

# **Internet Governance**

## **ISOC Perspectives**

**Rajnish D. Singh**  
***Regional Bureau Manager***  
***Bureau for South and Southeast Asia***  
***Internet Society***

**APNIC 26, August 2008**  
**Christchurch, NZ**

# ***What is the Internet Society?***

- Founded in 1992 by Internet Pioneers
- Dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of people throughout the world
  - **International not-for-profit organization**
    - Offices located in Washington and Geneva
    - 90+ organization members
    - 26,000+ individual members
    - 80+ chapters worldwide
  - **Regional Bureaus:**
    - Africa
    - Latin America and the Caribbean
    - South and Southeast Asia (incl. Oceania)

# ISOC Programs

- **Trust and Future of the Internet**
- **User Centric Internet**
- **Internet Governance**
- **Internet Policy**
  - *Preserving the ability to connect, speak, innovate, share, choose and trust*
- **Regional Policy Advisory Groups**
- **Interconnectivity and Standards Development**
  - *IETF, IESG, IAB*
- **ISOC Fellowships**
- **Membership and Chapter Development**
- **ccTLD workshops**
- **Conferences and Events**
- **Publications**

## ***ISOC Initiatives (2008-2010)***

- **Enabling Access**
  - Technical Capacity Building
  - Policy, Regulation, and the Access Environment
  - Enabling Access for Under-served Communities
- **InterNetWorks**
  - Global Addressing
  - Common Internet
  - Security & Stability
- **Trust and Identity**
  - Architecture and Trust
  - Current Problems/Solutions and Trust
  - Identity and Trust

# Why ISOC?

- **Worldwide presence and impact**
- **Influential relationship with technical community**
- **Respected voice in the policy community**
- **Active Internet experts and decision makers in our folds**
- **Historical record for making a difference**

*ISOC is a respected leader in shaping the future of the Internet*

*Become an ISOC member today and partner with us to build that future together*

# *The Internet today*

- **A complex system, still evolving rapidly**
- **Nowhere near being a “legacy” system**
- **A “network of networks” working co-operatively**
- **Intelligence predominantly at the edges**
- **Proven to be flexible, adaptable and responsive to users’ needs**
- **But the “Internet model” presents a challenge to traditional governance players and mechanisms**
  - *The Internet is inherently global, and therefore trans-jurisdictional*
  - *There is no shared model for what is acceptable and what is not (with obvious exceptions)*
  - *Nothing new, but the challenges can appear to be new*

# *The Internet's success is largely due to its unique model*

## **The Internet model:**

- **Shared global ownership without central control**
- **Collaborative engagement models (involves researchers, business, civil society, academia, governments)**
- **Development based on open standards (which are also openly developed, with participation based on knowledge rather than formal membership)**
- **Key principles (such as the “end-to-end principle”)**
- **Open, bottom-up, freely accessible, public, multi-stakeholder processes for both technology and policy development**

# ***A couple of Questions:***

**What is “Internet Governance”?**

**What does “Internet  
Governance” mean to you?**



# Defining Internet Governance

**More often than not, Internet Governance means different things to different people**

***Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.***

*Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) Final Report <http://www.wgig.org>*

# ***What does Internet Governance cover?***

- **The Internet today and how it will evolve tomorrow**
- **A secure and stable Internet available to the world at large, and one which contributes to socio-economic development**
- **Internet Governance is more than just laws enacted by Governments**
  - *Not limited to government activities: every Internet User's concern*
  - Includes social/cultural norms and covers all sectors of society
  - Deliberations and decisions need to be transparent and democratic with multi-stakeholder input

# Some *Internet Governance issues*

- **Internet Infrastructure and Resource Management**
  - Telecommunication infrastructure, broadband, convergence, VoIP, technical standards, administration of names and numbers, root server system, international domain names (IDNs)
- **Issues relating to the use of the Internet**
  - SPAM, cybersecurity, cybercrime, critical infrastructure protection, network security, national policies and regulation
- **Issues with wider impact**
  - Authentication, privacy, consumer protection, intellectual property, e-commerce, freedom of information and media, competition policy, dispute resolution, unlawful content
- **Issues with developmental aspects**
  - Cost of access, universal access, capacity building, national infrastructure development, content accessibility, FOSS, cultural and linguistic diversity, social inclusion

Sourced from WGIG Report [www.wgig.org](http://www.wgig.org)

