercrime and improve cybersecurity resilience nationwide.



Empowering Maldivian Communities with AI

Lightning Talk by **Javaabu Pvt. Ltd.**



Advancing Digital Innovation for Local and Global Impact



Presenter

Arushad Ahmed

CTO
Javaabu



Presenter

Ahmed Yameen

Machine Learning Research Engineer
Javaabu



Empowering Maldivian Communities with AI

Session Summary

This lightning talk and demo by Javaabu introduced DhivehiGPT, an AI-powered tool developed to address the unique language needs of the Maldives, particularly in government and community settings. The tool has rapidly gained popularity, with significant user engagement, and is now evolving with additional features to meet growing demands, such as paid versions, text-to-image, OCR readers, and text-to-speech capabilities.

Key Takeaways

- 1** DhivehiGPT was created to fill the gap in language-specific AI tools for the Maldivian community, enabling efficient translations, summaries, and culturally relevant content.
- 2** The project faced initial challenges in adapting AI to meet local cultural and religious expectations, as early users raised unique, context-specific queries.
- 3** The platform gained significant traction with 12,000 prompts by January, reflecting strong demand, which led to the introduction of a paid version.
- 4** DhivehiGPT's ability to handle local content like Dhivehi music has made it valuable for both businesses and individuals seeking to simplify operations.
- 5** The platform prioritizes user privacy, ensuring data is linked to individual users with explicit consent required for AI training.

Call to Action

- 1** Ensure continued commitment to data privacy by maintaining transparent consent processes and safeguarding user information.
- 2** Promote wider adoption of DhivehiGPT in local businesses and government sectors to streamline communication and operations using AI-driven solutions.



Cybersecurity in the Digital Age: Threats, Network Defense, and Emerging Solutions

Lightning Talk by **APNIC**



Presenter

Subhashini Kadurugasyaya

Retained community trainer
APNIC



Cybersecurity in the Digital Age: Threats, Network Defense, and Emerging Solutions

Session Summary

This lightning talk explored the increasing sophistication of digital threats and the need for proactive risk management. Key strategies highlighted include early risk identification, the adoption of frameworks like NIST, effective network defense tactics, and continuous monitoring. The session emphasized integrating cybersecurity tools and staying adaptable to new threats to ensure resilient and evolving defenses.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Utilizing risk metrics early in the project lifecycle allows for proactive management and risk mitigation.
- 2 As technology advances, cyber threats become increasingly sophisticated, necessitating constant vigilance and adaptation.
- 3 The NIST Cybersecurity Framework is essential for structuring defense strategies and managing risks, with both local and regional oversight improving its effectiveness.
- 4 Understanding the lifecycle of an attack helps in designing targeted defenses, ensuring timely and effective protection.
- 5 Combining multiple cybersecurity tools strengthens defense mechanisms by improving threat prevention capabilities.
- 6 Ongoing monitoring, vulnerability scanning, and system updates are vital to staying ahead of new threats.

Call to Action

- 1 Implement regular risk assessments at the start of projects to identify potential threats early and involve management in risk mitigation from the outset.
- 2 Maintain constant monitoring, regular vulnerability scans, and proactive system updates to stay ahead of emerging threats.
- 3 Combine different cybersecurity tools and approaches to create a more resilient and adaptive defense system.
- 4 Leverage frameworks like NIST with regional oversight to ensure accountability and structured defense against cyber risks.



The Role of Parliament in Shaping Digital Policy: Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust



Panel Discussion by **Maldives IGF**



Moderator
Sharfa Shareef

Programme Officer
National Democratic
Institute



Panelist
Ismail Nizar

Parliament Member
North Feydhoo
Constituency



Panelist
Ahmed Azaan Marzooq

Parliament Member
Hithadhoo Central
Constituency



Panelist
Ahmed Didi

Parliament Member
Maradhoo Constituency



Panelist
Ahmed Shakir

Parliament Member
Maavashu Constituency

The Role of Parliament in Shaping Digital Policy: Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust

Session Summary

The panel discussion highlighted the critical role of parliamentarians in shaping and supporting digital policies to address cybersecurity risks, improve transparency, and promote citizen engagement. Parliamentarians emphasized their responsibility to ensure laws align with national needs, hold the government accountable, and advocate for inclusive and citizen-centric digital policies. Discussions included challenges such as interoperability, integration of digital services, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and the need for stronger collaboration among stakeholders. The ICT committee is actively working on projects to fully digitize parliamentary processes, improve stakeholder engagement, and develop better digital communication platforms to enhance transparency and efficiency.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Parliamentarians must play a crucial role ensuring that digital laws and policies are inclusive, citizen-focused, and effectively address cybersecurity risks. Parliamentarians committed to making the parliament's website more accessible to persons with disabilities, ensuring equal access to parliamentary information and fostering greater inclusivity.
- 2 Transparency and accountability in government services can be enhanced through technology, but gaps in accessibility and integration need urgent attention.
- 3 There are various initiatives and efforts to digitize parliamentary operations and improve communication channels for better citizen engagement.
- 4 Public trust requires greater engagement through feedback mechanisms, consultations, and digital literacy initiatives.

