The Internet Society’s Regional Bureaus support regional activities that promote education and training, capacity building, and policy initiatives. The Regional Bureaus help Chapters, Individual Members, Organization Members, and the Internet community at large to address local issues related to the development of the Internet.

Latin America and Caribbean Regional Bureau
The Internet Society’s Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean opened in 2007. With active Chapters in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela, the Internet Society’s presence in this part of the world covers a large portion of Central and South America and the Caribbean. The Regional Bureau in Latin America and the Caribbean focuses on stimulating and supporting educational, policy, and access-enabling activities in the region. Among this Regional Bureau’s most important achievements in 2008 was the signing of a cooperation agreement with CITEL (Comisión Interalamericana de Telecomunicaciones), an entity of the Organization of American States through which governments and the private sector in the hemisphere meet to coordinate efforts to develop the Global Information Society according to the mandates of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States. A workshop is being planned in conjunction with one of CITEL’s Permanent Consultative Committee meetings.

http://www.isoc.org/regions/lac

South and Southeast Asia Regional Bureau
The South and Southeast Asian region has long been home to an active and thriving community of Internet users and developers, many of whom lead or are members of ISOC Chapters. In 2008, the Internet Society launched a Regional Bureau for South and Southeast Asia. In 2008, the Bureau helped raise ISOC’s profile among a wide range of stakeholders in the region, including governments, civil society, the Internet community, and multilateral organizations.

The Bureau regularly partners with organizations in the region, including the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, the Asia Pacific Top-Level Domain Association, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the South Asian Network Operators Group, and various United Nations agencies. In addition, the Bureau has partnered with and participated in the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies and the Internet Governance Forum.

http://www.isoc.org/regions/asia

“The Africa Regional Bureau works with all stakeholder and involved parties in Africa to promote policies about use, operation, and evolution of the Internet. This helps shape the future of the Internet in general and of the ICT sector in Africa in particular.”

—Esam M. Abulkhirat, senior ICT policy officer, Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology, African Union Commission

Supporting Programmes

Regional Bureaus

Africa Regional Bureau
Of the more than 85 active Internet Society (ISOC) Chapters throughout the world, 21 are in Africa. In 2006, the Internet Society launched its first Regional Bureau, in Africa, in order to improve and expand the technical education and capacity-building efforts the organization has undertaken in that region since its inception. ISOC’s work in the advancement of network technologies on the African continent has been internationally recognized as some of the most important efforts to date to use Internet development as a means for improving the region’s social and economic development. In 2008, ISOC provided support for a number of network training programmes organized by local organizations, such as AfNOG, AITLD, and AfriNIC, as well as for annual INET workshops. These educational opportunities have made considerable contributions to the proliferation of the Internet in this part of the world.

http://www.isoc.org/regions/africa

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http://www.isoc.org/regions/asia
POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

The Internet Society’s policy activities are rooted in the organization’s fundamental belief that the Internet is for everyone and that it should be available to people everywhere. In pursuing its policy objectives, the Internet Society employs a model of collaboration. The organization—and its members and Chapters—work with governments, national and international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other parties and stakeholders to reach decisions about the Internet that conform to its core values. The Internet Society also achieves results by working in concert with specific organizational programmes and initiatives.

In 2008, the Internet Society increased the momentum of its policy work by taking a dual approach to issues management: its Strategic Global Engagement (SGE) programme addresses the global policy issues that are challenging Internet development, proliferation, and use; and its Public Policy programme gives greater attention to the policy issues affecting countries and regions on the local level.

Strategic Global Engagement

As the Internet Society’s influence over the past few years has increased, so has its understanding of the need to formalize efforts to engage policy makers at the highest level. In 2008, the SGE programme developed strategies and activities that enabled the organization to effectively deliver its message in support of the broader Internet community to policy makers worldwide.

Working closely with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Governance Forum, the International Telecommunication Union, and the United Nations, among others, ISOC was able to promote critical policy positions on a number of key issues. At the 2008 OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy, ISOC led a group of 17 key Internet organizations to promote the benefits of maintaining the Internet model of open development and collaboration. In addition, in conjunction with its InterNetWorks initiative, ISOC attended the ITU’s global standards assembly to advocate for the Internet ecosystem and to educate delegates about Internet standards and other vital issues.

