

## ISOC IN 2007

# *leadership, engagement, technology advancement*

Backed by solid funding and a team of talented and dedicated staff members located throughout the world, ISOC is poised to have an even more positive impact on the future of the Internet.

In late 2007, ISOC announced a set of three long-term strategic initiatives. The initiatives embody ISOC's philosophy that the Internet is for everyone, and they provide a solid foundation from which the organization can influence standards and technology development, business practices, and government policies. For more information on the initiatives, see pages 9 and 11.

Collaboration among Chapters improved greatly over the past year, primarily through electronic and face-to-face meetings but also through the launch of a wiki (<http://wiki.chapters.isoc.org>), which was initiated, supported, and developed by Chapter members. ISOC's belief in the potential of its **world-wide Chapters** to promote the Internet and defend the principles of ISOC resulted in the launch of a new Chapter Development plan. The

multiyear effort is intended to raise the profiles of Chapters within their local communities, increase the number of partnerships with local stakeholders, and improve Internet-based tools, support, and information available to Chapters.

ISOC's role in the African region grew considerably since the establishment of the **African Regional Bureau**. In 2007, the bureau organized an INET meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, as well as an Internet governance meeting in Kigali, Rwanda. The number of Chapters in Africa also grew with the addition of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, and Sudan.

ISOC played a central role in the preparations for and success of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which dramatically increased the organization's public policy profile. In addition, ISOC provided a number of key speakers and organized a variety of workshops. Representatives from 10 ISOC Chapters and from Chapters in formation—including Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin,

Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji (as part of PICISOC), Hong Kong, Mexico, Moldova, and Morocco—served as ambassadors to the IGF on behalf of ISOC. ISOC's policy team and Regional Bureau representatives organized a series of regional meetings meant to spur discussion of issues critical to Internet deployment in developing countries—particularly with regard to access, connectivity, and **Internet governance**. The team also began work coordinating a technical community forum for input to the ministerial conference of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In addition to expressing its ongoing organizational and financial support of and commitment to the standards-making excellence of the **Internet Engineering Task Force**, ISOC took the opportunity at the IGF to urge network operators and other Internet stakeholders to communicate their operational experience with IPv6 deployment as the Internet community prepares for depletion of the IPv4 address pool.

Also in 2007, ISOC released its "User-Centric Internet" white paper, the most forward-looking assessment to date of why users' interests, choices, and capacity to innovate must remain at the centre of all policy and technical discussions related to the future of the Internet. The paper will help guide ISOC through its efforts to further cultivate and develop its policy positions.

ISOC's commitment to **global Internet education** continued in 2007 primarily through its support of a wide range of educational programmes, including two SANOG meetings, AfNOG 2007, AfriNIC-6, MENOG 2, PacNOG 3, and WALC 2007. ISOC continued its long-standing effort to promote development of the Internet by hosting a regulators forum at PacINET 2007 in conjunction with its Pacific Islands Chapter (PICISOC). ISOC Chapters made a considerable contribution to ISOC's education efforts through such events as the Australia Chapter's IPv6 summit, PICISOC's PacINET, and ISOC's France Chapter-organized Egeni meeting. In addition, ISOC held two



*Lynn St. Amour addresses the Opening Session at IGF Brazil 2007.*



*PacINET 2007, Solomon Islands. Photo by Franck Martin.*

**Jonathan B. Postel  
Service Award**

**In November, ISOC announced that Nii Quaynor was the 2007 recipient of the prestigious Jonathan B. Postel Service Award. The award was presented for Nii's leadership in advancing Internet technology in Africa and for galvanizing technologists to improve Internet access and capabilities throughout the continent.**

**Nii's pioneering Internet work began in Africa in 1993 when he returned to his home country of Ghana to establish the first Internet service—operated by Network Computer Systems (NCS), Ghana.COM—in West Africa. At NCS, he and his team worked on early development of the Internet in Africa. Currently, Nii is chairman of NCS and professor of computer science at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. He is also convener of the African Network Operators Group (AfNOG) and founding chairman of AfriNIC, the African Regional Internet Registry.**

