

Internet Society Gauteng Chapter Chairman's Reports for the year 2015-2016

On behalf of the Chapter Leadership I would like to welcome you all to our AGM, as the Internet Society South Africa Gauteng Chapter this is our second AGM (First AGM 2014), and we thank you for attending. It is through the interest, passion and involvement of the members that the Chapter has managed to exist and contribute to the development of the Internet in South Africa.

Background on The Internet Society

The Internet Society is the world's trusted independent source of leadership for Internet Policy, technology standards and future development. It was formed in 1992 by Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn, two of the "Fathers of the Internet". To promote the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.

More than simply advancing technology, ISOC works to ensure the Internet continues to grow and evolve as a platform for innovation, economic development, and social progress for people around the world. With head offices in the USA, Switzerland and with more than 100 Chapters across the world. ISOC continues to develop as an open platform that empowers people to share ideas and connect in new and innovative. The Internet Society supports the evolution of the Internet through technical expertise, capacity building and innovation.

ISOC-Gauteng is affiliated to ISOC and I would like to take this opportunity to urge all members to go to the ISOC website (www.internetsociety.org) and take note of all the resources they offer.

Internet Society Gauteng Chapter (ISOC-Gauteng)

The Chapter was established in 2013, with a **Vision** to promote the development of an open and accessible Internet in South Africa.

The Chapter has the following Strategic Objectives

- Advance policies and strategies that strengthen the Internet. We aim to educate and inform policy makers, civil society, industry, and others so they join us in advancing Internet policies and strategies that uphold the critical principles of openness, user-centricity, and stakeholder participation.
- Enable a vibrant organization and vital global community to advance the Internet. We strive to further engage chapter members and the public to maximize our collective impact, as well as to help a new generation of Internet leaders, contributors, and innovators emerge.

- Empower people through unencumbered Internet use. We aim to advance the access and use of the Internet on an open, non-discriminatory basis, and empower individuals and communities, including the vulnerable and underserved, to maximize the transformative opportunities the Internet enables

The Chapter has currently prioritised the following Pillars pertaining to achieving its vision of the Internet in South Africa.

- Internet and Human Rights
- Advocacy and Internet Policy
- Capacity Building
- Technical Policy

Legal Structure

The Chapter has been legally registered as a Non-profit organisation with the Department of Social Development.

The Chapter has the following Executive Structure

- Gabriel Ramokotjo – Chairperson
- Octavia Kumalo – Deputy Chairperson
- Thato Mfikwe – Secretary
- Refilwe Segopa - Treasury

The Chapter Committee Leaders

- Aslam Rafee - Policy & Advocacy Committee
- Sthembiso Xhakaza - Capacity Building Committee
- Vinay Naran - Communication and Marketing Committee
- Jabulani Vilakazi - Technical Committee

Honorary President

- William Stucke - Honorary Chairperson

Chapter Membership:

- The Chapter currently has 158 members

Organizational Affiliation:

- Internet Service Provider Association (ISPA)

- Internet for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- University of Witswaterand (Link Centre)
- Association for Progressive Communication (APC)
- Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services (ISPA)
- SA ICT Industry Associations Forum
- ZA Domain Name Authority (ZADNA)

Chapter activities and Projects 2015 -2016

- DNSSEC Training Workshop July 2015 In colloration with ICANN and ZACR
- Broadband Infrastructure Discussion with Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chief of the International Bureau Ms Mindel De La Torre
- South African IGF Day (September 2016), during ISPA's iWeek.
- Participated and presented at the Industry engagement on the National Integrated ICT Policy White Paper with Minister Siyabonga Cwele
- Coodinated the South African Internet Governance Forum 2016

Website

The chapter has an active website, that i s regularly updated.

Social Media

The Chapter is active on the social media scene with accounts held with, twitter , facebook and google+ and we urge members to follow us on the social media platforms.

Donations/Sponsorships

For the period of 2015 - 2016, the Chapter has received funding and donoation from the Internet Society, Internet Service Provider Association and the Internet Governance Support Association.

The sponsorships in monetary totalled an amount of \$4500.00 and went to the events mentioned above.

Bank Account

The Chapter has an active bank account, where funds can be received and managed.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to thank all the chapter members for their hard work and dedication, without them none of this would be possible. I would like to say a special thanks to the executive committee: Octavia Kumalo (Deputy Chair), Thato Mfikwe (secretary) , Refilwe Segopa (Treasurer) and the heads of the pillarts for the continous support and help. Last but not least, all our sponsors, we hope that you would continue to support us enhance the potential of this Chapter and further contribute to the developmet of an open and accessible in South Africa.