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Creating a National Consensus for Online Safety - Bahrain & Beyond

The Family Online Safety Institute and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Bahrain are together hosting the Gulf's first Information Communication Technologies and Online Safety Conference. As child online safety is of paramount concern to communities throughout the world, the Bahrain TRA is taking the first steps to ensure such safety for its citizens and families in the region. This two and a half day conference promises to be a unique opportunity for Industry and other regional and international stakeholders to have meaningful strategic dialogue on key issues. The press conference held in Bahrain December 13 was extremely well attended and attracted a lot of attention from regional and international press., see 'Latest News.' on www.fosi.org for more information.

Confirmed speakers include:

- From the US - Ambassador David Gross; Ambassador Maura Harty, ICMEC;
- Dorothy Attwood, AT&T; Michael McKeehan, Verizon
- Jeffrey Avina, Middle East Africa Citizenship Lead Manager, Microsoft
- Safa Rawaih, Youth Leadership Development Foundation, Yemen
- Najat Rochdi, Deputy Director in charge of Policy, Communication and Operation at the UNDP Liaison Office in Geneva

For more information and to register you can write to swoolfe@fosi.org or go to www.fosi.org.

Gulf Conference:
Creating a National Consensus
for Online Safety
Venue: Gulf Hotel, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
April 26-28, 2010



FOSI Third Annual Conference Gets Rave Reviews!



FOSI held its third annual international conference on November 4-5, 2009 at the Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium in Washington, DC. This year's event was the biggest FOSI conference to date, with 350 attendees, over 80 speakers and 31 exhibitors. As Adam Thierer (President of the Progress and Freedom Foundation) said, the FOSI conference is "like the Consumers Electronics Show for Internet safety."

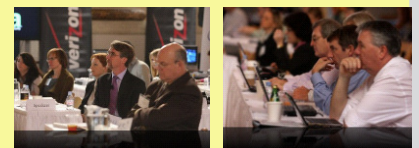
FOSI was thrilled to host such an incredible roster of speakers, including three representatives from the Obama Administration—Deputy U.S. CTO Andrew McLaughlin; Deputy Administrator of NTIA Anna Gomez, and Alec Ross, Senior Advisor for Innovation in the Office of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton—an impressive list of international speakers, including Professor Tanya Byron, British Member of Parliament Derek Wyatt, FOSI Chair Natasha Jackson and Inaki Urdangarin from Telefonica—with a keynote address from Kyle McSlarrow, CEO of NCTA. We also had U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, two Attorneys General, 14 teenagers, a pediatrician, a sex therapist, several academics and a terrific line-up of industry representatives. You can view summaries of all of the panels on www.fosi.org and there are several videos from the event on our You Tube channel, www.youtube.com/fosi.

Congratulations FOSI 2009 Award Winners

The following individuals were awarded the FOSI Award for Outstanding Achievement: Professor Tanya Byron, Victoria Grand (YouTube), United States Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Emily Hancock (Yahoo!), Marsali Hancock (iKeepSafe), Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch, Washington Attorney General Rob McKenna, Harriet Novet (Time Warner Cable), Edward Palmieri (Sprint).



SAVE THE DATE
FOSI's 2010 Annual Conference
November 9-10, 2010
Washington, DC



China's Internet Industry Chiefs and Key Government Officials Discuss Online Safety

FOSI was represented at the third annual US-China Internet Industry Forum hosted by Microsoft and the Internet Society of China in San Francisco in early December. Craig Mundie of Microsoft, Jimmy Wales, Founder of Wikipedia and Prof. John Palfrey of Harvard University were among the plenary speakers. Stephen Balkam spoke on a panel tackling the different approaches of the US and China in the area of online safety along with Danny Weitzner of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Charles Cao, the CEO of Sina.com, China's largest ISP moderated the panel and provided an enlightening perspective on how the internet industry operates in that country. FOSI looks forward to more international dialogue in Asia as we enter 2010 and beyond.



