



**AFRICAN ORGANISATIONS
FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE**



Enhanced Regional Cooperation

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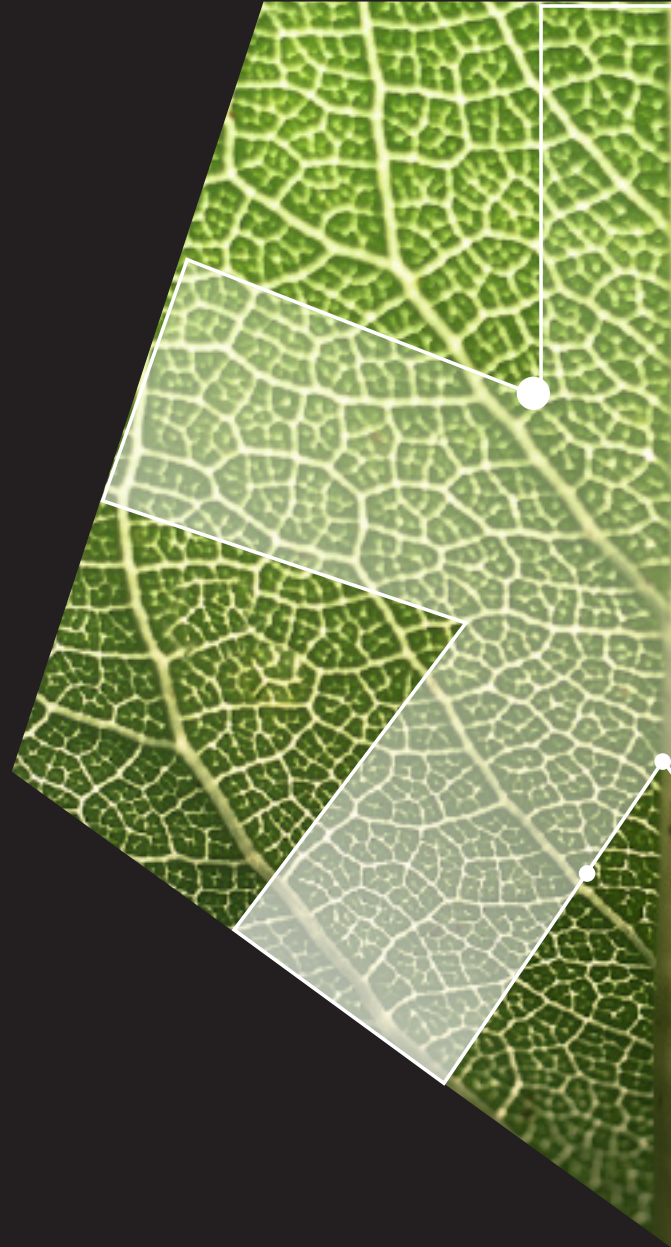
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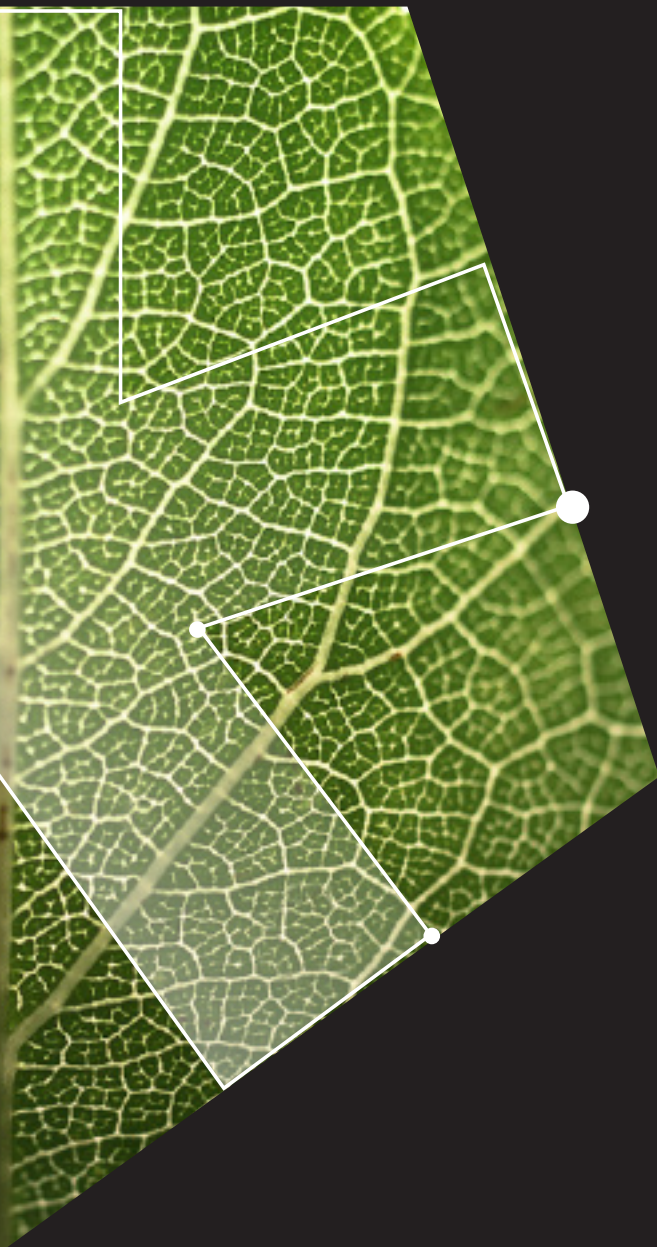
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THE AFRICA INTERNET ECOSYSTEM

