#TechHacks: Kick-Off & Policymaking Workshop
Session details: Saturday, 18 November 2023, 3pm – 4pm

S/N	Summary of Discussion	Action by
1	**Introduction by NYC**	
1.1	<u>Context-setting by NYC</u> Valerie Tan (NYC) shared on the (i) panel structure and roles; (ii) agencies' involvement; (iii) what the panel can expect throughout the journey; (iv) timeline of upcoming panel engagements; and (v) administrative matters.	NYC
1.2	<u>Clarifications</u> Rustam Shariq Mujtaba (member) queried if members could conduct their own research. Valerie (NYC) clarified that members would be the ones to do so. Should they require, NYC can provide support through sharing resources and engaging consultants, as well as disseminating surveys or questionnaires to more youths as needed. Kelly Chiew (member) queried on how the workshop materials would be made available to individuals who are unable to attend meetings. Valerie (NYC) shared that all workshop materials and notes would be uploaded onto the #TechHacks Google Drive. Members can refer to these materials but are also encouraged to note-take on their own as needed. As the panel is large, comprising about 30 persons in total, the panel should also establish a way to cover and keep each other updated. Lee Kok Thong [Josh] (member) asked if the upcoming sessions would continue to be structured by NYC or left to the panel to arrange organically. Valerie (NYC) clarified that the panel should anticipate a mix of structured and organic sessions throughout the journey. MCCY/NYC will host curated engagements for capability-building purposes and manage coordination with relevant government agencies. That said, members also have the autonomy to arrange their own panel-level discussions. She assured the panel that MCCY/NYC and agencies will make time to attend these discussions, where additional guidance or inputs are needed. The panel was informed that the workshop on 2 December 2023 has been postponed to 13 January 2024, in view to provide the panel with additional white space for organic discussions in December.	Leads and members to note Leads and members to note
2	**Update by Leads on topic parameters shared by the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI)**	
2.1	<u>Discussion on digital well-being as a topic</u> The leads shared about their preliminary meeting with MCI and the interest to examine digital well-being, particularly the skills required for the safe navigation in digital spaces, its effect on social well-being and in particular, the impact on children and youth. Some of these areas include:	

	- Long-term impact of digital device use on children; - Striking a balance between online and offline activity; and - Finding meaningful uses of digital technology while minimising harm to have a healthy and positive relationship with technology. Dev Bahl (lead) noted that the topic is rather open-ended and that members could share their personal motivations and views on the topic, so that the panel might eventually converge on a problem statement. - On whether the panel was limited to one problem statement, MCCY/NYC clarified that there is room to focus on more than one problem statement, such as potentially dividing the panel into sub-groups to work on different issues. That said, the panel should carefully consider how this might align to their eventual workload and expectations, given the added time and commitment required to do so. Josh (member) noted interest towards the theme of adopting healthy practices in the usage of digital devices, particularly for youths. He opined that youths were not tech-savvy but simply familiar with technology – they know how to use their phone but are not familiar with how long they should be using them for, and how to have constructive conversations online. One possible focus area of interest could be towards incorporating positive cyber discourse within Singapore's digital literacy framework. Chin Char Min [Sharmain] (member) highlighted that it was important to unpack assumptions and define the terms that might form the eventual problem statement. For example, there are different dimensions to the word "safe", such as whether it referred to being safe from cyberbullying, hackers, or scams. The panel also discussed on the role and extent of responsibility of public and private enterprises in ensuring online safety. There was also interest in how AI-generated content can de-stabliise "truth" and "reality", hence the need to examine online safety. Rustam (member) suggested that members could use root cause analysis to think further the identified focus areas and issues. Shalini Kumar (member) noted that the current problem statements seemed to frame technology negatively and suggested that the panel could consider adopting more positive angles in tackling the topic. Dev (lead) agreed and shared that the panel's solutioning could stem from the angle of enabling healthy use, rather than limiting or regulating usage.	Members to note
2.2	<u>Next steps</u> The leads thanked members for their contributions. As a closing note, the panel to think through on the discussion points and discuss some questions they may wish to ask MCI at the context-setting session on 25 November 2023.	
2.3	<u>Additional notes</u> **The panel noted that it was important to unpack and define terms at**	

	the meta-level to support the scoping of the problem statement:	
	● The motivations behind the use of digital devices (e.g. for work, fun, or out of loneliness) and the individual's usage pattern ● The terms "safe", "meaningful", and "relationship" ● The different types of technology that existed in the ecosystem (e.g. social media, Web 3.0, AI) **The panel noted that setting rules of engagement, such as a digital framework for a healthy relationship with techology, could be a possible area to examine. This could include:** ● How to balance security, safety, and optimisation of tech usage? ● What constitutes a good balance of online and offline time for youths? ● Who regulates online domains and how do we regulate the social domain? ● How to cultivate digital trust among end-users of tech such that they would not use tech to harm others? ● How to ensure that companies have a well-defined and responsible code of conduct online? ● What are the physical, psychological and emotional impacts of tech on an individual? **The panel noted that there were certain segments of the population that may require more attention, such as minors and vulnerable groups:** ● Are current measures taken in schools effective enough to keep youths safe? ● How can we prevent harmful discourse and safeguard minors in the online realm? ● What forms of digital literacy would be needed to inform vulnerable groups on how to stay safe online? **The panel noted that there was importance to address digital inclusion and tackle related problems such as discrimination, hate speech, mob mentality, and cancel culture, while encouraging open civil discourse.**	

Annex:
Photos of post-its during break out discussion on panel topic

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Attendance:

MCCY	Ms Mandy Lim (Senior Manager, Youth) Ms Lock Hui Ying (Senior Executive, Youth)
NYC	Ms Valerie Tan (Senior Manager, Youth Engagement) Ms Elise Teo (Assistant Manager, Partnership Lab)
Verian	Ms Priya Narayan (Senior Associate, Policy Development & Evaluation)
Panel Leads	Ms Ong Wei Ching Ms Anthea Foong Mr Dev Bahl
Panel Members	Mr Saishwar Thirumagan Sri Mr Rustam Shariq Mujtaba Ms Tessa Foo Xuan Ru Mr Luo Chen Jun Mr Nurhan Hafiz Bin Mohammad Nazri Mr Malcolm Ngio Yew Kiat Mr Lee Kok Thong [Josh] Ms Lien Hui Xuan Ms Dinah binte Aziz Ms Kelly Chiew Mr Rishab Sharma Ms Shalini Kumar Ms Chin Char Min [Sharmain] Mr Matthew Ng De En Ms Evelyn Alimin Li Zhirui Ms Tiang Hui Hui Ms Azlin Zubairah Binti Mohamad Johari Mr Ben Chua
Absent with apologies	Mr Cameron Tan Shi Ern Ms Nandita Karthikeyan Ms Charmaine Tan Shiyan Mr Bryan Ong Cae Tze Ms Tabitha Lee Shi Yun Ms Rachel Kuo Jing Ying Mr Thaddeus Tan Loo Kai Ms Nandhini Balakrishnan Mr Chong Chi Hoong Mr Mohamed Mikhail Kennerley Mr Mohamed Danish Nufael Bin Azaha Ms Katherine Chang Kun Chua Mr Joshua Tseng Shi-Hao