

SANOG VII - Report to the Internet Society (ISOC)

**Training Workshop and Conference for the
South Asian Network Operators Group (SANOG) VII,
16-24 January, 2006, Mumbai, India**

Submitted on June 1, 2006

Background

SANOG provides a regional forum to discuss operational issues and technologies among network operators in the South Asia region. As data networks have grown around the world, we are taking the initiative to develop the South Asian network community. This is in line with established practices like NANOG in North America, RIPE meetings in Europe, AfNOG in Africa, and APRICOT in Asia. For the benefit of the participants, the SANOG framework incorporates workshops and tutorials in conjunction with the meeting. While tutorials will always be part of any SANOG meeting, hands-on, lab based workshops are done when there is a demand and resources are available.

The regional area covered by SANOG includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka. While issues in this region will be discussed prominently, participants from the Internet policy and operational community all over the world are welcome.

Internet Society (ISOC) has been providing fellowship support for the SANOG workshops since SANOG III. With the success of the first two SANOG fellowship program, ISOC now has committed for an yearly budget for SANOG. The SANOG community has been highly appreciative of this support.

SANOG VII

SANOG VII was hosted by Internet Service Providers Associations of India (ISPAAI) on 16-24 January 2006 in Mumbai, India. The event was internationally endorsed and supported by ISOC, APNIC, APIA, NSRC, and NSF. SANOG VII also had a number of commercial sponsors who contributed to the event. Details available at <http://www.sanog.org/sanog7/>

As a mark of maturity, SANOG VII expanded the conference program from the usual one day to a two day event. SANOG VII constituted of 5 days workshops, two days tutorials and two days conference, for a total of 9 days. APNIC organized, for the first time, an APNIC Open Policy Meeting Showcase highlighting the APNIC OPM and the advantages to participants. The showcase was organized to attract more participants to the APNIC policy making process.

SANOG VII was a daunting task, mainly due to the size of the event. Mumbai, also being the most expensive city in the region, made the budget go over-board. SANOG VII was organized at a relatively smaller venue as compared to previous SANOG, mainly due to the costs associated with bigger venues in Mumbai. SANOG VII had the largest number of participants so far of any SANOGs, at about 200+. The expansion into 9 days also meant new challenges and more budget in all aspects.

The SANOG VII introduced two new workshops on IPv6 and Multicast. Both the new workshops saw tremendous participations and interaction. The IPv6 workshop was organized in collaboration with Netnod / Autonomica and the Multicast Workshop was organized in collaboration with NSRC and Cisco. SANOG VII also introduced the concept of two days of conference. SANOG VII had some of the highest quality presentation, as evident from the fact that multiple speakers from SANOG went on to present similar papers at APRICOT and RIPE Meetings later in the year.

ISOC organized a ISOC BoF at SANOG VII. The BoF was co-ordinated by Mirjam Kuehne and speakers were Daniel Karrenberg, ISOC trustee and Kurt Erik Lindqvist, IAB. Daniel talked about the different work being done by ISOC, as well as its structure in relations to Internet Standards making bodies. Kurt Lindqvist presented the different work being done at the IETF and IAB.

SANOG VII had the presence of some of the most well known Internet people involved in standards bodies, policy framework, RIR policies, Routing operations as well as Peering and Infrastructure.

The decision to hold SANOG VII in Mumbai was done rather late, only in April 2005, which made it difficult to find a 10 day slot in any of the major hotels. It also meant introduction of an un-planned event on ISPALs' shoulders. ISPAL is highly commended for the effort it put into organizing the program, including soliciting of sponsors, and government support as well as overall support from the community. Mr. Amitabh Singhal, past president of ISPAL, Mr. Sanjaya Diwedi, current president of ISPAL and Mr. Puneet Tiwari, Director at ISPAL all deserve high appreciation from the community for making sure SANOG in Mumbai was one of the biggest net-ops event in the region.

SANOG VII Fellowships Program

Internet Society once again supported the fellowship program. We appreciate the contribution both from ISOC and NSRC in making the fellowship program a success.

The SANOG VII fellowships were a great success. We provided fellowship to Eighteen (18) participants. Of these, 14 were regional fellows, and 4 were local fellows. The international participant received airfare re-imbusement, maximum of USD 550, and shared or individual accommodation during their 12 days stay in Mumbai. The local fellows received free registration to the entire event. The fellowship program was highly

successful as we didn't have any cancellations. Parts of the fund were used for providing accommodation and travel support to few speakers from the region.