one. vision




In the mid 1990s, a few African Internet pioneers grouped in what was known as the African Internet Group (AIG) started discussing Internet issues, including governance.

In 1998, following the International Ad Hoc Committee (IAHC) process for specifying and implementing policies and procedures relating to generic top level domain names leading to the formation of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), one of the first African Internet governance conference was organised in Cotonou, Benin by the AIG, with Mr Pierre Dandjinou as host.

The theme for the workshop was 'Internet governance in Africa'. In this workshop, many speakers including Dr Nii Quaynor (who later became the first African recipient of the prestigious John Postel Award) stressed the need to set up few Key institutions that can support Internet growth in the region.

The setting up of such organisations was visionary at a time when Africa started developing its own Internet infrastructure but was lacking in critical technical workforce. Africa also needed to catch up with the rest of the world in terms of Internet penetration and usage. It was a call for uniting the African Internet technical community for Internet development in Africa. In the next few years, following the Cotonou meeting, several organisations emerged within the African Internet ecosystem. Today we identify them as the Af* (Af Star). Each of these organisations emerged to address specific issues relating to development, IP numbering, Countries Domain name, access, Internet use and impact, among other important matters. These comprise several organisations created over the time such as AfNOG, AFRINIC, AfREN, AfTLD, AfricaCERT, AfPIF, the Africa IGF, ISOC Africa Chapter. This group will continue to grow as emerging organisations join this constellation.



AF are organisations collaborately working for a better Internet in Africa. They form key parts of the African Internet ecosystem and include organisations working in areas such as Internet numbers, policy, content and names, research, infrastructure, capacity building, and security.*



African Network Operators Group

African Network Operators' Group

Afnog, the African Network Operators Group, is a forum that brings together the Internet community and ISPs to share experiences mainly relating to technical challenges associated with setting up, building and running IP networks. It is a platform uniting professionals, network engineers and students from ISPs, universities, research institutions, and the ICT industry in Africa.

In 2000, Afnog held its first technical workshop in Cape Town, South Africa. Afnog subsequently organised technical workshops meant to develop a critical mass of trainers and professionals in network infrastructure and services.

Every year, Afnog organises a joint annual meeting with AFRINIC in a chosen African country. Afnog also holds a General Assembly to discuss technical issues.

The Afnog training programme consists of lab-based training workshops and technical tutorials that usually precede the Afnog meetings.

The Afnog/AFRINIC meeting takes place around the month of May/June every year.