Call to Action

- 1 For Parliamentarians: Advocate for inclusive, secure, and transparent digital policies that prioritize citizen engagement and cybersecurity.
- 2 For Citizens: Participate in discussions and utilize platforms to provide feedback, while improving digital literacy to navigate government services effectively.
- 3 For Government Agencies: Focus on enhancing digital services, addressing cybersecurity risks, and ensuring transparency in service delivery.
- 4 For the Technical Community: Actively contribute to the development of better laws and digital literacy programs.
- 5 For Civil Society Organizations: Support digital literacy initiatives to ensure equitable access to technology for all citizens.
- 6 For Digital Service Providers: Ensure that digital services are secure, user-friendly, and accessible, while contributing to digital literacy efforts.

Additional Remarks

The session emphasized the need for a change in mindset among parliamentarians to foster transparency and openness. By leveraging technology, Parliament can enhance citizen engagement, create a digital governance environment that prioritizes inclusivity and security, and ensure that information is accessible to all citizens.



Securing Critical Infrastructure: Challenges and Strategies for the Maldives

Panel Discussion by **Maldives IGF**



Moderator

Aminath Farshana

Deputy Section Head of IT
Maldives Customs Service



Panelist

Mausoom Ibrahim

Senior Engineer-
Network, Security, and IT
Infrastructure
Fenaka Corporation Ltd.



Panelist

Ahmed Shafeez

Chief Technology Officer
Maldives Airports
Company Limited



Panelist

Hassan Mohamed

Head of Technology
Architecture & RAN
Dhiraagu



Panelist

Ibrahim Shafeeq

Chief Information Officer
Villa Group



Securing Critical Infrastructure: Challenges and Strategies for the Maldives

Session Summary

As the Maldives undergoes rapid digital transformation, critical sectors such as telecommunications, tourism, energy, transport, finance, and healthcare are increasingly dependent on digital technologies. While this presents numerous opportunities, it also exposes these sectors to growing cyber threats. This panel discussion explored the security challenges faced across industries, focusing on the need for improved cybersecurity measures and the importance of collaboration among the private sector, government, and other stakeholders to ensure the resilience and security of critical infrastructure.

Key Takeaways

- 1 **Cybersecurity Challenges:** Industries face various cybersecurity risks, including outdated systems, integration challenges with new technologies, and a lack of focus on cybersecurity as a core business function. A major challenge across sectors is the knowledge gap in handling complex systems and securing operational technologies.
- 2 **Public-Private Collaboration:** Public-private partnerships are essential in safeguarding critical infrastructure. Collaboration, threat information sharing, and coordinated efforts like Security Operations Centers (SOC) can significantly improve preparedness and response to cyber threats.
- 3 **Capacity Building & Investment:** A critical focus on investing in the latest technologies, conducting regular cyber audits, and prioritizing staff training for both public and private sectors is necessary to improve cybersecurity resilience.
- 4 **Security Infrastructure for Airports and Industrial Applications:** The need for robust security in airports and industrial operations is growing. Risk assessments, penetration testing, and the importance of segmenting networks for different services are vital to protecting these systems.
- 5 **Challenges with Internet Infrastructure:** The cost and accessibility of internet services are significant challenges, particularly for smaller organizations. Joint efforts from the government and private sector are required to make internet services more affordable and accessible.

Call to Action

- 1 Invest in Cybersecurity:** It is crucial for both the private and public sectors to treat cybersecurity as a core function. Organizations must allocate more resources to security measures, staff training, capacity-building, and necessary infrastructure upgrades.
- 2 Promote Local Talent:** Empower local companies and SMEs to develop cybersecurity capabilities and provide opportunities for Maldivian professionals to engage in cybersecurity training and practices.
- 3 Collaborate Across Sectors:** Establish a coordinated approach to cybersecurity, including threat information sharing across industries, and foster stronger public-private sector partnerships to strengthen the nation's digital resilience.
- 4 Support Policy Changes:** Advocate for policies and standards that make cybersecurity a priority in government and private sector decision-making, ensuring security measures are integrated into systems from design through to operations.



Monetization with Local Platforms

Lightning Talk by **Xylam Tech**



Empowering Maldivian
Communities
through Technology



Presenter

Mohamed Jailam

Founder
Dhivehi Foiy App



Monetization with Local Platforms

Session Summary

The lightning talk on Monetization with Local Platforms highlighted the potential for developing a Maldivian social media ecosystem tailored to the country's cultural and linguistic identity. The session explored Xylem Tech's Dhivehi Foi app as a case study for empowering local creators through book sales, emphasizing its role in setting a foundation for monetization. Discussions centered on how a Maldivian social media platform could leverage cultural relevance, target young audiences, and adapt proven global monetization models to create a sustainable future. The session underscored the importance of community-driven support and local advertising in fostering a thriving digital ecosystem.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Some of the successful local platforms demonstrate the potential for enabling creators to monetize content, offering a blueprint for future initiatives.
- 2 A platform emphasizing Dhivehi language and Maldivian cultural heritage can foster engagement, build community, and empower creators.
- 3 Developing content and features tailored for young audiences can encourage learning and cultural connections.
- 4 Adopting proven global strategies, like YouTube's CPM model, while tailoring them to local needs, can address sustainability challenges.
- 5 The success of a local platform relies on partnerships with local advertisers and community networks to create a sustainable monetization ecosystem.

