

Intellectuals in IGF

Intellectuals in the IGF policy process: From knowledge to results

A workshop at IGF, Athens

Thursday 2 November 11:30–13:00

Workshop Room 3

The IGF is a deliberative body – it ‘thinks’ about the governance question, intending to move thought to ‘action’ in its policy audience. This puts a premium on disciplined and methodical analysis – which is the preserve of intellectuals and academics when they hew to their core. How best can IGF engage its intellectuals, to maximize the quality of IGF output over its five years?

For the first half, the workshop *asks*, ‘What is the role of intellectuals?’ The second half of the workshop asks, ‘How might that work?’ A two-panelist team ‘provokes’ discussion for each segment, with brief presentations.

The central *objective* is fruitful discussion among all who attend. Likely outputs are action items: how IGF may most effectively engage its intellectuals over five years.

Four panelists, in two teams, stimulate discussion with brief ‘provocations.’ The panelists – here they are listed in order of appearance, first team one, then team two:

- **Bill Graham**, Director, International Telecommunications Policy and Coordination, Industry Canada
- **Peng Hwa Ang**, Dean, School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; a founder of GIGANet
- **Jung Seo**, past Minister of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea, and numerous other roles
- **Rik Panganiban**, coordinator of a [program](#) to link media advocates and research, Social Science Research Council

You will want to see their bios, [here](#) .

*Among the **questions** the workshop addresses:*

- Are intellectuals wise people who guide the policy-making process, or can there be a complementary partnership between the doers and the thinkers?
- If intellectuals accept a place of trust, as neutral investigators, how do they keep that faith when they advocate policy?
- What is the place of trust, between intellectuals and policy makers?
- How can policy makers and intellectuals get best results for and from each other? What working methods and time frames serve best?
- Are there particular requirements on the intellectual community?

For a little background, a brief paper on the subject is [here](#) .

Organized by Collab CPR (the World Collaboration for Communications Policy Research)