

Education Programs 2007 - 2009

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2007 – 2009 will be key years in the growth, refinement, and improvement of ISOC's technical and policy education activities. According to the Strategic Operating Plan (SOP), which our work will continue to be guided by, ISOC's education mandate is:

- 1) To provide and distribute information related to the Internet and its technologies to individuals and to public and private organizations, including governments,
- 2) To provide assistance with Internet deployment to people in technologically developing countries, and
- 3) To promote the development of self-sustaining communities able to effectively deploy and exploit local and regional education and training resources.

In addition to reinforcing the need for ISOC to excel in its delivery of core technical education programs, the Board of Trustees has placed priority on providing education to policy decision makers on contemporary issues shaping the future of the Internet at regional and international levels. This will continue to be a significant and exciting growth area for us. ISOC's technical education and policy education activities will not exist in isolation to one another however. There is an important nexus: today's students have the potential of becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Over the next three years, ISOC's education strategy will focus on growing and improving its technical and policy education activities in their own right, while leveraging opportunities to create synergy between the two. In late 2006, with the hire of the new Director of Educations and Programs, ISOC doubled its staff resources and expanded its skill base dedicated to achieving these education goals. The addition of resources in the Communications and Membership departments will also help substantially with outreach and visibility. In addition, we expect to more deeply involve ISOC members and chapters in our education efforts and look forward to working more closely with them.

2007 Activities

2007 will see the continuance and refinement of ISOC's traditional technical education programs and set the ground work for our long term education goals. The work will include:

- *Expanding and Refining the Delivery of Technical Training Programs*

ISOC has developed a strong reputation internationally, and particularly in developing regions, for providing targeted and timely technical education programs and resources that enhance capacity and community building. These include our ccTLD workshop series, agenda, meeting, and fellowship

support to regional operators groups (NOGs), support to AfriNIC for meeting fellowships, and the ISOC Fellowship to the IETF.

In 2007, ISOC will continue its support and delivery of these key workshops and fellowships programs which helps build communities and Internet capacity by allowing individuals from developing countries to take advantage of important training opportunities.

The table below summarizes the operational and administrative goals for our core technical training programs. Among the highlights, the ISOC Fellowship to the IETF, which existed as a pilot in 2006, will be developed into a robust core program. We will be expanding the curriculum of our ccTLD workshops to include an “advanced” course covering security issues in more depth, and further develop our program in conjunction with ICANN/IANA on ccTLD policy and management issues. We will also deepen our work with the Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC) to maximize our training impact at NOG meetings and in ccTLD workshops. In addition to supporting fellowships, we will work with AfriNIC on their efforts to achieve greater self-sustainability.

To further our long-term goals, ISOC will develop more robust evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of our investment in these activities and determine future training needs. We will also establish “Alumni Networks” across these activities to extend the students’ education experience and facilitate communications between students after the events. The Alumni Networks also will allow ISOC to maintain contact with our fellows and students as they progress in their careers.

Additional program detail is provided in the Education Pillar Annex.

2007 Program Summary: Technical Training Programs			
Programs	SOP Mandate	Operational Goals	Administrative Goals
ISOC Fellowship to the IETF	2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Send 15 or more qualified individuals from developing countries to IETF meetings * Establish an ISOC Fellow Alumni Network * Pilot a Returning Fellows program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Widely publicize program and candidate criteria and establish a robust selection process * Develop standard administrative processes and an agreement with participating Fellows * Secure program funding from sponsors
ccTLD Workshops	2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Finalize materials for an “advanced” training workshop covering security issues in more depth * Hold 3 ccTLD technical training workshops, including 1 “advanced” workshop * Hold 3 – 4 ccTLD policy and management workshops in conjunction with ICANN/IANA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Introduce additional evaluation activities to assess program value and determine future needs * Streamline program administration
Regional Operating Group (NOG) Support	2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide 75+ fellowships for individuals from developing countries to attend NOG meetings. * Assist NOGS in their self-sustainability and regional community building efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop partnership agreements with the NOGs that clearly sets forth support provided and expectations in return. * Introduce evaluation activities to assess program value and determine future needs
AfriNIC Support	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continue fellowship and limited financial support to AfriNIC meetings * Work with AfriNIC to promote self-sustainability, with a goal of reducing financial reliance on ISOC by 20% in 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop a partnership agreement with the AfriNIC that clearly sets forth support provided and expectations in return

- *Improving Technical Information Distribution*

One of ISOC's primary education mandates is to distribute information about the Internet and its technologies. As part of this effort, the Education Pillar will continue its leadership role in producing the IETF Journal, which has become a popular, well received publication.

2007 also will see the introduction of a new newsletter aimed at educating the public and policy makers on technical issues. The "Technical Education Newsletter" (name to be determined) will be published on the ISOC website and in print for ISOC representatives to distribute at international and regional meetings. The content of the newsletter will be guided by input from Chapters, technical education needs identified during the course of ISOC's work with policy makers, and other sources. It is expected that the newsletter will start out modestly (2 issues, 4 – 6 pages each in 2007) and grow as demand warrants.