Call to Action

- 1 Establish a Maldivian social media platform that embraces the Dhivehi language and culture while enabling creators to monetize their content.
- 2 Encourage businesses to support local platforms, fostering a strong creator economy and strengthening ties within the digital community.
- 3 Prioritize the development of youth-friendly content and features to educate and inspire the next generation.
- 4 Bring together creators, advertisers, and platform developers to adapt successful global monetization models to the Maldivian context.
- 5 Use the technology to celebrate and promote Maldivian cultural heritage, ensuring the digital space reflects the community's values and identity.



Future of Trade in the Maldives

Lightning Talk by **Tradenet Maldives Corporation Limited**



Advancing Digital
Innovation for Local
and Global Impact



Presenter

Mohamed Ikram Ibrahim

Business Process Analyst, Tradian
Tradenet Maldives Corporation
Limited



Future of Trade in the Maldives

Session Summary

The lightning talk on the Future of Trade in the Maldives presented the Maldives National Single Window, branded as Tradian, as a transformative initiative to simplify and streamline trade operations. By centralizing various trade processes into one integrated platform, Tradian enhances efficiency, coordination, and transparency for all stakeholders, including exporters, importers, customs brokers, government agencies, banks, and shipping agents. The talk underscored the mutual benefits for both the government and private sector, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and active participation in the system's evolution.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Centralized Trade Operations: Tradian integrates trade processes into a single, user-friendly platform, reducing inefficiencies and improving coordination among stakeholders.
- 2** Enhanced Transparency: The system's centralized nature fosters trust, transparency, and compliance, aligning with international trade standards.
- 3** Phased Implementation Success: Staggered development and feedback mechanisms allow for thorough testing, minimizing disruptions and ensuring robust functionality.
- 4** Benefits for the Government: Lower operational costs, improved revenue collection, and better control and oversight of trade processes.
- 5** Advantages for the Private Sector: Real-time tracking, faster customs clearance, equitable trading practices, and cost savings contribute to enhanced competitiveness.
- 6** Technology as a Trade Enabler: Real-time analytics and tracking tools improve logistics, revenue collection, and decision-making.

Call to Action

- 1** Adopt Tradian Actively: All stakeholders, including government agencies, private businesses, and service providers, should prioritize adopting Tradian to maximize its benefits.
- 2** Participate in Phase 2 Development: Engage in User Acceptance Testing (UAT) to provide critical feedback and ensure the system meets user expectations before its launch.
- 3** Leverage Analytics: Businesses should use Tradian's analytics tools for better logistics planning, while government agencies can employ them for enhanced revenue and operational transparency.
- 4** Invest in Capacity Building: Stakeholders should build internal capacity to adapt to the system's functionalities, ensuring seamless integration into existing workflows.
- 5** Promote Awareness and Collaboration: Actively collaborate across sectors to ensure widespread understanding of Tradian's capabilities and encourage uniform compliance.
- 6** Monitor and Enhance: Continuously evaluate Tradian's performance post-implementation, identifying areas for improvement to maintain long-term efficiency and competitiveness.



Securing Digital Borders: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Security

Lightning Talk by **OXIQA**



Strengthening
Cybersecurity and
Information Integrity
in the Maldives



Presenter

Hassan Zayan Azzam

Director for Cyber Defence,
Incident Response & Blue Team,
OXIQA



Securing Digital Borders: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Security

Session Summary

The lightning talk on Securing Digital Borders: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Security shed light on the critical importance of safeguarding internet infrastructure against vulnerabilities within BGP, which serves as the backbone of internet routing. The talk highlighted the need for innovation, stakeholder collaboration, and adaptive governance to meet emerging challenges in digital security. The session emphasized inclusivity, sustainability, and evidence-driven approaches as pivotal factors in building a resilient digital ecosystem.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Security: Ensuring the security of BGP, which routes global internet traffic, is essential to prevent disruptions like route hijacking and maintain data integrity.
- 2** Adapting to Change: The rapid evolution of digital technologies requires governance frameworks to be flexible and adaptive to address emerging threats effectively.
- 3** Collaboration as a Catalyst: Multi-stakeholder engagement, including governments, private entities, and civil society, enhances problem-solving and fosters inclusive policy development.
- 4** The Power of Data: Data analytics offers actionable insights, enabling organizations to base strategies on evidence rather than assumptions, leading to more effective decision-making.
- 5** Need for Digital Inclusivity: Inclusive digital policies are essential to bridging the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to digital resources and preventing inequalities.
- 6** Cybersecurity and Privacy: Robust security measures and privacy protocols are critical to protecting user data and building trust among stakeholders.
- 7** Sustainability in Digital Governance: Incorporating environmentally friendly practices ensures long-term benefits while addressing the current digital needs of society.
- 8** Digital Literacy and Access: Promoting digital literacy and equitable access to digital tools empowers individuals and strengthens community resilience.

