

Press Release Outcome of the 6th AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting Rockview Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria, 28th April to 4th May 2007

AfriNIC, the Regional Internet Registry for Africa, held its 6th public policy meeting in Abuja, Nigeria from the 28 th April to 4 th May 2007 . This meeting held with AfNOG, AfREN, AfTLD and INET Africa exposed the latest works being carried out on the IPv6 as well as Internet Governance and IP number resources allocation policy in Africa . The main focus of this meeting was the IPv4 address exhaustion and what can be done by the community to address issues being raised by this exhaustion. As an incentive for greater IPv6 take-up and usage within Africa , a new fee schedule was approved for IPv6 Membership fees. Also, a 50% discount has been proposed to universities and research networks on set-up and annual membership fees.

It was a great opportunity for networking and sharing of best practices among the stakeholders in the African region. It also gave the opportunity to see how several countries (Senegal and South Africa) in Africa have implemented IPv6 in their network.

One of the numerous outcomes of this meeting was the setting up of Birds of Feather sessions on IPv4 exhaustion, anti-spam and the Policy Development Process.

A large proportion of the meeting was also dedicated to discussions on the six proposed policies. Three policies reached consensus, two were withdrawn and one did not reach consensus and the discussion will continue on the policy mailing list (rpd@afriNIC.net). It was also the opportunity for AfriNIC during that day to give an update of its activities as well as its plan for the remaining of 2007. This open, bottom-up process is central to the administration and management of the Internet.

The meeting also included two days of hands-on IPv6 training which was attended by 50 delegates. The training, which was provided by Cisco System and Consulintel, covered all aspects of IPv6 deployment, and was also used to train African trainers to whom AfriNIC will have recourse to for future training.

The meeting was attended by nearly 200 delegates from over 40 different countries. The largest proportion of attendees were from telecom operators (inc. ISPs) followed by Education Networks and governments, giving an indication of the importance that all stakeholders are now giving to the role of AfriNIC and the Internet Number Resources.

The next AfriNIC meeting (AfriNIC-7) is planned for 24 th to 28 th September 2007 in Durban , South Africa . More details will be available soon on AfriNIC meeting page.

AfriNIC-6 was sponsored by Cisco System, ConsulIntel, Internet Society, Netcom, Linkserve, Skannet and Cyber Space. More information about the meeting can be found at <http://www.afriNIC.net/meeting/afriNIC-6>.