



Report

On

The Kenya Internet Governance Forum
Nairobi , Kenya
3rd July 2014

By the Kenya Internet Governance Forum Organizing Committee

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BACKGROUND

The Kenya Internet Governance Forum was held on 3rd July 2014 at the Strathmore University Business School. The forum was organized by the Kenya Internet Governance Forum working group that is part of the Internet Society Kenya Chapter the convener. This was the fifth edition of the forum in Kenya and the second to be convened by the Internet Society Kenya Chapter.

The Internet Governance Forum is a multi stakeholder meeting that brings together the government, private sector, civil society, technical community and academia to discuss public policy issues that affect growth and development of the Internet in Kenya.

The ICT sector policy that propelled growth and development of ICT in Kenya is an example of output of multi stakeholder engagement that was developed and strengthened through the Kenya Internet Governance Forum.

OPENING CEREMONY

The Kenya Internet Governance Forum was officially opened by Hon. Engineer James Rege Member of Parliament Karachuonyo Constituency assisted by Fiona Asonga the Chief Executive Officer Telecommunication Service Providers Association of Kenya. In his opening remarks Engineer Rege emphasized on the gains the country had made through multistakeholder engagement that had been facilitated by the Internet Governance process. He also emphasized on the need to strengthen capacity building on Cyber Security related issues since it was a real threat to electronic commerce as well as the well being of nations. On her part Fiona emphasized on the need for stakeholders to continue engaging each other and sharing knowledge for the benefit of the nation

THE KENYA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2014

More than 140 participants registered for the Kenya Internet Governance Forum 2014 whose theme was connecting counties for enhanced multistakeholder internet governance. Remote participation was also provided on the Internet Society Live stream channel as well as through the Webex platform to enable greater stakeholder engagement

The forum was composed of various panels that discussed three main thematic areas:

- Net Neutrality
- Policies enabling access
- Cybersecurity

- Internet and Human rights

The first panel was made up of the International Commission of Jurists Civil Society, Telecommunication Services Providers of Kenya Private Sector, Google and the Chief Guest focused on policies enabling access and net neutrality, the main issues discussed have been summarized below:

- Improving cost and quality of Internet: price of internet has significantly come down due to the fact that most ISPs are peering at Kenya Internet Exchange point therefore keeping traffic level
- Increasing access. The government of Kenya has made efforts to increase access by ensuring that Fibre connectivity has been spread to all counties in the Republic of Kenya
- Some county governments are making efforts to provide free access to their citizens in major towns. Government services are increasingly being availed online by the national government as well as the county governments
- Need to encourage and promote the use of local content
- The need for a freedom of information act and data protection bill was highlighted

The second panel moderated by the Telecommunication Services Providers of Kenya focused on Cyber Security and was made up of representatives from the government Communications Authority of Kenya, Academia, Strathmore University, Private Sector Microsoft and focused on the key issues that have been summarized below:

- Africa union Draft Convention on Cyber Security that had been recently ratified and was ready for adoption by African States: participants were informed that translation of the convention from the French to English language had created confusion which had earlier on created mistrust in the document but that this had since been resolved. Participants were also informed that they could still provide input into the document through their respective governments.
- National Cyber Security Strategy Republic of Kenya launched by his Excellency the president that was developed through a multistakeholder approach: The communications Authority of Kenya welcomed participants to join hands with the government as it implemented the strategy. Participants were also informed that the strategy had been developed using a multi stakeholder approach.
- Participants were also informed about challenges stemming from hubs where young people are engaging in hacking activities

The third panel was moderated by Google and focused on the role of the Internet as an engine of growth and development. Oakar services presented case studies on how the Internet could be used to manage traffic flow in Nairobi using various geographic information services tools. Participants were also taken through a presentation on how Elimu TV is revolutionizing the education sector by bringing it closer to the informal settlements where citizens can barely afford to take their children to school.

The fourth panel was moderated by the Kenya Human Rights Commission, it focused on on social media and hate speech. The main issues discussed by the participants included:

- What constitutes hate speech?
- The need for a freedom of information act.
- The need to educate online users and leaders on responsible use of online tools, Facebook, twitter

The final panel was an open microphone session. Participants discussed the need for the Internet Governance forum to be all inclusive and to bring on board more participants from rural areas. Participants also noted that there was need to formulate a consumer protection act to protect internet users from spam emanating from various service providers.

The need for the freedom of information and data protection act was also underscored. Stakeholders were encouraged to join hands to ensure quick realization of the two acts.

MEETING HOST

Strathmore University Business School hosted the Kenya Internet Governance forum for the second year.

OUTCOME OF THE KENYA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

The forum was a success. There was positive feedback from the participants on the content and quality of presentations and the variety of panelists drawn from the government private sector, civil society, academia and technical communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPONSORS

The Kenya Internet Governance Forum was made possible by the kind sponsorship of various partners. We are grateful to them for their contribution. The following support was provided:

Sponsor	Type of Support Received	Remarks
Meeting Host: Strathmore University Business School		Conference Facilities,
Microsoft	USD 2000	Paid for Conference Venue
Ogilvy	USD 2500	
OAKAR	USD 300	
KeNIC	In Kind	Event Coverage photography, hosting of event website
TESPOK	In Kind	Internet Sponsor
3MICE	In Kind	Event website
Kenya Human Rights Commission	Kes 100,000	Meals
IHUB	In Kind	Meeting rooms for planning meetings
Internet Society	In kind	Remote participation

The Internet Society Kenya Chapter appreciates the contribution of the sponsors towards the success of the forum.

KEY OUTCOMES OF THE KENYA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

- The need for greater engagement between the government, private sector, civil society, technical community and academia and strengthening of the multistakeholder model.
- The need for more inclusivity, ensuring people from different parts of the country participate in the forum.
- The need for the freedom of information act to be fast tracked
- The need for the data protection act to be fast tracked.
- The need for greater capacity building in Cyber Security
- The need for a consumer act to protect consumers from spam