Press Release – Outcome of the 5th AfriNIC Public Policy Meeting – Maritim Hotel, Balaclava, 29 November to 1st December 2006

AfriNIC, the Regional Internet Registry for Africa, held its 5th public policy meeting in Mauritius from the 29th of November to the 1st of December 2006. This meeting held along with the second African IPv6 conference exposed the latest works being carried out on the IPv6 as well as Internet Governance and IP number resources allocation policy in Africa. In his opening remarks, the Minister of IT and Telecommunications of Mauritius called for greater participation of all stakeholders in Africa with regards to Internet Governance.

It was a great opportunity for networking and sharing of best practices among the stakeholders in the African region. It also gave the opportunity to see how several countries (Sudan, Senegal and Egypt) in Africa are working to implement IPv6 in their network and one of the highlights of the meeting was the fact that Mauritius, through Mauritius Telecom & Telecom Plus, became the first country in Africa to have a native IPv6 connection.

One of the numerous outcomes of this meeting will be the setting up of two working groups: the first one on the spam issue to support African operators and policy makers to address in a coordinated way this issue within Africa, and the second one on the 6Mandela Project to raise awareness on IPv6 in Africa.

The INET Africa Regional Conference of the Internet Society which was organised during the same event allowed various issues relating to the role of IETF and AfTLD to be discussed as well as the some best practices for ccTLD Management. African participants to the most recent IETF meeting also gave a report on their participation.

A large proportion of the last day was dedicated to discussions on a proposed policy for IPv6 assignment to End-Users. As there was no consensus on the policy as proposed it was agreed that to continue the discussion on the policy discussion mailing list (policy-wg@afrinic.net). It was also the opportunity for AfriNIC during that day to give an update of its activities as well as its plan for 2007. This open, bottom-up process is central to the administration and management of the Internet.

The meeting was preceded by two days of hands-on training which was attended by 50 delegates from Mauritius and other African countries. The training, which was provided by Cisco System and Consulintel, covered all aspects of IPv6 deployment. The participants will now have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned during these two days as more and more allocations of IPv6 resources are being requested and made by AfriNIC.

The meeting was attended by 120 delegates from 35 countries. The largest proportion of attendees were from telecom operators followed by ISPs, giving an indication of the importance that telecommunication operators are now giving to the role of AfriNIC and the Internet Number Resources.

The AfriNIC meeting (AfriNIC-6) is planned for 23rd April to 4th May 2007 in Abuja, Nigeria. More details will be available soon on AfriNIC meeting page.

AfriNIC-5 was sponsored by Cisco System, Internet Society and Telecom Plus. More information about the meeting can be found at http://www.afrinic.net/meeting/afrinic-5

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