



2016 Asia Regional Forum on
Business and Human Rights
Doha - 19-20 April 2016



Human rights and the ICT sector

Parallel session – Wednesday 20 April, 09:45-11:15

Human rights challenges in the context of the information and technology (ICT) sector have been identified as a key business and human rights issue in Asia.

The Regional Forum session will feature a panel of leading experts and stakeholders that will explore some of the key challenges and good practices in this area.

The session aims to examine:

- challenges for the ICT sector with respect to human rights, in particular, which human rights are of relevance
- how do challenges vary depending on the operational environment (i.e. country/jurisdiction) and sub-sector
- good (and bad) practices for the sector in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights¹
- apart from policies, processes and due diligence, how else can the ICT sector contribute to ensuring respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights?
- what potential is there for new “disruptive” technologies to make a difference?

The discussion will touch on current issues such as the encryption debate and the right to privacy, but also other human rights related challenges associated with the ICT sector from an Asian perspective: such as supply chain issues, the role of companies in the context of e-governance and the situation of human rights defenders addressing online free speech and privacy.

Multi-stakeholder panel followed by discussion with the audience

- Antony Crockett, Herbert Smith Freehills (moderator)

- Jeffrey Avina, Microsoft

- Shahzad Ahmad, Bytes for All

- Malavika Jayaram, Digital Asia Hub

¹ For background reading on the relevance of the UN Guiding Principles on the issue of right to privacy, including with regard to adequate human rights due diligence approaches, see publication by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/DigitalAge/Pages/DigitalAgeIndex.aspx>