In collaboration with NSRC, ISOC hosts the Workshop Resource Center (WRC) a centralized, publicly available database of Internet technical training materials. The WRC furthers ISOC's education mandate by making high-quality workshop material broadly available beyond the events at which they were presented. In 2007, ISOC will work with NSRC to evaluate the effectiveness of the WRC and improve its functionality, including adding audio files to accompany presentation material. We will also work to better publicize the WRC through our chapters, ISOC Regional Bureaus, training workshops and other regional and international events that ISOC participates in.

A summary of our core information distribution activities is provided below. Additional detail is available in the Education Pillar Annex.

2007 Program Summary: Information Distribution			
Programs	SOP Mandate	Operational Goals	Administrative Goals
Workshop Resource Center (WRC)	1, 2, 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Continue maintenance and updating of the WRC * Streamline and refine WRC functionality based on community input * Introduce audio files to the WRC * Double the number of registered users (if registration is still deemed necessary) and site hits by 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Publicize the WRC through regional bureaus, chapters, events that ISOC organize (workshops, INETs etc), and in other venues
IETF Journal	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Issue 3 IETF Journals in 2007 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Secure layout/formatting support in addition to copy editing to allow staff to focus on substance rather than packaging
"Technical Education Newsletter"	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Develop and issue 2 technical education newsletters aimed at the public and policy makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Secure copy editing and layout assistance

- *Identifying Additional Opportunities in Technical and Policy Education that ISOC is Uniquely Skilled and Positioned to Fulfill*

ISOC will work with our chapters, organization members, Regional Bureaus and other members of the community to identify new or supplementary education activities that can be accomplished in 2007 and beyond.

Based on initial discussions with community members (including input from chapters and various experts), a review of Board of Trustees priority areas, and an assessment of the current “hot topics” in international policy and development forums, three areas have already been targeted for additional work:

- Access,
- Security, and
- Multilingualism and local content.

The Education Pillar will work to address these areas by supplementing our 2007 technical training programs with additional material (including addressing DNSSEC in our ccTLD workshops), as well as developing new programs and projects as part of ISOC’s “small but substantive” initiatives. In addition, the Education Pillar will work closely with the Policy Pillar to develop materials and tools that address the policy/technology intersect, such as briefings, studies, and presentations for use in the various international forums that ISOC participates in.

Further information on the opportunities is provided in the “small but substantive” initiatives section of the board book.

- *Modeling a Global Strategy for Policy Education*

Internet education needs for policy makers are not consistent throughout the world. Some regions and countries require more in-depth information on “Internet basics,” while others require more focused information on newly emerging issues. The political and economic drivers for policy decision making are also significantly different across regions and countries. Furthermore, cultural preferences are also a factor in determining the best avenues for education. For example, some regions may be more swayed by the opinions of internationally-recognized experts, while others may better be influenced by local leaders.

As part of its 2007 – 2009 education objectives, ISOC will undertake a strategic modeling exercise to determine the best mechanisms for educating policy makers on Internet issues. This work will begin in 2007.

ISOC will seek input from chapters, the ISOC Regional Bureaus and Policy Advisory Groups, members, and other contacts to assess the policy education needs of regions and countries and the best mechanisms to address them. We will also gather information through the contacts we cultivate during the

course of our technical training work and in the international and regional forums ISOC participates in and hosts (including INET meetings). By year end, this information will be coalesced into an internal “Policy Education Roadmap” that will help focus ISOC’s policy education efforts and promote efficiency in our 2008 expenditure, although we expect to take advantage of interim findings in our 2007 activities. The Education Pillar will work closely with the Policy Pillar on this initiative.

- *Building ISOC’s “Education and Capacity Building Identity” in the International Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Development Sphere*

In 2007, ISOC will seek to heighten its coverage, visibility, and participation in international forums that focus on ICT development, education, and policy. This will include, among other activities, developing a participation plan for ISOC’s engagement in the Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) and participating with the Policy Pillar in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). ISOC is a member of the GAID, which has replaced the UNICT Task Force (<http://www.un-gaid.org>), and is a member of the IGF Advisory Committee. We will also evaluate opportunities to engage in the Internet-related work of the International Telecommunication Union Development Bureau (ITU-D), which is broadly attended by technologists and policy makers from the developing world. This will form a key part of our strategy vis-à-vis the ITU.

ISOC will also renew its participation in the FRIDA and Pan-Asia Small Grants programs. Participation in these programs, which supports Internet capacity building in developing countries through small development grants, will further ISOC’s reputation and reach as a global organization and demonstrate concretely ISOC’s belief that “The Internet is for Everyone.” It is an important step in fulfilling our purposes and a key consideration in progressing WSIS development goals. It also provides opportunities for ISOC to make deeper contacts within development agencies, which is expected to prove beneficial as ISOC seeks to broaden funding for its own projects. We will work to ensure appropriate recognition of our contributions, seek active involvement in program management, and promote grant opportunities through our chapters. Participation in the FRIDA and Pan-Asia Small Grants program is consistent with education mandates 2 and 3 of the SOP.

Additional information regarding ISOC participation in the FRIDA and Pan-Asia Small Grants programs is provided in the Annex.