

The African School on Internet Governance Proposal presented by the Association for Progressive Communications and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency

“...on our return from Mauritius, I cannot help but feel as big as a Baobab Tree. We left from various parts of the African continent as just seedlings, but now we were all bigger. We were not big from the food we have been eating at Tamassa Resort, but we are bigger because we are all pregnant with more knowledge acquired from the African School of Internet Governance.”

Participant in AfriSIG 2014, Tamassa Resort Mauritius, November 2014

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Executive summary

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency request support towards the third African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) to be held in Addis Ababa on 1-4 September 2015, immediately prior to the African Internet Governance Forum (IGF) which will take place on 6-8 September.

The goal of AfriSIG is to give Africans from multiple sectors and stakeholder groups the opportunity to gain knowledge and confidence to enable them to participate effectively in internet governance processes and debates at the national, regional and global levels. AfriSIG also builds the capacity of people with existing expertise in internet governance by including them as faculty and resource persons.

Building on the model of the European and Latin American Internet Governance Schools, APC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency launched the first AfriSIG in July 2013 in Durban, South Africa. The second AfriSIG took place in November 2014 in Mauritius.

Demand for this type of capacity building is clear from the more than 300 applications received in 2013, more than 600 in 2014 and more than 700 in 2015.

We believe that AfriSIG can increase the diversity, extent, quality and effectiveness of African participation in internet governance at the national, regional and global levels. AfriSIG's broader goals are to strengthen African perspectives and voices in global internet governance and to achieve more inclusive and transparent internet governance on the continent.

Context

Internet governance (IG) is usually defined as the development and application, by governments, the private sector and civil society, of principles, policies, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the internet.

While few contest the definition itself, the respective roles, responsibility, power and influence of various stakeholder groups continue to be the subject of intense debate. Also contested is the institutional ecosystem within which decisions that impact on the internet are being made, as well as the principles on which such governance should be based.

What is not contested is that:

- i. IG is complex, and participating effectively in IG processes is not easy,
- ii. The African IGF is flourishing, as are some sub-regional and national IGFs, but, on the other hand, few African countries have seen the establishment of sustainable open and inclusive multistakeholder bodies or forums where government, civil society, businesses and technical people are able to interact effectively and collaborate to develop consistent national and institutional strategies aimed at mobilising the internet for economic, social, political and cultural development.
- iii. African participation in IG, be it in technical, social or political spheres, remains insufficient.
- iv. African governments are increasingly interested in IG but lack the capacity to participate effectively.
- v. People and institutions from non-governmental stakeholder groups also lack sufficient capacity.
- vi. Very few African universities provide specialised courses on IG at either the under- or post-graduate levels.

The first Summer School on Internet Governance (SSIG) was held in Europe in Meissen in July 2007. It has become an annual event and has given rise to a Latin American Summer School. Building on the Meissen model, and customising it to meet the needs of African stakeholders, APC and the NEPAD Agency launched the first AfriSIG in 2013.¹

Goals and objectives

The overall goal of AfriSIG is to provide opportunities for Africans from all stakeholder groups to gain the knowledge and confidence needed to both actively participate in internet governance debates and processes and to bring an African perspective to internet governance issues, both regionally and globally.

Specific objectives are to:

- i. Strengthen existing capacity of a diverse range of stakeholders in the field of IG in Africa, across all sectors.
- ii. Provide a safe and accommodating environment for new entrants to the field to increase their knowledge on IG.
- iii. Bring together people from government, civil society, business and other stakeholder groups to interact and build common ground around a public interest-oriented approach to IG.
- iv. Foster critical debate in a multistakeholder forum on IG issues from an African and Southern perspective.
- v. Provide opportunity to identify and develop African positions on current issues in internet policy and governance.
- vi. Give participants "hands-on" experience in IG processes through a practicum that involves role playing in multistakeholder negotiations, and by co-locating the school with a significant IG event in which they can participate immediately after the school.

We believe that one of the ways in which AfriSIG can increase the diversity, extent, quality and effectiveness of African participation in IG at national, regional and global levels is by providing a safe space for multistakeholder learning and discussion. Policy spaces (physical and online) are intimidating for those who are new to the issues and even those who are not so new. The

¹ This would not have been possible without the financial support of Google, Open Society Institute for Southern Africa, ICANN's Non-Commercial User Constituency, and Afilias, and the practical and teaching support provided by faculty from the European School.

school also responds to the challenge of insufficient meaningful participation by African stakeholders in the IG sphere by building knowledge across stakeholder groups and Africa's sub-regions, and fostering discussion on complex issues.