**The Jonathan B. Postel Service Award was established to honor those who have made outstanding contributions in service to the data communications community. It focuses on sustained and substantial technical contributions, service to the community, and leadership. The award is named after Jonathan B. Postel, who embodied those qualities during his extraordinary stewardship over the course of a 30-year career in networking.**



*Nii Quaynor*

country-code top-level-domain (ccTLD) workshops in collaboration with the Network Startup Resource Center: one for the Middle East and the other for the Caribbean. The ccTLD workshops provide the knowledge and skills that ccTLD operators in developing countries need to build and maintain high-quality infrastructure and services. ISOC also began addressing the challenges associated with development and operation of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in the developing world by hosting two workshops for IXP operators in Africa and by organizing a highly successful international workshop at the IGF meeting in Rio de Janeiro.

#### **CHAPTERS IN 2007**

##### **Argentina**

ISOC's Argentina Chapter organized a task force on Web accessibility and organized a seminar for a Web without Barriers for Persons with Disabilities. With support from the ISOC Funding Project initiative and in conjunction with the Disability and Special Needs Chapter, the Argentina Chapter was able to create what has been called the most important event on Web accessibility ever held in Argentina.

<http://www.isoc.org.ar>

##### **Australia**

In 2007, ISOC's Australia Chapter completed its IPv6 for e-Business project. Funded under the Australian government's Information Technology Online programme, the project sought to document the state of readiness for IPv6 in Australia; to develop an easy-access device, business models, and return-on-investment tools to assist Australian businesses in their efforts to adopt IPv6; to provide online resources and information related to IPv6; and to create IPv6 seminars in each Australian capital city.

<http://www.isoc-au.org.au>

##### **Italy**

ISOC's Italy Chapter launched *Juridical Aspects of the Internet—Contribution to the Internet Governance*



*Forum*, a new publication designed to encourage more participation in discussions inside the Internet Governance Forum and to help offer arguments to those who already participate in international bodies involved in Internet governance. The journal is published in Italian.

<http://www.isoc.it>

##### **Nigeria**

ISOC's Nigeria Chapter announced the launch of three new Jon Postel IT centres, bringing the total number to 11. The new centres are located at the Nigerian Society of Engineers in Abuja; the Computer Center at the Federal University of Technology in Akure, Imo State; and the Sports Council in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. Two more are expected to be launched in 2008: one at Katsina State University and another at the University of Port Harcourt. The centres, which are dedicated to the memory of Jon Postel, were created to promote and diffuse the Internet in Nigeria through seminars, courses, and conferences.

<http://www.isocnig.org.ng>

##### **Pacific Islands**

ISOC's Pacific Island Chapter's annual PacINET Honiara Information and Communication Technology conference in 2007 focused on IPv6 and the region's One Laptop per Child project. The Chapter participated in OneWebDay, a series of celebrations that included the Cook Islands, Fiji, and Vanuatu. It was also involved with the Pacific Islands GIS/RS Users Conference in Suva, Fiji, which aimed to bring GIS/RS users and decision makers from the Pacific region together

to communicate and network. The Chapter was a founding member of the Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organization, and Chapter leader Rajnesh Singh was named its first chair. The Chapter helped organize an IGF workshop called Dynamic Coalition on Access and Connectivity for Remote, Rural, and Dispersed Communities.

<http://www.picisoc.org>

### Québec

ISOC's Québec Chapter announced its Québec Connected to the World initiative (Un Québec branché sur

## Un Québec branché sur le monde

le monde—UQBM), which provides professional services and assistance for regional communities seeking to benefit from low-cost, high-speed wireless Internet connection anywhere in the province where service is not currently available. It also offers services that address digital-divide issues in communities throughout the province. Piloted by the Québec Chapter, UQBM was funded by the Québec Chapter, ISOC, and Communautel, a nonprofit organization.