Call to Action

- 1** **Prioritize BGP Security:** Implement measures to secure the Border Gateway Protocol, safeguarding global internet routing against malicious activity.
- 2** **Adapt Governance Frameworks:** Develop flexible and responsive governance models to keep pace with the rapid advancements in technology.
- 3** **Collaborate Across Stakeholders:** Strengthen partnerships among government, private sector, and civil society to foster inclusive and effective digital policies.
- 4** **Harness Data Analytics:** Use data-driven approaches to refine strategies, improve transparency, and enhance decision-making.
- 5** **Promote Digital Inclusivity:** Advocate for policies that ensure fair access to digital resources, reducing inequalities and closing the digital divide.
- 6** **Enhance Digital Literacy:** Invest in educational initiatives to empower individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the digital ecosystem securely.
- 7** **Embrace Sustainability:** Integrate eco-friendly practices in digital governance and cybersecurity measures to address long-term challenges.
- 8** **Engage in Policy Development:** Actively participate in forums like the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to influence policy-making and promote collaborative solutions.



Open Data Policies: Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation

Hot Seat Discussion by **Maldives IGF**



Moderator

Mohamed Sibaag

Data Analyst



Panelist

Aishath Shahudha

Deputy Chief Statistician
Maldives Bureau of
Statistics



Panelist

Saeeda Umar

Managing Director
Tradenet Maldives
Corporation Limited



Panelist

Ahmed Afrah Ismail

Founder
Archive.mv



Open Data Policies: Transparency, Accountability, and Innovation

Session Summary

The Hot Seat Discussion provided an engaging platform for the participants to directly interact with panelists, asking questions about challenges, solutions, and future directions in the context of open data, digital governance, and technology-driven innovation. The format encouraged dynamic and candid exchanges, uncovering fresh perspectives and fostering a deeper understanding of the topics discussed. The audience posed insightful and critical questions, sparking discussions that delved into real-world applications, challenges, and opportunities in governance and technology. The topics ranged from privacy concerns to the practical implementation of digital tools in everyday governance.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Multi-stakeholder collaboration is essential for addressing challenges in governance and technology, fostering inclusivity, and ensuring that solutions are holistic and effective.
- 2** Developing frameworks that protect individual privacy while enabling transparency is crucial for building trust and engagement with open data initiatives.
- 3** Lessons from successful international practices, when adapted to the local context, can provide effective solutions for issues like data-sharing, digital governance, and community engagement.
- 4** The inclusion of youth, women, and marginalized groups in policy-making processes ensures diverse perspectives, leading to more equitable and impactful outcomes.
- 5** The interactive nature of the session highlighted the importance of incorporating public input into governance and decision-making processes to address real concerns and needs.

Call to Action

- 1** Create more opportunities for dialogue between government, private sector, and civil society to address challenges collaboratively and inclusively.
- 2** Promote awareness of open data policies, privacy concerns, and the benefits of digital governance to build trust and public engagement.
- 3** Ensure digital policies account for the needs of underrepresented groups, enabling fair access and participation in governance and innovation.
- 4** Embrace flexible and adaptive governance frameworks to keep pace with rapid technological advancements.
- 5** Actively involve young people in shaping digital policies and practices, equipping them with skills to drive future innovations.



Heylhi: Science Powered by the People for Environmental Data Collection in Small Islands

Lightning Talk by **Small Island Geographic Society**



Presenter

Zaain Aslam

Intern

Small Island Geographic Society



Promoting Sustainable
Development and
Digital Governance
in the Maldives

Heylhi: Science Powered by the People for Environmental Data Collection in Small Islands

Session Summary

The session introduced Heylhi, a mobile app that uses citizen science and crowdsourcing to report and map coastal erosion incidents in the Maldives. The app provides a cost-effective and efficient way to gather data for island planning and sustainable development. Heylhi is an innovative tool that empowers citizens to contribute directly to environmental monitoring and climate action.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Heylhi uses citizen science to map and report coastal erosion.
- 2 The app provides valuable data for sustainable island planning and development.
- 3 Heylhi was successfully piloted in HDh. Vaikaradhoo, showing its potential.

Call to Action

- 1 Policy makers, use Heylhi for real-time data to support sustainable development.
- 2 Citizens, download Heylhi, report coastal erosion, and help protect the Maldives from climate impacts.