Results thus far

The first two AfriSIGs drew on African and global faculty. Topics covered included the evolution of the internet, internet domain names and internet addresses, internet governance institutions, international law, the relationship between human rights and internet governance, and the economic, social and cultural impacts of the internet. African institutions such as AFRINIC, Research ICT Africa and DotAfrica were invited to provide input into the agenda and training schedule. The initiative encourages regional and international cooperation by inviting international alumni to deliver modules.

As part of the practical approach to capacity building on internet governance, AfriSIG introduced a "practicum". This is a group exercise whereby students participate in role-playing scenarios based on real-life multistakeholder negotiations. By taking on the perspectives of different stakeholders, the students were able to emulate a multistakeholder environment, working together to develop a collaborative statement on internet governance from the school. This innovation has been so successful that it has since been adopted by the European School on IG.

Participants came from across Africa. They ranged from government officials and members of parliament, to ICT professionals, to human rights defenders and law enforcement and security specialists. Roughly 50% were women and 25% younger than 30.

AfriSIG 2013, held in Durban in July 2013 just prior to an ICANN meeting, produced 35 graduates. AfriSIG 2014, held in Mauritius prior to the AfriNIC annual meeting, produced 37 graduates. With faculty included, the events provided a learning opportunity for around 110 people (45 in 2013 and 65 in 2014). AfriSIG compiles resources and training materials which are available on the AfriSIG website to all who wish to access them.²

Feedback from alumni has been overwhelmingly positive, even when they have made suggestions for improving the School. Alumni have gone on to engage in various internet governance spaces since the inaugural school, including the African IGF held in Nigeria in 2014 and global IGFs in Bali (2013) and Istanbul (2014).

Some have organised IG-related events in their own countries. From the 2014 class, Zororo Mavindidze from the Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI) organised a workshop on freedom of expression in the digital age in South Africa. One of the panellists at the workshop was an alumna of AfriSIG 2013, Wellington Radu. Another member of the 2014 class, Ntabiseng Pule from the communications regulator in Lesotho, is organising that country's first national IGF this year.

Alumni have also gone on to participate in processes such as the NETmundial meeting held in Sao Paulo in 2014 and the UNESCO CONNECTing the Dots conference in Paris in 2014. Some have raised IG issues in spaces such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and are more actively engaged in national processes, such as proposed internet content control initiatives in South Africa.

In February 2014, APC, NEPAD and some alumni from the School started developing the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms,³ launching it in September.

The AfriSIG coordinating team has also connected alumni to opportunities for fellowships. Anri van der Spuy (2014) and Michael Lishebo (2014) participated at the 52nd ICANN Meeting in Singapore, 8-12 February 2015. Anri van der Spuy was also introduced to and then selected to work as an Internet Governance Fellow at the UN IGF secretariat in Geneva. Ephraim Kenyanito

² african-ig-school.events.apc.org/home/resources

³ africaninternetrights.org

(2013) now works as an Internet Governance Fellow at the international NGO, Access. He is also a member of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), as is Lillian Nalwoga (2013).

In addition to the School's website,⁴ which has an active alumni blogging space,⁵ a mailing list has been created to engage the alumni through posting IG-related issues, sharing information and also encouraging debate. The AfriSIG coordinating team encourages individual alumni to participate in online spaces where IG issues are being discussed and to attend national, sub-regional and the regional African IGFs.

Challenges

AfriSIG's primary challenge is securing sufficient financial resources. Linked to this is the challenge of being able to effectively accommodate languages other than English. The School currently takes place in English, and English proficiency is one of the requirements for admission. This excludes French-, Portuguese- and Arabic-speakers. While we may not be able to fully address the language issue yet, if we have enough funding we could cater for translation of priority documents and of key lectures. In the longer term AfriSIG could enter into strategic collaboration to have Schools in Africa's sub-regions and in different languages. APC is already engaged in such an effort in North Africa that involves IG learning in Arabic.

