RIPE NCC External Relations Update

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RIPE NCC External Relations

• A (slowly) growing team:
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  - Chris Buckridge
  - Sandra Gijzen
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• Increased interest about the Internet from public sector stakeholders and others

• Addressing the differing regional needs of members and stakeholders
Defending the RIPE Model

• Bottom-up industry self-governance has proved itself a successful model for Internet growth and stability
• There is a role for government in Internet governance, as one of many stakeholder groups
• Top-down regulation poses a threat to the Internet
  − Unintended consequences result from governance processes that lack input from the operational community
Neutral Organisation?

- RIPE NCC is a neutral, bottom-up organisation, responsive to its membership and community

But...

- In ER terms, the RIPE NCC is NOT neutral!
  - We take strong positions on behalf of the membership and community
  - We defend the bottom-up, multi-stakeholder model
  - We argue against the expansion of top-down Internet governance practices
Internet Governance

• RIPE NCC and other RIRs contributing to Internet governance discussions
  - ITU groups and events
  - IGF and regional/national forums
  - Governmental initiatives (eg. European Commission public consultations)

• Important to have your input and feedback to guide RIPE NCC positions
  - For example, the recent WTPF submission
  - Often one response cannot cover all individual concerns
ITU Role in Internet Governance?

• World Telecommunications/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) currently underway
• Convened to discuss ITU role in Internet governance
• Potential to bring technical governance issues into the public policy (governmental) arena
  - IPv4 market concerns, IXP coordination, IPv6 deployment
RIR Response to WTPF

• Five RIRs made a joint submission responding to WTPF “Opinions”, highlighting:
  - Existing governance structures
  - Success of bottom-up policy development in Internet growth
  - Pro-active engagement of public sector by the RIR communities
  - RIR submission vital in informing national delegations

http://www.ripe.net/wtpf-13-submission
External Relations Strategy

• Engaging relevant stakeholder groups, governments, international organisations

• Providing data, analysis to support our position, particularly in regard to defending the bottom-up, open, industry self-regulatory model

• Work to inform you of the issues and provide the materials so you can engage with your local government
Engaging Internationally: OECD

- Governmental, but increasingly multi-stakeholder
- Not a policy-setting body, but a chance for governments to share information and analysis
- RIPE NCC co-founder of Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)
- A key venue to influence public policy and provide input from industry experts
- Provides important references for developing economies
Engaging Internationally: CoE

- Council of Europe
  - More limited in scope (specifically human rights), but an important international body
  - Committed to working with non-governmental stakeholders; an early leader in establishing multi-stakeholder practices
    - RIPE NCC contributed to CoE work on Internet governance principles in 2010-2011
  - Founding organisation and strong supporter of EuroDIG (European Internet governance event)
Engaging Internationally: LEA

• LEAs are valuable partners in sustaining the open, transparent registry system

• Europol/EC3
  - Open to capacity-building activities (briefings, training)
  - Limited to part of our service region

• Outside Europe
  - Building relationships
  - EC3, FBI and SOCA are important partners
  - The challenge: no suitable existing forum
Regional Engagement

• Is the RIPE NCC service region really ‘one’ region?
  - Differences in state of Internet infrastructure
  - Economic differences
  - Cultural differences
  - Lack of industry organisation (neutral venue)

• Despite the Internet being global, the registry system (and the RIPE NCC) must cater for differences in regional needs
An “Arab RIR”

• Prospect of a new RIR raised in several forums, driven by public-sector representatives
  - “Arab” meaning Middle East and North Africa
• Unclear what problem this would solve
• To date, minimal support from network operators in the region
• The RIPE and AFRINIC communities must work together
  - a new RIR does not have to become reality
  - ‘but’ if our operators want this - we will fully support it
Recognition

- RIPE NCC efforts in Internet Governance broadly appreciated
  - Governments proactively approach us regarding positions / seeking technical facts
- Regional presence proven to be working
  - We’re seeing our engagement strategies & capacity building activities being copied
- This will not go away, much work to be done
- RIPE NCC committed to maintaining leadership position
Engagement with Local Stakeholders

• RIPE NCC members and RIPE community often in a better position to engage national public sector representatives
  - RIPE NCC can assist you by providing materials, information, contacts, etc.
    - this needs to be improved from our side
  - Working with members to include public sector representatives in regional events (RIPE NCC Regional Meetings, NOGs, Roundtables etc.)
Questions?