PLANS FOR THE FUTURE GROWTH, REFINEMENT, AND ONGOING IMPROVEMENT

The next few years will be focused on the growth, refinement, and improvement of many of ISOC’s activities. We will work to sustain our leadership position in the Internet governance space and we will continue to assert our leadership in areas of significance to the Internet.

In the future, ISOC’s core interests in standards, education, and policy will be more fully integrated as the lines that separate those activities become increasingly indistinguishable in the marketplace.

ISOC’s public policy programmes are expected to broaden and deepen in the future to address some unprecedented challenges facing the Internet today and tomorrow. The concept of “open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world” is under considerable pressure as a result of a number of commercial, technical, and policy challenges that are certain to influence the future of the Internet. To address those challenges, in 2007 ISOC will roll out a major new strategic policy programme under the umbrella of the User Centric Internet Campaign, in order to identify and address the forces that are likely to shape—and even change—the Internet and what it represents.

In order to build on our position as a global organisation with a local perspective, ISOC will strengthen and expand its Chapters around the world. ISOC’s Chapter development programme will inspire a stronger sense of shared purpose and mission by providing the tools and increased opportunities for Chapter-to-Chapter communication, information sharing, access to communications material, and supporting documentation on best practices, enhanced collaboration possibilities through the use of on-line tools and in person meetings and forums. Increased funding also will be available to Chapters via the continuation of the Project Funding initiative, a grant programme of USD 200,000 for projects that advance ISOC’s mission and goals.

In early 2007, ISOC launched its second Regional Bureau, this one serving Latin America and the Caribbean. Located in Buenos Aires, the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean will be a focal point for ISOC activities in education, capacity building, and policy initiatives. The Regional Bureaus are a key element in the Chapter development programme stimulating enhanced participation and collaboration across ISOC activities and creating a stronger regional presence for ISOC.

In addition to endorsing the need for ISOC to excel in its delivery of core technical education programmes, the Board of Trustees has voiced strong support for providing education to policy makers on the key issues that are shaping the future of the Internet, both regionally and globally. These types of activities signify a shift in ISOC’s approach to programme development and implementation. In the future, our core interests in standards, education, and policy will be more fully integrated as the lines that separate those activities become increasingly indistinguishable in the marketplace.

ISOC’s education strategy will focus on growing and improving its technical and policy education activities in their own right, while leveraging opportunities to create synergy between the two. With the addition of a new director of education and programmes, we increased our staff and expanded the skill base dedicated to achieving our goals for the future.

The ISOC Fellowship to the IETF, which was piloted in 2006, will be developed into a robust core initiative. The curriculum of the ccTLD

Buenos Aires, Argentina
workshops will be expanded to include an advanced course covering security issues in more depth. ISOC will establish Alumni Networks that will extend a student’s education experience and facilitate communications between students after events. The Alumni Networks also will enable ISOC to maintain contact with our fellows and students as they progress in their careers.

As part of our outreach initiatives, ISOC will continue publication of the popular IETF Journal. Also in 2007, ISOC will seek to heighten its coverage, visibility, and participation in international forums that focus on ICT development, education, and policy. We also plan to renew participation in the FRIDA and Pan-Asia Small Grants programmes, which support Internet capacity building in developing countries through small development grants.

In 2007 and beyond, we will continue leveraging our experience and our expertise in order to positively shape and influence the future of the Internet for the benefit of individuals, organisations, and businesses worldwide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Internet Engineering Task Force
www.ietf.org
Internet Architecture Board
www.iab.org

Public Policy
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World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)
www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsia/

Education
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