Though the IRC was supposed to be logged from 18:00, unfortunately we were unable to retrieve the chat before this message. During that time, Pavan Santhosh gave the attendees a general update about the conversations till now, support from individuals and communities, and state of the discussions.

START OF THE CONVERSATION

@KCVelaga  
18:21:10  
Thanks Pavan, before I talk about the next steps involved, if anyone has any questions or comments, let us discuss them

→ Suswetha has joined

Tan61  
18:21:51  
Squiggletrotter, had a question

Saroj  
18:22:02  
Is Nepali Wikipedia a part of Indic Wikimedia?

Squiggletrotter  
18:22:13  
Which is about the next steps itself.

@KCVelaga  
18:22:31  
Yes, Nepali Wikimedians are welcome to participate in the conference. Yes, they are a part of Indic Wikimedia

Saroj  
18:22:45  
Thanks KCVelaga

@KCVelaga  
18:23:03  
Squiggletrotter We will first answer other questions, and then go to next steps.

@KCVelaga  
18:24:13  
OK, we can answer questions along-way. So the next immediate step is to do the Community Engagement Survey

→ Harika has joined

@KCVelaga  
18:25:08  
It includes what would communities/Wikimedians like to learn at the conference, their expectations and stuff like that. The survey results will be the base for the grant proposal  
← Harika has left (Remote host closed the connection)  
→ Harika has joined
Before starting the initial discussions, I suggest to go through the lessons learnt from WCI 2016 Chandigarh.

We will mostly start this in the first week of November and keep it open until the third week. The survey will be done online, and also if there any major event, we can do the consultation there as well, with the help of organisers.

Pavanaja Thank you, yes. We should definitely. We went through the report, and also we have had several conversations with WCI2016 organisers to make sure the mistakes are not repeated.

I don't think the report has documented many things, especially the lapses

Ravi from his previous experience has also been giving heads-up on certain important things on the talk page.

Please discuss it here what mistake they made in 2016

Yes, we also spoke in-person to learn from them. Like for example, one major lapse was having accommodation and conference venue at different places. For a big conference, this can problematic. We will make sure that they are at one place this time

According the WMF grants current timeline, we should propose the grant by 2 February 2020

We will work on the proposal during December, and put it up for community review in January, and keep changing it according the suggestions before finalising
How many participates will come? Any round number

Participants may be around 500, scholarships will be 100-150, exact number will decided according the budget

Accommodation was big issue during WCI 2016. Till 10pm, we were not knowing what is going on. Finally we were taken to some hotel. Ladies were accommodated in ladies hostel. That was clearly a bit of partyiality as the hostel accommodation given to ladies was not at all on par with the hotel accommodation given to men
I hope such mistakes wont happen

Yes accommodation was an issue

Yes definitely we will take care of this issue. Thanks for bringing it up. Accommodation and venue will be at the same place, and everyone will be given at the same place (mostly a hotel)

To clarify, it was a mishap from behalf of the partner institution. The learning from this is that accommodations in University hostels and guesthouses can be tricky so hotel can be arranged for participants instead.

What is the maximum number of scholarships for a community?

That is variable, there is no fixed number for now. It also depends on the community size, a large community may have more, and so

Accommodation near the venue will solve the problem of communication and for a useful participation of the participants.

Hello
Rajasekhar1961
18:39:49
In Hyderabad, we can get accommodation and venue, depending on the budget allocation.

→ Ash16 has joined

@KCVelaga
18:40:03
Rajasekhar1961 Yes, it will mostly be the same place. Because these days, in many places, including Hyderabad, if rooms and food are booked with hotel, banquet are given at free of charge. We will such facilities
We will use such facilities**

Suyash_Dwivedi
18:40:51
KCVelaga good option

→ AshLin has joined

AshLin
18:41:01
Hi

@KCVelaga
18:42:04
Hello sir, we have been mainly talking about the accommodation which had been problematic during WCI2016. So for 2020, we will be having the accommodation and the venue at the same place.

Satdeep
18:43:06
That was one big learning from WCI 2016. Don't organize such a big conference at an educational institution. They are not as professional and there is a lot of unnecessary hierarchy. Hotels is the best option, it's less stressful for organizers (who are mostly volunteers).

