REPORT ON PARTICIPATION IN THE AfriNIC PUBLIC POLICY MEETING AS AN AfriNIC-15 FELLOW
21- 25 NOVEMBER 2011, YAOUNDÉ, CEMEROON.

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SECOND REPORT TO THE AfriNIC-15 FELLOWSHIP TEAM

By

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AfriNIC Fellow at AfriNIC-15
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Acronyms Used

AfriNIC	African Network Information Center
AMCOST	African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology
AMCOW	African Ministers' Council on Water
AU	African Union
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DNSSEC	Domain Naming Service Secretariat
GTUG	Google Technology User Group in Uganda
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IMU	Information Management Unit
IPv4	Internet Protocol version Four
IPv6	Internet Protocol version Six
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LIR	Local Internet Registry
LUG	Linux User Group, Uganda
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoICT	Ministry of Information and Communications Technology
MSE	Micro and Small Enterprises
NAT	Network Allocation Table
NITA-U	National Information Technology Authority – Uganda
NOC	Network Operating Center
NUDC	Northern Uganda Data Center
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
PDP	Policy Development Process
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSD	Private Sector Development
RFC	Request for Comments
RIR	Regional Internet Registry
STC	Specialized Technical Committee (of the African Union)
UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
ULIA	The Uganda Library and Information Association
UNOCHA	United Nations Office or the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
W3C	Worldwide Web Consortium

Acknowledgements

The Fellow is pleased to express his personal gratitude to the AfriNIC Fellowship Team for selecting him and granting him the opportunity to attend the AfriNIC-15 Public Policy Meeting and for the financial support that made his travel and participation possible.

He also avails himself of the opportunity to express his thankfulness to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda (OPM) for granting him permission to attend AfriNIC-15 and also for providing him with the additional financial and logistical support toward his attendance of the meeting. Special appreciation goes to the Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi (MP), Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and Leader of Government Business in Parliament for his excellent leadership, to Mr. Pius Bigirimana, the Permanent Secretary, to Mrs. Flavia Waduwa, the Under Secretary for Pacification and Development and to Mr. Kenneth Bagarukayo, the Program Manager of the Northern Uganda Data Center (NUDC) for their support in this regard.

Executive Summary

The issues presented in this report are personal perspectives resulting from the writer's four days engagement in the AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting as an AfriNIC-15 Fellow. From the observations made during this four-day engagement, the report features some of the events attended, contributions made to the Meeting which included a call for the integration of legal opinion in policy development processes, notification of others about the existence, purpose and activities of AfriNIC, sharing of pertinent aspects of the meeting with the wider ICT and IM fraternity in Uganda, suggestions on embracing standards and best practices as enshrined in the respective ISO documents, W3C specifications and RFCs on access, availability, functionality and usability – all toward making AfriNIC more relevant to the African citizen, more pronounced and more involving across the African continent.

The issues presented in this report also build on the Fellow's understanding and appreciation of the premise that there is growing potential for ICTs to contribute to the social and economic progress of developing countries – and on the fact that unlimited IP addresses for the numerous entities are an essential factor. As clearly illustrated by the theme of the Information Economy Report, 2011, "ICTs as an Enabler for Private Sector Development", The Information Economy Report 2010 showed how ICT use by Micro- and Small Enterprises (MSEs) has often improved not only business performance but also livelihoods. Accordingly, this report focuses more on the involvement of the private sector, as well as the urgent need to forge lasting public and private sector partnerships as a key recommendation that will make ICT work for the ordinary African citizens. As a prospective private actor, the writer, through this report seriously seeks to explore the possibility of the Republic of Uganda hosting AfriNIC-18 in Kampala, given that the country presently cherishes and values the contribution of ICT in private sector development (PSD) in particular and national development in general. The proposed engagement of government agencies, the academia, private actors and civil society in this regard would go a long way in demonstrating the importance of PPP in this undertaking.

The Fellow proposes a more pro-active approach with respect to the attraction of members, their development as well as retention. Attraction would involve a vigorous outreach program that could be implemented Africa-wide at a national or regional level, within the framework of the African Union (AU) through its respective affiliated policy bodies such as the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST). The Fellow takes cognizance of AfriNIC's involvement in the 20th African Union (AU) Summit of 2010 as part of the outreach program. This notwithstanding, a proposal is hereby made on the possibility of AfriNIC considering applying to become a Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of the AU, to assume a more authoritative role in its domain, as well commit African states to support its agenda.

Finally, the Fellow proposes outreach to emerging actors including in the academia, including university students, ICT small and medium enterprises and civil society. Membership development would take into account stakeholder sensitization on the concepts of IP, IPv4 and IPv6 – through the formulation and implementation of a vigorous Africa-wide information and communications strategy that would include building technical capacity, confidence building from among members as well as instilling a sense of ownership of AfriNIC and its activities to hold members accountable for the direction AfriNIC takes as well as its financial sustainability. The production and sharing of technical, operational and public financial information, sharing and utilization of feedback from an as vast an audience as possible across Africa as constituting one of the ways of keeping AfriNIC relevant to its members and sustainable.

