CHAPTER WORKSHOPS

Building communities of trust to strengthen impact

Internet Society Chapters are the lifeblood of our global mission. They bring together individuals on a volunteer basis with a shared interest in advancing our objectives to form vibrant communities committed to the Internet Society’s mission. They organize programmes and activities of value to the regions in which they live and work.

Although focused on areas of interest within their local communities, many Chapter leaders share common experiences and challenges that transcend location. Some Chapters must navigate economic and infrastructure limitations. Others face political or social environments that can be challenging to carry out our mission. Providing a safe and trusted platform for discussing and resolving some of these challenges that our volunteers face, while nurturing the collaboration between Chapter leaders and Internet Society staff and Board of Trustees, is critical to helping ensure Chapters flourish.

Internet Society Chapter Workshops bring together Chapter leaders to discuss management-related issues and share ideas, knowledge, content, and experiences. Piloted in 2013 in Africa and Asia-Pacific, this year’s workshops were held in the Asia-Pacific, African, Latin American, and Middle Eastern Regions. For nearly two-days in an “unconference”-like setting, Chapter leaders participated in a workshop that combined training with discussion. On day one, structured training in organizational intelligence helped participants learn how to influence their peers more effectively, and how to leverage nuances of Chapter work to spark greater collaboration.

Using the Connect portal, Chapter leaders submitted topics for consideration in advance of the workshop, and all voted to set the discussion agenda. Day two of each workshop was devoted to participant-led discussion about these top-ranked topics. Region by region, participants addressed these issues and with a focused environment for collaboration and problem solving, each group emerged with unique—and relevant—outcomes to apply at home.

Review our Chapters on page 29.