African Network Operators Group (Afnog) Secretariat

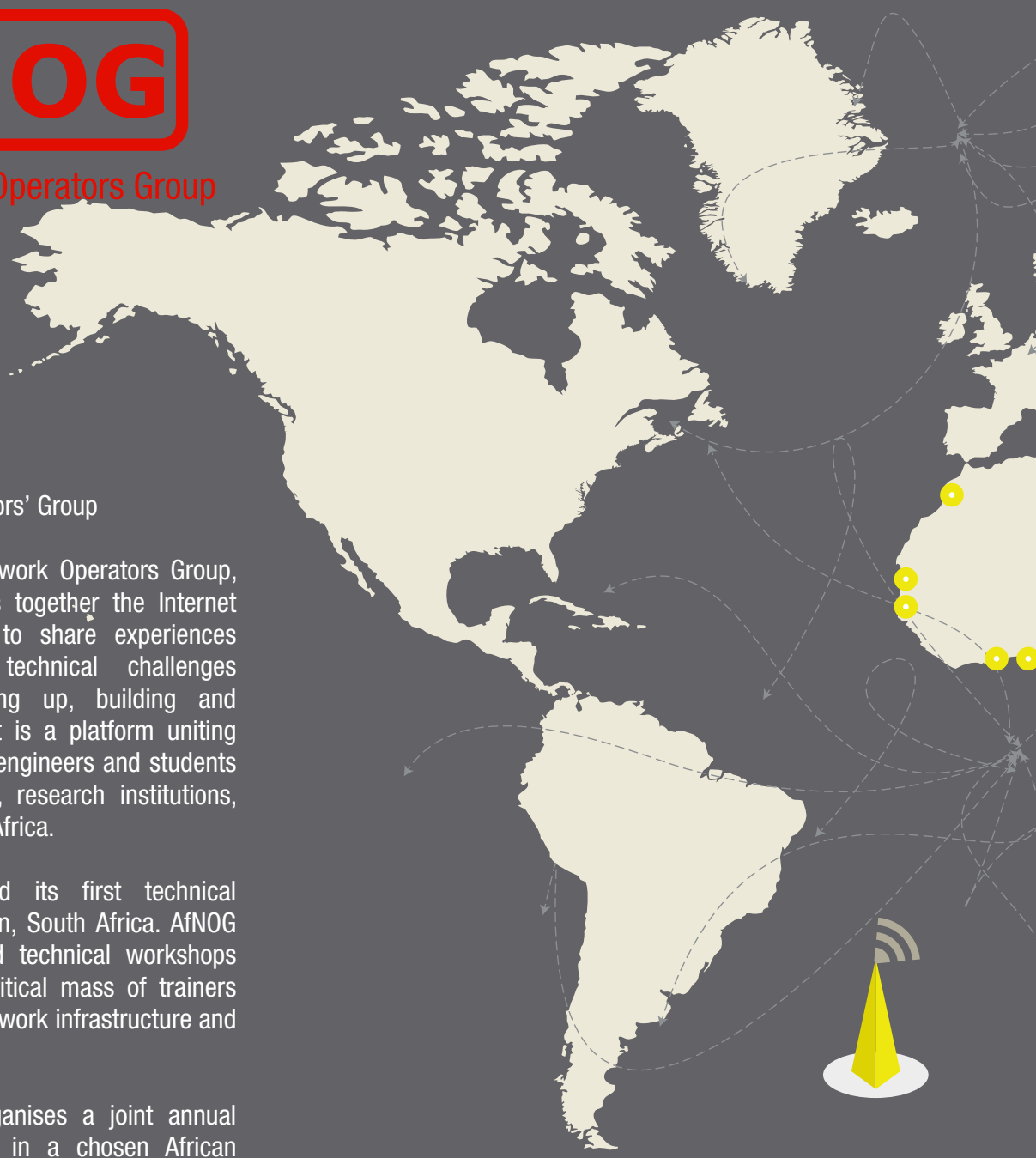
16 Boundary Road, East Legon
P.O. Box No CT 9086
Catonments, Accra
Ghana

