The Road to Rio

Roland Perry
roland@ripe.net

Where and when did the road start?

Tunis November 2005:

"convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue"

- Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet

- Discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body

- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices

- Propose ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world

- Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users

Where and when did the road start?

The Internet Governance Forum would have no oversight function and would not replace existing:

- arrangements

- mechanisms

- institutions or

- organisations

but would involve them and take advantage of their expertise.

It would be constituted as a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process.

It would have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the Internet.

During 2006

Two consultative meetings in Geneva (in February and May)

Creation of Secretariat (March)

Establishment of the Advisory Group (May)

- 45 members

- 5 special advisors

Introduction of Online IGF Discussion Space

First IGF

Internet Governance Forum

Athens, Greece

30 October – 2 November 2006

The themes

Access

- Role of Governments to provide enabling environment

- Market structures, competition and investment

- Local regulatory frameworks, especially in rural areas

- International connectivity costs

- Gender and access

Openness

- Freedom of expression

- Borderless Internet vs National regulations

- Market forces, and Human Rights

- Right to information vs Intellectual Property Rights

- Business models for dealing with Digital Content

The themes

Security

- Authentication and Identification

- Role of stakeholders in implementing security measures

- National implementation and International Co-operation

- Security threats and International Competition

- Advantages of open vs proprietary standards

Diversity

- Local content

- Relieving illiteracy and providing content for people with disabilities

- Internationalised Domain Names

Year two - 2007

The Year Ahead

- - Date for IGF-07 already set (12 – 15 November)

- - Comments in online forum "Taking Stock"

  - • Contributions declared to be personal, not institutional

- - Stock-taking session in Geneva 13 Feb 2007

- - Dynamic Coalitions

  - • StopSpam

  - • Open Standards

  - • Privacy, Internet Bill of Rights, Freedom of Expression

  - • Access to Knowledge, Connectivity for Remote Communities

Digest of Feedback

Workshops and Main Sessions overlapped too much

- Should workshops become part of the formal proceedings, more formally organised?

- AG assisted as informal conference organisers in Athens.

Panels a collection of speeches, not enough Q and A

- Improvements will require more preparation time on site

Pre-prepared material not used enough

On the road

This Month:

Second Round Consultation, ITU Geneva, 23rd May 07

- Organisational mandate to be renewed

- Advisory Group: Same size and function, rotation in membership, amongst the same stakeholders, to take account of personal commitments.

- More attendees expected in Rio than in Athens (1500).

- Multistakeholder an important feature

- Basic format to be retained

- Host Country to run an Exhibition

On the road

This Month:

Second Round Consultation, ITU Geneva, 23rd May 07

Same four themes:

- Access, Openness, Security, Diversity

Development and Capacity Building a cross-cutting priority

Better relationship between Workshops and Main Sessions

Smaller Panels

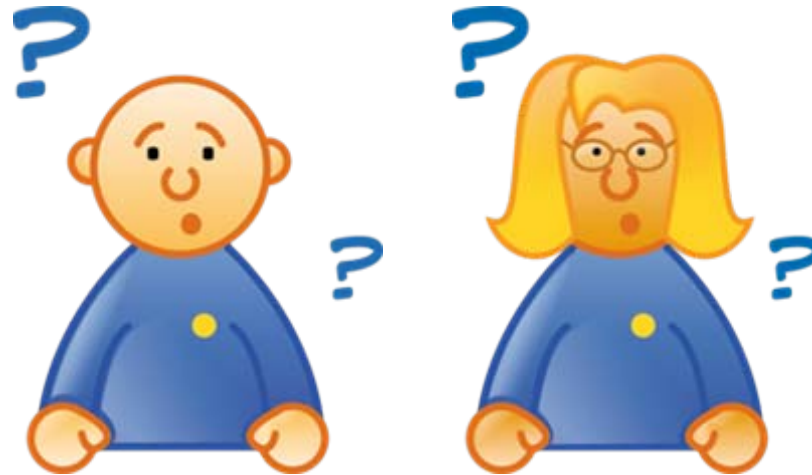Time slots allocated to Dynamic Coalitions

Sharing of Best Practice

On the road

Next Six Months:

- Engage in the remote participation

- Ensure early agreement on topics

- Provide clarity on who will be attending and speaking

- Mid August deadline for written submissions

- Early September final Consultation meeting

After Rio

- More stock-taking

- Meetings scheduled for India (08)

- Egypt (09), several candidates for 2010

Questions?