

KISSANGOU Jean Philemon

1) Please confirm whether you accept the nomination

Yes I confirm

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.

No doubt the Internet has become a reality in our societies. Its development is fuelled by the dramatic changes in technologies, market and policy which constitute the primary forces driving the transformation of the economy at national, regional and global levels. The idea to build the inclusive information society, which is the consequence of Internet development, has brought more value to Internet as an economic and social development tool. The discovery and knowledge of the above reality led me on 2002 to change my professional career from electricity to computers networking. Since then, Internet has become my favourite professional field, not only as a technology but also as an economic and social development tool.

I studied the networks and telecommunications when completing my master degree in *teleinformatique*. This bracket, as a student in ICT, has constituted the first steps of my involvement in Internet issues. During my stay in Dakar where I was studying, I discovered the Internet society (ISOC) through its local chapter: ISOC-Senegal. I decided then to join the ISOC global, and began as a member on June 2002 to get involved in its activities. I then began to contribute as far as could in ISOC activities. This gave me the opportunity, as an ISOC mailing lists member, to regularly be aware of what was going on in the Internet community. From then, I began to follow the WSIS process until to participate at the last prepcom3 meeting in Geneva and the summit in Tunisia in 2005.

The CACSUP, the NGO I managed prior to set up the Congolese ISOC chapter, was the only local organization at national level, which was accredited by the WSIS.

Through this organization, I organized many lectures to inform people about the Internet matters. Local stakeholders had learnt more about Internet in terms of what it is, how it works, how it is governed and what are the challenges the world is facing to so that to make Internet more operational, stable, safe and common.

I spent two years learning Internet governance issues through diplofoundation's courses and researches. These online trainings led me to understand better what the implications of infrastructures and standardization, legal, economic, social and development on Internet governance are. When doing the researches at diplo, I was asked -with two others mates in the team group- to work on the following them: *The introduction of IPv6 and the Future Governance of internet Resources in relation to Bridging the Digital Divide*. Always in the framework of researches upon Internet, I made in 2005 another Internet-related research on *the study of the bandwidth of Internet Service Providers in Africa*. On September 2005, I was granted a fellowship from the United Nations to exercise as a trainee in the Internet Governance Working Group Secretariat office, in Geneva. This experience made me more confident to go ahead in my involvement in Internet issues at local, regional and international levels.

The recent online study I have followed through the University of West Indies has given me a great comprehension of policy and regulation in ICT sectors. This has strengthened my knowledge particularly on planning in ICT sectors, pricing, management of scarce resources, interconnection and the necessity or not to regulate Internet.

As the professional occupation, I am currently working for a company the business of which is Internet-related: An Internet Service Provider (ISP). This is an opportunity for me to experience how things work on the business side.

As shown above, when considering the studies I made, the organizations I chaired and I'm still chairing, and my current professional occupation, one can see what my involvement in the Internet and its related issues could be. The next part of this text will focus on the aspects of my involvement in the particular areas of IP address management and public policy.

There is a large consensus on the fact that the IANA reserve of IP addresses in its version 4 will be finished in the next 3-4 coming years. This brings to the management of these scarce resources by the RIR which are entitled to allocate them to LIRs and/or end users. For the Africa zone, it is Afrinic who is supposed to allocate and register the Internet number resources for the African Internet community. In connection with my background, my experience and contribution in the management of IP resources were limited on the consciousness-raising actions I made mainly through numerous lectures I gave in the framework of CACSUP, ACSIS or ISOC. The last opportunity I had been given to hold a conference on the question intervened on October 2007 in Kigali, where I was asked, by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, to make a presentation on the theme: Internet resources allocation.

Today it's no longer a secret that Afrinic is facing several difficulties to easily allocate its two IPv4 blocks of IP addresses to the community, mainly due to the lack or weak requests, as well as the non-utilization of some allocated IP addresses blocks by who have requested them: **This is a serious concern.** The IP addresses management should not be efficient if the above concerns are not solved. The community must seriously think on why it is so and what should be done in addition on what Afrinic is currently doing in term of trainings and helpful meetings organized here and there in the continent.