← Gramesam has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Squiggletrotter
18:43:21
Agreed

← Jagseer has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Squiggletrotter
18:43:48
To save expense a lot of unprecedented issues come up which may or may not be solved on the spot.
I guess this can be kept in mind while devising the conference budget itself

← Ash16 has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)

→ Gramesam has joined

Squiggletrotter
18:45:19
It is better to have bigger budget than to have issues in the conference later

← Sukeerti has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)
Yes, we will take think of contingencies while framing the budget. Also it will be open for community members to comment (for 2 weeks) before finalising

If Nepal is included, what about Bhutan, Bangladesh, Maldives, Sri lanka, Pakistan (SAARC countries)?

thank you Satdeep
← AshLin has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)

Hyderabad is a place where you have accommodation
With excellent facilities

Not all SAARC countries are included, but we will have a few scholarships for Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. We are not sure of Bhutan yet.

If Nepal, etc., included, which is really very good, then make sure about visa formalities
How will you justify excluding Pakistan?
← Tan61 has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Then you will have to rename it as SAARC Conference not as Wikiconference India

How will you justify including Pakistan?

Pakistan is part of SAARC

Maldives will not fit in our budget. We are not able to support Pakistan because of the several legal complications involved. Though it is unfortunate, we currently don't have the resources to deal the legalities.

Very correct
I agree about hassles of including Pakistan. But people may question

Main focus for these conference is Indian Wikimedia communities, and clearly not SAARC. Every regional specific conference will have some spill overs, as we work on languages and not regions.

This is India conference only, we are having Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, because their visa policies are a bit liberal, for example, Nepalis don't need visa for India

Absolutely right

Then also you can't explain fully

We did!

Thank you

I am not at all supporting including Pakistan, but how will you explain that?

So are you expecting reduced turnout from the Bengali- and Urdu-speaking communities?

It purely because we don't the organisational capacity to include Pakistan. MHA has imposed serious restrictions on this. I can't speak for CIS, but in an informal conversation one of them mentioned, it is tough for them to support Pakistan for now.

I fully agree on the legal hurdles
Bangladesh is included. Urdu yes, it might only be limited to people within the country. This is unfortunate, but that is the reality.

We ourselves have good number of Bengali wiki medians in India

What is restricting the Bengali wikipedians from participating in this Conference.

To make things clear: Bengali Wikipedians from both West Bengal and Bangladesh are very part of this conference. Unfortunately we can not afford to make whole Urdu community part of this due to legal and administrative issues.

The issue with other countries is variable and can't say anything for sure, we will try out best any other questions/concerns? About the further steps, the conference in general etc.

Then I'm hoping for their sake that thorough arrangements will be made for the most stable and comprehensive remote experience possible

The issue with other countries is variable and can't say anything for sure, we will try out best any other questions/concerns? About the further steps, the conference in general etc.

Then I'm hoping for their sake that thorough arrangements will be made for the most stable and comprehensive remote experience possible

No of days?

Any pre-conf tutorial or learning days?

It is Not the Language per se; but their domiciliary status is the problem; whether they are living in India or other countries.

Then I'm hoping for their sake that thorough arrangements will be made for the most stable and comprehensive remote experience possible

No of days?

Any pre-conf tutorial or learning days?

It is Not the Language per se; but their domiciliary status is the problem; whether they are living in India or other countries.
mahir256 Yes, remote participation will be made highly accessible, as you mentioned, stable and comprehensive. We will try to live relay all the tracks, if not at least 60%, but everything will be recorded and uploaded to WCommons later
Rajasekhar1961 Yes, exactly, thank you.
← Saroj has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)
← Satpal has left (Remote host closed the connection)
@KCVelaga 19:04:50
Pavanaja The main conference will be 3-days for sure. 2016 didn't have any such, but yes, preconference for at least 1 day is a good idea
We will include this in the survey and see people's interest. Learning days will be very useful.
→ Pranayraj has joined
← Gramesam has left (Remote host closed the connection)
Rajasekhar1961 19:06:21
Preconference learning platform for some relatively newer wikimedians is a good idea. think about it.
IMahesh3847 19:06:37
There're a few non-Indian Wikimedians who also work primarily on Indian related articles. Are they included in?
mahir256 19:06:44
Would people not from a participating country be able to hold sessions/talks?
→ Gramesam has joined
← Saroj53 has left (Remote host closed the connection)
@KCVelaga 19:08:13
IMahesh3847 Scholarships will be available to people from India majorly, then also Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. We can't support other countries, even if they are working on India-related topics from the conference budget
→ Rajeeb has joined
→ Atudu has joined
@KCVelaga 19:08:26
But they can participate on their own or remotely
IMahesh3847 19:08:35
@ok, thank you
← gnoee has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)
← Asrija has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)
@KCVelaga 19:08:58
mahir256 yes we will keep the program open for remote sessions by people from non-participating countries
Rajeeb
19:09:17
Hello everyone, apology of being late
@KCVelaga
19:09:27
Hi Rajeeb, no problem thank you.

