

RIGF-2013: Moscow, Russia's major Internet Governance event

The Coordination Center for TLD RU/PФ has hosted the Russian Internet Governance Forum ([RIGF-2013](#)) for the fourth time. The event took place on April 25, 2012, in Moscow's Marriott Grand Hotel, was supported by RAEC and ICANN, and sponsored by the Technical Center of Internet.

Forum at a glance

This year, a number of topical questions was discussed at the forum, including cybersecurity, legal aspects of the global network, new gTLDs and changes in the global domain landscape, the Internet for youth and e-government.

During the plenary session, the representatives of the Ministry of Mass Communications of the RF, UNESCO and Council of Europe addressed the attendees. After the plenary session, Steve Crocker, the chairman of the ICANN board, spoke on the present and future of the multistakeholder model. The forum agenda included a set of roundtables. These were: "Transborder or no borders: Internet and its legal aspects", "Creating a playground in the Internet", "Cybersecurity: evasive virtuality", "e-Government: handiness made possible", "Prospects of the Internet governance system", and "Domain industry economy". These topical questions were discussed by a number of [leading experts from Russia and abroad](#), representatives of the international intergovernmental organizations, as well as those of Russian government and industrial structures, including Ruslan Gattarov (Federation Council of the RF), Wim Degezelle (CENTR, Belgium), John Carr (UKCCIS, Great Britain), Janis Karklins (UNESCO, Latvia), Wolfgang Kleinwaechter (Orhus University, Germany), Konstantinos Komaitis (ISOC, Switzerland), Ilya Massukh (Information Democracy Foundation), Jeff Moss (ICANN, USA), Alena Popova (Open Projects Foundation), Galina Soldatova (Internet Development Foundation), Barbara-Chiara Ubaldi (OECD, Italy), Bertrand de la Chapelle (International Diplomatic Academy, France) and many others.

Partners

The event was sponsored by the Technical Center of the Internet, with Kaspersky Lab as an information security partner and TelecomDaily information and analytics agency as an official Internet partner.

The information partners were: 3DNews, CNews.ru, iXBT.com, Digit.ru, ITAR-TASS, TASS Telecom, ICT-Online.ru, Spbit.ru, COMNEWS, Personal Data, iKS, MSKIT.ru, NNIT.ru, ITSZ.ru, IT News, IT Manager, IT Expert, PC MAGAZINE/Russian Edition, Mobile Telecommunications and Computerworld

Russia.

Opening of the Forum: opinions and trends

At the opening, the Minister of Mass Media and Communications of the Russian Federation has noted that Russia is currently number one in Europe by the number of the Internet users and is among the larger Internet commonwealths. Russia should take the worldwide experience into account and contribute to global Internet development, and Russian IGF plays a very significant part in this.

Neelie Kroes, VP of the European Commission, thinks that Russia is a critical player in the global digital economy, and that Russian and European expert collaboration is very important to develop economy, society and democratic freedoms. This principle is also shared by Janis Karklins, the Assistant Director General of Communication and Information of UNESCO, who thinks that Russian participation in the multistakeholder Internet governance process is very important.

Desiree Miloshevic, the chair of the Internet Society Advisory Council of Organisational members, has also noted Russian efforts in developing the Internet and governing it, saying that RIGF is a very important international event indeed. Miloshevic is sure that Russia will continue to take part in solving all critical Internet problems – be it deploying IPv6 and DNSSEC, developing new standards, or anything else.

Philippe Bouillat, director general of the Council of Europe directorate general on Human Rights and Rule of Law, thinks that there's no freedom without security. Bouillat thinks that nobody is attempting to take freedom of expression away, but that this freedom should not infringe on other people's rights. His opinion is that the priorities here are ensuring child safety in the Internet, fighting cybercriminals and protecting personal data.

Steve Crocker presented his "Less is more: present and future of the multistakeholder model" report and noted that the Internet activity in Russia is very impressive. Since the introduction of the .RU TLD is still a leading IDN in the entire world, Crocker says.