FCC Seeks Comments On Empowering Parents And Protecting Children In An Evolving Media Landscape



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) seeking comment on "Empowering Parents and Protecting Children in an Evolving Media Landscape." This NOI is examining the benefits and risks to children from electronic media and trying to determine how to empower parents to help kids take advantage of the opportunities that come from electronic media while protecting kids from the risks such as bullying, inappropriate content, sexual predation, and privacy issues. The FCC notes the increase of media consumption and production by youth and the fact that the consumption is no longer just on television; instead, kids are increasingly watching content on their computers and mobile devices. The FCC is seeking input on whether parents and children are aware of the risks with electronic media and what can be done to protect children from harm.

This notice asks for additional information about parental control tools including: the level of consumer awareness, pace of adoption, ease of use, familiarity with and understanding of rating systems, and the pace of innovation. The NOI also looks at media literacy efforts and asks what the FCC can do to assist with the other federal agencies working on these issues.

The FCC invites the public to comment on these issues. To read the full NOI, visit http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-94A1.pdf. Comments are due January 25, 2010 and reply comments are due February 22, 2010.

Click Clever, Click Safe in England

'Zip it, block it, flag it' is the new code that is to be taught to all children from 5 to 11 in schools in England. Prime Minister Gordon Brown launched the code at the annual summit of the UK Council for Child Internet Safety. In his speech he recognized the cooperation between all interested parties in the development of UKCCIS, and said that he wanted to ensure that the virtual world was as safe for children as the real one. Speeches also came from Professor Tanya Byron, a friend of FOSI, whose review 'Safer Children in a Digital World' created the Council, and from Ed Balls, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. FOSI is one of the 140 organizations working within the Council alongside the Child Exploitation and Online Protection centre and some FOSI members, including Facebook, Yahoo!, MySpace and Bebo.



2010 FOSI Calendar

- Apr 26-28** National Consensus on Online Safety, Manama, Bahrain
- May 27** FOSI/Telefonica Conference, Madrid, Spain
- Sept 22** PBS Documentary 'Digital Nation' Screening & Roundtable, Redmond, Washington, USA
- Nov 9-10** FOSI's Annual Conference, Washington, DC, USA

Other key events in the Online Safety Calendar in 2010 include -

- Jan 28** Data Privacy Day - USA & 28 European countries
- Feb 9** Safer Internet Day, Global
- Feb 15-18** GSMA Mobile World Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- Sept 14-17** Internet Governance Forum, Lithuania

AND MUCH MORE TO BE CONFIRMED -
WATCH THIS SPACE!!

FTC Releases Report on Virtual Worlds and Kids

On December 10th, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a report directed by Congress on “Virtual Worlds and Kids: Mapping the Risks.” This report reviewed explicit content in 27 online virtual worlds and identified the prevalence of sexual and violent content in 19 of the 27 virtual worlds studied. The report found that much of the explicit content in virtual worlds was text-based content found in forums and chat rooms. The FTC also provided advice for parents and children about behavior on virtual worlds.

The report examined the procedures currently in place to prevent kids from accessing explicit content. The FTC encouraged virtual world operators to continue self-regulatory efforts and offered suggestions for these websites to limit children and teens from explicit content.

The FTC’s suggestions include the following:

- Ensuring that the age-screening mechanisms virtual world operators employ do not encourage underage registration;
- Implementing or strengthening age-segregation techniques to help ensure that minors and adults interact only with their peers and view only age-appropriate material;
- Re-examining the strength of language filters to ensure that such filters detect and eliminate communications that violate online virtual worlds’ conduct standards;
- Providing greater guidance to community enforcers in online virtual worlds so that they are better equipped to: self-police virtual worlds by reviewing and rating online content; report the presence of potential underage users; and comment on users who otherwise appear to be violating a world’s terms of behavior; and,
- Employing a staff of specially trained moderators whose presence is well known in-world and who are quipped to take swift action against conduct violations.