1.0 General Introduction

This document constitutes the Second Report of the writer's participation as an AfriNIC-15 Fellow in the AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting that was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 21-25 November 2011. The Fellow is grateful to express appreciation to the AfriNIC Meeting Team for his selection as an AfriNIC Fellow at AfriNIC-15, and for granting him the opportunity to network, learn and get a better understanding of issues and developments in the Internet Protocol environment with Africa in context. Most importantly, the Fellow points out his personal identification as an AfriNIC-15 Fellow on such personal promotional documents – notably, on his resume as a strategy that would strengthen his credentials as one personally affiliated to AfriNIC, a specialized Africa-wide authority in its respective domain.

Through the report, the Fellow also takes the opportunity to express gratitude to the authorities within the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda for authorizing his travel to the meeting, and for the additional financial and logistical support rendered to him, making his participation in the AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting possible.

In this report, the Fellow attempts to make personal submissions on the events he attended, his contribution to the AfriNIC-15 Meeting, how participation at the AfriNIC-15 Meeting benefited him, his impression of how the AfriNIC Fellowship Committee handled the follow-up process and suggests important recommendations to the AfriNIC Team for a more relevant, competitive, involving and sustainable AfriNIC.

2.0 Overview of Events Attended

2.1   Newcomers Meeting & DNSSEC Training

On arrival and check in at the Hilton Yaoundé Hotel, the Fellow met the AfriNIC Meeting Team who welcomed him, made reimbursements to some of the refundable expenses he incurred and provided him with an invitation to a cultural event. While newcomers were required to arrive at the venue on 21 November 2011, he was particularly unable to fulfill this requirement due to abrupt changes in travel schedules announced by the airline, and well beyond his personal capacity to influence. Accordingly, he got to the venue during the evening of 22 November 2011. Nevertheless, he got the opportunity to access the highlights of the briefing made on the first day and took interest in the issues discussed, including review of DNSSEC, securing zone transfer, signing a zone, delegation of signing authority, validation with a security-aware resolver, rolling keys, troubleshooting together with considerations for a DNSSEC deployment plan.

2.2   Social/NI&I Awards Event on Day Two

On day two the Fellow got an opportunity to attend and participate in the Social Event where the winners of the NI&I Service Award 2011 were announced. During the course of the event, he met and had casual exchanges with a number of new friends, a demonstration of his capacity to initiate dialogue with cadre of different backgrounds.

The first person that the Fellow met was Janvier Ngnoulaye, Ph.D., who also happened to be an AfriNIC Board Member and working with the ICT Unit in the Ministry of Higher Education of the

Republic of Cameroon. The two shared a lot, having learnt that the latter once visited the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology at Makerere University in Uganda. The Fellow expressed his appreciation of the overall AfriNIC idea, and also tabled his personal desire for Uganda to host one of the forthcoming AfriNIC Meetings in Kampala. Janvier indeed shared his opinions on the matter, based on knowledge and past experience. This greatly motivated the Fellow and he since believed that on return to Uganda, he would work out the necessary strategic steps to engage actors within the Ugandan Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MoICT), the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and the National Information Technology Authority (NITA Uganda), and provide them with the necessary information and procedural support required for Uganda to host one of the forthcoming AfriNIC Meetings in Kampala.

To date, the Fellow believes Uganda should indeed be granted the opportunity to host AfriNIC-18 in November 2013, given his understanding of government's interest and commitment to the integration of information and communications technology in development at all levels. To this effect, he looks forward to AfriNIC's publishing of the Call for Proposals for hosting AfriNIC-18 Public Policy Meeting against which he would champion Uganda's application process.

2.3   The Plenary Session on Day Three

On day three, the Fellow registered on-site and fully participated in the plenary. Being the first time he was attending an AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting of the kind, He finds it to be in his interest to acknowledge that he played more of a listening/learning role than a contributory one. On a positive note though, he acknowledges having learnt a lot from the experience of experts across Africa as communicated through the presentations made and the discussions.

In the interim, the Fellow got challenged by his inability to contribute during the plenary session, but this, he believes, accorded him an opportunity to listen and learn from experts as well as explore vast resources as referenced in the numerous presentations made on different aspects. He also got an opportunity to learn about key operational best practices pertinent in the effective and efficient running of member-based initiatives.

The information shared and discussed with respect to the internal workings of AfriNIC drew his attention to the importance of openness, the value of consultation and stakeholder involvement in decision-making as well as accountability and responsibility.

