

1. Please confirm whether you accept the nomination.

Yes

No, if not please comment (max 500 characters)

COMMENTS :

2. Please elaborate on how your background demonstrates involvement in the Internet, particularly in the areas of IP addresses management, public policy and how this experience has helped influence your vision for AfriNIC (max 2000 characters)

As mentioned in the statement of motivation submitted, I have been involved in Top Management at Mauritius Telecom (MT) since the past seven years. Mauritius Telecom is the key player in the telecommunications field in Mauritius and is a converged operator i.e. offers Fixed, Mobile and Internet converged services.

During those past seven years I have had the opportunity to be initially, the Head of Cellplus Networks Division, the mobile arm of MT. In that capacity I have had the opportunity to be part of the team to elaborate the strategies for Cellplus and consequently define its network evolution. The initial focus, as is the case for any cellular network provider, was to provide a country wide cellular network with excellent voice quality service; however this vision evolved rapidly, to include also the setup and provisioning of a mobile data network.

The convergence of Mobile and Internet was fueled by

- (i) the need for customers to have access to their mails, be able to browse or connect to their office Intranet whilst on the move
- (ii) availability of handsets with more powerful chipset and battery life
- (iii) and evolution of the Radio technology from GPRS, EDGE to 3G and now 3G+ for higher data rates

and have been key drivers for the merging of these two environments.

As Head of Cellplus Networks, I had been involved with APNIC, at that point in time, for provisioning of ASN and IP blocks for the setup of the mobile data network. With the buildup of the mobile data network issues such as - planning and sizing the IP allocation pool and Domain Name management have been encountered.

In 2007 with the further reorganization of Mauritius Telecom to become a converged company, I have been appointed as Senior Executive Network Planning, whereby I am currently responsible for the Planning and Implementation of Fixed, Mobile, Internet and Converged services. This new responsibility entails that along with my team we are looking at some key aspects namely in promoting Broadband coverage island, evolving the existing core towards a converged core for both Fix and Mobile and thus implementing converged services.

However if we consider more minutely the development being addressed we realize that for a large part, all this is driven for the community to be connected to the Internet. And this brings up the other key aspect whereby my team and myself are focusing namely, on evolving and migrating from IPv4 to IPv6.

This need for migration to IPv6 is becoming more acute, by the fact that all of us are aware that all IPv4 addresses would be depleted by 2011. The need for IP address in Mauritius is no different from what is being experienced in other parts of the world. This is being driven by the Government will to promote ICT and making it become a real pillar to the economical development, more broadband devices that connect to the Internet and are always-on and the increase in mobile devices which need Internet Access. All this development urge us to push forward IPv6 as a priority.

I have also been involved with the local Telecom Regulator in Mauritius for the setting down of a number of public policies namely, introduction of ILD (International Long Distance) carriers, change in numbering plan, setup of cost based tariff model amongst others.

AfriNIC's mission is "To provide professional and efficient distribution of Internet number resources to the African Internet community, to support Internet technology usage and development across

the continent and strengthen self Internet governance in Africa by encouraging a participative policy development.”

By looking attentively at the above statement, I notice that much of the activities that I have been looking into in the past seven years are geared to AfriNIC’s vision namely to promote the Internet – be it wireline or wireless, setup strategies for effective Internet address management and be involved in the setting up of the local telecom policy.

I sincerely believe that my past experience in the telecom environment would have a positive impact on how AfriNIC could help in reducing the Digital Divide in Africa.

3. What according to you are challenges that will AfriNIC and that will need special attention in the coming three to five years (both from the community and the Board perspective). (max 2000 characters)

The internet architecture has evolved to be a highly complex one due to the fact that its growth in terms of traffic and services availability has been exponential. This has led to the fact that as traffic grows and more services are added managing the whole lot is becoming much more harder.

The key challenges in my opinion that AfriNIC needs to give its attention to are as follows,

i. The Architecture for the New Internet.

The New Internet would need to have a whole lot of new attributes such as openness, be secure, dependable, flexible, can grow further and bring in new services still unknown today. Many of these attributes are conflicting; yet to ensure the evolution of the Internet we need to bring together all these attributes and make them work together harmoniously.

ii. Access Networks for connecting to the Internet

The African continent unfortunately is the least favored in terms of Internet connectivity and growth. This situation has resulted due to the fact that there was no proper telecom infrastructure network developed and rolled out in many African states. No access to proper telecom environment unfortunately results in poor or inexistent Internet service which in turn only increases the *digital divide* resulting in negative impact on the economic flourishing of the state.

Thus one potential pillar that AfriNIC should consider would be the setting down of policy for urging member states in the African continent in particular those who do not have a reliable copper network to evolve rapidly to high bit rate mobile networks i.e. 3G , 3G+ and eventually 4G with the implementation of LTE (Long Term Evolution). Mobile Data network is the answer that African states can provide, for democratising Internet access, as it is the fastest way to leapfrog into the Internet universe and be in the race again.