The Importance of AI in Today's Workplace which makes you a Smart Knowledge Worker

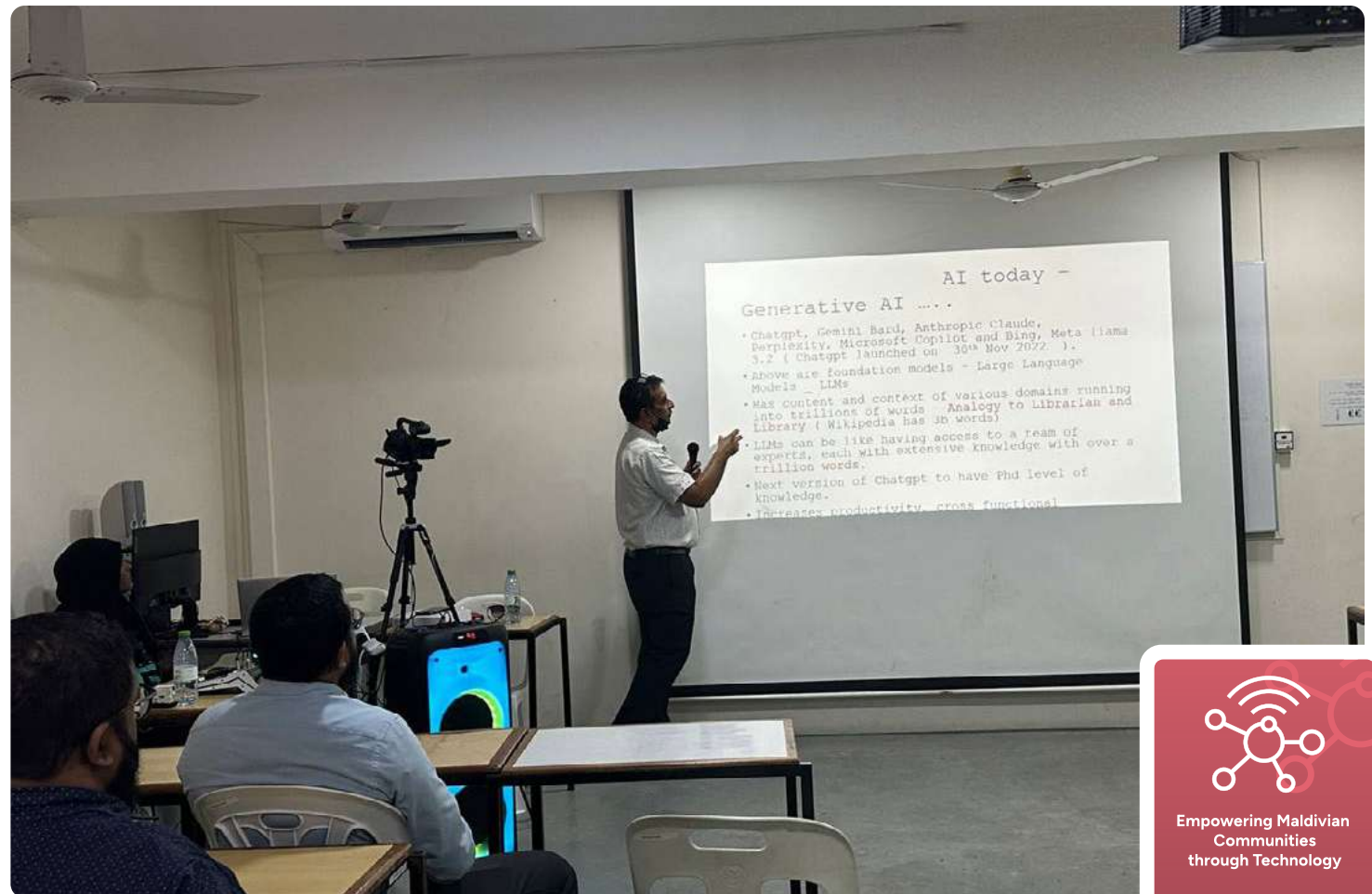
A Capacity Building Session



Presenter

Nageeth Abdulla

Disruptive Consultant,
Digital Transformation and AI



AI today -

Generative AI

- Chatgpt, Gemini Bard, Anthropic Claude, Perplexity, Microsoft Copilot and Bing, Meta (Llama 3.2 (Chatgpt launched on 30th Nov 2022.)).
- Above are foundation models - Large Language Models - LLMs
- Max content and context of various domains running into trillions of words - Analogy to Librarian and Library (Wikipedia has 3n words)
- LLMs can be like having access to a team of experts, each with extensive knowledge with over a trillion words.
- Next version of Chatgpt to have PhD level of knowledge.
- Increases productivity, cross functional



The Importance of AI in Today's Workplace which makes you a Smart Knowledge Worker

