Internet Policy News Digest
1 – 15 February 2018

Global

Report on Data Diplomacy published by Diplo Foundation:

The Data Diplomacy project commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland looks at the use of big data and data science in and its impact on foreign policy and international affairs. Read more about it here.

Facebook launches Messenger app for kids:

Messenger Kids is Facebook's latest offering targeting children between the ages of 6 to 12. Designed with extensive parental control, it is aimed at providing a safe environment for children to interact using social media. While controversial in its launch, there have been diverging responses to the app.

#Metoo and #RiceBunny: Circumventing Censorship and social media in China:

The creative evolution of the #metoo campaign against sexual harassment in China resulted in #RiceBunny. 'mi tu' in Chinese translates to rice bunny and has been used to avoid censorship. Read more about the use of emojis and other creative methods in the Chinese adaption of the campaign here.

Escalating cybercrime and shortage of cyber-security professionals – the 'Perfect Storm' in Cyberspace:

According to the 2018 CISO Survey by RiskIQ, 67% of cyber security leaders do not have sufficient staff to handle the daily barrage of cyber alerts they receive. They identify the top three threats as phishing and malware attacks on employees and customers; brand impersonation, abuse, and reputational damage; and information breaches

ICANN's WHOIS Database at cross-roads due to trouble complying with EU's GDPR:

ICANN is reviewing several models that alters the current unfettered access to the WHOIS database that allows anyone to look up the registrant of a domain name. Often used by law enforcement and intellectual property rights owners, the database is also a concern raised by privacy activists. Read more about the challenges here.

High Level Committee to lay out India's roadmap for Artificial Intelligence Research and Development:

A High Level Committee led by NITI Ayog Chairman Rajiv Kumar has been set up to provide a lay out for India's research and development on AI and its applications. The Committee will include academia, and industry representatives in addition to government officials. Read more about the composition and aims here.

Net Neutrality in India - COAI emphasizes on shaping policy with national objective in mind:

The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) has revived the dialogue on net neutrality with a new advocacy plan. It focuses on national objectives of growth and expansion with emphasis on solving issues of access. Find out more details here.

Cyber-security takes centre stage at IT Minister's Conclave:

Held over two days, Digital India's Conclave of State IT Secretaries and State IT Ministers discussed various issues of India's digital ecosystem ranging from infrastructure to security. The issue of cyber-security was a primary item of discussion, and highlighted issues of phishing and ransomware. Read more about the conclave here.

C-DAC Digital Forensic Centre:

A project is underway for the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to provide cyber forensics support to law enforcement and other agencies. The project seeks to use AI enabled tools to address cyber-security threats. It will also undertake research in cyber forensics aimed at problem solving to assist micro, small and medium enterprises in the area of cyber-security. Read more about the project here.