→ Tan61 has joined
→ Saroj has joined
← Tan61 has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Rajeeb
19:10:45
Thanks Krishna

→ Tan61 has joined

IMahesh3847
19:11:44
I think, it would great if a dedicated number of scholarships are reserved only for new Wikimedians. For ex: 2-3 for Wikimedians older than an year/language

→ Asrija has joined
← Harika has left (Remote host closed the connection)
→ Manav has joined

@KCVelaga
19:12:36
IMahesh3847 Yes definitely, we will have some diversity guidelines. We will include this there Scholarships will be according to those guidelines

→ Harika has joined

Rajeeb
19:14:42
May be it has been discussed, still I like to point out one thing, how can we reward foreign participants for e.g. participants from Bangladesh who are integral part of Bangla Community

@KCVelaga
19:15:44
Yes, we discussed this. Apart from India, we will have Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. We won't be able to support Pakistan due to legal complications involved

← IMahesh3847 has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Rajeeb
19:17:03
ok that's sounds good.

@KCVelaga
19:18:22
any other questions?
← Tan61 has left (Remote host closed the connection)
Satdeep
19:18:36
For context, we did send invitation letters to certain Wikimedians from Pakistan during WCI 2016 but all of them got their visas rejected.

@KCVelaga
19:19:36
OK
→ mallikarjunasj has joined

Pavanaja
19:19:53
Are there Indic Wikipedians in Maldives? Just curious to know

@KCVelaga
19:20:11
But was there any common reason stated for rejection Satdeep?

Satdeep
19:20:27
Pavanaja I am pretty sure, No.

Squiggletrrotter
19:21:10
How can we get involved? Will there be invitation for volunteers for support roles for the conference?

mahir256
19:21:15
At this point is there any specific overarching theme for the conference, or certain projects which will be promoted more than others?

@KCVelaga
19:23:13
No nothing yet, that will be based on the survey results.

Manav
19:24:31
KCVelaga I received a call from embassy. The reason for rejection was that we didn't inform the embassy or the govt about this conference or took permission

Satdeep
19:24:43
KCVelaga: The main reason I think was that we didn't have clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs to invite international delegates (We were just lucky with delegates from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka attending on tourist visa). Things are stricter now, I have heard.

→ Ananth has joined

Manav
19:25:06
+1 Satdeep

@KCVelaga
19:25:12
**Squiggletrotter** Only the Local Organising Team will be from Andhra and Telangana, the rest of the teams such as scholarships, program, communications etc. will include people from all communities.

**Manav**
19:25:19
They even do random checks to make sure everything is in compliance

**Rajeeb**
19:26:13
very true

@**KCVelaga**
19:26:28
Once the grant funding decision is out, there will be a call for organisers. Interested people can join then.

**Manav** Yes, we will keep that in mind.

**mahir256**
19:27:28
What sorts of procedures are needed from External Affairs for conference clearance? Starting every workshop/session with the national anthem? 😆

→ **techfiz** has joined
→ **Suyash_Dwivedi** has joined
← Gramesam has left (Remote host closed the connection)

**Ananth**
19:29:21
its problem if people from different countries take part in a conference with a travel visa. So to the conference visa we need to contact External Affairs.

@**KCVelaga**
19:29:24

**mahir256** 😆
← Pavanaja has left (Remote host closed the connection)

@**KCVelaga**
19:30:40
https://conference.mha.gov.in/FAQ.aspx there is this page which has the info, we will work with organisational partners for invitation letters and stuff

**mahir256**
19:31:12
And yet folks from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka got away with using tourist visas last time. What of them this time around?

