

Africa Internet Summit: An Evolution to a Broader Internet Community event

Concept Paper – V.1 February 2010
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1 Introduction

Since 1998, the African Internet Technical Community has been engaged in organising itself into a structured and self-governed group with annual meetings back-to-back during AfNOG events with the financial support from various donors and sponsors. AfNOG itself is a forum for Network Operators in the region to share experiences and enhance technical skill of IP Engineers. After more than 10 years of existence and significant progress made in building a community around IP technology, it is probably time to take this initiative to another level by adjusting its concept to the maturity of the market and its new orientations.

2 The African Internet Summit (Af-IS)

The all African IP technical community gathering once a year can become a more significant showcase of the evolutions and changes happening in the region driven by IP technology if we take a different structural approach in its marketing and management. The idea here is to move from the current AfNOG/AfriNIC meeting to an African Internet Annual Summit that will keep the original format but make the concept more business and development oriented with a complete review of its content and a better orientation to meet the Operators' needs. A complete rebranding of the event to attract more sponsors and partners will be needed. The existing experience of organizing AfNOG and AfriNIC events will be useful and detrimental to create the necessary Interest within the community and supporting organisations.

3 Scope

The scope and the content of the event will go beyond the simple core IP engineering capacity building to integrate applications, Cyber Security, Legal, Business Development, Mobile Networking, Internet Governance, ICT for Development's Research, Civil and Information Society, exhibitions and global marketing forum for private sector. The key factors for the success of this initiative will be its capacity to:

- a. Interest the Industry to participate and contribute;
- b. Showcase success stories and innovations from the region
- c. Offer a single forum for Internet as a development tool for the region; and,
- d. Show a professional and sustainable management plan of the event.

4 Funding

The summit should strive to be self-sustainable after the first year. It has to build this sustainability on its ability to develop an effective Marketing Plan, taking advantage of the interest that the region is generating in the ICT sector, the increasing political interest in IP matters, and a professional and transparent management of its funding mechanisms. The summit should work to build strong mid and long term partnership with renown local and international organisations (Private and Public).

5 Structure

The Africa Internet Summit will be managed as an independent organisation that will host all other associated organisations, such as, AfriNIC, AfNOG, AfTLD, AFREN etc.... It will have a General Manager/Secretary, a steering committee and associate partners. The steering committee will be appointed by the General Assembly by vote and made of volunteers from the region with a strong experience in IT for development and business development. The General Assembly will be composed of 1 representative from each member organisations and partners.

6 Proposed Implementation Plan

Phase-1: 01-Mar-2010 to 30-May-2010

Discussion, fine-tuning and approval of the idea by all interested parties

Phase-2: 01-Jun-2010 to 31-Aug-2010

- Appointment of Transition Steering Committee
- Proposal and adoption of 3 year Business plan
- 2011-2013 Activities Plan
- Kick off of first event preparation

Phase-3: June 2010

- First Internet Summit organised
- Stock taking from first event
- Appointment of 1st formal steering committee

7 Infrastructure

To start the Infrastructure of the AIS will be hosted by AfriNIC. The basic infrastructure will have a web site, a mail server, a mailing list system management and a collaboration tool (Blog and all).

Proposal for domains:

- a) afis.org
- b) afris.org
- c) africainternetsummit.org/com (***)
- d) internetsummitafrica.org/com (***)

to possibly evolved to:

internetsummit.africa