

RIPE NCC External Relations Update

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RIPE NCC External Relations

- A (slowly) growing team:

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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?