“The Internet model is a robust, flexible, adaptive system, whose value is greater than the sum of its parts. We believe it is vital to support that model to ensure the Internet remains an engine of innovation.”

—Bill Graham of the Internet Society’s Global Strategic Engagement Programme in an address to the OECD Committee for Information, Computer, and Communications Policy Workshop on ICT and Innovation, December 2008
In July 2008, the Internet Society issued a response to ICANN’s Improving Institutional Confidence consultation, including a proposal to ICANN that it expand its outreach programmes in order to increase participation by developing countries and that it continue to improve and safeguard transparency and accountability in its processes.

Also in 2008, ISOC launched a successful campaign in support of the adoption and deployment of IPv6, which is important to the Internet’s functionality. In addition, the organization was highly successful in raising awareness of the need to move forward with the Domain Name System Security Extensions, which is critical to creating a safe and secure environment for users and which is gaining widespread support.

Finally, the Internet Society’s involvement with the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in November 2008 helped ISOC in its efforts to cultivate future leaders of the Internet through its continuing ISOC Ambassador programme. The programme brought 15 ISOC Individual Members from around the world to IGF for the opportunity to participate, engage, and learn (see page 15). ISOC was invited to organize two workshops at IGF on multilingualism and Internet Exchange Points and was offered a number of speaking opportunities, including an opening address by ISOC president and CEO Lynn St. Amour.

The Public Policy Programme
How the Internet functions may be a technical question, but how it grows, as well as what role it plays in terms of social and economic development on the local and regional levels, depends on the policy decisions made by policy makers, stakeholders, and government leaders around the world.

The success of the Internet Society’s mission to promote the Internet for the benefit of all people relies heavily on the relationships ISOC forms with governments, government agencies, and regional organizations, as well as civil society, health-care, and educational organizations. By maintaining a presence in countries (often through Chapters) and by working alongside technology organizations and business leaders in those countries, ISOC is able to educate decision makers about the benefits of investing in an open and accessible Internet.

That bottom-up approach to promoting its policy agenda is an important complement to the Internet Society’s international policy leadership efforts. It provides a much-needed, on-the-ground perspective and opportunities for creating close ties with the agencies that are investing in their country’s Internet infrastructure. Through its Chapters and Regional Bureaus, ISOC is better positioned than most to ensure that the Internet grows in countries whose economies are still developing and whose social services and educational and health-care systems can most benefit from ICT.

Finally, the Internet Society’s Regional Bureaus play key roles in advancing ISOC’s public policy goals by reporting on Internet advancement at the regional level and by granting access to global leaders and international forums to regional policy and political leaders.

http://www.isoc.org/pubpapillus

“The global business community values the voice of the Internet Society in discussions on Internet governance and policy issues. The balanced and informed input from ISOC helps all stakeholders focus on the real issues.”

—S. Ramadorai, CEO and managing director, Tata Consultancy Services, chair BASIS initiative and Herbert Heitmann, chair, ICC EBITT Commission, chief communications officer, SAP AG
Since its beginnings, the Internet Society has believed in the benefits of cultivating new Internet leaders and the value of rewarding individual and institutional innovation. Today, the Internet Society is proud to sponsor awards and fellowship programmes that single out and recognize the work being done to advance the Internet and to develop tomorrow’s leaders.

INTERNET LEADERS

In its long tradition of helping build technical capacity in less-developed countries, the Internet Society sponsors a fellowship programme that enables technologists from developing regions to attend the thrice-yearly meetings of the IETF. Launched by ISOC in 2006, the ISOC Fellowship to the IETF programme helps raise awareness of the IETF and its work in general while fostering greater understanding of and participation in the work of the IETF by technologists from the developing world. It also helps foster new technology leadership from developing regions and demonstrates the Internet community’s commitment to ensuring greater global participation in Internet forums such as the IETF.

http://www.isoc.org/educpillar/fellowship

The Internet Society’s Ambassador programme is designed to involve Members in ISOC’s public policy activities while providing valuable expertise and know-how for IGF meetings. In 2008, ISOC’s IGF Hyderabad Ambassadors helped explain and promote ISOC’s positions on public policy issues related to the themes. Ambassadors add significant local and regional experience and insight to discussions during sessions and workshops. The Ambassadors take home firsthand experience of the IGF and are expected to continue to drive local ISOC activities, particularly as they involve Internet governance issues.

http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/igfambassadors

“The next generation of users will be quite different from the first couple of generations. They will be much more technology savvy. They will expect that things like dynamic interactive content and feature-rich applications be the norm.”

