

## **Public Policy Report – March 2007 – Board of Trustees Meeting**

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This document provides an update on major Public Policy pillar activities since the end-of-year update provided in December 2006. As per the 2007 – 2009 Public Policy strategic outlook and the 2007 work program, the activities highlighted in this report fall in four main areas:

- Internet governance leadership
- The User Centric Internet
- Internet policy presence
- Policy/Education Intersect

The strategic objective of the Public Policy activities is the broadening and deepening of our reach and presence to enable ISOC to address a range of issues beyond Internet governance (recognizing that the latter will remain of significant importance). Perhaps most importantly, the first steps in the User Centric Internet program work have been taken and we look forward to that being a growing focus of the Public Policy Team's work.

### **Program: Internet governance leadership**

The Internet Governance Forum met in February 2007 for an IGF Athens stock-taking exercise. The first day was a closed session of the Advisory Group – Shears attended in his capacity as member of that group. The second day was an open session that spanned looking back at Athens and looking forward to Rio. ISOC contributed a written statement

[http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/documents/igf\\_athens\\_stocktaking.pdf](http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/documents/igf_athens_stocktaking.pdf), as well as comments on the need for greater best practices sharing, greater focus on the user and more IGF-related follow-up on key issues and priorities at a local level.

#### *Internet governance outreach*

The Policy team continues to promote regional multi-stakeholder Internet governance discussions. In May 2007, ISOC is planning an Internet governance related event at the Abuja, Nigeria INET conference <http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/inet/07/> with the express purpose of helping to catalyze further discussion in Africa and identify regional Internet governance priorities. We are also pursuing similar opportunities in the Latin American and Caribbean region, through a Caribbean Telecommunications Union meeting in April, a LACNIC meeting in May and a possible high level workshop in September. We would note the very useful and increasingly important role the African and LAC regional bureaus have had in the framework of ISOC's Internet governance activities. Their contacts and experience, and ability to connect locally within the regions, is and will continue to be extremely valuable in this regard (see Bureau reports below for additional detail).

Building on the IGF process, we are also exploring cooperation opportunities with a range of other stakeholders, including APC, ICC BASIS, CIPESA, CIPACO, AFRINIC/NRO, etc. Cooperation is envisioned either within the Dynamic Coalitions that have emerged from the IGF process, or through more informal frameworks.

## **Program: User Centric Internet advocacy**

The User Centric Internet (UCI) is a new Public Policy program designed to reassert, in debates and discussions related to the future of the Internet, the importance of the design values and fundamental principles that have underpinned the Internet's success, such as openness, user choice and control, edge based intelligence, etc. In focusing on user-centricity we are attempting to ensure that the primacy of the user is not forgotten when it comes to new architectures, commercial offerings, policy making, etc.

The first White Paper or discussion paper, entitled "Preserving the User Centric Internet", has been circulated and will be posted on a new page for the User Centric Internet program work that is being built in the Public Policy section of the website. The page will be structured to encourage debate and discussion around this important theme. For further information on UCI please see:

[http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/docs/strategy\\_outlook\\_2007programms.pdf#2](http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/docs/strategy_outlook_2007programms.pdf#2).

## **Program: Internet Policy Presence**

We have undertaken a number of activities in this space, ranging from external outreach to international organizations to internal website related changes.

### *ISOC and the OECD "Future of the Internet" Ministerial*

One of our key activities in this regard has resulted in a presentation by ISOC on March 15 to the Information Computer and Communications Policy Committee of the OECD on the possibility of becoming an observer/expert to the OECD in anticipation of the 2008 Ministerial on the future of the Internet. The OECD Secretary General reached out to ISOC to seek our possible participation and contribution to the preparation of the Ministerial and Member States will decide different levels of participation for different non-governmental organizations based on the OECD Secretary General's proposal and ISOC's presentation at the meeting in The Hague. We see this as an integral part of our effort to broaden our Public Policy presence among stakeholders and key international organizations.

### *Changes in the Public Policy web pages*

The Public Policy web pages <http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/> are the first to have been transitioned over to the new look for pillars within the ISOC website. The Public Policy team has added a number of new functionalities to the Public Policy pages, including policy related meetings on the Internet events calendar <http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/events/> and a "Worth a read" section that highlights policy related reports, studies or speeches, etc., that we believe would be of interest to the membership and others: <http://www.isoc.org/tools/blogs/policy/?cat=3>.

