

**IXP Briefing Paper e-meeting
Wednesday 5th August UTC 10.30**

Draft agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Overview
3. Opportunities and challenges
4. The way forward
5. Q & A

Attendees:

Marcin Cieslak - ISOC Poland Chapter
Sebastien Bachollet - ISOC France Chapter
Jean-Robert Hountomey - ISOC Togo Chapter
Che-Hoo Cheng - ISOC Hong Kong Chapter
Conrad Coyanda-Parkzes - ISOC Sierra Leone Chapter

Sally Wentworth - ISOC staff
Christine Runnegar - ISOC staff
Sabrina Wilmot - ISOC staff

The meeting started with a warm welcome by Christine and an introduction of all participants. Everybody shared briefly their experience on the topic of IXPs and mentioned expectations for this meeting.

Christine then gave an overview about ISOC briefing papers and in specific about the document "Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)" (<http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/docs/ixps-20090514.pdf>).

Jean-Robert provided information on the Internet connectivity and IXP situation in Togo and other African countries. He reported that many users often have to place their servers in other countries due to unreliable ISP services and high connectivity costs.

Marcin mention that this is also an important subject for European countries, e.g. in Poland to overcome the monopoly position of the main participant.

Sally pointed out that competition, costs and content are important issues but their impact is different in the regions. IXPs are a key tool for countries to improve access to the Internet.

Jean-Robert mentioned an example from Togo. Regulatory bodies often come from the telecommunications world and it is difficult for them to understand the business model of the Internet. Therefore they had regulators participating in a lot of training and conferences to have them understand the impact and opportunity of having an IXP inside the country. The regulators are now asking the ISPs to work together to set up an IXP.

Christine emphasised two important things Jean-Robert had mentioned:

1. Legal and regulatory environments for IXPs are different around the world and
2. the important role Chapters can have in their country to educate regulators.

Marcin queried whether it is appropriate for IXP policies to require all peers to peer with each other. In this discussion, a distinction was drawn between peering policies agreed by IXP participants and peering policies imposed by governments. Christine noted that optimal peering policies will vary among IXPs and Sally added that onerous regulation could hamper IXP deployment. She also observed that some studies suggest that a combination of multi-lateral and bi-lateral peering agreements seems to be most effective overall.

Jean-Robert explained that in Togo and the African region there are two scenarios to find:

1. The local Telco has the peering members of the IXP to define the policy.
2. The regulatory body decides who is an IXP and what the peering policy is in that country.

Sally added that governments should create a regulatory environment which facilitates IXP development.

Participants shared their experience with local regulators and the discussion expanded to more general licensing arrangements in particular countries. Sally suggested the participants continue the discussion offline if desired.

Sebastien mentioned that there are still other countries, not only developing countries, that need to be more looked at when it comes to Internet connectivity and access issues. He recommended that ISOC have one message irrespective of geography.

Outside the topic of IXPs, Marcin posed a question: Why is it that "Internet" is used in discussions about harm whereas "ICT" and/or "broadband" is used in discussions about the benefits of the Internet. This led to a discussion about the meaning of "broadband". The participants noted that the term "broadband" is used to convey different concepts in different countries, and that care should be taken if this term is used. They also suggested that perhaps ISOC would like to consider producing a paper on this issue.

Post Script:

Marcin had pointed out two links:

A New Way to look at Networking

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-6972678839686672840>

And a short summary of the "content-centric" networking by Van Jacobson

<http://highscalability.com/scalability-perspectives-2-van-jacobson-content-centric-networking>

Jean-Robert provided a link about Haitian Internet Exchange point

http://www.nanog.org/meetings/nanog45/presentations/Tuesday/Guerrier_AHTIC_EXCHANGE_POINT_N45.pdf

or

<http://tinyurl.com/ku2cc7>