

Report of the fourth Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KeIGF) held on 26th July 2013 at the Strathmore Business School, Nairobi

ISOC Kenya chapter is pleased to have successfully convened the Kenya Internet Governance Forum on 26th July 2013 at Strathmore business school.

The purpose of this event was to bring Internet stakeholders together for a public dialogue on the opportunities that lie with the new system of devolved government, the situation of the .Ke domain name and build capacity on IG.

Agenda and content information

1. Introduction

Introduction from the Chair ISOC Kenya chapter Mr. Barrack Otieno, and KIGF working group Chair Mr. Paul Muchene.

2. Keynote speech from Guest of honour

Dr. Victor Kyalo, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Kenya ICT Board, on his keynote address, stressed on the role of ICT in changing lives and service delivery for Kenyans. He noted that ICT had changed the lives of young people who enrolled in the SAP ERP training sponsored by the government of Kenya and SAP internationals.

He noted that we do using ICT and the internet to help folks at the county level. Example is using taking soil samples, analysing them, and then using the internet to identify what is the best agricultural utilisation of such soils.

3. DEVOLUTION AND THE COUNTIES

Moderator: Ali Hussein:

Panelists:

1. George Ombua – IT manager, Nairobi County
2. Dr. Victor Kyalo - AG CEO ICT Board.
3. David Mugo - IBM
4. Seuza

Mr George Ombua speaking in his own capacity gave a talk on decentralisation of ICT services. Key points were

- How the various counties are working to share common resources.
- Expectations of ICT in collaborating functions of county government and service delivery. Decentralization of ICT, and sharing of ICT at county level. (all available in slides).
- Overall automation in Kenyan counties is 29%

- Level ICT strategies and Vision in place is 62%.
- 30% of counties have websites. Opportunity?
- 30% of staff are ICT literate.
- Challenges, insufficient funds. Low cost Open Source Solutions can be implemented. Opportunity?
- County utilisation of technology must reflect business and residents needs.
- Benefits of technology investment must be demonstrated.
- The county shall launch the county social media campaigns

Dr. Victor noted that: Devolution should bring competition, and not share resources. We should let counties to be innovative, but have one clear master plan across all counties.

Seuza: Do we have the capacity to deploy variety of solutions? Project management, business analysis? The rush to buy things should not be the way to go.

David- IBM: Challenges is the absorption of solutions. Existence of technology does not mean it will be used. Private sector is good in absorbing technology than public. Counties have money to spend and should concentrate on outsourcing obvious functions.

In roads, government should provide a way to combine technology with use of infrastructure. E.g. how many trucks use a road certain?

IBM is looking at how they can help the government implement all these solutions.

Q. Ali Hussein Q to government: County officials are using generic email addresses, yet the counties have websites. How can we help counties have uniform emails on the .ke platform?

R. Dr.Kyalo. A team is working on a draft public communication policy. There is very strict requirement of uniformity in use of county .go .ke emails, and other national state symbols like the coat of arms.

Q. Kivuva

Are we rushing to implement systems to beat PC deadlines? Are citizens getting value on these systems? How many disparate systems are in the city, and what is the county doing about them?

George ombua: No ICT solution will be implemented until a thorough plan is done. A report is being prepared. We have identified systems that are disparate. By September; solution providers will be called to showcase their solutions. We will outsource. The county email server is working, all staff are using it.

Q. Questions. Beryl Aidi. Access to information. How can the county improve citizen participation using ICT at the county level?

Q. Elizabeth Orembo – ISOC Kenya – Nairobi has been overtaken by Machakos County in pioneer to info. We don't know how to engage with the county government. Citizens don't know where to go.

A. George Ombua: The County shall launch the county social media campaigns. There is currently no clear line in ICTs to engage the government in case of any incident or emergency.

It is a challenge and we are trying to see how to solve the issue of citizen participation and communication. How to interact with citizens. E.g. fire, garbage, cholera outbreak. Social interaction and new media is being looked at.

Dr. Victor Kyalo. The Ministry has a recommendation to counties. Take a breath, and have a clear roadmap of what systems you want to implement and use. Don't rush.

Q: How can we bring the internet to the informal settlements and less fortunate?

A: David Ombua. Running of schools was taken over by the national government, while ICT has been under funded. There is a comprehensive roadmap to change all this. All nursery school teachers will be empowered and taught how to use ICT tools. The county of Nairobi has all these plans in place.

A: Dr. Victor: Involvement with government and private sector is key. Businesses are not competing with each other and don't want to compete with the government. There is healthy competition in the sector.

4. SMART CITIES: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

By David Mugo – CSP – IBM Software groups. (PowerPoint available)

Infrastructure has not changed for decades in Nairobi e.g. water, sewerage, while the size of city and capacity is growing. What are some of the best things to do to face these challenges?

Challenges: Aging Infrastructure, Declining budgets, changing populations, increasing threats.

There are more things connected on the internet than people.

Instrumentation to be used to build smart systems. E.g. surveillance cameras.

Intelligence: connect the various instruments.

Talking-tree.com

Accesskenya has 36 cameras across the city. Instrumentation is used to show the activities in a road.

[Several videos played on the use of technology, instrumentation, and intelligence to solve complex problems faced by various cities around the world.]

Q. Gitonga iHub: Have any county taken up any of these solutions?

IBM: Capacity building, how do we make it sustainable? Financial challenges on counties. Involve partners, local businesses to advance these systems.

IBM is encouraging Partnerships and collaborations with developers to challenge IBM scientists. By monitoring social media, IBM is able to help the city understand laws that are being put in place and how the citizens will react to them.