**Chaduvari**
19:31:24
Okay guya, gotta go. Adios.

→ **sravanth93** has joined
← mallikarjunasj has left (Remote host closed the connection)

**Satdeep**
Things are stricter now.

Hmmm...

Chaduvari has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Better to apply for permission?

Yes. We need to figure out the process.

it will be easier for CIS to get the permission

Asrija has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)

they will anyways be the fiscal sponsors

last year when CIS had applied for this, it took around 10-11 months to complete the procedure.

Were there any other issues apart from accommodation, venue and visa?

Well we are planning one before WCI

Anant has left (#wci)

Manav I believe WCI team will figure these things out and even that will help remaining conferences happening

Ananth

last year when CIS had applied for this, it took around 10-11 months to complete the procedure.

KCVelaga Satdeep Manav Were there any other issues apart from accommodation, venue and visa?

Manav

Well we are planning one before WCI

Anant has left (#wci)

Pavan-Santhosh
19:34:47
Yes Manav, true.
@KCVelaga

19:34:49
mahir256 I didn't get you. We can't fund them obviously
Manav

19:34:52
Shypoetess.. Finance
hehehe
audit
Suyash_Dwivedi

19:35:02
Hehe
Ananth

19:35:14
mahir256 this applies for all the people taking part in the conference. it can be any country.
@KCVelaga

19:35:21
Please limit the conversations to WCI only, not other conferences
Manav

19:35:35
who is talking about other conferences?
Im not
Satdeep

19:35:40
Manav That was just humongous but not something that went wrong.
Shypoetess

19:35:41
Manav I've heard about that but the procedural issues were resolved I guess
Manav

19:35:43
Finances of WCI
@KCVelaga

19:36:02
mahir256 please elaborate your question
Satdeep

19:36:06
Okay. Coming back to the point.
mahir256

19:36:27
KCVelaga I think Ananth covered it
@KCVelaga

19:36:44
Satdeep
19:36:46
Can you figure out the entire process and let everyone know in a week or two? Do we need to finalize the list of participants from other countries, in advance and any other things?

Manav
19:37:08
Satdeep: Not getting the funds in time is different from handling finances

Rajeeb
19:38:11
I agree with Satdeep we need to chalk out the list of participants from other countries

Ananth
19:38:34
as per my understandings we should provide the Name of applicant but will get to know the entire procedure soon and update you all.

Shypoetess
19:38:41
+1 That can make the process of visa clearance easier

@KCVelaga
19:39:29
Anyway, we will start an official conversation with soon formally, and figure these details

@KCVelaga
19:40:43
There is scholarships available to India obviously, and Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in addition.

Ananth
19:41:49
Are we inviting people from Pakistan?

@KCVelaga
19:41:55
No
Not from the official conference budget
We still need to figure those details

Shypoetess
19:43:19
I'll have to sign off now. Good Night Everyone

Pavan-Santhosh
19:43:49
Hi @Ananth This was discussed and clarified with much details, already. Please go through the discussion once we publish it.
← Shypoetess has left (Remote host closed the connection)
Ananth
19:44:32
Sorry for missing the earlier part. Thanks for the clarification.
← techfiz has left (Remote host closed the connection)
mahir256
19:45:51
Would you sponsor visas for people located outside South Asia, even if you do not provide other financial support?
→ Viswa has joined
Manav
19:46:11
Ideally it shouldn't
@KCVelaga
19:46:15
So we have around 15 min left before closing the discussion. If anyone has missed any points, we will publish the log on meta, and share. If there are any other questions apart from the ones already discussed, please do ask them.
Satdeep
19:46:18
I will take leave now. I am really glad that Telugu Wikimedians has taken lead on this. I once again promise full support in my volunteer capacity.
@KCVelaga
19:46:27
@mahii
mahir256 do you mean like invitation letters?
Pranayraj
19:47:15
OK
Satdeep
mahir256
19:47:15
I guess, assuming that those people could not attend the conference on an eVisa
Rajeeb
19:47:24
count me in any volunteer work anytime, anywhere
Rajasekhar1961
19:47:29
Thank you very much Satdeep
← Satdeep has left (#wci)
Pranayraj
19:47:55
OK
Rajeeb
← Viswa has left (Remote host closed the connection)
@KCVelaga
19:48:28
mahir256 Yes, we will provide such support.
← Atudu has left (Remote host closed the connection)
@KCVelaga
19:49:39
We will have more clarity regarding participants from outside India in the coming couple of months. As of now, these details are very much uncertain.
Manav
19:49:49
What!! KCVelaga...But what's the point of keeping scholarships open for international delegates?
@KCVelaga
19:51:05
Manav Not scholarships, but we will provide support for visas, like invitation letter
← Suyash_Dwivedi has left (Ping timeout: 260 seconds)
Manav
19:51:38
okay
@KCVelaga
19:54:20
Roughly five more minutes left
Rajeeb
19:54:36
Are we planning a cultural tour for participants before the conference day or may be on the last day of the conference to see our rich cultural heritage.
Gopala
19:54:49
Are you planning to take sponsorships other than WMF?
@KCVelaga
19:55:15
Rajeeb probably yes, Program will be based on the Community Engagement Survey that is going to be conducted next month
Manav
19:55:15
Rajeeb.. lets be very careful about this... the cultural crawl at wikimania this year wasnt appreciated coz of many reasons
Pranayraj
Sure Rajeeb