AfriSIG structure and process

A **project advisory group** made of individuals who have played a leadership role in internet governance in Africa and beyond provides strategic guidance. The group consists of:

- Alison Gillwald, Research ICT Africa and University of Cape Town, South Africa.
- Dorothy K. Gordon, Director-General, Ghana-India Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT, Ghana
- Makane Faye, Chief, Knowledge Services Section (KSS), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Ethiopia
- Moctar Yedaly, Head of Division, Infrastructure and Energy Department, African Union Commission, Ethiopia
- Nnenna Nwakanma, Web Foundation, Ivory Coast
- Olga Cavalli, South School on Internet Governance, Argentina
- Wolfgang Kleinwachter, University of Halle and European Summer School on Internet Governance, Germany

The **AfriSIG organising team** consists of Emilar Vushe and Anriette Esterhuysen, Association for Progressive Communications, and Towela Nyirenda-Jere, NEPAD Agency. The team is assisted by Eunice Mwesigwa and Yolanda Mlonzi (APC) and Flore Kamdomg (NEPAD Agency) on logistics. Composition of this team changes from time to time as needed.

Selection of participants takes place through an open call. Selection is competitive, with only top scoring applicants making the longlist. Criteria include: working/studying in an internet governance- or ICT-related area; demonstrated ability to gain from participating in AfriSIG; quality of the application; and proficiency in English.

For the 2015 AfriSIG, a minimum university-level education and basic knowledge of the internet ecosystem will be required. We will aim to cater for participants speaking other languages subject to availability of support for translation and interpretation. The advisory group will assist with selection of participants. In the final selection we ensure that there is gender balance and regional and stakeholder group diversity.

The **faculty** is made up of core faculty (introduced in 2015) who have strong general knowledge of IG and additional speakers who have knowledge of specific topics. We draw on and strengthen existing African expertise.

⁴ african-ig-school.events.apc.org

⁵ african-ig-school.events.apc.org/bloggng-from-afrisig2014

The **curriculum** includes the basics from across multidisciplinary dimensions of IG. The 2015 format and course content will build on the lessons of 2013 and 2014. Sessions will be delivered through a mixed model of lectures and seminars with input from resource people, debates and discussions. Topics to be covered include:

- The historical dimension: overview of the evolution of the internet and its governance
- The technological dimension: code, protocols and standards
- The policy dimension: institutions and processes
- The legal dimension: international law, privacy and intellectual property rights
- The business dimension: internet economy and the domain name market
- The socio-cultural dimension: multilingualism, local content, harmful use
- Institutions and spaces involved in IG: global, regional and national
- Critical internet resources management: root server and IP address management; ccTLD and gTLD management; international domain names and the role of registrars and ISPs globally and in Africa
- Power and conflict in IG: the concept of "multi-stakeholder participation"; the roles of governments, the private sector, civil society and intergovernmental organisations with a focus on how these are playing out in Africa
- Current issues in internet governance
- Development and internet governance
- Human rights and internet governance
- Internet governance in practice: role-playing practicum.

Proposed timeline for AfriSIG 2015

Activity	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
Constitute the advisory group							
Call for applications and selection							
Materials development							
Logistics							
AfriSIG 3							
Reporting							

Budget

INCOME			140,300
<i>OSISA</i>			45,000
<i>Afilias</i>			4,000
<i>ISOC (gala dinner)</i>			5,000
<i>ICANN</i>			2,500
<i>Google</i>			58,000
<i>NEPAD Agency (staff costs)</i>			15,000
<i>APC (staff costs)</i>			10,800
EXPENSES			182,155
BALANCE			(41,855)
DETAIL			
EXPENSES	No	Per unit	US\$
1. Personnel			32200
APC project coordinator - 0.5 FTE x 6 months @ 3600 per month	6	1800	10800
APC communications and outreach - 10 days @ USD 320 per day	10	320	3200
APC logistics coordinator - 2 months @ 0.5 FTE @ 3200 per month	2	1600	3200
NEPAD project staff - 0.25 FTE x 6 months @ 9000	6	2250	13500
NEPAD assistants - 0.5 FTE x 1 months @ 3000	1	1500	1500
2. Travel costs			59000
Flights (participants & local facilitators)	30	1200	36000
Flights (faculty - international and regional)	10	1500	15000
Local transport, excluding airport transfers	40	100	4000
Visas, vaccinations	40	100	4000
2. Conference package and venue			40000
Accommodation, meals and conference package, including venue hire and airport transfer	40	1000	40000
3. Miscellaneous costs			1400
Conferencing and meeting room	1	500	500
Equipment (AV, projector etc)	1	100	100
Internet Access	1	200	200
Stationery	40	10	400
On-site Secretariat services (printing, photocopying)	40	5	200
4. Consultants			27500
Honorarium for resource people (7 days at \$350 a day = \$2450 per person)	10	2450	24500
Course content development	6	500	3000
5. Communications and materials			1950
Website (1 days work)	2	350	700
Materials	1	1250	1250
6. Social event			3500
Dinner/cocktail	100	35	3500