—Internet Society’s Rajnesh Singh at the ITU Telecom Asia 2008 in Bangkok

2008 Ambassadors to the IGF, Ceren Unal and Anju Mangal, at the IGF in Hyderabad, India.
REGIONAL NETWORK OPERATORS GROUPS

Throughout the world, regional network operators groups have come to rely on the tutorials, trainings, and workshops that are made available with support from the Internet Society. In 2008, workshop participants addressed contemporary Internet technical, operational, and policy issues at six different events worldwide, including the South Asian Network Operators Group in January in Bangladesh, the 2008 Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies in February in Taipei, the Middle East Network Operators Group in April in Kuwait, the African Network Operators Group in May in Morocco, the South Asian Network Operators Group in July in Nepal, and the 2008 Workshop on Internet Technologies for Latin America and the Caribbean in December in Venezuela. In addition, in October, ISOC worked in conjunction with the African Network Operators Group and the Network Start-up Resource Center to host the second annual AfChix workshop, which trained more than 26 women engineers from 10 African countries on advanced internetworking techniques.

EDUCATION

The Internet Society firmly believes in the value of Internet education and training to promote the Internet on the local level and to help deliver on the Internet’s social and economic promises, especially in developing countries. In fact, in its early years, ISOC was widely recognized not only as the primary advocate for Internet education and training but also for its vast storehouse of Internet information and resources. That work continues to be a priority in order to ensure further development and expansion of the Internet throughout the world.

In 2008, the Internet Society helped hundreds of technologists and network operators around the world develop their technical skills and gain greater insight into and awareness of Internet-related policy and regulatory issues. In July 2008, ISOC helped facilitate and provide instruction at a networking and IPv6 workshop held in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop helped sensitize ICT personnel within several Ugandan government agencies to the benefits of IPv6 and raise awareness of network-operator-center best practices in preparation for the implementation of an e-government project. Other IPv6-related training workshops were supported in 2008 in both Mozambique and the Philippines.

The Internet Society’s INET Africa conferences have become the premier events for regional technologists, policy makers, regulators, and leaders in the Internet technical community. When it convened in June in Morocco, INET Africa 2008 explored the theme African Interconnections: The Value Proposition. The 120 participants discussed the challenges, issues, and opportunities for increasing network interconnection between African countries.

Internet Exchange Points can benefit local Internet service providers by improving network performance, quality of service, and local content hosting as well as through reduced international transit costs. In an effort to promote those benefits, particularly in developing regions, in 2008 ISOC collaborated with Packet Clearing House and the World Information and Technology Services Alliance to organize a workshop on IXP issues at the 2008 Internet Governance Forum meeting in Hyderabad, India. The workshop’s panelists represented the Kenya Internet Exchange Point, the Beirut Internet Exchange, and the Latin American IXP community.

http://www.isoc.org/eduscillar
AWARDS AND GRANTS

Awards

Each year, the Internet Society awards the Jonathan B. Postel Service Award in recognition of individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions in service to the data communications community. The award was established in 1998 to honour the memory of Internet guru and pioneer Jon Postel. In 2008, the award was presented to La Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana de Redes (EsLaRed) of Venezuela for its significant contributions to promote information technologies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 2008, the Internet Society commemorated the 10th anniversary of the passing of Jon Postel with a special presentation of the Jonathan B. Postel Service Award, which included having Jon’s mother and brother in attendance for the awards ceremony.

http://www.isoc.org/awards/postel

The Itojun Service Award was launched in 2008 to recognize and support those advancing the development and deployment of IPv6. The award, which honours the memory of Dr. Jun-ichiro “Itojun” Hagino, who passed away in 2007, was established by the friends of Itojun and will be administered by the Internet Society (ISOC) for the purpose of recognizing and commemorating the extraordinary dedication exercised by Itojun over the course of IPv6’s development.

http://www.isoc.org/awards/itojun

Grants

The Internet Society’s Community Grants programme provides assistance for ISOC Chapters and Individual Members who are developing projects that advance ISOC’s mission and goals, serve a Chapter’s community, nurture collaborative work among Chapters and Individual Members, advance knowledge sharing, and encourage sustainability and relevance among Chapters. See page 18 for a list of 2008 grants.

