1. What are the developmental aspects of the Internet (for example, economic, social, regulatory and technical aspects), especially for developing countries?

In order for the Internet to be widely adopted in a positive manner, the operation of the individual networks that comprise it, should be well coordinated. Only when each network manages to provide stable connections, can the Internet be utilized in ways that would allow for the birth of creative new businesses and opportunities.

Whilst a steady and consistent level of user growth would be easiest to design networks for, the reality is that rates of growth are erratic, and should be constantly monitored. Having an up-to-date prediction and the flexibility to prepare suitable facilities and bandwidths for the targeted time period is imperative to optimizing costs and providing a high-quality network.

In order to achieve this, engineers that are able to co-operate with other organizations in the design, construction, and operation of the infrastructure, are indispensable. Unnecessary purchases of expensive equipment, and connectivity issues from simple mistakes in the settings, can greatly impact the quality of the overall service. Often, we’ll see that restrictions implemented under security reasons, end up becoming the cause of transmission errors further down the road. The operation of networks are ever changing, and it would be wise to have engineers that are able to cope with such challenges.

2. How can governments and other stakeholders promote the developmental aspects of the Internet?

Educational sessions such as the conferences of Internet Network Operator’s Groups (NOG’s) are continuously being held in various areas. By passing on their knowledge and technical expertise, the speakers facilitate the birth of new teachers to further educate the public on networks. Furthermore, the aforementioned conferences also give a chance for the audience to debate and raise questions, becoming feedback in improving network operations for the speakers to consider.

On the other hand, these are private institutions, thus organizations without the proper knowledge of them may find it difficult to participate. Furthermore, a lack of resources may also lead to difficulties in paying for the travel expenses of guest speakers to attend such events. It would be beneficial to the people, if the government would take note of such pre-existing activities, and provide the necessary support to maximize the benefits that it could potentially bring.

3. What are the challenges and opportunities?

The way we handle information has become an increasing concern in recent years. Not only in how we manage our own private information, but the identification of and appropriate filtering of false information have also become a widely disputed topics. Unfortunately, the unknowing provision of private information and the spread of false information cannot be controlled with just supervision and regulation. As a result, there is a need for users to be educated into fundamentally understanding the use of information, and equipped with an appropriate mindset for living in the Internet Age.