

# **Report on ISOC involvement in OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy, June 16-19, 2008, Seoul, Korea**

## **Background**

In 2007, ISOC was invited by the OECD to coordinate organizations involved in the Internet technical community to provide advice and input to the Ministerial meeting planned for June 2008. As a first step, ISOC was asked in September 2007 to participate in the drafting of OECD's on-line Public Consultation on the themes of the Ministerial meeting. Then we were invited to participate in all OECD ICCP (Information, Computer and Communications Policy) committee meetings to help shape the conference's essential documents: the ministers' agenda, their final "Seoul Declaration," official background documents and the OECD's final Policy framework, designed to set the organization's working program for the next decade.

Acting as a coordinator, ISOC staff invited several partner organizations to work together, and the group grew organically by word of mouth. Eventually 17 organizations (see Appendix) were collaborating to organize a 1-day Forum and a memorandum containing advice to the ministers. Because there is no organization called the "Internet Technical Community," great care was taken at all times to make it clear that ISOC was simply playing a coordinating role, and is not able to speak for other organizations beyond the scope of agreed text. Those most involved in the project were: Constance Bommelaer, Leslie Daigle, Bill Graham and Matthew Shears.

To ensure that ISOC members were aware of the project and had input into the memorandum and forum while the text was fluid, the draft documents were distributed for comment. Conference calls were arranged for organizational and chapter members in October 2007 and February 2008. Several members had questions and helpful comments that were incorporated into the documents. Other organizations were encouraged to consult their members before the group completed final drafting and Forum planning. Although the memorandum is not an ISOC document, our influence is clear. The memorandum incorporates almost verbatim the text of ISOC's 5 "abilities" from our web site, and *The User Centric Internet* was submitted as a background document for the Ministerial, both with the agreement of the other organizations.

## **Activities during the Ministerial**

On June 16 the Internet technical community Forum was held in Seoul. Its agenda focused on the Conference themes of Creativity, Convergence and Confidence. ISOC played a prominent role in the Forum – one that was vocally appreciated by the collaborating organizations, and by the other participants in the OECD Ministerial. More than 475 people registered to attend, and about 200 people attended at any one time (our forum ran alongside the Civil Society and Business Stakeholder Forums and individuals moved between the three Forums). The agenda and all presentations are posted on the ISOC web site. Lynn St. Amour spoke during the first plenary session of the Ministerial on June 17, and made a clear and strong presentation of the community's memorandum. In addition to Lynn's presentation, Leslie Daigle made a presentation on the future development of the Internet to the main program "panel of experts" on June 18. Lynn participated in two press conferences at the end of the stakeholder day, and at the end of the Ministerial, as well as giving several interviews to the press. A joint press release was issued on behalf of the organizations participating in the Internet technical community Forum. All of this material is available from the ISOC home page.

Several times, OECD officials and others involved in the Conference recognized the Internet technical community's contributions, and those of ISOC in particular. For example, in his closing speech the head of the OECD, Secretary General Angel Gurría surprised us by saying: "I recommend that we begin the process of formalizing the participation of civil society and the technical community in the work of the OECD on the Internet economy." While his statement attests to the value of our participation, the question of how the diverse organizations constituting the technical community might respond will have to be addressed. A valuable option would be for ISOC to propose continuing to play a coordinating role to facilitate these organizations' participation.

### **Follow Up**

On June 19, the OECD Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) met, and its Chairman again thanked ISOC for its contributions. He said he believes that Gurría's recommendation is about starting a process, and he expects the Secretary-General to provide more detail on that before the next ICCP meeting in December. We will await that material before next steps can be decided on.

**APPENDIX:**

**Organizations participating in Internet technical community participation with the OECD Ministerial meeting on the future of the Internet economy:**

The Internet Society (ISOC), [www.isoc.org](http://www.isoc.org)

The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), [www.ietf.org](http://www.ietf.org)

The Internet Architecture Board (IAB), [www.iab.org](http://www.iab.org)

The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), [www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)

The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP), [www.3gpp.org](http://www.3gpp.org)

The 3rd Generation Partnership Project 2 (3GPP2), [www.3gpp2.org](http://www.3gpp2.org)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)

International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), [www.w3.org](http://www.w3.org)

The Number Resource Organization (NRO), [www.nro.net](http://www.nro.net), including:

- The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN), [www.arin.net/index.shtml](http://www.arin.net/index.shtml)
- The Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC), [www.apnic.net](http://www.apnic.net)
- The African Region Internet Registry (AfriNIC), [www.afrinic.net](http://www.afrinic.net)
- The Latin American and Caribbean Internet Address Registry (LACNIC), [www.lacnic.net](http://www.lacnic.net), and
- The Ripe Network Coordination Center (RIPE NCC), [www.ripe.net](http://www.ripe.net)

The European Committee for Standardization (CEN), [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu)

The Internet2, [www.internet2.edu](http://www.internet2.edu)

The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), [www.tiaonline.org](http://www.tiaonline.org)