### *Call for nominations to the Regional Policy Advisory Group for Latin American and the Caribbean*

The Policy team was proud to announce the call for expressions of interest for the Latin American and Caribbean RPAG, see

<http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/advisorygroups.shtml>. The RPAGs are a key component of the Public Policy team's approach to globalizing and regionalizing our work program and activities.

The RPAGs are voluntary and advisory in nature entity, comprising a small number of experienced policy experts selected by the Internet Society. The RPAG LAC will play a key role in assisting the organization further its public policy activities at a regional and global level, supporting the LAC Regional Bureau, providing advice in the formation and implementation of ISOC policy programs and activities, identifying and engaging with influential thinkers and public policy makers, and promoting and pursuing the policy goals of the Internet Society as per the Strategic Operating Plan.

### *The Regional Bureaus and public policy*

The Public Policy team is delighted to be now working with two Bureaus and we are undertaking a range of activities in both regions, largely focused for the time being on Internet governance related activities. The Bureaus will further our outreach in the respective regions and provide invaluable assistance in achieving our Public Policy objectives at a more local level.

#### ➤ Africa Bureau report:

“The African Bureau contributed to increasing the awareness on Internet governance by publishing two articles on Société de l'Information, a newsletter published by French Chapter of ISOC on Internet Governance. The African Bureau also organized, together with the education team, a panel discussion at the INET Africa meeting held in Mauritius. Currently, the Bureau is working on the development of project on multilingualism in Africa (see below). Together with the policy team, it is discussing with other partners and stakeholders to insure that the project addresses the needs of Africans and also to identify possible collaboration.”

#### ➤ LAC Bureau report:

“The main topic on 2007 is the upcoming Internet Governance Forum. Several actions are being taken in order to position ISOC as a regional player in this regard:

- The Bureau is talking with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union regarding a meeting to be held on April 18 to 20 in Anguilla. ISOC is already invited to join the meeting.
- A coordination, brainstorming and agenda sharing meeting was held in early March in Montevideo, Uruguay. Organizations represented included LACNIC, ICANN, LACTLD, eCOMLAC, redCLARA and ISOC.
- ECLAC (Economic Commission for LAC, UN) is running a project on IG issues called eLAC2007, which has a defined set of goals regarding ICT for the region. A new meeting on this is going to be held in El Salvador during the first days of November, which will update the project and establish a new set of goals for 2010. ECLAC has been contacted and the project is being monitored by the Bureau.
- Planning for an IG related meeting in September, organized by ISOC, started.

- A CITEEL (Inter-American Telecommunications Commission, OAS) meeting is scheduled for late March in Buenos Aires, Argentina. ISOC is going to be invited to that meeting, on an IG-related panel.”

### **Program area: Public Policy/Education Intersect**

Recognizing the important synergies between Public Policy and Education in ISOC’s overall mission, the two pillars are working on three joint projects, specifically:

- A project in the area of multilingualism in Africa
- An assessment of a possible CERT deployment education program in developing countries
- An IXP activity (led by Education)

With regard to the first, we are in the process of building a project proposal for bringing together African players in the **multilingualism** space with UNESCO and other parties. In this respect, Bommelaer and Bekele (Africa Bureau) participated in the UNESCO workshop on “Recent experiences on Measuring Languages in Cyberspace” held in Paris on the 22 February 2007. This event was a good opportunity for ISOC to meet policy makers and major academics working on cultural diversity and multilingualism at the international and local levels. Coordination of these actors is the core element of ISOC’s Multilingualism project. ISOC staff discussed the project informally with participants and understands that there is a need and a desire for a collaborative initiative that provides synergies across the technical and political communities in this space.

In the **Security** area, Policy has done a first assessment of a possible CERT deployment education program. The objective of the project is to pilot and catalyze the development of a CERT in cooperation with the private sector and a national government. ISOC would solicit the global Forum for Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST), an international network which has developed training and technical development material tailored for similar initiatives. ISOC would only pilot the kick off of the initiative.

### **Building the Public Policy team**

Lastly, the search for a new Director of Public Policy was launched in February through the ISOC site [http://www.isoc.org/isoc/general/career/director\\_publicpolicy.shtml](http://www.isoc.org/isoc/general/career/director_publicpolicy.shtml), through two website-based job listings (for international/policy jobs) and word of mouth. An advertisement has also been placed in the March tech-focus issue of the Economist that is expected to generate additional interest.