

**ISOC.PH - An introduction and our contribution
to the Internet Governance Forums:
Participation and Cultural Plurality**



Article II of the organization's By-Laws:

To enable and promote debate and genuine dialogue among government, industry, academe and individuals concerned with the integration of Internet technologies within the country's technological, research, educational, social and business infrastructure.

To promote intelligent and responsible use of the Internet by broadening critical awareness of Internet infrastructure, technologies and regulations, with emphasis on the creative and innovative use of the Internet towards academic, educational, charitable and scientific purposes, and how these might impact on the individual and society as a whole.

To represent the Philippine Internet community in government committees and in international forums that deal with the various technical, legal and social aspects of the Internet, especially to ensure representation of developing world concerns in determining the shape and future of the Internet e.g. representation, participation and raising of concerns in government and the international community.

To encourage and support the advancement of innovations in Internet technologies as well as the conduct of Internet-related research especially recognizing its originality, and scientific and practical value.

The bigger picture of governance:

meaningful participation

cultural plurality



"On diversity – this is a sacred cow and one of those words that falls into a “feel good” category. We live in a country (India) where diversity is a given but all these diversities do not amount to a plurality. Need to distinguish between diversity and plurality. Just because we live in a diverse world it does not mean we are harmonious or tolerant. India is sectarian if not racist and we cannot say that diversity has allowed people to live more harmoniously. If we want to work towards plurality we must work through negotiation and arbitration – diversity comes with inequity."

- Rustom Bharucha, CopySouth Workshop in Kerala, India
2008

"In particular, for historical reasons, the various bodies usually associated with Internet governance (ICANN, IETF, ISOC) have been dominated by participation from English-speaking North America and Europe. While these bodies market their inclusivity and openness, they nevertheless fail to reflect the diversity of the users of the Internet within key positions of power. This has significant effects on their decision-making capacity in areas that primarily affect non-English speaking users..."

Danny Butt in "Internet Governance: Asia Pacific Perspectives"

How can we deepen the involvement of the technical community in questions of public policy?

How can we strengthen the technical understanding of development advocates in the effort to transform existing governance regimes?

How do we transform both political struggles and development goals into truly meaningful and inclusive problem solving processes for our communities?

And how can our communities make a direct input into global Internet governance processes?



(1) The impact of Internet governance on cultural diversity, plurality and the status of Asia Pacific languages and cultures;

(2) Intellectual property regimes, and alternative and collective ownership structures; which brings us to policies on Free and Open Source Software and open standards especially in government procurement and public access;

(3) IP address management, IPv6 adoption and responsive policies in IPv6 allocation, which leads us to global allocation policies under IPv6; DNS management, and the need for a responsive global forum for resolving what seem to be entirely local or national issues?

(4) Quality of Service by Internet Service Providers, and particularly the costs of access and service arising from lack of diversity in shorter cross-border or intra-regional cables, as well as the status of Asia Pacific ISPs as customers of upstream ISPs;

(5) Internet Governance in the context of human rights and civil liberties;

(6) The role of education - formal and non-formal - not only in promoting the Internet but more significantly in understanding and debating the broader questions of governance and the impact of the Internet and ICTs on social and cultural diversity.

The Founding Members of ISOC.PH.

LCmdr Ferdinand Abad, Phil Navy
Lisandro Adamos, Global-Link MP
Tina Amper, BC Management
Antonio Balgos, Philippine Veterans
Bank
Maureene F. Bello, Ateneo de
Zamboanga University
Josie Cacdac, PT Multimacs
Ramon Cerezo, Eastern Telecoms
Krstoff Thomas Chavez, TouchStar
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Dann Diez, E-Skills and ILIRA
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Jan Martinez, Technidata
Ian Pamintuan, Zilog Philippines
Michael Perez, FiveNines Enterprise
Technologies
Charmaine Reyes-Urani, IBM
Philippines
Glenn Michael Tan, US Auto Parts
Network Phil
Rodel Urani, Covanta Energy
Winthrop Yu, Philippine Internet
Commerce Society

Incoming active members:

Charity Gamboa, Diplo Foundation

Yen Sayson, Infocom

Wheng Romo, Axis Technologies

Trevor Batten, British computer artist and
Philippine resident



Maraming salamat.

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