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

The Internet Society is also a funding partner in two regional grant programmes, the Information Society Innovation Fund for Asia (ISIF) and the Regional Fund for Digital Innovation in the Latin American and Caribbean (FRIDA).

http://www.isoc.org/educpillar/grants

Lois Postel, at left, presented the Jonathan B. Postel Service Award to EsLaRed president, Professor Ermanno Pietrosemoli, who accepted it on behalf of the organization.
### INTERNET SOCIETY COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME FUNDING 2008

In 2008, the Community Grants programme committed USD 149,335 to support 15 projects: 11 run by Chapters and 4 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter/Project Organizer</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount Funded</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina Monica Abalo LaForgia</td>
<td>Creation of a handbook to be used as a training tool by technical staff and service providers who have not yet experienced IPv6. It will help with configuring IPv6 in different environments via detailed instructions and experiments.</td>
<td>USD 10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria Julia Velkova</td>
<td>The project stimulates debate in Bulgaria about controversial legislation that allows mobile operators and Internet providers to retain the data of digital messages.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo Didier Rukeratabaro Kasole</td>
<td>To enable Internet access in Kikolopori, an underserved, post-war community, the team will install solar panels; provide three laptops, a digital camera, and a satellite Internet connection; and provide training in their use.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador Carlos Vera</td>
<td>This phase of the Digital Inclusion project is a strategic alliance with cybercafés and libraries to teach current beneficiaries of the project how to use the Internet to communicate, find a job, find a small business, and seek online information for homework or employment.</td>
<td>9,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong John Fung</td>
<td>Introduction of Hong Kong’s Digital Solidarity Fund model, which provides a platform for the government, the business sector, and the civil society to be engaged in digital inclusion.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico Cristos Velasco</td>
<td>Creation of a legal and policy-related Web site to help fight cybercrime in Latin America. The site will educate authorities on tools for fighting cybercrime and serve as an arena for collaboration on legal and related issues.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal Rajan Dahal</td>
<td>Train members of the newly elected Constituent Assembly on Internet use and ICT issues to help members better understand the power and the potential of the Internet for economic and social advancement.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter/Project Organizer</td>
<td>Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>A capacity-building programme to help inform and train students in Central Africa about the Internet and governance principles resulting from the World Summit on the Information Society.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jean Philemon Kissangou</td>
<td>Support for the second component of a four-prong project to create a Sierra Leone Internet Exchange Point.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Labor</td>
<td>Development of an IPv6 training programme for teachers and students in conjunction with the deployment of dual-stack IPv6 network access at four schools. The results will be published as a handbook for other schools.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>A speaker series and campaign for broadband access designed to foster discussion among community members and establish the Chapter as the hub of Internet-related events in New York City. Events will be recorded and available online and through the distribution of free DVDs.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chung Laung Liu</td>
<td>A conference and workshop for Ireland’s governmental bodies and public and private companies designed to educate providers and regulators and promote secure Internet connections. A Web site will offer ongoing education.</td>
<td>9,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S.A.–New York Metro</td>
<td>The project will strengthen networking programmes, both on and off-line, to connect girls in rural Sierra Leone, including software and services, with full range of ICTs using the Internet via computers and mobile phones.</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Korth</td>
<td>Promote the use of the Internet in three cities in Peru and stimulate the creation of local content via the use of online tools in local communities, small- to medium-sized enterprises, local governments, and civil society.</td>
<td>9,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Member</td>
<td>Geared toward children of lower income families in Lahore, Pakistan, the KidsEnabled project will facilitate Internet access, awareness, and IT-enabled education by establishing broadband access to schools, developing a targeted content management software system with custom-made content, and creating a mentorship programme.</td>
<td>9,950</td>
</tr>
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http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/projects