To view the full report and these recommendations, see <http://ftc.gov/os/2009/12/oecd-vwrpt.pdf>.

FOSI Signs Internet Safety Agreement with the Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement and the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

The United Nations Internet Governance Forum held its fourth annual meeting on November 15th-18, 2009, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. More than 1500 delegates from around the world attended this event which creates a forum for discussion of public policy issues related to Internet governance to help sustain and continue to develop the Internet by facilitating the exchange of information and best practices and identifying solutions for Internet issues such as access, resources, and safety. Dave Miles, Director for Europe, Middle East & Africa, represented the Family Online Safety Institute at the meeting and spoke on the Dynamic Coalition Panel. Child online safety was a dominant theme throughout the three-day event.



At the forum FOSI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the presence of H.E. Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt. This ground-breaking agreement commits FOSI and the Egyptian Government to a collaborative partnership in promoting family online safety over the next two years. The commitment includes joint efforts to promote digital citizenship in Egypt and the Arab world, assistance from the Cyber Peace Initiative for FOSI’s online safety education initiatives, plans for a workshop in Egypt with the Cyber Peace Initiative to showcase current protection tools and identify online safety technology trends, and FOSI’s representation on the Cyber Peace Initiative International Executive Board.

This agreement highlights not only the relevant role FOSI plays in the international Internet safety space, but also demonstrates the huge strides the Egyptian Government has made in creating a safer, better Internet for its citizens. Further, it reflects FOSI’s continued international growth in membership and commitment to work with governments to build a culture of responsibility amongst all digital citizens.

For more information on the IGF, visit <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

U.S. Department Of Education Focuses On Technology Plans

The U.S. Department of Education is working on a new National Educational Technology Plan to determine how technology can be used to enhance the American education system. According to the Department of Education, “The plan will provide a set of concrete goals that can inform state and local educational technology plans as well as inspire research, development, and innovation.” The Department hopes to have a draft of the plan completed in early 2010.

The National Educational Technology Plan is being created by a technical working group comprised of Department of Education officials, the U.S. Chief Technology officer, teachers, college professors, researchers and educational leaders. The working group solicited statements from the public between September and December 2009. Members of the public were invited to weight in with statements, written resources including research, and examples of good tools and practices currently being used.

The plan will focus on four areas where technology can improve the educational system: productivity, teaching, assessment, and learning. The working group wanted feedback about “how technology can support teachers” and how technology, especially software can help with assessment to track and analyze how students learn. The group also looked for comments about how technology can provide access to information and experiences for students.

FOSI filed comments for the plan suggesting that the National Educational Technology Plan should include provisions for online safety education. FOSI urged the Department of Education to provide teachers the training and resources necessary to teach students to be good digital citizens. FOSI commented that the plan should help teachers learn how to educate students about safe and responsible online use and it should also incorporate digital citizenship into school curricula to enhance learning and innovation by students.

To view FOSI’s and other public comments and learn more about the U.S. Educational Technology Plan, [visit https://edtechfuture.org/](https://edtechfuture.org/).

When was the Last Time You Looked at FOSI’s You Tube Channel?



www.youtube.com/fosi

We’ve updated it with some incredible new videos, including:
 2009 Conference: Recap video of the event and Panel summaries
 FOSI’s Work in 2009: A video showcasing FOSI’s work in 2009
 Stephen Balkam discussing key issues like Digital Citizenship and Cyberbullying



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE FOSI FAMILY

Please note our new DC address: 624 Ninth Street NW, Suite 222, Washington, DC 20001, USA



ABOUT THE FAMILY ONLINE SAFETY INSTITUTE

The Family Online Safety Institute works to make the online world safer for kids and their families by identifying and promoting best practice, tools and methods in the field of online safety, that also respect free expression. We do this through the development of public policy, technology, education and special events. FOSI is a trusted convener, bringing together leaders in government, industry and the non-profit sectors to collaborate and innovate new solutions in child safety in a Web 2.0 world.

CONTACT US

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