Global Internet, Opportunity for All

Delivering on the Internet's promise

~Kodishang Tshwaane
- ISA Deputy Secretary

The Internet has become an indispensable resource for information, communication, and human connection. It has fueled extraordinary economic growth and catalyzed human progress around the globe. Yet, although the Internet uplifts people and enables communities to thrive, access to it remains limited. And some of those who have it are working to damage it. It is painted as a dangerous, untrustworthy space where bad actors and misinformation lurk. It is compromised by industrial interests that want to own it all and by governments who want to control it, fragment it, or shut it down completely. The Internet is not necessarily everlasting. It is not a given constant that we should take for granted. It is at risk, which puts everything we love about it at stake. It is up to us to secure its future.

Our 2024 efforts remain focused on bringing the Internet to those who need it while defending it from the forces that threaten it—so everyone has equal access to the opportunities the open, borderless Internet brings.

| [Internet Society - 2024 Action Plan](#)

1. CHAPTER STATUS UPGRADE

We would like to thank all our chapter members and executive committee members for the work that you have put into the chapter during the 2023 year.

It is because of all your efforts that Internet South Africa is now a Gigabit Chapter. With this archivement we can now do more projects and access more funding to make a difference in our communities. In the year 2024 there will be a wide range of new projects that we will be undertaking and we need everyones help to make them a success.

Internet Society

GIGABIT

CHAPTER 2024

Global Encryption Day 2023

2. GLOBAL ENCRYPTION DAY 2023

Global Encryption Day is an annual event that celebrates and advocates for the critical importance of encryption in our digital age. Encryption is a fundamental tool for ensuring personal privacy in an era of increasing digital surveillance.

On the 21st of October 2023, we hosted our first Global Encryption Day hybrid event in partnership with the Durban University of Technology, Girl Hype, Bright Student Learning Centre and WISH.

| [Watch the video sessions](#)

SUSTAINABLE PEERING INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING PROGRAM

2024 Sustainable Peering Infrastructure Funding Program: we're excited to announce that the Sustainable Peering Infrastructure Funding Program is now open for applications. Funding will specifically support: Existing IXPs that need additional funding to grow or become sustainable Organizations that hope to build a new IXP Entities that work with local communities to improve peering and infrastructure Entities that provide a positive contribution to the entire IXP ecosystem.

Grant funds are available to assist in equipment purchases (switches, optic modules, servers, and routers), training, capacity building, and community development.

Applications are accepted in two windows: 16 January-22 March 2024, and again from 1 July-6 September 2024.

Details about eligibility, selection criteria, and more are available at:
https://www.internetsociety.org/funding-areas/sustainable-peering-ixp/

The project team will hold a Q&A session online on Monday, 29 January 2024 at 1300 UTC at:
https://isoc.zoom.us/j/84977511139?from=addon

2024 INTERNET SOCIETY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTIONS:

The 2024 Internet Society Board of Trustees Elections are approaching. As in recent years, the voting ballot will by default be sent to the chapter's President, as listed in the Chapter Portal. Ensure your chapter officer list is up to date by 20 January 2024 in the Chapter Portal so that your chapter can participate in the elections. The ballot will automatically be sent to the chapter President. To appoint an alternative delegate, the chapter admin officer will have to add a new 'Voting Delegate' position in the portal.

| Read more about the election

2024 CHAPTER ADMIN FUNDING:

Applications for Chapter Admin Funding will open on 6 February and close on 30 April 2024. For an overview of funding details, including eligibility requirements and the 2024 Application Timeline, visit the Internet Society Foundation's new webpage.

| Read more

INTERNET SOCIETY ACTION PLAN 2024: SHARE YOUR PREFERENCES

We need your input: If you haven't filled the below surveys yet, please do, your input counts. Your Preferences in The Internet Society Action 2024: We want your preferences to better engage with you to deliver our Action Plan 2024.

Please take a moment (2 to 3 minutes) to complete this short survey.

Better Updates-Sharing and Recognition: We want to improve how we share updates and engage with you.
Please take a moment to share your ideas and preferences on how to better share updates with you in 2024. (click here)

Review of our 2023 Performance (Victor, Hana):
We need your feedback to improve and better engage with you in 2024.

Please take 2 minutes to review our respective performances:

Hana Sabbagh

Victor Ndonnang

2024 CHAPTER ACTIVITY PLANNING RESOURCE:

The Internet Society's 2024 Action Plan is now posted. Please read this plan as it may inspire your development of projects and initiatives in the coming months.

| Read more

STAY CONNECTED

As we wrap up this edition of the Internet South Africa newsletter, we're reminded of the incredible community that makes our organization thrive. We're always eager to hear your stories, experiences, and ideas. Your voice matters, and it's what propels us forward.

Let's continue this journey together, staying connected and sharing the remarkable narratives that make our online community so vibrant. Your stories inspire us, and together, we can shape a brighter digital future for all. Don't hesitate to reach out, connect, and let your voice be heard. Thank you for being a part of our Internet South Africa family.

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