

The image is a screenshot of a virtual event slide. At the top, it says "Keynote Speaker" in large white text. Below this is a portrait of Naveed Haq, a man with a beard wearing a plaid shirt. Underneath the portrait, his name "Naveed Haq" is written in white, followed by "The Internet Society" in a smaller font. The background of the slide is dark blue with a faint network diagram. In the top right corner, there is a logo for "IEEE Future NETWORKS". At the bottom of the slide, there are logos for "IEEE Advancing Technology for Humanity", "IEEE Future NETWORKS", and "IEEE Connecting the UNCONNECTED". To the right of these logos, the text "14 Oct 2024 | Hybrid Event - Dubai | ctu.ieee.org" is displayed. A small status bar at the very top of the slide indicates "You are viewing Ritu's screen" and "REC".

Keynote Naveed Haq - IEEE CTU Summit 2024

Naveed Haq, Regional Director of Internet Society, discussed the organization's mission to connect the unconnected, focusing on a community-centric approach in Nepal. He shared the story of Shep Sherpa and Bikram Sharishta, who aimed to bring internet access to a remote village at 4,000 meters. Despite challenges, they successfully connected a school lab, a hospital, and local lodges, enhancing education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. With a \$110,000 investment, they deployed a fiber optic network, training local engineers, and improving connectivity. The project highlighted the importance of community-driven solutions to bridge the digital divide.

Introduction and Keynote Theme

- Speaker 1 introduces Naveed Haq, Regional Director of Internet Society, focusing on infrastructure connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Naveed Haq discusses the Internet Society's mission of connecting communities and its global work, particularly with CTU.
- Naveed reflects on the importance of internet connectivity, emphasizing the need to connect the remaining 2.3 billion people.
- He decides to share a story of community-centered connectivity to illustrate how communities can empower themselves to bridge the gap.

Introduction of the Story's Heroes

- Naveed introduces the story's heroes, Shep Sherpa and Bikram Sharishta, both from Nepal.
- Shep Sherpa is an indigenous Sherpa known for his role in mountain guiding and climbing.
- Bikram Sharishta runs the Nepal Internet Foundation and is a local partner in the project.
- The story begins with Shep sharing his village's lack of internet access and the challenges of getting connectivity due to the remote location and difficult terrain.

Connecting the School Lab

- Naveed describes the first episode, where the team faces challenges in connecting the school lab due to the remote location and difficult terrain.
- Despite the difficulties, the team successfully connects the school lab, bringing joy to the students who can now search for their school on Google.
- The team faces dense clouds and poor weather conditions but eventually succeeds in connecting the school.
- The students' reactions to finding images of their school on the internet bring a sense of accomplishment and joy.

Frugal Innovation and Community Involvement

- Naveed introduces the second episode, where the team uses frugal innovation to set up a network using wooden poles and trees.
- The team faces challenges in transporting equipment but manages to set up a basic network.
- The community's involvement is crucial, with local engineers and community members helping to set up the network.
- The team successfully connects the Kundi and Come Jon areas, bringing internet access to the community.

Expanding the Network and Community Impact

- Naveed discusses the third episode, where the team expands the network to connect more areas and people.
- The team receives additional funding from partners, allowing them to deploy a fiber optic network at 4000 meters.
- The community's involvement is essential, with local laborers helping to dig and lay the fiber optic cable.
- The network expansion brings reliable internet access to more homes and lodges, improving the community's connectivity and opportunities.

Training Local Engineers and Community Benefits

- Naveed introduces the fourth episode, where the team trains local engineers to maintain and expand the network.
- The training program involves both theoretical and practical sessions, teaching local engineers about networking and cabling.
- The trained engineers help to troubleshoot and install new connectivity, ensuring the network's sustainability.
- The community benefits from the training, with local engineers earning income and providing essential services.

Economic and Social Impact

- Naveed discusses the fifth episode, highlighting the economic and social impact of the internet on the community.
- Local lodges start charging for internet access, generating additional income for the community.
- Freelancers in the community begin earning income through internet-based work, improving their livelihoods.
- The community's connectivity allows for better communication with family members abroad, enhancing personal relationships.

Conclusion and Future Plans

- Naveed concludes the story, emphasizing the importance of community-centered connectivity in bridging the digital divide.
- The project has brought significant improvements to the Sherpa community, enhancing their opportunities and quality of life.
- Naveed invites the audience to visit the Internet Society's booth for more information and to discuss future plans.
- The story serves as an inspiration for other communities to empower themselves and develop local solutions for internet connectivity.