connectivity that brings real change to communities

A collaborative effort that included the Internet Society Sierra Leone Chapter [http://www.isoc.sl] has brought to fruition Sierra Leone’s first Digital Village. Computers, furniture, and all of the project accessories provided by the Digital Village project were used to set up two computing centres. One caters to young students in primary schools and students up to the third year in secondary schools. The other provides training for college students in collaboration with the colleges in Sierra Leone.

The Internet Society Nigeria Chapter [http://www.isocnig.org.ng] donated two new Jon Postel information technology (IT) centres in 2008, bringing the total number of centres to 14. One centre was opened at the University of UYO in the southern part of Nigeria and equipped with 25 computers, all of them with wireless desktop cards for wireless LAN connectivity. The other centre was donated to the University of Port Harcourt in October.

In addition, the Nigeria Chapter launched a programme called ICT for All, which comprises seminars, workshops, and training courses in information and communication technologies (ICTs). The Chapter is working in partnership with institutions and student bodies to organize the events.

The Internet Society Tunisia Chapter [http://www.isoc.org.tn] is helping support community engagement by providing Internet hosting and resources as part of a new campaign that highlights how people throughout the world take action on critical issues that matter to them most. The Your First Step Campaign aims to inspire and activate those who have not participated yet in community affairs and to link communities, organizations, and groups working on specific issues and specific areas. The initiative hopes to motivate young people to take part in youth-led development projects and to provide useful resources for taking action.

In 2008, the Internet Society Armenia Chapter [http://www.isoc.am] began providing Internet assistance for charitable organizations, including an Internet connection and a free domain name for a nongovernmental organization for disabled children. The Chapter also cosponsored information technology events in rural regions—including an informatics contest for schoolchildren in the city of Vanadzor—and is acting as a channel for distributing used computers to schools in rural regions.

In July 2008, in collaboration with the Association of Midwives of Mauritania, the Internet Society Mauritania Chapter started a programme called the Internet Improves Maternal and Child Health Services. As part of the programme, Chapter members assisted a community of midwives in accessing health information that supports their work. The ability to access thousands of certified sites related to maternal and child health enables midwives to improve the quality of service provided for mothers and newborns. Also in 2008, the Internet Society Mauritania Chapter initiated activities to train midwives in basic computer skills and techniques for assisting in searches of Internet databases, such as those certified by the International Public Health authorities.

Internet Society Chapters enable Individual Members to become personally involved in the future of the Internet by providing a more personal lens through which to sharpen the focus on an understanding of the local and regional issues that affect the Internet.
Since its inception, the Internet Society Nigeria Chapter has sought to promote and diffuse the Internet in Nigeria through seminars, course work, and conferences. At the same time, the Chapter has worked to sensitize business and government entities about the need to assist and sponsor IT projects. From 2002 to 2008, the Chapter has engaged sponsors and raised money for a total of seven information technology centres meant to enhance educational opportunities throughout the country. The centres are dedicated to the memory of Jonathan Postel, who passed away in 1998. Jon’s 30-year career in networking had a profound influence on the management of the Internet, particularly in his role as numbers czar at the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. He was a founding member of the Internet Architecture Board and the first individual member of the Internet Society. See http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/news/nigeria-postel.shtml.

As a community of 8,000 people who are severely impoverished due to geographic isolation and the deterioration of infrastructure resulting from the Congo War, the town of Kokolopori is without cell phone towers or electricity. Communication with the outside world is limited to a single satellite phone powered by diesel generator. As part of a project initiated in 2008, the Internet Society Democratic Republic of Congo Chapter is participating in a project that will facilitate access in the region via the installation of solar panels capable of powering a laptop and an Internet satellite dish and modem. The project will provide three refurbished laptops, a digital camera, and a satellite Internet connection as well as training in the use of the solar panels, in the use of the Internet, and in e-mail proficiency for Kokolopori’s health-care workers, educators, conservationists, and microcredit participants.

The Internet Society Peru Chapter (http://www.isocperu.org) is boosting Internet use in three geographic regions—the Amazon region, the Andes, and coastal areas—and providing support to encourage users to embrace online tools that will stimulate more-sophisticated communication that favours local communities, small to medium-sized enterprises, local governments, and civil society.

"Active and vibrant Chapters are a vital and strategic asset to the Internet Society."
—Anne Lord, Internet Society senior manager, Chapters and Individual Membership

JON POSTEL IT CENTRES

Since its inception, the Internet Society Nigeria Chapter has sought to promote and diffuse the Internet in Nigeria through seminars, course work, and conferences. At the same time, the Chapter has worked to sensitize business and government entities about the need to assist and sponsor IT projects. From 2002 to 2008, the Chapter has engaged sponsors and raised money for a total of seven information technology centres meant to enhance educational opportunities throughout the country. The centres are dedicated to the memory of Jonathan Postel, who passed away in 1998. Jon’s 30-year career in networking had a profound influence on the management of the Internet, particularly in his role as numbers czar at the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. He was a founding member of the Internet Architecture Board and the first individual member of the Internet Society. See http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/news/nigeria-postel.shtml.

Federal University of Port Harcourt IT Center, commissioned on 8 March, 2004