2.4   The Plenary Session on Day Four

Of the two plenary sessions, this was the most engaging to the Fellow because at the time, he had familiarized well with the event, had met new people and above all, was familiar with most of the policy development and technical issues presented ant discussed. It was during this session that he made an observation on the lack of consideration of legal expertise in policy development processes, a key factor that none of the presenters highlighted in the presentations before. His submission on the subject attracted the attention of the panelists together with the participants in general. It is hoped that integration of legal experts in the policy development processes will not only improve on the quality of policies, but would also ensure adherence to standards.

3.0 Contribution to the AfriNIC-15 Meeting

3.1   Integration of Legal Opinion in PDPs

Following a presentation on RIPE in Policy Development Process (PDP), and in earlier presentations made before, the Fellow observed that no provision was ever made for legal opinion or legal input in the PDPs. He accordingly raised the matter to the plenary, an intervention that eventually culminated into insights for consideration of engagement of legal advisors throughout the policy development processes to guide decisions on policy development issues. Taking into account the fact that discussions on PDP issues were done online through the mailing lists, he also proposed subscribing such legal advisors to the mailing lists if the action did not contravene any existing policies on engagement and mail list use in policy development.

3.2   AfriNIC-15 on my Blog (http://richsenoga.blogspot.com)

The Fellow, since then shared numerous issues, ideas and lessons learnt, especially on Policy Development Processes on his personal blog, http://richsenoga.blogspot.com. In doing so, he also made numerous mentions of AfriNIC as a key agent and champion of the IPv4-IPv6 transition in Africa. He strongly feels that such information will not be available online to stay, and will not only serve to inform those who read his blog, but will remain identifiable by major search engines, and would also raise curiosity in those less interested, inspire them to read more and understand the work and interventions of AfriNIC in general.

3.3   AfriNIC-15 Publicized through my Local Networks

From the time of joining as an AfriNIC Fellow, he has shared vastly about AfriNIC in general, AfriNIC-15 and encouraged interested members of his social and professional networks in and out of Uganda to participate online at http://streaming.afrinic.net:8000; as well as access detailed information about the proceedings of the AfriNIC-15 event at https://meeting.afrinic.net/afrinic-15/?q=content/participate-online-0. The networks he shared with included, but will by no means be limited to the following: I-Network Uganda (http://www.i-network.or.ug/), the Uganda Library and Information Association, or ULIA, (Uganda_libassoc@yahoogroups.com), Google Technology User Group or GTUG in Uganda, (gtug-kampala@googlegroups.com) and the Uganda Linux User Group, or LUG, (http://linux.or.ug).

3.4   AfriNIC on Social Media Outlets

In addition to the above, the Fellow also took up the initiative to share vastly on some of the proceedings of AfriNIC-15 on through his social media outlets including Twitter and Facebook. It is also because of the intervention that AfriNIC now follows him and likewise, he follows AfriNIC on the same social forum. This gesture plays a very positive public relations advantage, considering that he is currently followed by, and in return follows a number of entities – both individuals and ICT initiatives that have/would eventually pick interest into the work of AfriNIC.

3.5   Back-to-Office Report Shared with OPM Colleagues

Lastly, as a way of fulfilling his commitment to his employer, the Fellow has shared his Fellowship report with his colleagues along with essential presentations through an intranet within his place of work at the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda. He also went on to advise his colleagues to download and view the same, as well as provided web links to important resources residing on the AfriNIC website. In so doing, he holds a strong conviction that those who read the report as well as download and read the presentations could eventually pick interest and accordingly spread essential information on AfriNIC activities to their networks.

4.0 Benefits of Participation at AfriNIC-15

4.1   New Networks Created, Friendships Made

Through his participation, the Fellow was inspired by AfriNIC's interventions in championing the policy development processes and technical issues toward a successful transition from IPv4 to IPv6 in Africa. He also created an important relationship with AfriNIC on Twitter and Facebook; and is currently part of the AfriNIC Fellows and AfriNIC All mailing list. This, he feels, presents to him an important opportunity to continue receiving important information and updates on key industry developments. He hopes to maintain the networks created as well as keep in contact with AfriNIC to explore possibilities of Uganda getting more involved and more supportive as well.

4.2   Prospects for Hosting AfriNIC-18 in Uganda

By participating in the AfriNIC-15 Public Policy Meeting as a Fellow, I got an opportunity to learn about, and appreciate the requirements for a Country or an Institution to apply and host an AfriNIC Meeting. I believe I will use this information and the networks created to influence Uganda's hosting of once of the forthcoming AfriNIC Meetings, save AfriNIC-16 and AfriNIC-17 for which hosts have already been identified.