Session Summary

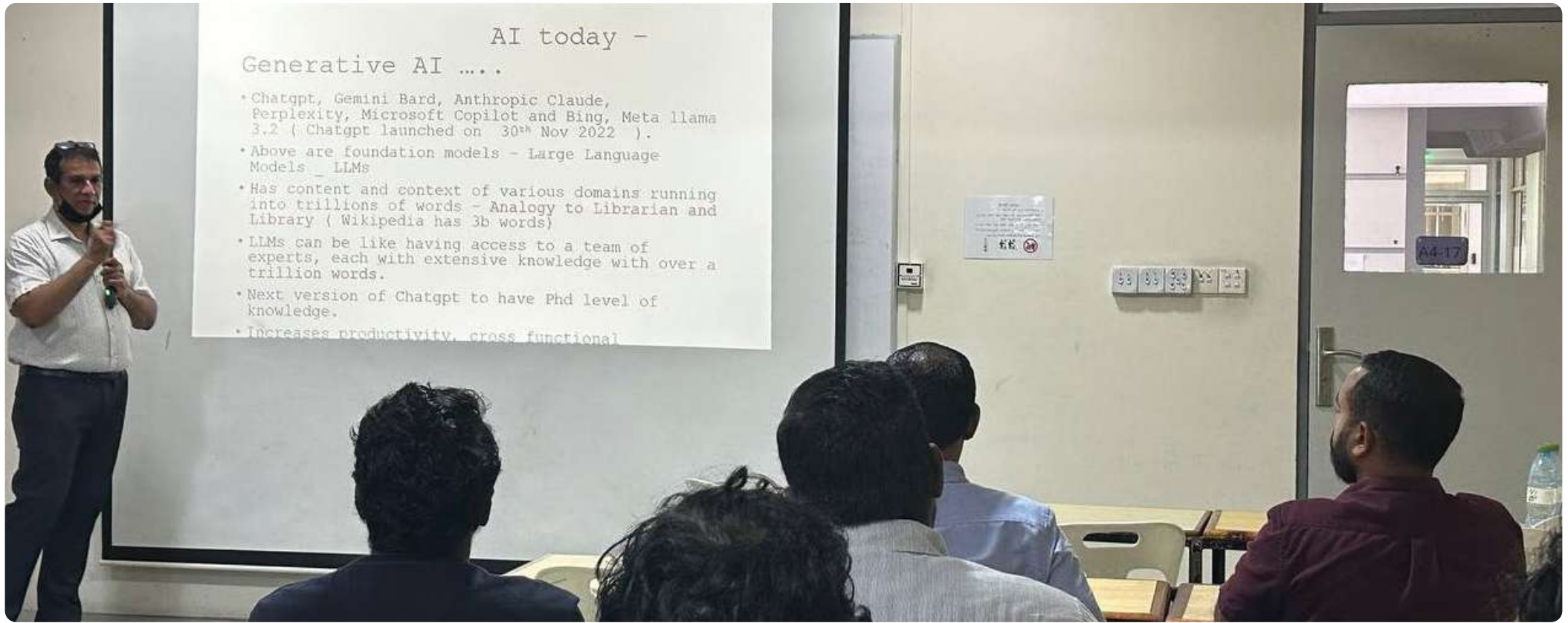
The session highlighted how AI boosts productivity, enhances decision-making, and fosters collaboration, enabling knowledge workers to focus on high-value tasks. It emphasized AI's potential to empower individuals to continuously learn and optimize workflows, increasing engagement and efficiency. Real-world examples, including a live demonstration of ChatGPT, showcased the transformative impact of AI in modern work environments.

Key Takeaways

- 1 AI significantly improves productivity, decision-making, and collaboration.
- 2 AI empowers individuals to learn continuously and customize workflows.
- 3 Real-world examples, such as ChatGPT, demonstrate AI's impact on modern workplaces.

Call to Action

- 1 Explore AI tools tailored to your role and invest in relevant training.
- 2 Stay updated with the latest AI advancements.
- 3 Share AI insights and learnings with colleagues to promote collaboration.
- 4 Continuously customize workflows using AI to enhance efficiency.
- 5 Encourage a culture of innovation and engagement through AI adoption.



Citizen Centric Governance

Workshop by **Noonu Atoll Council**



Promoting Sustainable
Development and
Digital Governance
in the Maldives



Presenter

Mohamed Basheer

President of Noonu Atoll Council &
Chairperson of the Maldives Local
Council Association



Citizen Centric Governance

Session Summary

The session on Citizen-Centric Governance, led by Noonu Atoll Council, showcased how they are leveraging technology to improve service delivery and engage citizens. The council is streamlining operations using Microsoft Business Central to integrate financial, operational, and service management functions. With tools like Power BI and Graph API, they enable real-time project management and planning. The use of an interactive geospatial platform and a public engagement system integrated with Microsoft Dynamics has helped to involve citizens more effectively. The session highlighted the inefficiencies caused by 36 separate apps and stressed the need for system integration to optimize service delivery.

Key Takeaways

- 1 The council is integrating systems with Microsoft Business Central to streamline operations.
- 2 Power BI and Graph API enable real-time planning and project management.
- 3 An interactive geospatial platform is being used for data acquisition.
- 4 A public engagement platform integrated with Microsoft Dynamics is improving citizen involvement.
- 5 Integration of multiple standalone apps is necessary to improve efficiency in service delivery.

