Connecting Africa

ITU 2005

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AfrISPA

African Association of ISP Associations

- ISPA   South Africa
- TESPOK   Kenya
- UIXP   Uganda
- GISPA   Ghana
- ISPAN   Nigeria
- FAIR   Mauritius
- TISPA   Tanzania
- ISPA-DRC   Democratic Republic of the Congo

AfrISPA Objectives (summarised)

- To provide industry perspective on policy formulation and regulation as it relates to the Internet industry and to act as an interface with Governmental bodies and the public at large.
- To develop policies and positions in the best interest of the Members and protect and promote these interests in regional and International Fora.
- To promote the development of key Internet Infrastructure on the Continent.
- To promote the development of a free and open telecommunications market.

WSIS Plan of Action

Government Role

C6 Enabling Environment

13. To maximize the social, economic and environmental benefits of the Information Society, governments need to create a trustworthy, transparent and non-discriminatory legal, regulatory and policy environment. Actions include:

c) Governments are invited to:

    i)   facilitate the establishment of national and regional Internet Exchange Centres;

AfrISPA Funding & Support

- Member contributions
- CATIA
- IDRC
- Support: -
  - Cisco
  - NSRC
  - PCH

What is CATIA?

- Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa

  - aims to enable poor people in Africa to gain maximum benefit from the opportunity offered by ICTs
  - to act as a strong catalyst for reform
  - focused on addressing the need for ICTs to support social and economic development issues
  - working to help build capacity across Africa to achieve sustainable change.

What is CATIA?

- Consists of 9 components
  - Low-cost VSAT
  - **ISP Associations and IXPs**
  - ICT policy advocacy
  - Pro-Poor Broadcasting Policy
  - Policy and regulatory capacity building
  - International ICT decision-making
  - Low cost computers and open source software
  - Networking African radio stations
  - OKN: A thriving African-based Open Knowledge Network

Why an Internet Exchange Point?

- Local traffic exchanged over international links is slow, poor quality and expensive
- Africa spends ~ US $400M a year on talking to Africa via the Internet
- AfrISPA focussing on fostering IXPs

Funding from CATIA

- AfrISPA has received funding from the UK DFID, via CATIA – Catalysing ICT Access in Africa www.catia.ws

- Four main approaches: -
    - IXPs – content, workshops, assistance
    - ISPAs – content, workshops, assistance
    - Regulatory Reports
    - Position Papers

Funding from IDRC

- ## Two small projects
  - Regional Carrier
  - Intra-African Traffic statistics

Success so far

- To date, there are 12 operational IXPs in Africa
- Almost all of these were formed with the assistance of AfrISPA people

EGYPT
CR-IX

GIX

NIGERIA
IbIX

UGANDA
U XP

KENYA
KIXP

DEM. REP.
OF THE CONGO
KINIX

TANZANIA
TIX

RWANDA
R NEX

MOZAMBIQUE
Moz-x

ZIX

SWAZILAND
SZIXP

SOUTH AFRICA
JINX

New ISPAs

AfrISPA has assisted in the formation of ISPAs in the these countries:

- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- DRC
- Botswana
- Swaziland

New IXPs

AfrISPA has assisted in the formation of IXPs in the these countries:

- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- DRC
- Swaziland
- Ghana
- (Botswana)

Success so far

- Regulatory Reports on 7 countries ready for publication
- Training Content live on websites

Thank You

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