Steve Crocker has received an Internet Merits award from Andrei Kolesnikov, the Coordination Center director, who said that Crocker is "an Internet legend". "Many things that seem common to us today have arisen from the assertiveness, minds and engineering skills of the like of Steve Crocker," Kolesnikov says. "It was him who invented the RFC standard, the building block of the Internet, and it was him who worked at the ARPANet, which the Internet originated from".

Roundtables and discussions

A number of questions related to the Internet regulation was discussed at the "Transborder or no borders: Internet and its legal aspects" roundtable.

The members of the discussion unanimously think that the multistakeholder principle has to be applied even to the spheres like international public and private law. The human rights issues have to be viewed separately. As Lee Hibbard, a representative of the Council of Europe puts it, the laws are adopted at a very slow pace while the technology rushes forward, and this issue should be considered the major Internet legal problem in the future. Attendees of the "Creating a playground in the Internet" roundtable, moderated by the Smart Internet Foundation chairman Vladimir Mamontov, shared their thoughts on what is relevant for today's younger audiences and how the Internet community can help them make their first steps in the Internet. All roundtable attendees agreed that today's kids socialize in a totally different way, and the children themselves have changed. The Internet affects kids greatly, while the youth are, as a rule of thumb, much more tech-savvy users than their parents and teachers. However, kids require adults' help and their extensive knowledge, as before. John Carr, a member of the UKCCIS council, says that in Great Britain, a practice to limit improper content in the public Internet spots is now being adopted.

At the "Cybersecurity: evasive virtuality" roundtable, the members of the discussion understood that the cybersecurity issues have to be tackled by businesses, society and governments together, and there is no chance of solving these problems alone as all opinions have to be taken into account. At the global level, the government representatives have to discuss these topical issues as well.

Alena Popova, a moderator of the "e-Government: handiness made possible" discussion panel, asked the attendees to discuss ICT and e-Government practices in various countries. The roundtable members spoke on the best practices they use to provide e-Government services and on how the communities perceive these services. Barbara-Chiara Ubaldi, OECD E-Government project leader, the critical factor here is to educate civil servants so they could, in turn, help citizens to fully leverage new services. "A new culture has to be created in the government sector", she says.

The future of the Internet governance has been discussed widely for more than 10 years, and at the "Prospects of the Internet governance system" session, the experts were able to update the audience on today's Internet governance issues. Veni Markovski, ICANN's VP for stakeholder engagement in Russia, CIS and Eastern Europe, says that there's no substantial controversy between ICANN and ITU: the fact that the opinions differentiated in Dubai shows that all stakeholders are trying their best to facilitate Internet development, and the dialogue between ICANN and ITU continues. Wolfgang Kleinwaechter (University of Aarhus) thinks that in a long-term perspective, including all stakeholders in the dialogue and working on more distributed

governance system might help to establish a reliable Internet governance process. At the moment, all stakeholders are working on such set of rules and regulations, and still have to learn more about the process. In the expert circles, the consultations are taking place, while the global organizations work on norms and principles of Internet governance.

The Fourth Russian Internet Governance Forum ended with "Domain industry economy", moderated by Olga Alexandrova-Myasina, the Coordination Center's chief marketing officer. The attendees exchanged opinions on how Russian and global domain space is expanding, as well as on what will the domain industry look like in the nearest future, when hundreds of new gTLDs will be delegated, and spoke on DNSSEC as well. The attendees also agreed that as the new domain names are in demand, new gTLDs might have a bright future. Marina Nikerova (TCI) and Katrina Sataki (NIC.LV) also shared details on TLDStat, a joint project that continues for more than a year and helps the registries to gain insights into their businesses. TLDStat is a Technical Center of Internet project, and Statdom.ru, a Russian statistical domaining resource, is based on it. "TLDStat helps mirroring the domain zone processes", says Marina Nikerova. The .LV TLD was the first non-Russian domain to benefit from the project, and Katrina Sataki agreed that it could help to gain a clear view of the registry – for example, with TLDStat, NIC.LV has been able to find a set of registrant addresses' problems that was previously unknown of. Other registries have also expressed profound interest in TLDStat.