

# **Internet Society (ISOC)**

## **African Regional Bureau**

Dawit Bekele, Manager, African Regional Bureau

# Internet Society – Who we are

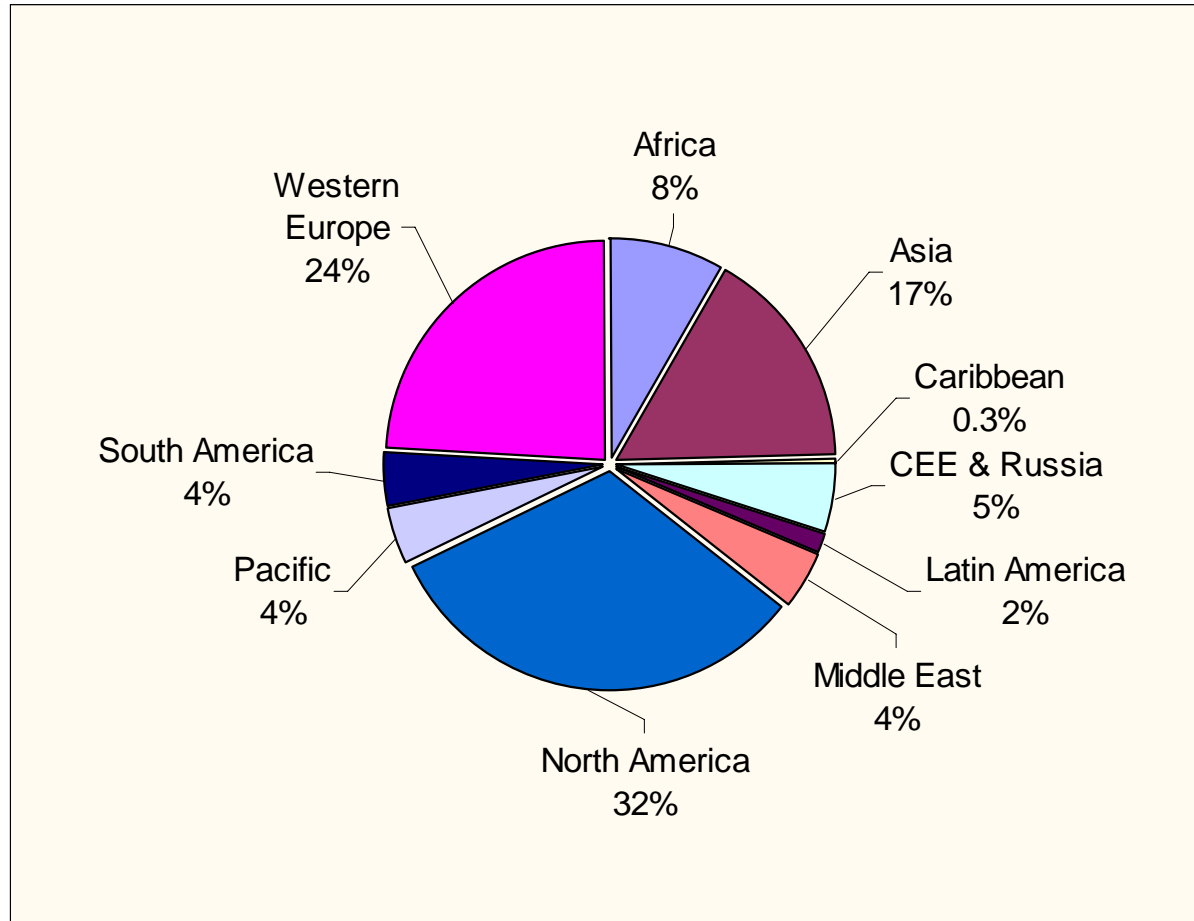
- Founded 1991 by Internet Pioneers
- International, not-for-profit, org.
  - 80+ organisation members
  - 24,000+ individual members
  - 80+ chapters, Many more chapters forming
- Organisation members fund activities in
  - Standards
  - Education
  - Policy

# ISOC's Mission

*"To assure the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world."*

Building an active global community of knowledgeable members & chapters

# Global Membership



INET Africa, Abuja, May 4 2007



# ISOC Chapters

- Voluntary local/regional entities embracing ISOC Mission and Goals
- Serve interests of local community
  - organise activities/events/education locally
  - provide services in local language
  - amplify ISOC efforts locally/regionally
- Provide local perspective back to ISOC
  - important component in ISOC Strategic Operating Plan

# The African Regional Bureau

- The African Regional Bureau was established on September 1, 2006 (8 months ago)
- This is part of many changes in ISOC within the last few months which have contributed to:
  - Give better service to the members
  - Be close to the members and chapters

# ISOC Regional Bureaus

- Physical point of presence in region
- Currently, in Africa and LAC
- The manager of the bureau is an ISOC employee
- Cross-department focus – policy, education and membership
- Promotes activities and initiatives at regional and sub-regional levels.
- Drives regional recognition of ISOC, its policies (across pillars) and its Mission.