<http://www.isoc.qc.ca>

### South Africa

In an ongoing effort to increase its reach to the broader community, in 2007 ISOC's South Africa Chapter invited partnerships to take a dramatic production to school-children. The script, coauthored by the Chapter's committee member Glen Thompson, highlights the role of mobile technology, its positive and negative aspects, and the use of mobile devices to connect to the Internet. In addition, in its efforts to branch out to other parts of South Africa, the Chapter is talking with

### Spain

ISOC's Spain Chapter is offering a cycle of conferences on hot Internet topics, with at least five video sites connected through high-quality videoconferences. Chat and direct streaming are available for those who are unable to attend in person. In 2007, topics covered inclusion, social networks, radio over the Internet, and the 10 main changes in the Internet in 2007. The recorded events are available on the Chapter's streaming server.

<http://www.isoc-es.org>

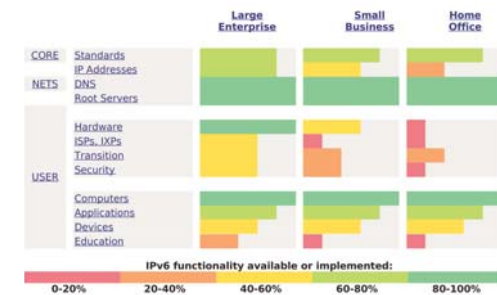
### Tunisia

The year 2007 was one of grassroots for ISOC's Tunisia Chapter. Based at the Khawarizmi Calculation Centre on the new university campus in Manouba, Tunis, the Chapter is at the heart of the scientific and researcher community. Efforts have been made to engage the community in Chapter activities, including training university professors in Web 2.0. In addition, the Chapter has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Centre des jeunes dirigeants d'entreprise (Center for Young Entrepreneurs) to begin a training cycle dedicated to Tunisia's young managers.

<http://www.isoc.org.tn>

the Siyafunda project, a Community Technology Centre whose aim is to empower, educate, and e-connect communities by bringing information and communication technology to the community. ISOC's South Africa Chapter invites interested parties to bring to its attention areas of interest and to engage with the Chapter to build a stronger civil society voice in the region.

<http://www.isoc.org.za>



Map of Australian IPv6 readiness, part of a report from the Australia Chapter's IPv6 for e-Business project.



Rajnesh Singh, Chapter leader of ISOC's Pacific Islands Chapter in 2007. Photo by Franck Martin.

**ISOC FUNDING HELPS THE INTERNET—AND CHAPTERS—GROW WORLDWIDE**

In 2007, ISOC's Project Funding Initiative programme committed USD 168,701 in project support. ISOC funded 17 projects: 14 run by Chapters and 3 by Individual Members. ISOC funds up to 50 percent of total project budgets (with a cap of USD 10,000), encouraging applicants to build relationships with other partners.

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/projects>

CHAPTER/NAME	PROJECT	AMOUNT FUNDED
Armenia	Partnered with CEENet/NATO, Armenian Academy of Science, and the Armenian national research and education networks to identify achievements, problems, and solutions to help Armenian NRENs create a modern infrastructure.	USD 10,000
Benin	Capacity-building project providing IPv6 hands-on training for engineers.	10,000
Bulgaria	Conduct public awareness events in Bulgaria to stimulate interest and participation in the Science, Education, and Learning in Freedom (SELF) platform.	10,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Creation of Internet content for nongovernmental organizations that are promoting human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.	9,163
Ecuador	Develop Digital Inclusion kits in Spanish and Quichua in Ecuador.	9,600
Israel	With partner Access Israel Association, provide increased Web accessibility to Internet sites for people with disabilities.	10,000
Italy	Sensitization of the Italian-speaking community on the Internet Governance Forum from Athens toward Delhi.	10,000
Liberia (Chapter in formation)	Develop an Internet Training and Awareness Centre that provides basic Internet skills and awareness-raising programmes for end users in Liberia.	9,988
Mauritius	Deliver a hands-on workshop on IPv6 for countries in the Indian Ocean.	10,000
Pacific Islands	Marovo Lagoon Learning Network, Solomon Islands: develop models for wide-scale deployment of One Laptop per Child.	10,000
Republic of the Congo	Train a cross section of the Congolese population in three different localities on how to use the Internet; create local ISOC community clubs in each locality.	10,000
Sierra Leone	With partner Sierra Vision, build Sierra Leone's first Digital Village, offering free Internet access and training to provide exposure to the highest quality-standards based and research-based educational and literacy resources for teachers, instructors, and students in Sierra Leone.	10,000
Taiwan	Set up a wiki platform for all of the Internet user communities in Taiwan in an effort to document the past and future of Taiwan Internet development.	10,000
Tunisia	Deliver Internet Access to remote areas of Tunisia via the SolarNetOne platform.	10,000
Global Member Dr. Kasun de Zoysa	Establish a Smart Computer Laboratory in tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka.	9,950
Global Member Holly Rich	Implement Operation Tech Start wireless education facility in Tanzania.	10,000
Global Member Kaprie Thoronka	Working with Childhelp Sierra Leone and SES EXPERTS (Germany), awarded funds to provide free capacity-building training in computer studies and the Internet for schoolchildren and young adults, focusing on disadvantaged girls and women 10 to 35 years of age.	10,000