Q. What is the role of legislation framework in sorting simple problems like those of Nairobi?

Does legislation work to apprehend offences? This needs to be evaluated. Consulting team in IBM working to improve legislation.

We need regulation on setting up utilities like conduits e.t.c In Japan, a motor cycle runs through the conduit. The right thing is usually the right thing to do.

5. ENHANCED COOPERATION

No real debate on enhanced cooperation has taken place since the Tunis Agenda.

WSIS had two outcomes, the IGF and Enhanced Cooperation.

UNCSTD convened a multistakeholder consultation to identify a shared understanding of enhanced cooperation.

A questionnaire seeking input from member states and stakeholders to be distributed to the Kenyan community through Kictanet mailing list.

What constitutes an enhanced level of cooperation?

Enhanced cooperation definition and views will be collected by the questionnaire. Civil society and other groups felt left out on the enhanced cooperation debate. The two outcomes of the Tunis Agenda were IGF and Enhanced Cooperation with a purely consultative role. All stakeholders are asking to be involved more in the enhanced cooperation, and not only government. **The KeIGF through ISOC KE will give a stand on this.**

6. OPEN ICT AND EDUCATION: POLICY ISSUES, E-LEARNING

Jane Muthiga, Director at Network For Non Formal Educational Institutions (N-NFEI) (Presentation available on powerpoint)

- Got Afrinic FIRE grant through the ISOC mailing list for content development of Elimu TV
- Faces Bandwidth problems on online interaction between students.
- Challenges, lack of internet in slums, high cost of internet, cost of producing content.
- Building capacity among teachers so that they can be able to help students. We have sensitized teachers to start building content.
- We have had contact with New Delhi partners, and we are getting collaborations.
- Delivery of our content is through TV, and we are developing our online platform. There is also an SMS platform that helps students in revision.
- Relevance: The Elimu TV is in partnership with government institutions, KIE to give relevant content. Short stories are made on urban farming, basket making, e.t.c.
- We have been working with teachers to manage content. Knowledge management.

7. SOCIAL MEDIA AND HATE SPEECH

Panelist discussion.

- Ms Lucy Purdon, Institute for Human Rights and Business. (Chairing)
- Angela Crandall from iHub
- Richard Allan of Facebook participated remotely through webex and questions were fielded to him.
- Mutuma Ruteere
- Stephanie Muchai

Mutuma: Hate speech poses some serious dilemma, how to balance freedom of speech and infringement of law. Freedom of opinion and speech is in place internationally.

How do we handle speech that is considered harmful? International law provides leeway to prohibit certain speech, e.g. denial of genocide, or racism, e.t.c depending on context.

How does this affect the online world? Kenyan legislation on hate speech. The component of hate speech is incitement.

Angela: iHub research Used Uchaguzi platform in collaboration with Ushahidi to map incidents in the lead-up to the elections. Although there was online hate speech during the 2013 elections, it seems like it did not trigger any physical violence.

Discussion by Richard Allan of FB and questions. Not very audible.

8. MANAGEMENT OF KENYA NETWORK INFORMATION CENTER. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

By Anthony Mugambi, CEO, KENIC

There is a lot of potential on .ke domain. Consider that Nairobi has over 4M people, while 1M people can utilise ICTs. The entrepreneurs are refusing to fill that gap.

KENIC is having challenges of deployment of DNSSEC especially in human resource.

KENIC is offering opportunities and internships to university students.

That .ke domains can only remain low if the number of subscriptions are large enough to support it's operations.

All questions on governance of KENIC were evaded.

Q: Kenic is using an old version of Cocca tools. Why has it not been upgraded?

A: Those are some of the challenges, but we are working on upgrading.

Grace Githaiga of KICTANET emphasises on importance of KENIC rebranding to have more meaning to the nation, probably including change of name. She also emphasised that KENIC cannot be disbanded without involvement of all stakeholders, and that the civil society is observing the happenings with an eagle eye. She stressed that the new constitution, article 10, ensures that all stakeholders are consulted in issues of national importance.

9. THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Data protection bill, freedom of information bill 2012 by Beryl Aidi from KHRC.

Panelists:

- Beryl Aidi
- Victor Kapiyo
- Jane Ngima Muthiga

A session on protecting children online.

Victor Kapiyo talks on the legislation being put in place, and how they should be refined to ensure protection for private information. The public is urged to participate fully in the debate.

10. AOB

Participants who stayed until the last minute got giveaways from ISOC, including pens, note books, clocks, and card holders.

- Participant numbernda

Planned follow up activities

The outcomes of this forum will be reported in the East African Internet Governance Forum that is to be held in Burundi on 20th August.

The KeIGF, through ISOC KE is to follow up on the issue of enhanced cooperation and give a stand.

The event attracted new participants from the private sector, government, civil society and academia. The chapter is following up on them for both membership and future collaboration.

Collective feedback from the participants

The panelists in the IG discussions should include all stakeholders representing consumers, regulators, and operators i.e. (government, civil society, technical community, business, and academia) NB: A call for panelists was done several times especially through the several mailing lists.

ISOC was mandated to compile the report on all Kenyan IGF issues to take to the East African IGF.

It was noted that the IGF has no way to implement the deliberations of the IGF, but the findings always get back as policy through feedback mechanisms.

That the IGF should be used as a tool for policy discussions and the IGF working Group should have policy issues of the day to discuss at the KIGF. A good IGF should sell policies being discussed and ensure output.

Replicability among other chapters

Chapters should take up the role of convening national IGFs where there is no body organizing for it; as it gives them an opportunity to work together with the other ICT organizations in their countries.