Manav

people objected to the idea of having it

Rajeeb

oh really Manav, what went wrong?

Manav

post conference is good for people who r extending their stay or last day

@KCVelaga

Gopala yes, we will definitely try for non-WMF sponsors. Education institutions from Andhra and Telagana, especially Engineering college, would be happy to do such sponsorships

Manav

Yes, actually this time it was planned parallel to the learning days

→ Akbarali has joined

Gopala

KCVelaga Thank you

Akbarali

finished?

@KCVelaga

Rajeeb Manav This will be based on the survey results, whether to have such tours or not

Rajeeb

or even can we organise cultural events either in the campus or nearby auditorium

@KCVelaga

Akbarali almost

Rajeeb

oh ok Manav

← Asrija has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Rajeeb

I

Akbarali

19:58:13
I could come only now. UAE time 6.30

@KCVelaga
19:58:49
Akbarali no problem thanks for coming we will publish the discussion on Meta-Wiki soon, and share with the community.

Rajeeb
19:58:59
I really enjoyed the cultural event in SAARC Educational Conference

Akbarali
19:59:04
KCVelaga thank you

Manav
19:59:19
bye everyone

Jayprakash
19:59:22
Goodnight everyone

← mahir256 has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Rajeeb
19:59:33
Bye Bye thanks everyone

Manav
19:59:34
count me in for any support...would love to help.

@KCVelaga
19:59:44
Two minutes left .... final remarks, thank you everyone for participating, it was a very fruitful discussion.

Pavan-Santhosh
19:59:44
Thanks everyone for joining and also for support offered.

Manav
19:59:52
Thank you Telugu friends for proposing WCI

→ Suyash_Dwivedi has joined

Mallikarjuna
20:00:06
Thanks

← Manav has left (Remote host closed the connection)

Rajeeb
20:00:07
Looking to be counted for any volunteering!!

@KCVelaga
20:00:08
If anyone is interested to receive regular updates, please add yourself here, 
https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Global_message_delivery/Targets/WCI2020, if you are not
already there
Rajeeb
20:00:31
Thanks KCVelaga
@KCVelaga
20:00:37
This is the link https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Global_message_delivery/Targets/WCI2020
The above one is faulty
Suyash_Dwivedi
20:00:55
👍
Gopala
20:00:57
Hey I need to go now. I believe this meeting gonna end soon. Will be happy for any support in
my capacity. Thanks everyone Good night.
@KCVelaga
20:01:24
thanks again, the discussion ends now.
← sravanth93 has left (#wci)
← Gopala has left (Remote host closed the connection)
Rajeeb
20:02:04
Good night everyone!!
← Rajeeb has left (#wci)
← Pranayraj has left (Remote host closed the connection)
← Mallikarjuna has left (Remote host closed the connection)
← Ananth has left (Remote host closed the connection)
Saroj
20:02:25
Good Night! Best wishes to Telugu Wikimedians
Rajasekhar1961
20:02:55
Good night; Thank you very much for all the Indic wikimedians for supporting the Telugu
community.
← Rajasekhar1961 has left (Remote host closed the connection)

END OF THE CONVERSATION

Also available on Meta-Wiki at https://w.wiki/AX3