Outline

Setting the Scene
• Who we are
• Goals & objectives
• Major Accomplishments

Policy Considerations

ME 2019 Plan of Activities
• Strategy and Action Plan
Introducing the Team

**Policy Advisor**
Nermine EL Saadany

28 years of experience
Start Date: 1 Aug 2018

**Regional Bureau Director**
Salam Yamout

30 years of experience
Start Date: 1 Nov 2016

**Community Manager**
Layal Jebran

8 years of experience
Start Date: 21 May 2018

**Technology Advisor**

**Special Thanks To:**
Jane Coffin, Christine Saegesser, Dawit Bekele, Konstantinos Komaitis, Kevin Meynell

**Communications**
The Geo-Political Scene

- Population of 240 Million people
- Different definitions for “Middle East”
- 3 economically diverse sub-regions
- Political and/or economically stability at risk due to tensions amongst regional and international powers.
Demography and Social Structure

اللغة العربية هي اللغة الرسمية لـ 240 مليون شخص

Arabic is the official language for 240 million people.

But… there is a lack of collaboration, coordination…
Digital Economy

85% of local traffic is routed through Europe

56.4% average Internet penetration across the Middle East

7-18% online corporate presence

1% e-commerce volume

Non-competitive behavior, and some outdated regulatory regimes.
ME Bureau Approach

**COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**

Engage all partners and stakeholders.

Emphasis on governments

**BUILDING COMMUNITIES**

Build the community of Internet stakeholders, especially among the youth.

Concentrate on Technology

**STRONG VOICE**

Position Internet Society as an influencer.

Be a trusted and neutral source of information
Major Accomplishments
Building Partnerships

Private Sector

Technical Community

International Organizations
Engaging Governments

Conducted Meetings with regulators and ministers of the following countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, UAE
Engaging the Technical Community

IXP Workshop, Lebanon Jan 2017

IXP Workshop, Jordan Aug 2018

Intro to IETF, Jordan Sept 2017

IXP Workshop, Bahrain Oct 2018
Bringing the Community Together

Meeting with the GCC Community during ITU-PP18, Dubai

Enabling Digital Opportunities

MEAC-SIG 2018
Cairo Egypt

ME Chapters Meeting during MENOG Oman 2017

3 Blockchain Workshops (Jordan, Lebanon, UAE) 2018
## ME Chapters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapters</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>731</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>231</td>
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<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>472</td>
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<td>Yemen</td>
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### Coordination with African Bureau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>599</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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### 2018 New Chapters Focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Non-Chapter Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of growth (2017 to 2018) = 18%

**From 3,894 to 4,730 Members**
Policy Considerations
Regional Concerns

Security

Unemployment

Social Media

Technology Trends
ME Bureau Challenges

Engage Governments

Technical Know-How

Build the Community

Brand
Striking the Balance

Open, globally-connected, trustworthy, and secure Internet for everyone.

Regional Priorities:
- National Security
- Unemployment
- Impact of Social Media
- Technology Trends

ISOC Priorities:
- Build the Community
- Increase Technical Know-How
- Reinforce the ISOC Brand

ME Bureau 2019 Plan
ME 2019 Plan of Activities

Community, Technology, Policy
Enabling Environment and Legal Framework for Digital Economy

Connecting the World

Improving Technical Security

Shaping the Future of the Internet

Strong Voice

Collaborative Approach (IG & IETF)

- Routing security
- IXPs

Community Building

- Securing Critical Infrastructure

Legend: Community, Technology, Policy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
<th>Q4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IETF Tech Fellows Chapters Workshop</td>
<td>MEAC-SIG</td>
<td>1st University (Morocco)</td>
<td>IGF</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st University (Dubai)</td>
<td>1st University (Beirut)</td>
<td>IETF Policy Fellow</td>
<td>Paper Release Cyber security &amp; Critical Infrastructure (TBD)</td>
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<td>Policy Discussion for Enabling Digital Economy (Oman)</td>
<td>Policy Discussion Cyber security &amp; Critical Infrastructure (Dubai)</td>
<td>ITU Council</td>
<td>Policy Discussion Cyber security &amp; Critical Infrastructure (TBD)</td>
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<td>IETF WkS #1 (Dubai)</td>
<td>IETF Tech Fellows</td>
<td>IXP/Routing (TBD)</td>
<td>IETF WkS #3 (Morocco)</td>
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<td>IETF WkS #2 Hackathon MENOG (Beirut)</td>
<td>IET Tech Fellows</td>
<td>IXP/Routing (TBD)</td>
<td>IXP/Routing (TBD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary Take Aways

- Difficult Region
- Strategy
- Collaboration
Do.
Or do not.

There is no try.

Yoda, Jedi Master
Thank you.