

MY INTERNET GOVERNANCE JOURNEY: YOUTH AS STAKEHOLDERS & OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD

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STARTING MY JOURNEY

- Was enrolled in a communications policy class
- Prior exposure to internet governance was limited, at the time I had no idea what it was
- Lack of confidence, searching for opportunities, felt like getting outpaced by my classmates



YOUTH IGF CANADA

- I received an email containing details about an opportunity for Youth IGF Canada, a revived IGF
- Seeking opportunities, I applied





GOT ACCEPTED!

Applied to become a grant writer and
luckily got accepted!

THE YEAR THAT FOLLOWED...

Engaged in grant writing and editing for the year that followed, and learned more about Internet governance

Learned the ICANN-inspired model of multistakeholderism

I learned about the inner workings of organizing a forum

I gained invaluable soft and technical skills

I began to feel more capable...



Youth IGF Canada - Toronto 2024📍

GAINED EXTERNAL OPPORTUNITIES

The DAIS fellowship

ARIN fellowship (Upcoming)

And of course, ICANN



Akron, OH, 2024 📍

YOUTH NOT JUST PARTICIPATING BUT RESHAPING OUR LANDSCAPE

Traditional Participation vs. Meta-Participation

Examples of Youth Meta-Participation

- Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIIG) – Advocating for youth inclusion.
- #DearGovernments Initiative – Direct advocacy for youth-centric policies.
- Digital Grassroots – A bottom-up initiative empowering young people

Why does this matter?



GETTING INVOLVED

- Currently, there is a gap in internet governance: multistakeholderism, although a great model, caters to professionals, but this is changing and has *been* changing
- Plethora of organizations willing to engage youth, presenting a variety of opportunities

The background of the slide features a dark, moody image. On the left, a human hand is visible, reaching out towards the center. In the center, there is a wireframe representation of the Earth, showing the continents. Overlaid on this globe is a complex network of white lines and dots, resembling a digital or social network. The overall aesthetic is technological and global.

OPPORTUNITIES AND THE PATH AHEAD

- My story is one of many; it is by no means revolutionary
- As established stakeholders, we ought to continue sharing resources and opportunities with our networks

THANK YOU!



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