# The Invite Now – Participants

Dear ... Greetings!!

COVA in collaboration with Swahid Peoli Phukan College, Namti, Sivasagar, Asian Resource Foundation-India & North East Youth Foundation, Guwahati invite you to apply for participation in the Guwahati TechCamp on 9th - 10th September 2017 from 9 am to 6 pm on both days. The Venue for the TechCamp will be Hotel Ginger, Guwahati, Assam.

As you are aware, the online media is being increasingly used for hate campaigns to spread misinformation aimed to create distrust and alienation between different communities that result in hostilities and lead to violence. All communities and sections all over the world seem to be getting afflicted by this phenomenon of online indoctrination leading to increasing fanatic perspectives and actions by individuals and groups that are becoming organized and showing a swell both in terms of their numbers and their propensity to violence. In order to address these socially divisive and devastating trends arising from wrong use of social media and to promote understanding and peace in and through cyberspace, the Concept of TechCamps to counter online fanatic indoctrination is developed. Please see the Note on COFI Networks attached.

The invited participants at a TechCamp will be progressive religious scholars, media persons, social activists, academics and youth who will be trained to gain expertise in using social media for peace and understanding and to counter misinformation and hate campaigns.

COVA had organised the first TechCamp to counter online hate campaigns in Hyderabad from 27-29thNovember 2017 in which 32 participants from 7 countries and 16 participants from 6 cities of India participated and gained expertise in social media to counter online hate campaigns and fanatic indoctrination. One of the participants of this TechCamp observed *“I loved the overall concept and the approach. Learned so many things which I can implement back home. I can confidently say that I have become so tech savvy after attending this tech camp”.* Another Participants observed *“Probably the best camp/conference that I have attended so far.”.*

As a follow up, TechCamps and BootCamps were organised in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi in April, May, June and August 2017. It is proposed to organise these unique training programs in Bhopal, Srinagar etc. and other countries of South Asia and Far East in the coming months.

A TechCamp is being organised in Guwahati on 9th – 10th September 2017 at Hotel Ginger, Guwahati from 9 am to 6 pm on both days.

# Proposed Agenda for the Guwahati TechCamp is attached.

Given your subscription to a liberal perspective promoting mutual respect and dialogue, commitment to principles of social justice and peaceful coexistence along with an influential presence in media and public platforms through your writings and speeches, you can indeed play an important role in countering the ever growing negativity in social media and retrieve cyberspace as a domain to promote peace. Hence we would like to invite you to participate in the Guwahati Techcamp.

To register for the Guwahati TechCamp, please click on the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdme3JHje5eWNogVxRJ3p-P1puvawueZ5elKNoB27osWNxLVw/viewform>

We are also assessing the social media exposure and capabilities of the participants to design the training contents accordingly. Hence we request you to click on the link below to access and fill in the online Social Media Assessment Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRAxHmhGWsk5yPL2xjdaNN7GnAJKs7ZMciponikihDbyHfTA/viewform>

We look forward to receiving your application for the Guwahati TechCamp and Partnership of the International COFI Networks that comprises of all participants of different TechCamps from 10 countries and are dedicate to counter online hate and secure cyberspace for peace and understanding.

Shortlisted applicants will be intimated by **25th August 2017** and invited to participate.

We would like to inform you that there is no provision to reimburse travel/accommodation for outstation participants. However, if you are in Guwahati during those days or able to make your own arrangements, we would be happy to consider your application for participation.

We are also planning to have TechCamp in different cities of India and if you are unable to participate in the Guwahati TechCamp, we will intimate when we are organizing a TechCamp in your city.

Thanks and Regards

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