Call to Action

- 1 Adopt ERP solutions that can be replicated across organizations for efficiency.
- 2 The National Centre for Information Technology (NCIT) should provide independent tenancy for organizations to maximize Microsoft's potential.
- 3 Provide training programs to improve tech literacy and tool usage within organizations.
- 4 Integrate services and replace inefficient standalone apps to streamline operations.



The Future of the Global Digital Landscape: Building a Resilient, Inclusive, and Secure Cyberspace

Panel Discussion by **Maldives IGF**



Moderator
Afrah Ismail

Founder
Archive.mv



Panelist
Ilyas Ahmed

Chief Executive
Communications
Authority of Maldives



Panelist
Aishath Adnan

Co-Founder
Women in Tech Maldives



Panelist
Naail Abdul Rahman

R&D Manager Lottiefies
Managing Partner, Intellea
Partnership



Panelist
Fathimath Ibrahim

Disability
Representative



The Future of the Global Digital Landscape: Building a Resilient, Inclusive, and Secure Cyberspace

Session Summary

The opening panel at Maldives IGF 2024 discussed building a resilient, inclusive, and secure cyberspace. Experts emphasized the need for strong legal frameworks to support digital transformation and inclusivity, particularly for disabled and senior citizens. Key insights focused on prioritizing data privacy, expanding infrastructure for affordable internet, and ensuring accessible digital services like eFaasmv.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Data privacy and cybersecurity must be prioritized as digital services grow.
- 2** Affordable internet access should be expanded to ensure inclusivity.
- 3** Digital services need to be accessible, with features like Dhivehi localization and voice-to-text.
- 4** Inclusivity in digital services is essential to ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital transformation.
- 5** Collaboration between the government and private sector is key to fast-tracking digital inclusion for all citizens, especially marginalized groups.

Call to Action

- 1** Urge lawmakers to pass inclusive digital policies and engage minority communities.
- 2** Collaborate with the private sector and community to accelerate digital inclusion initiatives.



Digital Inclusion: From Access to Empowerment

Discussion by **UNDP**



Facilitator

Fathimath Lahfa

Head of Exploration
UNDP



Discussant

Ahmed Rassaam

Advocate for inclusion of
people with disabilities



Discussant

Hawwa Latheef

Executive Director
Payment Systems & Oversight,
Maldives Monetary Authority



Discussant

Yudhra Abdul Latheef

Head of Legal
Ooredoo Maldives

Digital Inclusion: From Access to Empowerment

Session Summary

The session emphasized the importance of digital inclusion, advocating for accessible technology design, such as voice-readable documents for the blind. It highlighted the need to strengthen digital and financial literacy for women and people with disabilities. Cross-sector collaboration and government-enforced policies were stressed as essential for sustainable digital inclusion. Participants also called for inclusive technologies and digital literacy programs for marginalized groups.

Key Takeaways

- 1** Digital inclusion requires embedding accessibility features in technology for individuals with disabilities, such as voice-readability for the blind.
- 2** Strengthening digital and financial literacy, especially for women and people with disabilities, is essential.
- 3** Governments should enforce policies to mandate accessibility in digital services, especially for critical services like banking.
- 4** Advocating for women and disability groups through digital literacy programs is crucial.
- 5** Cross-sector collaboration is necessary for sustainable and inclusive digital solutions nationwide.

Call to Action

- 1** Enforce policies mandating accessibility in digital services, with a focus on government and frequently used services like banking.
- 2** Advocate for and implement digital literacy programs targeting women and people with disabilities.
- 3** Foster cross-sector collaboration to create sustainable, nationwide digital inclusion solutions.
- 4** Governments should implement policies to enhance accessibility, such as auditory traffic signals and visual fire alarms, for greater inclusivity.

Additional Remarks

- 1 Panelists and participants highlighted the need for more inclusive technology designs that address specific challenges of marginalized groups.
- 2 Representatives from the Blind Association suggested learning from successful digital inclusion models in other countries.



Exploring Data Privacy, Cybersecurity and Responsible Online Citizenship for the Next Generation



Focus Group Discussion by **National Cyber Security Agency**



Presenter

Mohamed Riznee

Director General
National Cyber Security Agency



Exploring Data Privacy, Cybersecurity and Responsible Online Citizenship for the Next Generation

Session Summary

The session focused on the integration of digital privacy literacy and cybersecurity education into school curricula, emphasizing the role of educators in teaching these essential topics while ensuring their own privacy. It stressed the need to shift mindsets around data privacy and security, address misconceptions, and ensure data security. The session highlighted the importance of raising awareness among the next generation and introduced five strategic pillars for enhancing cybersecurity through public outreach and education. Community engagement was recognized as vital for fostering responsible online behavior.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Digital privacy and cybersecurity should be incorporated into school curricula.
- 2 Educators must teach privacy and security while safeguarding their own data.
- 3 Shifting mindsets and addressing misconceptions around data privacy is crucial.
- 4 Data security needs to be prioritized, with awareness of common issues.
- 5 The next generation's awareness of privacy and cybersecurity is key to a secure future.