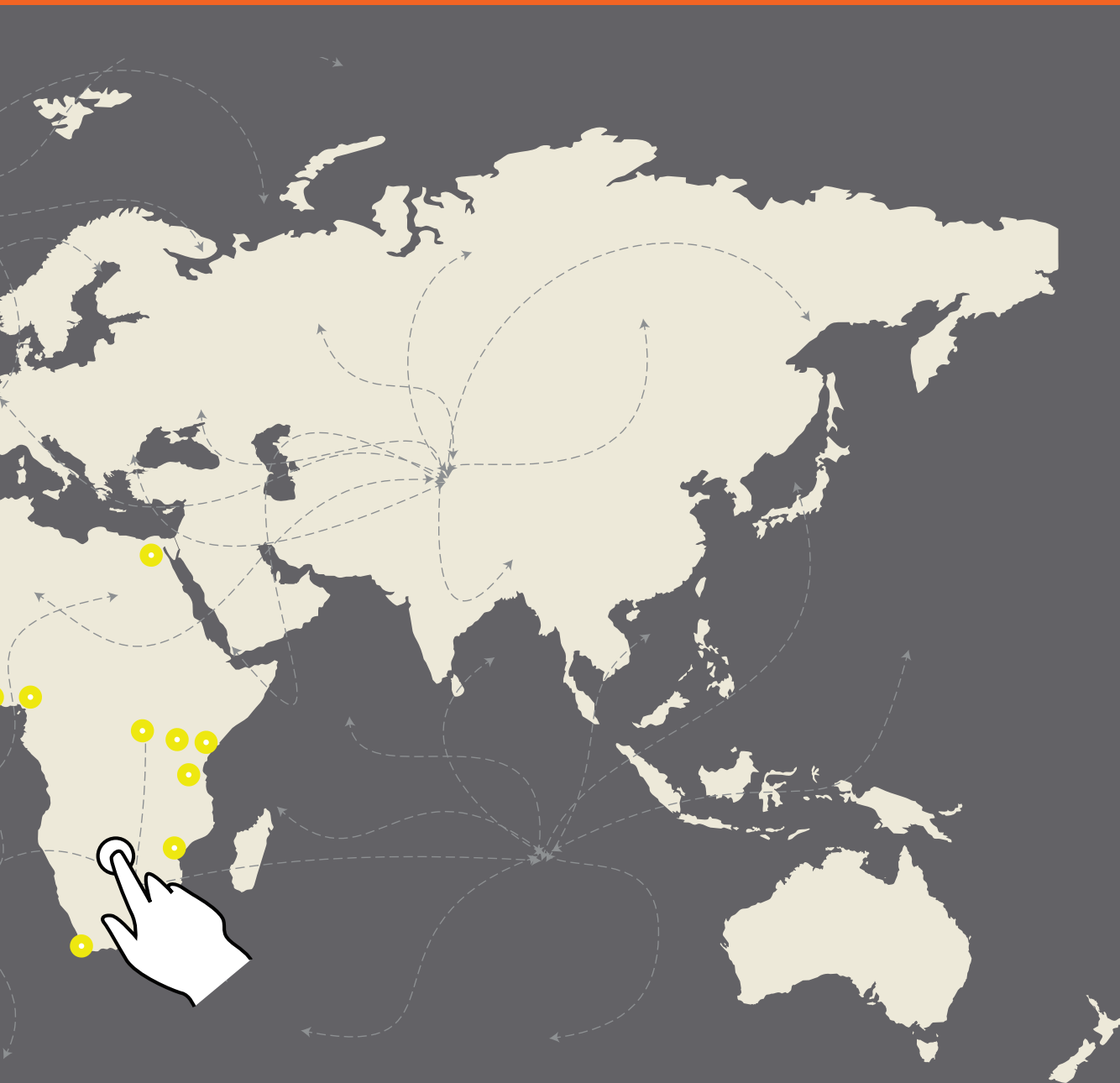
Tel : +233 277 552 308 / 20 829 1845

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AfNOG's Training History

2000	Cape Town	South Africa
2001	Accra	Ghana
2002	Lome	Togo
2003	Kanpala	Uganda
2004	Dakar	Senegal
2005	Maputo	Mozambique
2006	Nairobi	Kenya
2007	Abuja	Nigeria
2008	Rabat	Morocco
2009	Cairo	Egypt
2010	Kigali	Rwanda
2011	Dar Es Salaam	Tanzania
2012	Serekunda	Gambia

INTERNET NUMBERS



AFRINIC is the brainchild of the African Internet pioneers namely Dr Nii Quaynor from Ghana, Alan Barrett from South Africa, Sana Bellamine from Tunisia and Nashwa Abdel-Baki from Egypt. They identified the need of setting up an African Internet Number registry as early as 1997.

Prior to 2005, Europe, North America and Asia were responsible for the allocation of IP addresses in Africa.

In 2005, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) allowed Africa to form its own Internet Numbers Registry and thus AFRINIC was born.

AFRINIC, the Regional Internet Registry for Africa, allocates Internet resources to members within its service region of Africa and the Indian Ocean. AFRINIC exists and works alongside four





other regional registries serving North America, Latin America, Asia Pacific, and Europe.

AFRINIC's principal mandate is the allocation and management of Internet addresses (Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and Autonomous System Numbers (ASN)).

AFRINIC actively contributes to Internet development in Africa and provides training to engineers and network operators on managing Internet resources and planning for IPv6 transition.

Additionally, AFRINIC participates in Internet governance discussions regionally and at the international level and focuses on and invests in projects aimed at increasing the Internet's security and resilience.

AFRINIC also engages the community in the development of policies relating to the allocation and management of IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers. AFRINIC uses a bottom up approach in the management of IP addresses. By participating in the policy-making processes, the community defines the allocation and management of these resources.

Policies on resources allocation and management are proposed and debated on the resource policy discussion (rpd) mailing list and public policy meetings held twice a year. Anyone can propose policies and participate in their discussion.

Membership

AFRINIC members are mostly ISPs although individual organisations, financial institutions, government agencies and others are encouraged to become members.

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Ebene
Mauritius

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Email : contact@afinic.net

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Association of African Universities (AAU)

The AAU is the apex organisation and forum for consultation, exchange of information and cooperation among institutions of higher education in Africa. The organisation seeks to be the representative voice of the African higher education community both within and outside Africa.

