

Update for BoT Meeting

Area: Policy
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Status: Information

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Sub Area: Internet Governance

Since the Utrecht Board meeting ISOC has continued and increased its central role in the Internet governance discussions occurring in the Internet Governance Forum (the follow-on from the WSIS), through continued participation in the IGF itself and with Matthew Shears appointed to the IGF Advisory Group. Along with representatives of government, civil society, the private sector and the technical community, ISOC is helping to shape the Athens meeting of the IGF to be held later this year. Internet governance matters are also being pursued in the enhanced cooperation process and ISOC has had initial discussions with stakeholders and with those leading this effort.

ISOC contributed to a number of the WSIS follow-up Action Line meetings – with a particular focus on cyber-security, capacity building, the enabling environment and infrastructure. ISOC is working with the UNDP on the Action Lines on the enabling environment and capacity building.

ISOC organized a very successful Internet governance roundtable at the INET Africa meeting in Nairobi – the highlights of which will be fed into the Internet governance discussions as they move forward.

Internet governance will remain on the boil through the rest of the year, including, undoubtedly, being an issue of discussion at the ITU's Plenipotentiary conference and other events. The expiry of the MOU between the DoC and ICANN is also likely to ensure that the level of interest will not abate.

Internet governance related activities cut across each of the SOP goals, supporting and defending our core values, working with other stakeholders, awareness promotion, etc. Further, the breadth of issues that fall within the WSIS-defined notion of Internet governance encompass everything from Internet resource management related matters through to freedom of access to information on the Internet, to Internet deployment, and to capacity building, each and everyone of importance to ISOC.

For the future, ISOC will continue to play its central role in the Internet governance discussions ensuring that developments do not imperil or hinder the Internet, its deployment and its administration and management. This issue will be as important in 2007 and 2008 as it was in 2006, with little let up in the political, governance and development related issues. The increased mainstreaming of Internet governance related issues means that ISOC's education, policy, and Internet community work in the governance area remains as important as ever.

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Sub area: Development, capacity building and Internet governance

ISOC participated in the World Telecommunications Development Conference, covering policy and education related areas of interest. ISOC contributed to a number of sessions

important to the Internet governance discussion, and on working methods for sector members and on development issues generally. A number of governments and private sector members commended ISOC for attending and participating in the conference, noting the conference's importance to ISOC's development and capacity building interests.

Not only was there great value in ISOC being present at the WTDC but it was also a very useful learning experience, reinforcing the importance to ISOC of its education, capacity building and development activities. The WTDC occurs every 4 years and much of the work is done regionally and nationally before hand, offering opportunity for ISOC, either working directly and/or through Chapters, to engage further with development agencies and the ITU BDT. Such an increased development focus would undoubtedly contribute to achieving education and policy pillar goals.

Further strengthening ISOC's development and training programmes and activities, and reflecting the ISOC's global reach and multi-stakeholder engagement, we are pleased to report that Lynn St.Amour and Mike Nelson (representing IBM) were appointed to the Strategy Council of the United Nation's Global Alliance for ICT Policy and Development, and will play a central role in shaping the policy and development focus of that initiative. The press release can be found here: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/dev2580.doc.htm>

ISOC's policy and education contributions related to the deployment of technology in developing countries will be increased manifold in 2007 and 2008. ISOC will increase its technology policy outreach and education in the developing world, working with its Chapters and through the Bureaus and Regional Policy Advisory Groups, through the regionalized INETS, through partnering and other outreach mechanisms and tools. ISOC considers building capacity, shaping enabling environments and deploying the Internet as key drivers in economic development.

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Sub area: Expanding ISOC's public policy reach

Since Utrecht, ISOC has made significant progress in terms of two hires key to the expansion of the reach of its public policy programmes and activities, namely the Regional Bureau Manager for Africa and the Manager of Public Policy. Both positions are very close to be filled. Both positions will add significantly to the resources available to devise and implement public policy programmes for the remainder of the year, particularly in addressing regional policy issues and other issues that do not fall under the rubric of Internet governance.

We are in the final stages of contract discussions for the Manager of Public Policy position, and may have completed the process by the time of the Board meeting. ISOC received and reviewed around 60 applications, many of which were very well suited to the role and opportunity.

Work on pulling together the two Regional Policy Advisory Groups is progressing. A number of nominations were made for the two RPAGs that we have identified for 2006 – Africa and North America. We are also actively seeking out participants for both RPAGs, reaching into and beyond our ISOC communities in both regions. We anticipate that these two groups will have a very valuable advisory role in further developing ISOC's public policy focus and positioning during the remainder of 2006 and will be support to ISOC as well as ISOC chapters in region.

The process of approaching potential members of both RPAGs is underway and we expect to be able to announce the membership during the summer.

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Sub area: Collaborative outreach with the Internet community

Recognizing the outreach, policy and education-related value derived from participating as the Internet community through the Internet Pavilion in the WSIS Tunis meeting, ISOC has secured exhibition space at ITU Telecomm 2006 in Hong Kong in December. The exhibition space will be used to reinforce and build upon the themes promoted during the WSIS. Internet community representatives will also be participating in the event's Forum policy events.

Similar collaborative outreach opportunities are being explored for the IGF meeting in Athens in October and beyond.

These outreach activities will be a prominent tool for continuing to promote ISOC's public policy goals and its vision of Internet governance, and a significant work item going forward. Collaborative activities such as these are central to the SOP goals – working with and across stakeholders, building on the many communities that ISOC touches upon, and working with the membership are key to ISOC policy successes.

The Internet Collaboration Committee continues to provide a valuable opportunity for discussion on matters of common interest to members of the Internet community, and, as during the WSIS and now the IGF, a useful tool for collaborative positioning. Charter (see last entry in Board minutes): <http://www.isoc.org/isoc/general/trustees/mtg42.shtml>

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Sub area: Policy issues and partnering across membership and stakeholders

Many of the activities that ISOC public policy undertakes is through and in support of other stakeholders. ISOC contributes and plays a part in a range of associations, international and national advisory groups, and informal groups – such as the ICC, US Chamber of International Business, CCBI, OECD, ITU, Public Knowledge, etc – through which it continues to promote its core values and public policy principles. ISOC also provides input and feedback on a range of papers and position to organizations such as the OECD directly or indirectly through business associations. All of these are a very important part of meeting the partnering and collaboration-related goals of the SOP.

Examples of this type of work since the last board meeting include Mike Nelson's presentations at the at the OECD's workshop on "The Future of the Internet" and the ITU's workshop on "Rules of Next Generation Networks", and John Klensin and Pete Resnick's participation and presentations in the ITU's workshop on multilingualism. ISOC also worked with Public Knowledge and several ISOC members to oppose the draft WIPO treaty on Web-casting. Matthew Shears represented ISOC at EGENI France, participating in the plenary session on Internet governance and meeting with Chapter representatives.

Looking to the future, we believe that Network Neutrality, NGN, and other initiatives presage the increasing pressures that the Internet as we know it will be subject to over the coming years, and certainly in 2007 and 2008. Commercial, technical and political forces are seeking to shape, indeed change, the Internet of today and what it represents. Given its mission to promote and defend the Internet model and the interests of users around the globe, ISOC will

need to be at the forefront of the policy discussion and ensure that what we have come to expect of the Internet is preserved and enhanced.