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Welcome to the Middle East Regional Newsletter

3rd edition

After another successful month here at the Internet Society, we are bringing to you all the important highlights from October.

We had a very positive month with events across the region like Kuwait, Bahrain and the U.A.E. We want this newsletter to be valuable for you so please share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve.

Would you like to join your local Chapter?
Contact the leaders of the chapter.

Would you like to start a Chapter in your country?
Read this guide

Meet the Regional Team

Nermine El Saadany

Nermine El Saadany has joined the Internet Society as Policy Advisor for the Middle East Region effective August 2018.

Nermine comes to us from the Government of Egypt where she was the Under-secretary for International Relations at the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. Nermine is a gifted professional with around 25 years of working experience in the field of Internet policy, research on political economy, international & regional affairs, International Organizations Relations (UN and EU), and ICT diplomacy. She is a seasoned bilateral and multilateral negotiator and a specialist in the design and implementation of information and communications technology (ICTs) development projects and events.

Nermine El Saadany holds a Masters in Economics from the American University of Cairo and is on the board of Diplo Foundation.

Nermine El Saadany is located in Cairo, Egypt.
Successful round-up of previous events

Layal Jebran, the Regional Community Manager of the ISOC Middle East was the moderator for the panel discussion on GDPR effect on the Middle East at the Arab Net conference in Kuwait. This conference is the largest digital gatherings in the MENA region, with a track record of bringing globally-renowned speakers to discuss the latest topics in the field, as well as successfully connecting entrepreneurs and startups.

We also participated in the Innovation Forum 2018 in Bahrain. Our very own Salam Yamout, Regional Director was a moderator for a panel discussion that delved into cybersecurity in the Middle East and how the ecosystem should be prepared to face the next wave of threats and attacks.
قوائم جديدة لحماية الخصوصية على الإنترنت

تقول شركة "عدن نت" على موقعها أنها توفر الإنترنت عالية السرعة وبأسعار أقل، من خلال إنترنت سلكي يستهدف الشركات والمؤسسات والمراكز الحكومية والبنوك عن طريق الألياف الضوئية، وينتشر الإنترنت لاسلكي في الأفراح بالاعتماد على أيرج الإرسال التي تعمل بتقنية الجيل الرابع (4G)، ولكلها، مثل "عدن نت"، لم تنشر أي سياسة خصوصية أو شروط خدمة على موقعها الإلكتروني، ما يثير أسئلة حول حجب المحتوى والموارد الإلكترونية إضافة إلى حقوق المستخدمين.

يشير فهمي الباحث، رئيس لجنة "مجتمع الإنترنت في اليمن"، إلى أن "شبكة الإنترنت في اليمن لا تزال قيادياً، ومن الجيل الثالث والمشارك بها ككل للمواطنين، وهذا لا يتناسب مع ازدياد أعداد المشتركين الذين يرغبون في متابعة الأخبار ومواقع التحولات عبر المواعيد الإخبارية وبشكل الإعلام الاجتماعي. ويضيف أن "إنترنت السلكي واللاسلكي يصبح أكثر بساطة في المدن المزدهرة، وإذا أراد أحد ما الاشتراك بخط إنترنت جديد لا يمكنه ذلك لأن الشبكة لا تحتل على حد قول العاملين في النشرة."
Andrew Sullivan, CEO and President of the Internet Society in the U.A.E.

Andrew Sullivan’s visit to the U.A.E and Internet Society’s participation for the International Telecommunication Union’s PP-18 conference was the key highlight for October 2018. The conference stressed a global call for the world to “act as one” to connect the world’s nearly four billion people who remain unconnected to the Internet. One of the main aims of the Internet Society at the conference is promoting the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet. Andrew believes that the Internet is the most powerful tool in the world and we should certainly know who wants to control it, and particularly, who determines its future.

During Andrew’s visit, the Internet Society team also had successful meetings with the Omani and Japanese ministers. He also met with the community members from the GCC and surrounding Arab countries. The discussions were very constructive and candid on the Internet governance and everyone agreed that we need to focus on working towards a better Internet structure to keep it free and open for all.
Press Highlights

Andrew Sullivan spoke to leading media titles like Gulf News, Dubai Eye 103.8 and Al Arabiya in the region on how the Internet Society is pushing to stop regulators from breaking the Internet.

Click the videos below for the full interview:
Recent blogs

In her new blog titled ‘Plenipot 2018 – What’s Up for the Internet?’ Salam Yamout, Regional Director of the Middle East stresses that the Internet works through collaboration and singular control weakens it at every step. Click to know more!

There is a remarkable gap between the policy aspect exercised by governments and the practice and usage of technology by the citizens themselves. Read more on this topic on the blog titled ‘ICT Diplomacy: A Change in the Dynamics’ by Nermine El Saadany, Policy Advisor for the Middle East Region.

Come say hello!

The Internet Society is at the heart of the Internet community and active in conferences and events around the region. Please see below the list of upcoming events and feel free to stop by and meet us in person.

Event: IETF 103
Date: 2nd - 9th November
Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Register now

Event: ITU Regional Conference on ICT for Women in the Arab Region
Date: 26th – 27th November 2018
Location: Movenpick Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon
Register now

Event: Lebanon Internet Governance Forum
Date: 28th – 29th November 2018
Location: American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Register now

Event: Arabnet Riyadh
Date: 11th - 13th December 2018
Location: Riyadh, KSA
Register now
Social media links

We've recently started our very own Middle East social media channels! Engage with us on social: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube

Spread the word: Tell your friends and colleagues to become a member to help build an Internet network that is open, globally connected, and secure.