Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum

Report on Activities 2012

Introduction

The Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum was established in 2009 and falls under the mandate of the Commonwealth Connects Programme, the ICT4D Programme of the Commonwealth. The Programme is a vehicle for knowledge and technology transfer across the Commonwealth in areas of National ICT Strategies, eGovernment, Telecommunication Regulation and related activities having a bearing on social and economic development.

The Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum is an online space for debate on public policy matters relating to the Internet. COMNET Foundation for ICT Development has been tasked with the leadership of this Forum whose objectives are:

- To promote awareness of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) amongst policy makers and stakeholders from industry, civil society and academia;
- To establish IGF links with the particular aim of securing the engagement of member countries which have not previously participated in the Internet Governance Forum or Governments Advisory Committee to ICANN,
- To foster links between national and regional IGFs and identify areas of common interest such as affordable and secure access for all,
- To provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss and formulate Commonwealth positions on Internet related public policy issues,
- To help inform national positions on public policy issues for Internet good governance.

Secretariat

The COMNET Foundation for ICT development is both Chair and provides Secretariat Services to promote and coordinate CIGF activities. These activities include informing all stakeholders on matters relating to IG, participating at the IGF meetings, organising capacity building events, administering bursaries, participating in IGF consultations, identifying stakeholder priorities and commissioning relevant projects on Cyber Security and child protection.

Website and Social Media

The Website representing the forum includes current information and news on IG matters, repositories on Cyber Security and Online Child Protection, reading materials relating to the Internet, announcements of capacity building events across the Commonwealth and representation of any activities the forum may be involved in.
Embracing the format of Web 2.0, the website is linked with other Media such as Twitter and Facebook since 2011 and has had success engaging the audience drawing out comments and feedback from the stakeholders. The secretariat maintains the content of the website, through linking to articles focussed on the topic of Internet Governance, in addition to organising original contributions. The content attracts a healthy number of visitors (about 700 per month).

The newsletter was sent every 4-6 weeks informing subscribers of the best content of the website and the activities of the CIGF. Any activities the CIGF was involved in were announced and the audience was encouraged to participate. Announcement and updates that were short or urgent were made on Twitter.

An important resource of the CIGF website are the Online Child Protection Toolkits. The Toolkits were developed based on the feedback at the IGF, where Cyber Security, and specifically Online Child Protection, was identified as a priority area for the Commonwealth. This year the Toolkits have been moved to their own section of the website, to highlight their importance. They are scheduled to be updated at the end of 2012 to ensure that the information provided is up to date. The CIGF is promoting the Toolkits and informing the public of the update via a workshop on online child protection at the Internet Governance Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan.

**Diplo Bloggers and Guest Bloggers**

The collaboration between the Diplo Foundation and the Commonwealth Internet Governance forum to provide regional perspectives on matters relating to Internet Governance was continued in 2012. A publishing schedule was outlined and contributions from Africa, the Pacific, and the Caribbean were published online with a view to drive discussion within the forum. Submitted themes included Legal Frameworks in Nigeria, the discussion on connectivity in Africa, and the influence of social media amongst others.

The continued collaboration was a success allowed for further links to be established across the Commonwealth with active members in the IG arena. These bloggers continue to volunteer contributions to our website and the collaboration is projected to re-run in the coming year.
In addition to the Diplo Bloggers, the CIGF has established links with other individual experts from the Commonwealth (Maldives, India) that have contributed original content and we continue to encourage experts to share their experiences.

**WireUp! Youth engagement project**

A pilot project in collaboration with the University of the Creative Arts, Farnham was launched in November 2010. The objectives of this project were:

- Outreach
- Create interesting multimedia content for the website
- Engage young people in the global discussion of Internet Governance

An initial briefing was organised on the 19th January 2012 at the University Campus, in Surrey, UK, where Martin Boyle from Nominet and Lara Pace from the CIGF attended and briefed students on the operation of the Internet and the CIGF respectively.

The project ran through January to April 2012 and during this time, the University organised additional lectures for WireUp! participants. Speakers focused on the Internet and its effect on the Media industry of today. Three final submissions were published online and one contribution was awarded a best entry Award.

In keeping with the competition element of this collaboration, the CIGF and the University of the Creative Arts Farnham have offered the best entry awardee, student Tim Pilgrim, the opportunity to attend the next IGF meeting in Baku as the official CIGF correspondent.

The project is projected to run through the year of 2013, however the CIGF would like to broaden the scope of students participating. Links have been established with Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology, who have expressed interest in participating. In 2013 WireUP! is envisioned to be open to all Commonwealth Educational Institutions.

An outline of this Initiative is attached to this document under Appendix A.

**Cybercrime**

Cybercrime is a high priority area amongst stakeholders. The feedback received through open forums held in 2009 and 2010, is that developing country governments need substantive assistance to realise the requisite legal, technical and human capacity to enable them to play their part in combating cybercrime.

In response to the increasing importance that is attached to cyber security in the face of the Internet’s exponential growth, the CIGF proposed the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative. The Initiative aims at providing coherent, comprehensive and sustainable assistance to member states to help build the necessary capacity to combat cybercrime. True to the multi-stakeholder roots of the CIGF, the CCI works with a range of committed international partners to extend support to member governments ensuring that they have in place the appropriate legal frameworks complemented with attendant investigative, technical, enforcement and prosecutorial capabilities.
The Initiative was endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in October 2011 at their meeting in Perth which granted the Initiative its mandate:

“[7i] improving legislation and capacity in tackling cyber crime and other cyber space security threats, including through the Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum’s Cyber Crime Initiative.” – CHOGM 2011, Perth, Australia

Since receiving its mandate the Initiative has moved rapidly from concept to implementation and currently has in place a Constitution and a Governance Structure. The Governance Structure is made up of three pillars: an Executive Management Group with representatives of the Government, a Steering Group composed of organisations with expertise in addressing cybercrime, and a Secretariat (COMNET) responsible for the coordination of the Initiative.

The CCI has a pilot project underway in Ghana, where a scoping mission has been conducted and support with implementation is being coordinated.

Another 5 formal requests for assistance have been received from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The EMG is in the process of assigning leads to undertake the preliminary work on the new formal requests received.

An outline of this Initiative is attached to this document under Appendix B.

Funding

The work of the Commonwealth IGF has been made possible through the following contributions from:

- The Commonwealth Secretariat which enabled the launch of the initiative, setting up the Secretariat and website and relevant publications in 2009.
- The UK government’s Department for Media, Culture and Sport and ITU who made possible the travel bursaries in 2009 and two additional bursaries in 2010. These entities have also financed the Secretariat’s participation in the 2010 IGF.
- The Malta Government which has contributed to COMNET since its inception.

Outreach

Much of the outreach work for CIGF has been through participation at events and meetings that CIGF members attended as part of their normal business. These include:

- COMSEC and COMNET events
- Legal Frameworks for ICTs
- Module on IG introduced into COMSEC training programmes
- CIGF Newsletter (published every 4 – 6 weeks)
- WireUP! Youth Engagement
- Outreach through Regional Fora (West, East, Southern African, Caribbean, and Pacific IGFs)