

The Future of Internet Governance

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Indispensable and ubiquitous

- 1,000,000,000+ Internet users
- 221,000,000 broadband users
 - 89,000,000+ in Asia-Pacific
- 100,000,000+ websites
- 213,000,000 daily searches US (03/06)
- \$88,000,000,000 online retail sales US (2005).
- YouTube:
 - 100 million video views
 - 65,000 video uploads
- IP – Internet Protocol
- All the world's a stage, a podium, a speaker's corner
 - Vlogging, blogging
- 2B mobile handset users
 - e-mail, pictures/video
- Triple digit Internet usage growth rates
- WiMAX/WiFi – urban to rural
- Youth

New worlds, new players, new models

- New worlds
 - Borderless world, virtual worlds
 - Worlds in which “everyone can have a say”
 - New models of commerce, social interaction
- New players
 - Multi-stakeholderism
 - Youth
 - Communities of interest
- New models
 - Bottom-up
 - Empowered
 - Decentralized
 - Open and transparent
 - Interest and expertise driven.

So what's the
governance model?



Internet Management - RIRs

- RIPE NCC, ARIN, LACNIC, APNIC and AFRINIC
 - Internet resource allocation: IP addresses (IPv4, IPv6) AS numbers
- First established in 1990's
 - By consensus of community
 - To satisfy emerging needs
- In the “Internet Tradition”
 - Consensus-based, open and transparent.
- *Industry self-regulatory*
 - *Non-profit, neutral and independent*
 - 100% self-funded by membership
- *Open policy processes*
 - Open meetings and mailing lists
 - *Consensus decision making*
 - *Open to all*
- Participants include...
 - *ISPs, Network Operator Groups, Government agencies (e.g. security and law enforcement), vendors, individuals*
- Formal relationships
 - NRO liaison relationships with ITU-T, IETF, ISOC, ICANN

WSIS, IGF and more

- World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) concluded in 2005
- Original purpose:
 - to tackle the “digital divide” and harness the potential of ICTs to drive economic and social development
 - *“(This summit) must lead to information and communications technologies being used in new ways, which will bring new benefits to all social classes. Most of all, it must generate new momentum towards developing the economies and societies of poor countries, and transforming the lives of poor people.”* Kofi Annan, opening statement – WSIS Tunis 2005
- The concluding WSIS documents called for continued focus on Internet governance in the form of:
 - A multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue called the **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**
 - A process of “**Enhanced Cooperation**” in the area of the development of globally applicable principles on public policy issues



IGF: the grand experiment

IGF mandate:

- be a place for “multi-stakeholder policy dialogue”
- discuss cross-cutting policies and issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body
- have no oversight function and not replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organisations
- Have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the net, and
- be a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process, etc.

Was it met?

- Development and capacity building focus
- Openness, diversity, security and access
- Truly multi-stakeholder and a meeting of equals
 - A completely different animal
 - Balance over bias
- Dialogue, experience sharing and dynamic collaboration
 - Workshops, coalitions....
- Still some concerns about the lack of “results”, over structure, etc.
- Next step Rio.

The future of Internet Governance

- “I think ... the Internet philosophy of bottom-up, of people of diverse cultures from different countries working together informally in order to make things work somehow seems to have percolated through even into our debates and our deliberations. And in many ways, what we are seeing is really one of the great, potentially greatest, impacts of the Internet, the way in which it can bring people together from different parts of the world and make them feel that they are part of a single community. I think this is truly extraordinary.”
 - Nitin Desai, IGF Chair, concluding comments
- Shaped by or shaping the future Internet
- Roles and responsibilities
- Continuity and stability
- Innovation and evolution
- New models vs. old models
- Access and Internet deployment
- Security, privacy, identity, openness
- Globalization, localization.
- And more.....

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