4.3   Expert Knowledge and Experience Shared

I learnt a lot from the knowledge and experience of experts in the industry as well communicated through the numerous presentations made and the discussions thereafter. I also got an opportunity to learn about key operational best practices relevant to the effective and efficient running of member-based initiatives. The information shared and discussed with respect to the internal workings of AfriNIC drew my attention to the importance of openness, the value of consultation and stakeholder involvement in decision-making as well as accountability and responsibility.

4.4   Association with AfriNIC as an AfriNIC-15 Fellow on CVs and Resumes

Lastly, but on a more important note, the Fellow points out his personal identification as an AfriNIC-15 Fellow on through his professional documents – notably, on his resume as a strategy that would strengthen his credentials as one personally affiliated to AfriNIC, a specialized Africa-wide authority, as a Regional Internet Numbers Registry (RINR) that facilitates the policy development process by which the internet community defines rules and guidelines that govern internet resources management.

5.0 Personal Impression of AfriNIC-15

The Fellow had an interesting social and professional experience right from the time of notification of his award of fellowship and as well underscores the level of professionalism, efficiency and effectiveness of the notifications and the information shared by the AfriNIC Fellowship Committee throughout the preparatory process. This, he suggests, enabled him to keep record of important dates, keep in communication with fellow AfriNIC Fellows as well as move along with the essential documents necessary for issue of visas on arrival.

6.0 Issues Toward a Vibrant Future of AfriNIC

6.1   Public Private Partnership

As a prospective private actor, the Fellow, through seriously seeks to explore the possibility of the Republic of Uganda hosting AfriNIC-18 in Kampala, supported by actors from the private sector in the country's growing ICT sector. He presents this taking into account the fact that his country Uganda presently cherishes and values the contribution of ICT in private sector development (PSD) in particular and national development in general. The proposed engagement of government agencies, the academia, private actors and civil society in this regard would go a long way in demonstrating the importance of such a public and private sector partnership in this undertaking.

6.2   Membership–Attraction, Development and Retention

On the above, the Fellow proposes a more pro-active approach with respect to the attraction of members, their development as well as retention. Attraction would involve a vigorous outreach program that could be implemented Africa-wide at a national or regional level, within the framework of the African Union (AU) through its respective affiliated policy bodies such as the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST).

While the Fellow takes cognizance of AfriNIC's involvement in the 20th African Union (AU) Summit of 2010 that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as part of the former's outreach program, he further proposes exploration of the possibility of AfriNIC applying to become a Specialized Technical Committee (STC) of the AU for pronouncement and more recognition by AU Member States, and to assume a more authoritative role. He believes that appropriate political recognition and commitment by Ministers or Heads of State would also assure AfriNIC the necessary financial certainty and hence its sustainability.

6.3   Outreach and Engagement of Emerging Actors

The Fellow also calls for vigilance and pro-activeness in outreach through instituting and implementing a comprehensive program enabling reaching out to young professionals in universities and tertiary institutions across Africa. While he appreciates the magnitude of such an intervention in terms of financial and human resource investments, he believes that by taking a phased approach, a lot would indeed be reaped in the long run

6.4   Toward AfriNIC-18 in Kampala, Uganda

Finally, the Fellow shares his personal sentiments on the possibility of having AfriNIC-18 in November 2013 to be held in Kampala, Uganda. This proposal comes from his personal understanding that by the year 2013, he would be a fully established international Private Practitioner in the field of ICT, Information and Knowledge Management, maintaining close relations with important actors in the respective government ministries, authorities and department. In the interest of promoting a Public Private Partnership (PPP), he makes a personal commitment to deploy his coordination and networking skills to engage the Government of the Republic of Uganda through the Ministry of Foreign Affair (MoFA) to harmoniously engage the most relevant actors including MoICT, NITA-U, UCC, the academia, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and enthusiasts in supporting the successful hosting of AfriNIC-18.

7.0 Message of Appreciation

The Fellow reiterates his special appreciation of the AfriNIC Fellowship Team for granting him the opportunity to attend the AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting as a Fellow. He also expresses thankfulness to the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda for granting him time and supplemental support to attend the meeting. The support of the entities mentioned provided him with an opportunity to understand AfriNIC better, join essential networks, make new professional friendships as well as learns from practitioners and experts in the industry across Africa.

8.0 About the Fellow

The AfriNIC-15 Fellow, Richard Sennoga graduated with M.Sc. Computer Science from the University of Pune in India in 2007. He also possesses Bachelor of Library and Information Science Degree from Makerere University in Uganda and a Diploma in United Nations and International Understanding from the Institute of United Nations Studies. He currently serves as the Webmaster and ICT Analyst with the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda. Prior to this, he worked with the Information Management Unit (IMU) of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). He holds more than ten years of ICT, Data, Information and Knowledge Management experience, having worked with the Uganda Institute of Bankers as Information and Membership Services Officer, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) as Knowledge Management Officer and with the Road Sector Development Program Coordination Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of the Republic of Uganda as Data Management Specialist.