What is sure is that, the community is not widely aware of Internet as a tool of development. This explains why today one can see in Africa many universities without a campus network, many administrations and companies without internet networks... Anyway, the obviousness is that there is no need for those organizations/administrations to request IP addresses as they don't yet know what to do with. Thereby, the problem of management is an underlying issue which could just be studied after people have known Internet and involved to use it.

Two IPv6 blocks were allocated to the Afrinic for the local community, here also the ratios addresses requested/addresses allocated to Afrinic and addresses visible in routing tables/addresses allocated by Afrinic are very weak due to some specific obstacles widely known such as the lack of information, the lack of stimulation and the cost of deployment. Here again the community have other challenges to take up.

I have understood from my current professional activities that many organizations in Africa, including ISPs don't know that they can request IP resources from Afrinic. Why this? What is the problem? Most of ISPs/organizations I know in central Africa use the IP block requested

out of Afrinic. In my company, due to some heaviness, we had to struggle to be sub-allocated a /24 block for our activities outside Afrinic's 'circuit'!

During my experience in Internet community I was aware that many organizations have set up open policy development processes to allow anybody to participate by proposing and discussing policy issues. In this way, from time to time I make some inputs on the ICANN public policy documents, but have become a member of the Afrinic policy working group only one month ago. Even so, I had had a look on certain Afrinic implemented policies as well as on those under discussion. Hereupon, I think that the community has set up a convenient process of allocating policy. However, I wonder the degree of the real implication of the African public community on the discussions about global and local policies.

All these modest personal experiences gave me a rough idea on what should be Afrinic's real challenges in the forthcoming years.

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).

In the first part of this document, I have handled some concerns which Afrinic is facing. The better understanding of Afrinic's problems and challenges deals with the understanding of how Afrinic is organized. As we are all aware of, the fact Afrinic is a community on the service of which a bureau works, assisted in its duty by the directors' board.

In my opinion, the future challenges of Afrinic are to give response to specific problems I can group in 3 categories:

- Organization
- Strategy
- Action

From the 'large-community' side where I am now, we don't clearly understand how really the directors' board **act** to assist the community as well as the bureau in their rights or duties. Indeed, it seems that the members of the board have only the role of orienting the bureau and dealing with some administrative issues; and so apart from the meetings they are absent on the ground. It is true that the director board members do not exercise permanently in Afrinic, but it does not mean that they should not be more active and present on the ground. Thereby, making the board of directors proactive and more active **on the ground** should be one of the big challenges Afrinic must take up in the forthcoming years. The board of directors should work in this way so that the team is not only collectively responsible of successes and possible failures of the director's board. Instead, apart from the collective responsibility each member should be accountable in front of the community upon his/her personal performances inside the group, and as well as on the ground including the one of the sub-region which he/she represents in the board. In addition, Afrinic as a community or as a board should think to make some mechanisms (may be through the policy) to encourage and help along so that to always have at least one woman in the directors boards.

It has been noted that the involvement of African regulators and governments in motivating privates, administrations and organisations to get resources number from Afrinic is very weak

if not at least inexistent. Why this? What should be the problem? What is sure is that, without interesting those states organizations in the Afrinic approach (allocating IP addresses, AS number as well as pushing to the deployment of IPv6) the will of getting these resources number will be let say weak, to remain modest . Although there are fears that this approach will hand over Afrinic to ‘politicians’ hands’, it is really worth taking into account this reality in the next Afrinic strategies: Maybe even a theme of research!

The Afrinic strategy of focusing on trainings is to be encouraged, strengthened and enriched. However, we should always have in mind that the Afrinic action should be a ‘**package**’ for which the training action is only an element. Trainings will go with other actions such as consciousness raising, lobbying and technical assistance. For such challenges, Afrinic could be assisted by its different partners (ISOC, Af*...), and sustained by an skilful, motivated and dynamic directors’ board.

The future challenge is to make Afrinic an organization of action and ground. The community is not enough ‘armed’ so that to express its needs towards the board. One cannot expect much from an informed community! It is the board’s duty to succeed on deeply informing governments, privates, civil society and end users so that they become tougher enough to raise problems, understand the stakes and then also fulfil their part of duty.

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

The Electricity, