

# Charity Gamboa

I have been an educator for ten years - eight years of classroom teaching and two years of online teaching/distance education. My teaching experiences have been into Computer Literacy programs for modular/vocational courses and technology and science in private institutions at the secondary level.

The Computer Literacy programs that I have been involved with allowed me to work with the grassroots community in my province in the Philippines. This community had a very low literacy rate so the challenge of teaching was to translate the content of the modular courses into our vernacular and at the same time incorporate English language learning into the course. The real advantage in educating the poor through concepts and hands-on training in Computer Literacy is that it is an alternative medium for these marginalized people to gain additional skills to supplement what they had perceived as the only solution to augment their income. This is a socially-relevant issue with the teaching of Computer skills as a means to alleviate poverty.

After successful completion of the DiploFoundation Internet Governance Capacity Building Program (IGCBP) in 2007, I became a Diplo tutor for 2008 and hope to continue with the upcoming 2009 program.

I am part of the Diplo initiative in updating the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Wikipedia article. I have translated the IGF entry from the English version into the Filipino language. Currently, the rest of my colleagues in this group are updating the Wikipedia after the 2008 IGF. The IGF Wikipedia topics were completed prior to the IGF in Hyderabad, through preliminary discussions using the IGF Wikipedia mailing list. Considerable efforts will be utilized for further updating during the weeks to come, together with translations into additional languages.

Prior to the 2008 IGF, I joined Tower of Babel, a multilingual online journal of arts and ideas. My role as an editor involves issues surrounding IG, the empowerment of women, and Philippine social issues that have relevance to technology and social causes. For example, I incorporated the topic of biofuels into the IG context. Due to the rapid growth of industry, some issues with environmental impact have been overlooked so I





I am part of the Diplo initiative in updating the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Wikipedia article. I have translated the IGF entry from the English version into the Filipino language. Currently, the rest of my colleagues in this group are updating the Wikipedia after the 2008 IGF. The IGF Wikipedia topics were completed prior to the IGF in Hyderabad, through preliminary discussions using the IGF Wikipedia mailing list. Considerable efforts will be utilized for further updating during the weeks to come, together with translations into additional languages.

have urged the continuation of discussions using the Internet as a means to deploy advocacy. After the 2008 IGF, I posted my reports on the Babel site, and included Philippine country perspectives on issues that can be incorporated into IG. The concept here is to allow the exchange of ideas from different bloggers and invite discussions across different languages.

After coming back from the IGF, I had some discussions with another Diplo colleague, Jamil Goheer from Pakistan, regarding a case study focused on identifying types of e-commerce for developing countries. We segregated developing countries into regions and will identify specific e-commerce types that can aid in the success of e-commerce projects for each developing country. We have come up with an outline to identify relevant topics we want to include in the case study and we are still in the process of writing our piece as we work on collating all research materials for analysis.

I am involved in strengthening education policies at a global level through a forum that will bring representatives from national and international organizations, experts, teachers, NGOs and the youth who are engaged in education at all levels. The outcome of this forum will allow different people to commit in strengthening education, as well as to share ideas and build agreements for a better education. I hope to share these experiences with the Diplo community in due time.

I have also immersed myself in the work and discussions in the IGF Remote Participation Working Group with which I am currently involved. I pushed for an IGF remote hub

I have also immersed myself in the work and discussions in the IGF Remote Participation Working Group with which I am currently involved. I pushed for an IGF remote hub in my city in 2008 and will work with different organizations for its implementation for the IGF in 2009.

in my city in 2008 and will work with different organizations for its implementation for the IGF in 2009.

With India's hosting for the Third UN IGF, I saw the Indian development in terms of technology and communication. The preparation of the host country showed their willingness to rise above challenges amidst turmoil.

Politics and Religion play big roles in shaping the Filipino identity. The acquired skills and values have enormous impact on the totality of the Filipino to be able to acquire the necessary discipline for economic growth. For the past few years, technology has crept into the Philippine setting slowly. But its emergence has changed the way Filipinos aspire for bigger roles. The involvement and craving for know-how made Filipinos see technology as a means to

educate themselves on how they can get more involved in pressing domestic issues. I saw lesser involvement in IG issues due to a lack of awareness-raising programs. This is where I see my advocacy.

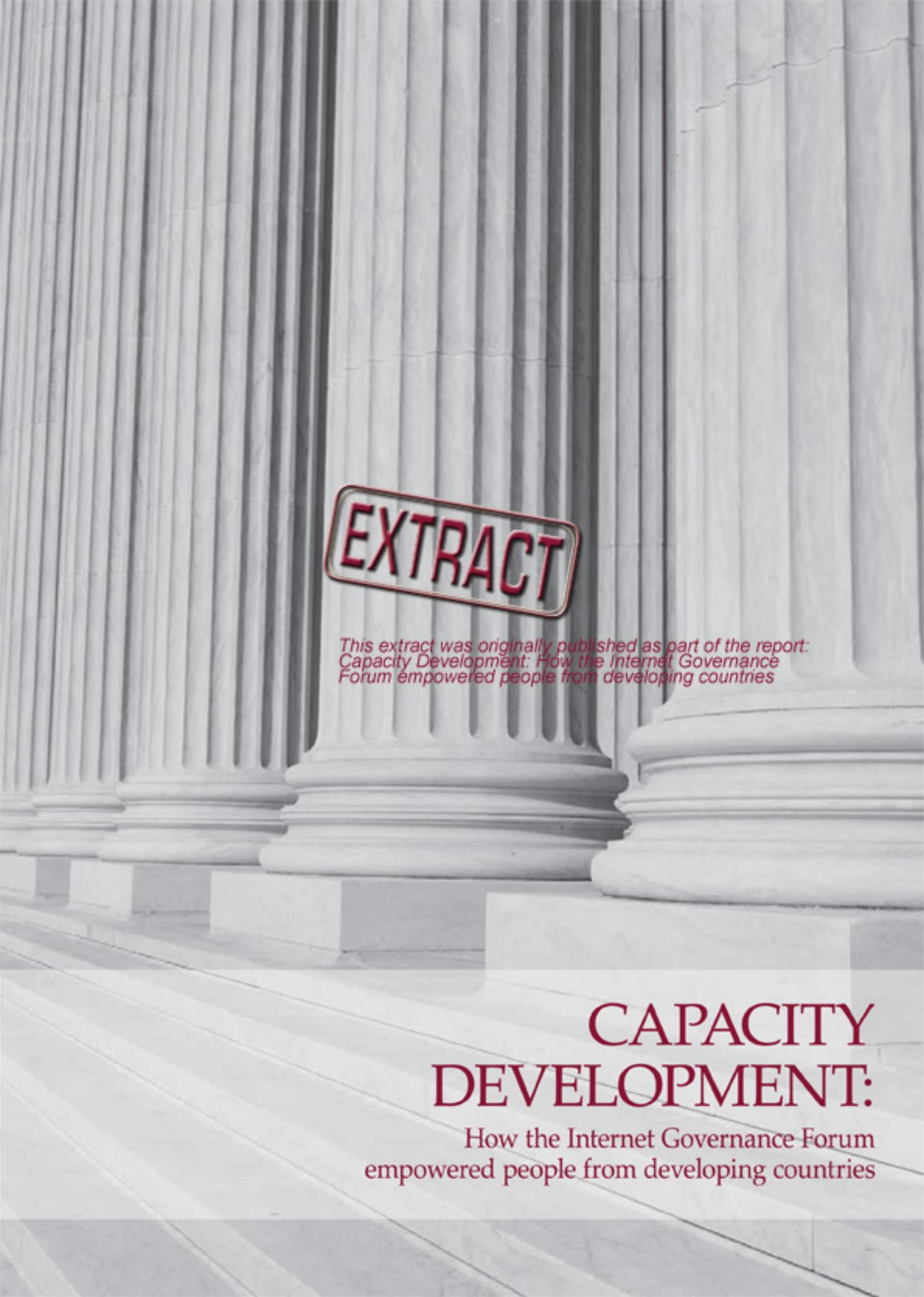
My participation in the recent IGF in India has given me more chances to talk to people from diverse cultures. I learned so much in a short span about how individuals from different countries strive to create impact on their countries' policy-making activities. I was specifically encouraged to bring in more people from China as certain pertinent issues can be elucidated by actual experiences. In one session on the transition of IPv4 to IPv6, China was Asia in the forefront in this development and it will be interesting to share experiences on censorship, cyber security and education as well.

The involvement and craving for know-how made Filipinos see technology as a means to educate themselves on how they can get more involved in pressing domestic issues. I saw lesser involvement in IG issues due to a lack of awareness-raising programs. This is where I see my advocacy.

The IGF was how I imagined a UN meeting would be – a meeting of great minds working for the common good. I sensed how everyone wanted to be heard and how issues are seen from different angles. I felt like a “big” person in a “small” room because I felt very much involved and engaged in the discussions. The atmosphere was open and I felt very proud to be able to listen to inspiring people talk about their projects

I give special kudos to the Canadian sponsors for this fellowship program in conjunction with Diplo Foundation, partnered with the International Telecommunications Union. It is beyond words for me to explain how such an opportunity has given me so much honor to carry the banner for the Philippines. My involvement by itself has widened my knowledge of IG and has inspired me to work more on issues surrounding IG. I learned courage through actual experiences. I want to be an inspiration to my students because as an educator I believe in the concept of mentoring. Through these activities, I can share whatever valuable information I have gained in the IG process, in my field of education, training and advocacy work. ■

*“I am involved in strengthening education policies at a global level through a forum that will bring representatives from national and international organizations, experts, teachers, NGOs and the youth who are engaged in education at all levels. The outcome of this forum will allow different people to commit in strengthening education, as well as to share ideas and build agreements for a better education. I hope to share these experiences to the Diplo community in due time.”*

A row of white classical columns with a red 'EXTRACT' sign. The sign is a red-bordered rectangle with the word 'EXTRACT' in red, slanted, capital letters. The background is a grayscale image of the columns, with a semi-transparent dark gray area at the bottom containing the main title and subtitle.

**EXTRACT**

*This extract was originally published as part of the report:  
Capacity Development: How the Internet Governance  
Forum empowered people from developing countries*

# CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

How the Internet Governance Forum  
empowered people from developing countries