# Why does *Internet Governance* matter?

- **The Internet is now, for the most part, the communications medium of choice (in many forms) for a large part of the world**
  - e-mail, telephony, blogs, social networks, video, web portals, individual/organisational websites, web conferencing, instant messaging,.....
- **More than 1.4 billion Internet users (>20% of world population) as at June 2008 (according to Internet World Stats), and growing! [www.internetworldstats.com](http://www.internetworldstats.com)**
  - This makes the Internet an important global public policy issue
- **Significant part of world economy**
  - More and more, the world depends Internet technology: e-commerce, “e-everything”
  - Big business: Silicon Valley, Google, Yahoo, Amazon, eBay, global Call Centres, “Information is power”

- **Origins in World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**
  - Internet governance gained prominence during the preparations for the WSIS from 2003 to 2005
  - Openness and diversity of the Internet model poses a challenge for governments and for the inter-governmental United Nations process
  - Complexity and formality of the UN process poses a challenge for the Internet community's culture
  - Willingness of all stakeholders to engage in open discussion was a major contributor to the success of the Summit
  - Set a benchmark for follow-up activities, in particular the Internet Governance Forum

# ***Internet Governance and the UN (con't)***

- **IGF: an open multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue on Internet governance**
  - No formal negotiation, arranged seating or lengthy policy statements (“neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding” as per its mandate)
  - Encourages frank discussion among equals and enables a broader and more open exchange of views than in a traditional inter-governmental setting
  - Focuses on capacity building and development, recognizing the importance of creating supportive enabling environments to facilitate Internet deployment
- **Other UN Internet Governance activities**
  - WSIS implementation efforts: annual WSIS cluster in Geneva
  - ITU Council Working Group on WSIS
  - ITU World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2009  
(Convergence, Internet-related policy issues, NGN.....)

# *Why is the IGF important?*

## **The IGF is about:**

- **Evolving models of engagement**
  - ♦ exposes governments to multi-stakeholder, open, bottom-up (Internet model) community based processes
  - ♦ exposes Internet community to governments' concerns and issues
- **Community building based on interest, not geography or politics**
- **Skills development and capacity building through discussion, sharing experiences, and good practice from around the globe**
- **Leveraging opportunity; comparing and contrasting regulatory, technical, and societal approaches to access, diversity, openness, and security**
- ***The challenge:* to prove the IGF adds value**

# *Internet communities and the IGF*

- **ISOC has supported the IGF (and its predecessors) since inception; as have various Internet communities, particularly the RIR's and ICANN**
- **The participation of members of Internet technical community has been considerable, thoughtful & appreciated**
- **There is value in an open, multi-stakeholder forum for Internet matters – it is a good platform for communicating our messages to other communities and particularly to governments**
- **IGF continues to evolve and provides a useful non-binding venue for discussing and collaborating on Internet governance issues**



# Key challenges for IGF 2008

- **Maintain participation, demonstrate added value**
- **Members of the Internet technical community had a significant role in shaping the IGF – important for all of us to stay involved at IGF 2008, and beyond**
- **Further build on the real IGF strength:**
  - “bringing together people who generally tend to meet separately”*
  - (Nitin Desai, IGF Chair)
- **Mobilizing the friends of the Internet and the Internet model, region by region**
- **Themes: more focused on showing real results in promoting access, security, diversity, and openness**

# Looking ahead.....

- **ISOC and our partner organisations are key advocates for the open & collaborative Internet model**
- **As governments look to current Internet challenges, they need to understand that the model works**
  - e.g. OECD preparing status of IPv4 paper
  - OECD ministerial event in Seoul, June 2008
  - ITU standardization, policy and development work
- **Our community has a track record of successfully overcoming problems and an admirable history of co-operation and collaboration**
- **The big challenge now is to ensure we can continue to do so.....**

# Key challenges in Internet Governance

## Bringing the next billion users online.....

- **Scaling**

- including everything from ensuring continued global addressing with a routing infrastructure that keeps pace with growth, to supporting the many different uses, applications and services, and cultures and industries that the Internet enables. (*InterNetWorks*)

- **Trust & Identity**

- encompassing many facets of information sharing, particularly the security, identity, and accountability required to be sure we can carry out our electronic lives with the individuality, rights to privacy, and confidence we expect in the physical world.

- **User Choice**

- the next billion Internet users will be very different from the first -- predominantly from developing countries, not as technically savvy, largely from non-English-speaking, non-European backgrounds. To maintain the Internet as an engine of innovation, it will be vital to maintain users' ability to choose levels of service, how to freely access information and content appropriate to their cultures and languages. (*Enabling Access*)

# Talk to us!

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/contact.shtml>

## Contact details:

*Rajnish D. Singh*

singh@isoc.org

Tel: +1 703 439 2151