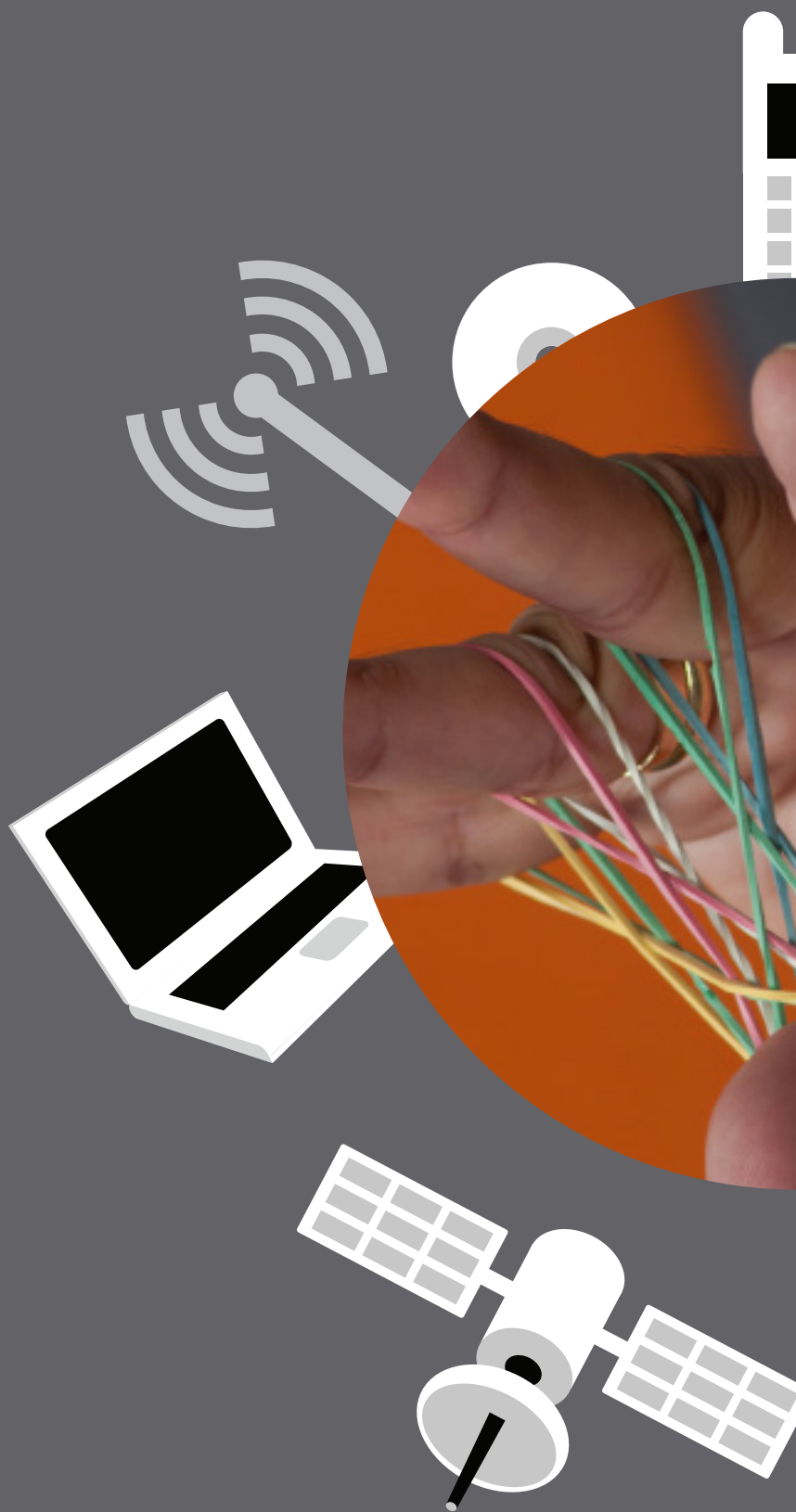
The above aims are supported by an explicit mission statement which notes, inter alia, that the AAU seeks to raise the quality of higher education in Africa and strengthen its contribution to African development by fostering collaboration among its member institutions; providing support to enhance teaching, learning, research and community engagement; and facilitating critical reflection on, and consensus-building around issues affecting higher education and African development.