First round Fellows

S. M. Kamruzzaman
Moin uddin Ahmed
Subedi Tara Nath
Sujeet Mulmi
Bal Bahadur Bista
Siddiqui Muhammad Zeeshan
Mohammad Nadeem
Halpawattage Lanka Shirantha Peiris
Md. Arif Ahad Tarafder
Hettiarachchi Indunil
Samo Akhtar Rasool
SHARMA NITIN
Wangchuk; Dradul
Md. Moinul Hossain

Second Round Fellows

Shah Tejal
Gaiwak Apurva
Gyanendra Kumar Mishra
Das Choudhury Bijoy Kumar

Speaker Support

Vicky Shrestha
Sumon Ahmed Sabir

The fellowship system is now completely online. The application and evaluation process is handled online. The members of the fellowship committee evaluate applications online and rate each applications. The applications with highest cumulative ratings are selected automatically by the secretariat based on available funds and results announced. The fellowship committee can give special considerations to include applicants from all countries to the secretariat.

As the fellowship system was online, we were able to introduce and process the second round fellowship for participants from Indian, Nepal and Bhutan, as these fellows wouldn't need any visas for visiting India.

SANOG VII Participant Breakdown

Total number of unique registered participants was approximately 217, which also included

Committee Members: 7
Guests: 8

Total: 217

Workshop participants: 74 plus 9 instructors.

The total number of participants for the tutorials and workshops was really high. As was expected, a lot of workshop participants didn't continue for the rest of the event and new participants joined. There was significant participation from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh at the event at their own expense.

Major Achievements

This was the first time any event of this size and stature was organized by ISPAI. By any standards this was the biggest SANOG and quite comparable to other well established NOGs. SANOG now has a good recognition in India, and ISPAI made a public proposal to host at least one SANOG a year in India, which is being considered very positively by the SANOG Core committee.

The success of the expanded two days of conference in attracting both speakers and participants should be noted.

Fellowship Budget

The tentative travel costs from regional capitals to Mumbai varied from USD 300 (Sri Lanka) to USD 550+ (Afghanistan). At an average of USD 350, we were able to provide fellowship to 14 international and 4 local participants participants. The budget use breakdown is as follows.

Transport for participants	USD 4545.00
Accommodation	USD 6068.00
Support for Speakers	USD 2023.00
Books for the workshops	USD 1409.00
Workshop Related Expenses	USD 1636.00
Food and Dinner for Fellows	USD 4319.00
Total	USD 20,000.00

Total SANOG VII Budget

The detailed budget has been made available for SANOG. This revenue and expenditure will be audited as per the Indian Government Regulations as ISPAL is a registered NGO in India as per the Associations Act. All monies were handled directly by ISPAL.

The venue for SANOG VII was the Hotel Mirador in Mumbai. As noted above, Mumbai is the most expensive city in the region, and thus the budget was high compared to other SANOG. Ultimately, there was a small monetary profit as we had good sponsors. A significant investment in staff time and logistics have been made by ISPAL, which is not comparable to any financial contributions made to the event and thus the profit, however small, was provided to ISPAL towards supporting a future SANOG in India.

SANOG 7 Budget approximates, as converted from Indian Currency (excluding the Fellowship Budget)

Income	
→ Registration Fees	USD 8,727.00
→ Sponsorships	USD 60,863.00
Total Income	USD 69,590.00

Expenditure	
→ Venue and Catering	USD 40,364.00
→ Event Managers' Invoice	USD 20,000.00
→ Other and miscellaneous	USD 2,000.00
→ Pre event expenses (approx)	USD 5,000.00

Total Expenditure	USD 67,364.00
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Surplus *USD 2226.00*

The event managers' invoice included invoices for promotional materials, stationery, bags, T-shirts, speaker gifts, social event and entertainment. Also included were local transport, photocopying as well as management fees.

The pre event expenses were incurred by ISPAL in the previous years towards the organization of SANOG, including costs towards site visit, communications, guarantee deposits and bank charges.

The small surplus was the result of some last minute sponsorship that came through, and also the post-event approval of a grant by the Government of India. If these last minute sponsorship hadn't come through, ISPAL was committed towards absorbing the pre-event expenses on its own account. All the surplus has been kept at ISPAL to help and support future SANOGs in India.

As in previous SANOG, the fellowship budget and local budget were intentionally kept separate. We think the system has worked well for SANOG VII also. Though the details of the expenditure were slightly fuzzy because the same bank account was used and payments to the main hotel were done in a single invoice.

Conclusion

SANOG VII was a successful event, as is visible from the above. This was the largest SANOG in any terms, both in terms of participants as well as in terms of budget.

The expanded conference, increased International participation, direct involvement of IAB/IETF/IOAC members, the ISOC BoF and the good feedback received from all participants are some of the highlights. The successful organization of this event strengthened ISPAI's case of hosting much larger events like APRICOT and IETFs in India in future.

The SANOG fellowship system is now automated and online, which will let us provide more information about fellowship applicants in future reports.

We hope to continue our partnership with ISOC in the coming years as well.

For further information, please contact:

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