## Bureau – Chapters relationship

- The Bureau does not manage or replace or direct Chapter activities
- It rather
  - supports and amplifies existing Chapter initiatives
  - encourages new regional initiatives among Chapters
- The focus of the Bureau is at the regional and sub-regional levels, not the national level.
- The regional Bureau is a resource for chapters and encourages chapter activities at a regional and sub-regional level, as appropriate.
- The Bureau representative is an extension of the ISOC team in the region, including functioning as an integral part of the internal ISOC Chapter/Member team.

# ISOC chapters in Africa

- Prior to September (14): Benin, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda
- 3 newly recognized chapters: R. Congo, R.D. Congo, Burundi
- 8 chapters under formation: Sierra Leone, Sudan, Northern Nigeria, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Togo, Liberia
- When 8 of them are formed, it will be an increase of 78%

# African Bureau and chapters

- Better interaction of ISOC with chapters
  - Communication with every active chapters
  - Getting deeper communication with chapters
    - IM Conferences (English - monthly, French- every 2 months)
    - African Website (Bilingual)
    - Virtual and physical meetings
  - Better information on chapters
    - We know their needs better
      - Language is a major barrier for participation
      - Strong interest in IETF
      - Desire to exchange experiences and best practices
      - ...
  - Better responsiveness
    - E-mail, telephone, IM the same day

# African Bureau and other organizations

- A high number of organizations in the region visited and ISOC introduced
  - UNECA, UNESCO, ITU, IDRC, ACALAN, APC, African Union, AAU, USAID
- Participated in local, regional events
  - IPV6 Summit, Dakar
  - Pan African Localization workshop, Marrakech
- More partnership potentials identified
  - UNECA, UNESCO, ACALAN, AU, APC, ...
- More expected
  - Better knowledge of needs
  - Better communication with local stakeholders

# Website

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the website for the Internet Society - Regional Bureau Africa. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.isoc.org/regions/africa/>. The website features a blue header with the Internet Society logo and navigation links: "All About ISOC", "All About the Internet", "Search/Site Map", "Organization Members", "Global Members", and "Home". Below the header, there are links for "Join" and "Feedback". The main content area is titled "African Bureau" and includes a welcome message, a paragraph about the bureau's establishment in September 2006, a paragraph about ISOC's presence in Africa since 1993, a paragraph about training programs supported by ISOC, a paragraph about ISOC's global reach, and a paragraph about the bureau's management by Dr. Dawit Bekele. The left sidebar contains links for "Home African Bureau", "About the African Bureau", "Regional Policy Advisory Group (RPAG)", "Partner Organizations", "African Chapters", "Internet Events Calendar", and "Contact".

Internet Society - Regional Bureau Africa - Mozilla Firefox

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Internet Society

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**African Bureau**

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**Welcome to the ISOC African Regional Bureau Website**

Established in September 2006, the African Regional Bureau will work closely with ISOC chapters throughout the continent to promote technical education and capacity building, and to help policy makers understand the implications of Internet technologies and the long-term economic benefits of carefully planned implementation.

ISOC has been present in Africa for the last fifteen years. In particular, from 1993 to 2001, through the annual Internet Society (ISOC) [Network Training Workshop](#) for Countries in the Early Stages of Internetworking, professional men and women from Africa have been taught the design, operation, maintenance and management of Internetworks [Read more in ISOC's "e-oti"](#).

More recently, ISOC has supported various training programs organized by AfNOG, AfTLD and AfriNIC as well as INET workshops. These trainings have contributed greatly to the proliferation of Internet in the continent in the mid nineties and to its development ever since.

ISOC has also constantly increased its global reach through the launch of new chapters in all parts of the world as well as through the establishment of Regional Policy Advisory Groups and Regional Bureaus. Currently, there are 80 active chapters throughout the world, 17 of these [active chapters](#) are in Africa. The African Regional Bureau will also help in the establishment of new chapters and welcomes interested groups to read the [Frequently Asked Question Page](#) or to contact the Bureau for questions related to starting a chapter.

The Bureau is managed by Dr. Dawit Bekele, an Ethiopian citizen, who received his undergraduate, Masters and Ph.D degrees from Université Paul Sabatier in

Done



## Bureau's activities in ...

- Education
  - INET Africa in Mauritius and Abuja
  - Promoting ISOC's education activities in the region
  - Identifying new education areas
  - Identifying new partners

## Bureau's activities in ...

- Policy
  - IGF sessions at INET Mauritius and Abuja
  - Involving in the policy discussions
  - Developing policy projects for Africa
    - Multilingualism project under preparation
  - Promoting ISOC's leadership in IGF on the continent

# Plans for the coming months

- Respond to the various needs expressed by chapters
  - Multilingual website, support for chapter website developments, IETF promotion campaign, etc.
- Exploit the various partnership opportunities identified to advance ISOC's goals
  - Many cooperation opportunities (ex. Possibilities to get financing for IETF fellowship)
- Support the implementation of the programs of each pillar
  - The Bureau acts across pillars (education, policy, membership) and is required to support the implementation of their plans

# Conclusion

- In the last eight months ISOC's presence and visibility has increased
- ISOC is now better positioned to create impact
- Two factors have contributed
  - Better capability at the headquarter
  - Deeper involvement in the region through the Bureau
- More participation from the members and chapters in order to insure the changes affect the development of internet at national level

**Thank you**

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