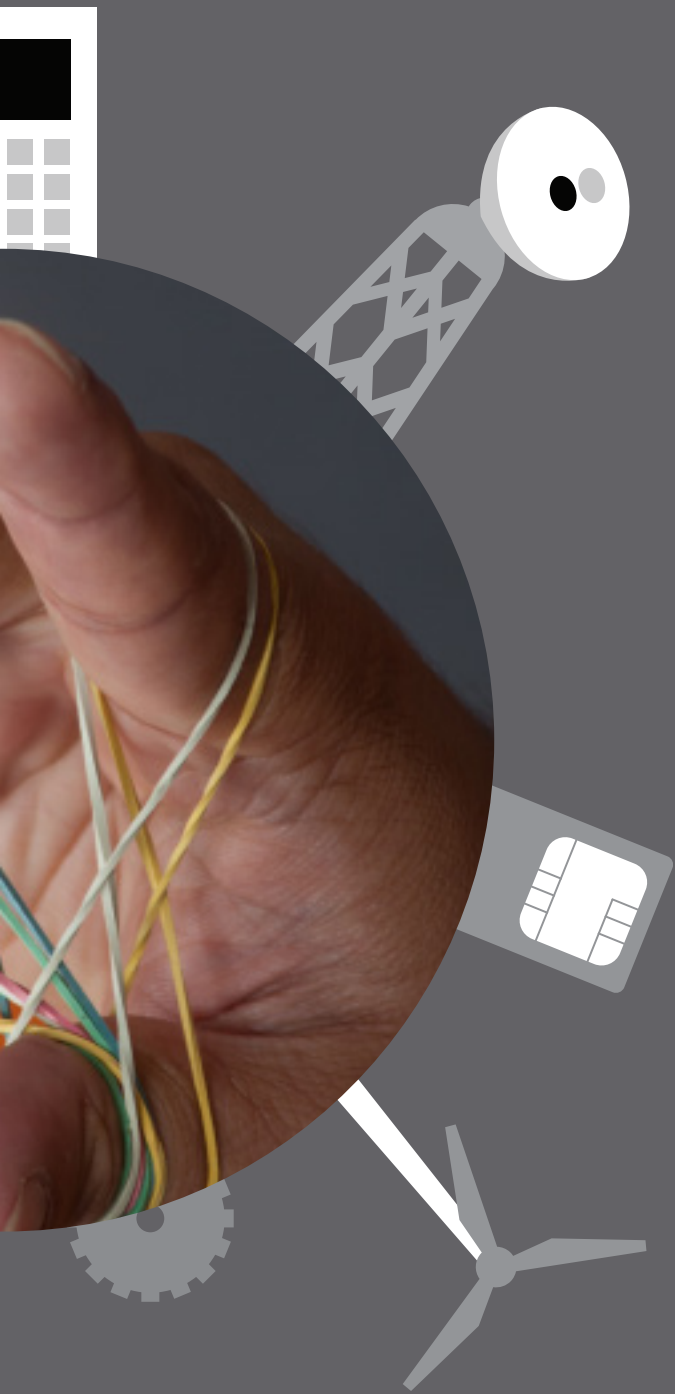
The Research and Educating Networking Unit (RENU) of the AAU convenes an annual meeting on African Research and Education Networking (AfREN). The RENU is a Unit of the Association of African Universities (AAU) that seeks to promote national and regional research and education networks in Africa and ICT in higher education in teaching, learning, research, information dissemination, and management.

RENU's mission is to promote the establishment of national and regional research and educational networks (NRENs and RRENs) in Africa.

The RENU together with AFRINIC, AfNOG and other stakeholders collectively address issues such as connectivity, access, as well as enhancing capacity building and content development in Africa.

The AAU and AFRINIC signed MoUs (Memoranda of Understanding) in 2006 and 2009 allowing institutions applying for Internet resources to benefit from discounted prices and a waiver on membership fees for the first year.





RENU lists its principal activities as:

- Facilitating national research and education networking, and support collective action, from increased access to cheaper connectivity.
- Developing a 'clearinghouse' of information on ICT and research and education networking initiatives, trends, opportunities, and good practice in Africa and globally, as well as relevant expertise and funding sources.
- Raising awareness to institutional leaders, network members, policy-makers, donors, and NGOs, and promoting knowledge exchange and experience sharing about issues and trends in ICT and research and education networking.
- Developing and disseminating advocacy material on open access to information, low cost bandwidth, and national and sub-regional networking, as well as participating in effective advocacy and lobbying by and on behalf of African knowledge institutions.

Membership

AAU's membership consists of public and private universities, polytechnics, institutions of higher education like colleges, universities and other institutions recognised by a country's authorities as higher education and research institutions.

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Association of African Universities
Research and Education Network Unit
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Ghana

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AfTLD

In 2002, Africa Top Level Domain Organisation (AfTLD) started as a project – the ISO 3166 country-code Top-Level Internet Domain (ccTLD) Registries in Africa – with more than 50 ccTLDs. The African Top Level Domains Limited was born and incorporated as a not-for-profit organisation.

The African Top Level Domain Organisation coordinates, formulates, develops and presents a unified approach to issues related to the Domain Name System.

AfTLD is an ICANN-recognised regional organisation of country code top-level domain (ccTLD) managers from the African Region. The AfTLD is an active participant on the ICANN, IGF and Regional Top Level Domain Organisation (RTLDO) with representatives on the ccNSO council, IDN and ccNSO participation working groups.

AfTLD is interested in policy matters that affect ccTLDs globally and has been an active player in forums discussing and formulating policies relating to domain names.





