



INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

CIGF Activities of 2010 – 2011

CIGF 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

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.

Over the past year, the website underwent a redesign and migrated to a more flexible platform to enable Web 2.0 functionality. This has allowed for the CIGF to become more active on Social Networks such as Twitter. The migration to more flexible software has also made possible the introduction of a regular newsletter circulated to subscribers. These updates give an abstract on the current work of the Forum and highlight the best content published on the website in the past weeks.

Diplo Bloggers

A collaboration was established between the Diplo Foundation and the Commonwealth Internet Governance forum to provide regional perspectives on matters relating to Internet Governance. Diplo Foundation identified a number of bloggers from across the Commonwealth to participate in this content production. 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 Human Rights and Web Democracy in view of the Arab uprising, the discussion on the Caribbean IXP, and access to affordable and secure internet amongst others. The collaboration was a great success and 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.

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 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 2011 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. Seven 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 Lewis Fry, the opportunity to attend this IGF meeting in Nairobi as the official CIGF correspondent.

The pilot project has had positive feedback and is projected to run through the year of 2012. The first edition in 2012 will be open to all Commonwealth Educational Institutions who may wish to participate.

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

The Commonwealth's Proposal on 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.

Therefore, the CIGF is proposing a Commonwealth led Cybercrime Initiative. The development of this Initiative is in response to the increasing importance that is attached to cyber security in the face of the Internet's exponential growth. The development of the Initiative is the product of a collaborative approach between the CIGF Steering Group and other stakeholders.

The CIGF has introduced this Initiative at the various regional IGFs for feedback purposes. These include: The West African IGF, The Caribbean IGF, The East African IGF, and the Southern African IGF. Presentations on behalf of the CIGF were made by individuals identified by the CIGF Secretariat and the support of the Diplo Foundation and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union. The Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative is the focus of the CIGF open forum at the 6th IGF in Nairobi.

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

This initiative is being presented at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Perth, Australia in October.



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
- CTO Cyber Security Forum
- ICANN GAC Meetings
- Regional Commonwealth Connects Meetings
- Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Newsletter and Events
- CIGF Newsletter (published every 4 – 6 weeks)
- WireUP! Youth Engagement
- Outreach Regional Fora (West, East, Southern African, Caribbean, and Pacific IGFs)



Appendix A - WireUp! Youth Engagement Project

What is WireUp!

WireUp! is a youth engagement project developed by the Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum, with a view to engage youth in discussions relating to the internet and its governance.

WireUp! Pilot Project

A pilot project was run through 2011 in collaboration with the Journalism Department of the University of the Creative Arts, in Farnham, Surrey, UK.

Students attended a briefing day where issues relating to the Internet were presented and discussed via awareness raising exercises.

At the end of the briefing day, students were asked to produce multimedia content addressing public policy issues relating to Cyber space, which upon, vetting, would be published on the CIGF website for public discussion.

Themes included: privacy and social networking, copyright and intellectual property, identity theft, digital citizenship, cyber fraud, terrorism and cyber war, online gaming, online child protection, and management and operation of the Internet. The project ran from January to April of 2011 and submissions were published on the CIGF site at the end of April.

The most relevant, and best structured of the entries was produced by Mr Lewis Fry who has been cordially invited to attend the IGF in Nairobi as the official CIGF correspondent at the event.

WireUp! 2012



The project will once again be run in collaboration with the University of the Creative Arts in Farnham, Surrey UK, this time opening up the project to all departments across the Faculty of Arts and Media.

The theme of the project will be 'Cybercrime' in support of the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative and will run no longer than 3 weeks. Students will be invited to attend a two-day workshop, at UCA, which will focus on the Internet and different areas of Cybercrime. Members of staff as well as outside speakers will be invited to the workshop together with the students.

Students will be invited to contribute multimedia content to the CIGF website relating to the discussions and ideas generated during the workshop.

The best structured, argued, relevant and most creative contribution will be entered into a draw amongst all countries participating in WireUp! 2011.

The project is going to be made available to any potential education institution across the Commonwealth wishing to participate. All content submitted under the WireUp! umbrella will enter into the final adjudication. We encourage broad participation. Individual setups will be co-ordinated through the CIGF and the University of the Creative Arts, Farnham, Surrey, UK.

A best entry of our WireUp! Project will be established by a panel of judges in June/July 2012. Prize is yet to be established.



Appendix B

The Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative

Summary



The Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum (CIGF) is consulting with stakeholders to gauge the support to a Commonwealth led initiative on cybercrime with a view to seeking endorsement of this from Commonwealth Heads of Government in Australia in October 2011. The development of this Initiative is in response to the increasing importance that is attached to cyber security in the face of the Internet's exponential growth.

The CIGF is introducing this Initiative at the various regional IGFs in order to seek feedback from the countries and regions. The Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative will be the focus of the CIGF open forum at the 6th IGF in Nairobi.

Introduction

Enhanced cyber security and improved user confidence for trade and commerce on the Internet have a pivotal role in stimulating economic activity. The global and borderless nature of cybercrime makes it necessary for criminal conduct on the Internet to be recognised as such in each jurisdiction and in accordance to globally accepted definitions, existing global treaties, conventions and arrangements. Else there is the risk of creating safe-havens for perpetrators.

Unhindered access to critical Internet infrastructure, its security, stability and reliability, are thus, central to global social and economic development. It is an imperative therefore that the necessary security safeguards are in place in every country. The aim of the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative is thus to enable member countries to build the competent resources, to ensure the necessary environment for safe and secure access.

The Commonwealth has a shared legal tradition of common law with the unique advantage for harmonising legal frameworks and thus contributing towards international cooperation in the global fight against cybercrime. There was consensus in favour of a Commonwealth led cybercrime intervention at the recent Commonwealth Law Ministers' meeting.

Objectives

The Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative intends to assist developing Commonwealth countries to build their institutional, human and technical capacities with respect to policy, legislation, regulation, investigation and law enforcement with the aim of, making their jurisdictions more secure by denying safe havens to cyber criminals, and enabling all member states to become effective partners in the globally coordinated effort to combat cybercrime.

The Cybercrime Initiative aims to promote the sharing of expertise and best practice from existent resources, focusing upon the Commonwealth Model Law on Computer and Computer Related Crime (Model Law), and also drawing from other existent treaties, toolkits, and resources, to enable countries to address the legislative gaps so that they can deal with incidents of cybercrime.



By virtue of this Initiative and in collaboration with development partners, the Commonwealth is proposing to provide the leadership as follows:

1. Assistance in the implementation of a common law etc.

Enable governments to put in place the necessary elements to support the preparation, adoption and implementation of cybercrime legislation. This will include an assessment of existent legal frameworks and support in the development of the required policy, legislative/regulatory instruments and the reforms necessary to enable enforcement.

2. Capacity Building

By means of Virtual Workshops, databases, networking and in-country training programmes, and provision of technical expertise targeted at policy makers, regulatory bodies, judiciaries, chambers of advocates, LEAs, business, civil society, ISPs and other stakeholders.

Outcomes

1. Developing countries will have the required standards, abilities and operational capabilities in addressing the challenges posed by cybercrime.
2. The global Internet is rendered a more secure, reliable and safe environment thus, mitigating and reducing the immense costs to national economies associated with cybercrime.

Call for Feedback

The CIGF is keen to receive reactions on this proposal from Commonwealth Member States and also to acquire a reading of the support countries may need to build capacity in addressing cybercrime. Member States are also encouraged to support this Initiative for endorsement by the Heads of Government at their meeting in October. For further information or to provide input please contact the CIGF Secretariat through the contact form on www.commonwealthigf.org.