At the same time that the Access network would be developed, it is essential to pursue with a high-speed core network to sustain the traffic and services thus deployed.

iii. Evolve the Internet

AfriNIC could act as a promoter for the Internet evolution to cater for ,

- Richer social collaborative tools and community services.
- Promotion of the Internet as the KEY knowledge tool
- Implementing user-centric services which have key benefits for him through the use of key technologies such as IMS (IP Multimedia Services) and orchestration of services which integrate telecoms, media and web capacities.

iv. Internet for Africa

USA and Europe to a lesser measure, have been historically more involved in the development of the Internet. Lately Korea and Japan have joined the pack. The fact that there are little or no initiatives from Africa, to pursue the Internet development, leaves us no alternative other than to utilize what has been designed and adaptable for the others.

Thus it is crucial that AfriNIC takes the lead in promoting a culture of R&D, albeit at a small scale, through Universities and Research institutions in Africa, in order to integrate some of particularities of African continent in the mainstream Internet. This will have a major impact on the Economy and Society in the African states.

v. IPv6 Rollout

The IPv4 address pool exhaustion is a major concern for the whole Internet community. AfriNIC should set up a plan and promote more forcefully the migration towards IPv6 adoption policies.

4. Please highlight those elements of your experience that have enhanced your understanding of technology, policy, business/finance and economics. (max. 2000 characters)

My engineering background, coupled with a MBA, has allowed me to be efficient and effective during the past seven years I have been occupying Senior Management positions at Mauritius Telecom.

The fact that I have been involved as the Chief Technology Officer for the mobile network and now as the Chief Strategist for converged (Fixed, Mobile & Internet) Network evolution are key elements that have allowed me to come across a number of technologies, evolving roadmaps and new products and services. The experience thus gained has helped me in strategizing and formulating long term strategies for network evolution.

Alongside being in the technical field I have been Project Leaders in the development of a number of Services namely the introduction of BlackBerry in Mauritius, implementing Business Everywhere (device to allow Internet access through a number of different access media), implementing Broadband Fixed and Mobile networks amongst others. The introductions of new services demand that viable Business Plans be set up. I thus have had the opportunity of leading transverse teams comprising of technical, financial, marketing and communication competencies. These experiences has broadened my approach to view technology not only as an enabler, but bringing positive change to the customer and in the wake increased profitability to the company.

I have also been involved with the Telecom Regulator in Mauritius for the layout of a number policies in the Telecom field in view of making the liberalization of the telecommunications field a reality.

On a personal level I am presently Vice President – Business of a JCI (Junior Chamber International) local chapter and involved primarily in community development service. This

involvement has allowed me to keep in touch with the reality of society and not be in a “*tour d’ivoire*”

This I believe that all the above are key elements that cannot be gained through reading for a degree, but actually being an actor into the development/rollout of technology, be ready for community service and have a vision above all for the better good of the people and community.

This experience I am sure would benefit an organization such as AfriNIC which need to strategise in the long term for the benefit of the community as a whole.

5. Please describe 3-4 situations where you have demonstrated the skills a Board Member should have, such as organizational leadership capability and general business/financial skills. (max. 2000 characters)

I have had the opportunity to demonstrate the skills expected from a Board Member in a number of occasions. Some key situations where these have been demonstrated have been as follows,

1. Setting up of a IP based core network for the Mobile Network

The cellular network in Mauritius has been amongst the first in the African continent to migrate towards a common core for both 2G and 3G networks using NGN (Next Generation Networks) technology. When the project was initiated in 2006, there were not many reference networks to which we could look at or refer. Thus we were basically on our own and in need to migrate a live network to allow it to cater for higher traffic capabilities. A focused, team centered and goal centric attitude allowed us to migrate successfully the TDM based network to a NGN network in a record time of five months.

2. Implementing BlackBerry Service in Mauritius

BlackBerry Service is provisioned by RIM (Research in Motion). In order to implement it in Mauritius we needed to provide RIM with a viable business plan that this service could

actually be sold in Mauritius. RIM initially was not proponent to this idea as it did not see the real potential of bringing such a service in Mauritius. However through our resilient approach and focused customer segmentation we managed to launch BlackBerry in February 2007 and we were second in launching it on the African continent after South Africa.

3. Promoting Community Service at JCI Mauritius

I already serve as an Executive Member in the local chapter for JCI Mauritius whereby I act as the Vice President Business. I have worked along several teams to promote community service through business leadership. Currently I am working on a Business Networking Event (BNE) for the ICT field in Mauritius. This BNE is scheduled in July 2008.

Comments and/or Remarks (max. 2000 characters)

Based on the above experience that I have had in the telecom field I am sure that I can bring positive contribution to an organization like AfriNIC should I be chosen as a Board Member. I also acknowledge to the fact that being a Board Member would also contribute greatly in my personal development which eventually I could give back to the community through my actions.