Membership

All ccTLD operators in the African region are eligible to join AfTLD. Associate membership may be given to any individual organisation or corporate body that operates in an Internet domain registry or in the Internet domain space.

AfTLD C/O Kenya Network Information Centre,
CCK Centre, Opposite Kianda School,
P.O Box 1461 - 00606, Nairobi –
Kenya

Tel: +254 733 79 00 73, +254 715 275 483, +254 20-445-0057/8

Fax: +254 20-445-0087



AfPIF

The African Peering and Interconnection Forum (AfPIF) is an ISOC initiative aimed at addressing key interconnection, peering, and traffic exchange opportunities and challenges. It provides participants with global and regional perspectives and seeks to maximise opportunities that will help grow Internet infrastructure and services in Africa.

As a multi-stakeholder forum, AfPIF events involve discussions and ideas on implementing efficient and cost effective local, regional, and international interconnection and peering strategies.

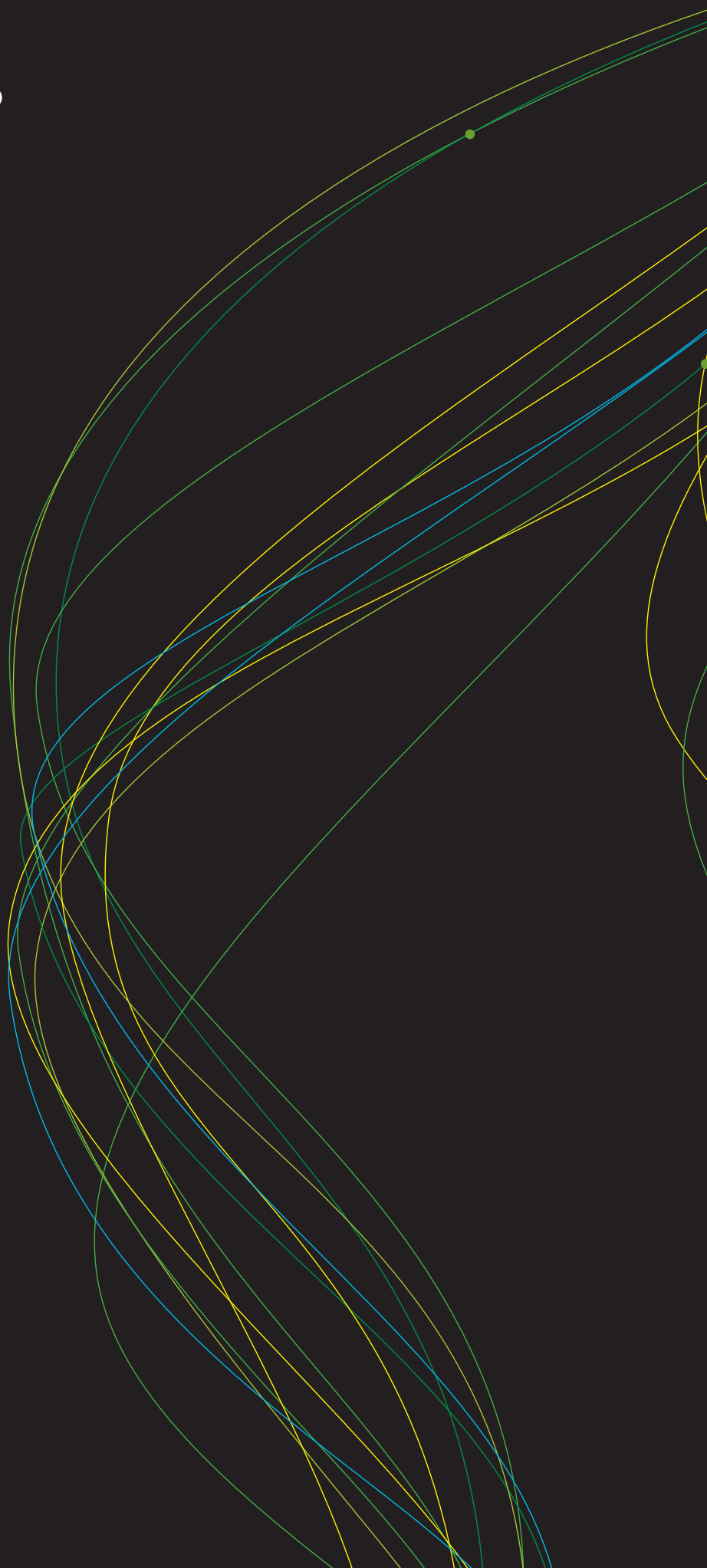
The AfPIF is an annual event held since 2010.

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Reston, VA 20190, USA

Tel : +1 703 439 2120
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Email : info@internetsociety.org





AFRICA Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT)

AfricaCERT consists of trusted computer incident response teams. The teams seek to cooperate in handling computer security incidents and promoting incident prevention programmes.