Call to Action

- 1 Collaborate with schools and organizations to implement privacy and cybersecurity programs.
- 2 Advocate for ongoing professional development for educators in privacy and cybersecurity.
- 3 Launch community outreach programs targeting both parents and students for data privacy education.
- 4 Promote educator privacy protection while teaching sensitive cybersecurity topics.
- 5 Foster a culture of proactive measures and community responsibility in online citizenship.



Towards the Creation of Maldives Network Operators Group: Collaboration for Better Network Operations



Promoting Sustainable
Development and
Digital Governance
in the Maldives

Focus Group Discussion by **National Cyber Security Agency**



Presenter

Subhashini Kadurugasyaya

Retained community trainer
APNIC



Towards the Creation of Maldives Network Operators Group: Collaboration for Better Network Operations

Session Summary

The session introduced the concept of Network Operator's Groups (NOGs), which are informal, country or region-based groups that focus on networking discussions and issues. It highlighted the role of NOGs in benefiting local network operator communities through training, conferences, seminars, and collaboration. APNIC encourages the formation of NOGs in the Asia Pacific region, offering guidance on initiating and conducting NOG activities according to their recommendations. APNIC also provides resources and funding for local NOG events and training. Participants were encouraged to get involved with the South Asia Network Operator's Group (SANOG), and to take advantage of APNIC and SANOG fellowships for participation in seminars and training events.

Key Takeaways

- 1** NOGs are informal groups that help network operators share knowledge and improve networking practices.
- 2** NOGs benefit communities by offering training, conferences, and collaboration opportunities.
- 3** APNIC actively encourages the creation of NOGs across Asia Pacific.
- 4** Instructions were provided on how to initiate and manage a local NOG, following APNIC guidelines.
- 5** APNIC offers funding and resources for local NOG events and promotes participation in SANOG.

Call to Action

- 1** Establish a local NOG in your community.
- 2** Organize and host local NOG events.
- 3** Inform SANOG and APNIC about your NOG's formation and event details.
- 4** Collaborate with SANOG and APNIC to facilitate NOG activities year-round.



Innovate for Impact: Ideating Tech Solutions for Social Change

Workshop by **Business Center Corporation**



Advancing Digital
Innovation for Local
and Global Impact



Facilitator

Mohamed Eeman Ahmed

Senior Manager, Project
Administration
Business Center Corporation



Innovate for Impact: Ideating Tech Solutions for Social Change

Session Summary

This idea generation workshop focused on understanding entrepreneurship, particularly how to address social problems through entrepreneurial solutions. It explored the role of entrepreneurs as problem solvers, offering benefits to both individuals and communities. Key discussions included profit vs. non-profit models and the importance of social entrepreneurship in education, economic development, and social impact. The session also emphasized tech solutions for social issues faced by Maldivians, such as market access and providing platforms for remote workers.

Key Takeaways

- 1 Entrepreneurship can address social problems and benefit communities.
- 2 Both profit and non-profit models play a role in entrepreneurial solutions.
- 3 Social entrepreneurship impacts education, economic development, and social change.
- 4 Tech solutions can solve challenges like market access and remote work platforms.
- 5 There is a need for a platform to raise awareness and engage remote workers.

Call to Action

- 1 Start social entrepreneurship initiatives to benefit communities and address social issues.
- 2 Focus on youth engagement and employment through entrepreneurial activities.
- 3 Encourage the use of online resources to raise awareness and secure funding for projects.
- 4 Create platforms that foster collaboration and support for remote workers.
- 5 Advocate for more content and resources around social entrepreneurship and funding.



Closing Remarks



Closing Remarks

The closing remarks of the Maldives IGF were delivered by Executive Committee Member Ms. Nahza Ibrahim. She expressed gratitude to all participants for their engagement and valuable contributions, which played a crucial role in making the event a success. She acknowledged the efforts of policymakers, regulators, government officials, academia, youth, civil society organizations, and the technical community for their interest and involvement in the IGF.

Ms. Nahza emphasized the importance of active participation in discussions and the role of the IGF in bringing critical issues to the forefront. She assured that feedback from the forum would be shared with the relevant authorities to strengthen internet governance in the Maldives.

Looking ahead, she expressed hope for continued commitment from key stakeholders and encouraged further support and contributions for upcoming IGF activities.





Useful Links

Website

<https://maldivesigf.mv>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/mvigf>

https://www.facebook.com/mvigf/live_videos

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/maldives-igf>

X (Twitter)

<https://x.com/lgfmv>

Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/@MaldivesIGF/streams>



REPORT PUBLISHED ON 17 FEBRUARY 2025

mviGF

SUPPORTED BY

