

# ISOC and the Internet Governance Forum from Rio to India

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*“Partnership towards IGF in Asia”*

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# About ISOC

“The Internet Society is an independent international non profit organization dedicated to the stability, continuity and growth of the Internet for the benefit of all people”

We accomplish this by:

- advancing the development of Internet standards, technologies and best practices,
- providing information and training programs,
- promoting sound national and international policies that support the expansion and improvement of the Internet throughout the world”

# ISOC and the IGF

- ISOC has supported the IGF since its inception
- ISOC sees great value in having an open, multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue on Internet related matters
- The Forum is a good platform for communicating ISOC's key messages to stakeholder communities and particularly governments
- The IGF continues to evolve and will be a convenient focal point for Internet governance issues generally, although it is far from the only forum in which ISOC pursues its Internet governance related interests
- ISOC and the technical community's presence was considerable in Rio – it was well received and appreciated.

# Why is it important?

- The IGF is more than a Forum: it is about
  - Evolving models of engagement – multistakeholderism, bottom-up (Internet model) processes, borderless community building
  - Skills development and capacity building through discussion, experience sharing and good practices from around the globe
  - Leveraging opportunity through comparing and contrasting business models, regulatory, technical and societal approaches to access, diversity, openness and security
  - The next billion users.....

# Why the IGF is different

- It provides an environment for frank discussion of a range of important issues to the future of the Internet.
- It is free of negotiation, arranged seating and lengthy policy statements; it was “neutral, non duplicative and non-binding” as per its mandate
  - Some governments even objected that their voices were not being heard!
- It encourages a discussion among equals approach that enables a broader and more open exchange of views than in a more traditional “inter-governmental” setting.
- It focuses on capacity building and development, recognizing the importance of the building of supportive enabling environments for facilitating Internet deployment.

# ISOC at IGF Rio

- Significant presence
  - ISOC staff, trustees and members
  - 11 ISOC Ambassadors
  - Sponsored speakers and key participants
  - ISOC Chapters
- Significant contribution
  - 6 workshops/best practices sessions
    - IPv4/v6; Access x 3; Root Server System
  - ISOC Open Forum
    - ISOC overview and Chapter presentations
- Significant visibility
- True leadership position.

# Critical Internet resources

- Main session
  - Approach taken addressed CIR very broadly
  - The discussion was relatively muted (and not as difficult as we might have imagined) and included access issues and a range of issues unrelated to the DNS, IP addressing and the root servers
- Workshops (among others)
  - IPv4 v6:
    - Organized by ISOC, JPNIC (Org member) and the NRO. Provided a baseline/educational approach to the issue with a clear message of the need to incorporate transition planning in strategy as soon as possible.
  - Root Server System and IXPs:
    - Organised by ISOC, GIPI, ICANN. Similar educational approach – focused on practical aspects (functioning, purpose etc.) rather than political dimension.

# Other issues identified in Rio

- A number of issues were identified during Rio (non exhaustive – from the summing up of the “Emerging Issues” session):
  - Rights – and specifically the issue of an Internet Bill of Rights and “online” rights
  - Child protection issues – this was an important issue in Rio and a number of workshops were dedicated to it
  - User generated content and the responsibility of users
  - Anonymity
  - Privacy, identity and authentication
  - Security – at a national and international level
  - Access – while not an emerging issue it was identified as the KEY issue for Africa
  - Regulation and the borderless Internet – how does a regulatory authority address issues that make nonsense of the traditional definition of the nation-state?

# The road to India

- Many talks about organisation & Logistics (“about IGF”):
  - Role and structure of the IGF advisory Group
  - The focus and structure of IGF Delhi
- The **key challenges** for the next IGF:
  - The technical community had a significant role in shaping the IGF and particularly IGF Rio – important to keep the TC representation in the IGF
  - Further exploit the real IGF strength: bringing together people who generally tend to meet separately (N.Desai)
  - Mobilizing civil society (and encourage participation in Asia!)
  - Themes: more focused on need to show real results from the meeting in terms of promoting access, security, diversity and openness.

# The Road to India: an ISOC perspective on Access (1)

The “next billion users online”

..and the next one

- Enablers? Barriers?
- Content (\*not\* English?!)
- Preserve the Internet Model of openness, democracy, freedom of speech, and innovation/User Centricity
- Vulnerability issues  
(Security/privacy/cyber-crimes, etc..)

# The Road to India: an ISOC perspective on Access(2)

- Localize the IG related issues
  - Localize high-level discussions
  - Implement local capacity building and internet model
  - Identify regional challenges
  - Explore local solutions
  - Multistakeholders approach

# ISOC perspective on Access (3)

Concrete actions to tackle “Access” issues:

- Not just infrastructure oriented..=> **ISOC Enabling access initiative**
  - Encourage adoption of internet friendly public policies and facilitate the decrease of regulatory impediments (competition, regulatory initiatives, etc.)
  - Addressing issues at local level: ISOC INETs (orchestrated with Regional Bureaus)
  - Technical training and technical capacity building (IETF fellowship, ISOC training programs, etc.)
  - Educate policymakers on the broader economic/market and social factors that impact internet development
- => internet cannot be isolated from economic development! (critical enabler of development)

# Thank you for your attention

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