AFRINIC and AfNOG, among other organisations, have been involved in actively promoting and supporting the CERT programme and were critical during its inception phase.

In addition, AfricaCERT provides the necessary bullwarks against threats to African assets and critical infrastructure on the Internet.

The first BoF Meeting on the AfricaCERT was organised in June 2011 during an AfNOG workshop in Tanzania.

In November 2011, in Yaounde Cameroon, AfricaCERT organised its first cybersecurity Workshop during the AFRINIC-15 Meeting.

The AfricaCERT was formally incorporated in 2012.

Email : project@afriacert.org,

Web : <http://www.afriacert.org>

AfGWG

The AFRINIC Government Working Group (AfGWG) was set up as an initiative of AFRINIC.

AfGWG seeks to strengthening collaborations between AFRINIC and African governments and related agencies and regulators in order to create a dynamic framework to address general Internet governance challenges. The focus for this framework is addressing issues related to Internet number resources.

Since 2010, AFRINIC meetings are held bi-annually, back-to-back with AFRINIC's Public Policy Meetings.

Website: <http://meeting.afrinic.net/afgwg/>



AFRINIC Government Working Group



AfIGF

The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) was formally launched in Nairobi during the global Internet Governance Forum in 2011. This is an initiative currently supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and a number of regional organisations.

The first AfIGF was held in 2012 in Cairo, Egypt.

AfIGF draws representation from governments, businesses and non-governmental organisations. It addresses Internet governance issues in Africa with the aim of providing substantive input to the global IGF process.

Web : afigf.uneca.org

Email : AfIGF@uneca.org



AISI

The African Information Society Initiative (AISII) is an action framework that has been the basis for information and communication activities in Africa since 1996.

AISI is interested mainly with providing Africans with the means to improve the quality of their lives and fight against poverty through information access and provision.

Website: <http://www.uneca.org/publications/african-information-society-initiative-aisi-decades-perspective>

ISOC, Africa chapters

The Internet Society was officially formed in January 1992 and deals with a wide range of issues and activities including policy, governance, technology and development.

The Internet Society was formed by a number of people with many years of active involvement in the IETF. The Internet Society acts as a neutral and internationally recognised body supporting Internet administrative infrastructure.

In addition, ISOC has supported various training programmes organised by AfNOG, AfTLD and AFRINIC as well as INET. These trainings have contributed greatly Internet growth in the African region.

ISOC has also increased its global outreach through the launch of new African chapters as well as through the establishment of an African Regional Bureau in Ethiopia in 2006.

iSOC, Africa Chapter
P.O. Box 3479
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia

E-mail: bekele@isoc.org
Tel: +251 911 22 13 33



AfrICANN

The AfrICANN mailing provides a channel and platform for the African Internet community, and more specifically for those involved or willing to be involved in the ICANN processes, to engage each other on issues affecting the continent.

To register please go to: <http://www.afrinic.net/en/community/email-a-mailing-lists>.



The Fund for Internet Research and Education (FIRE) is a grants and awards programme designed to encourage and support the development of solutions to information and communication needs in the African Region. It specifically emphasises the role of the Internet in the social and economic development for the benefit of the African community. This comes at a critical time when the Internet and related technologies are playing an increasingly important role in the way people communicate, work, do business and live their lives.

The programme aims at encouraging and promoting the development and application of innovative ideas that can contribute not only to the solution of challenges in Africa and the Indian Ocean region but also enhance Internet and technological deployment, uptake and utility for the benefit of society.

The FIRE programme is specifically aimed at:

- Supporting the development of affordable and efficient Internet infrastructure
- Developing and promoting the adoption of innovative applications and services
- Supporting individual rights awareness and strength trust between organizations and individuals in the region

Launched in May 2012, the FIRE programme is a member of the Seed Alliance, a global initiative bringing together partners in Africa (AFRINIC), Asia Pacific (ISIF.aisa) and Latin America (FRIDA).



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THE BOTTOMLINE

As the Internet continues to grow and its impact continues to be felt across the world, the Af* represents just a number of organisations working together with others around the world to promote access, stability and use. For example, AFRINIC works very closely with the other five Regional Internet Registries namely APNIC, RIPE NCC, Lacnic and ARIN to promote the fair distribution and management of IP addresses. AFRINIC works very closely with organisations like the African Union and by extension governments in Africa and the Indian Ocean, and Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation to advance Internet use in its service region. And all the organisations listed herein work together with the International Telecommunication Union in promoting access and stability.

The above thus demonstrates the interconnections created by the organisations as they work together to advance Internet access and use. This means there is not only regional but also global cooperation as many organisations and governments work very closely together in tandem to promote Internet access and use, stability, and security among many other issues.





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