*Members of ISOC's Congo Chapter at Oyo, Republic of the Congo*

### Grantee Highlights

#### In October 2007, **ISOC's Benin Chapter**

was awarded a grant of USD 10,000 to facilitate IPv6 adoption. The grant, which covered training for more than 30 network technicians and engineers, was designed to help sensitize stakeholders on issues surrounding exhaustion of the IPv4 pool and the need to advance wider-spread adoption of IPv6.

<http://www.isoc.bj>

More than 5,000 Congolese were trained to use the Internet as a development tool as part of an ISOC grant awarded to **ISOC's Congo Chapter**. The course targeted both those who were unfamiliar with the Internet and its benefits and those who were familiar with the Internet but were unable to access it or were not able to use it. Thanks to these efforts, the Congo Chapter plans to organize a national multistakeholders meeting on the information society in Oyo in an effort to promote the Internet for all.

<http://isoc.cg/index2.htm>

A joint NATO/ISOC workshop titled **Armenian National Research and Education Networks: Achievements, Problems and Solutions** was held in November 2007 to address the need to prepare Armenian academic networks for

connection to the GEANT network, a multigigabit Pan-European data communications network reserved specifically for research and education. Representatives of ISOC's nascent Tajikistan Chapter were present, and videoconferencing sessions were carried out with representations from two other potential ISOC Chapters, including Kyrgyzstan and Moldova.

<http://asnet.am/anw2007>

#### **Tanzania's Operation Tech Start**

(OTS) is making headway with the help of ISOC, the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, and Alliance One International. The project, which aims to improve communications that benefit the rural communities within the Tabora region, is now poised to launch within the next month its research on improving information and communication technologies. In addition, OTS and Health Action Promotion Organization HAPO's centre for orphans and vulnerable children is busy paving the way to set up a wireless computer lab for teaching children computer and Internet basics.

<http://www.operationtechstart.org>

An ISOC grant is helping the **Smart Computer Laboratory project in Sri Lanka** implement a low-cost educational computer terminal laboratory with local language and wireless Internet support. At present, the first version of the terminal has been implemented. Around 1,000 tsunami-affected schoolchildren in grades 3, 4, and 5 will study at Dharmasoka College in Ambalangoda.

<http://www.ucsc.cmb.ac.lk/wasn>

Funds made available by ISOC have enabled the creation of Internet content for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) promoting human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As part of the grant, six members of **ISOC's Democratic Republic of the Congo Chapter** will train to be Webmasters in collaboration with **ISOC's Burundi Chapter**, whose 15 members also benefited from the training, which took place in Bujumbura. ISOC's support helped finance the trainer, who came from Cameroon, as well as the participants, who were from Congo. The six participants from Congo are currently creating content for 12 NGOs working in the area of human rights in eastern Congo.



Opening speaker at the Armenian National Research and Education Networks conference, Yerevan, Armenia.



Tanzanian children explore the basics of computers and Internet access. Photo courtesy Holly Rich, founder, Operation Tech Start.