WSIS and WGIG Update
An APNIC Perspective

AP* Meeting
Kyoto
Overview

- Background on WSIS
- WGIG Status
- Recent APNIC Activities
- Outlook
Background

• Intergovernmental summit on all aspects of the “Information Society” organized under the auspices of the UN
  – Originally proposed by the ITU
  – Looking at the broad impacts of IT on society, maximizing the benefits and opportunities, and mitigating many of the associated risks
  – Phase I
    • 2003-2003, Geneva Summit
  – Phase II
    • 2004-2005, Tunis Summit
Background

• WSIS Phase I Outcomes
  – Declaration of Principles
  – Plan of Action
  – Task Force on Financial Mechanisms
  – Working Group on Internet Governance
WSIS Phase II

June 2004

Prepcom-1

Roadmap to Tunis

Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM)

Updates/consultations

Relevant thematic, regional and other related meetings

Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

Updates/consultations

Prepcom-2

(1 sub-committee)

stocktaking of implementation at national, regional & international levels;
consideration of the report of TFFM;
beginning of consideration of the final document(s);
consideration of the preliminary report of WGIG;
promotion of partnerships between stakeholders;
consideration of any other relevant issues.

Open-ended informal consultations (if needed)

Prepcom-3

(2 sub-committees)

stocktaking of implementation at national, regional & international levels;
consideration of final report of WGIG;
promotion of partnerships between stakeholders;
continuation of consideration of the report of TFFM (if needed);
consideration of any other relevant issues;
negotiation of final document(s).

Summit

* from http://www.itu.int/wsis/preparatory2/hammamet
WGIG Status

- Tasked by WSIS to develop a working definition of Internet Governance, and identify relevant public policy issues
- November 2004
  - Membership announced (7 AP members)
  - Initial Meeting
- February 2005
  - Release of first draft of Issue Papers
  - Second Meeting, Geneva (14-16 Feb)
- July 2005
  - Submit final report to UN Secretary General
APNIC’s Position

- Promote the need for continued stability in IP address distribution systems
- Dispel misconceptions and misunderstanding relating to the address community’s policy process, the address distribution system and address distribution outcomes
- Promote a position of “do no harm”, and be mindful of cross-impacts when proposing changes to infrastructure administrative functions
Recent APNIC Activities

• IPv6 Address Distribution Arrangements
  – discussion paper from ITU-T proposing competitive IPv6 address distribution arrangements using national agencies to operate in competition with RIR structure
  – NRO response highlighted the risks of such a proposal in terms of address fragmentation, inherent inefficiencies in a dual system, industry confusion and potential network instability
    • http://www.nro.net/documents/statements/nro-clarification.html
  – APNIC’s position notes the differences between the APNIC NIR arrangements in place today and the ITU-T proposal. The NIR structure underlines the benefits of coherence of address distribution policy and practice.
Recent APNIC Activities

• Dispel misconceptions and misunderstandings
  – December 2004 publications on
    • The myth of address shortage in China
    • A background briefing paper on ICANN, the ITU, WSIS and Internet Governance
    • IP Addressing schemes – a comparison of geographic and provider based IP address schemes

• Responded to WGIG paper on Domain Names and IP Addresses
  – WGIG paper
    http://www.wgig.org/docs/WP-IPaddresses.pdf
  – APNIC response
    http://www.wgig.org/docs/Comment-APNIC.pdf
Recent APNIC Activities

• Added Internet Governance area on APNIC website to publish digest of recent developments

• Support the development of AP regional perspectives on the WGIG activity
  – Collaboration with APDIP to launch ORDIG (Open regional dialogue on Internet Governance)
  – Supporting the UNDP APDIP Internet Governance Portal
  – Loan of 2 APNIC staff members (Kapil Chawla, Sam Dickinson) to assist APDIP in project
Recent NRO Activities

- NRO Statement in December 2004
  - Supporting the role of ICANN and its path to genuine internationalization and independence in its role
  - Calling on the US government for a clear plan for independence of ICANN
  - Support the involvement of the public sector, in the context of the current models of management of administrative functions
Outlook

• There are a number of pressing Internet-related issues driving the WSIS process
  – The evolution of many traditional communications services into Internet-based services and the various impacts of this change
  – Integrating the increasing role of private sector within the data communications activity domain into the established international public sector structures
  – The adoption of international Internet administrative structures that are robust, independent, fair and effective in a mixed public and private sector domain

• On a larger scale
  – This is not an ICANN vs ITU debate, but a deeper consideration into the most effective manner of meeting a very diverse set of expectations relating to the global role of the Internet over the coming decades
  – The WSIS process will have far-reaching implications for the future of the Internet
What can we do?

• Recognise threat to “Internet tradition”
  – Needs lobbying at Government level
  – May need further evolution to current model (for instance, ICANN)

• Attend WSIS prepcoms, and regional preparatory meetings

• Organise and attend information sessions
  – APRICOT, APNIC meetings

• Prepare and submit formal submission
  – To WGIG and other committees
  – To ICANN regarding WSIS
Questions?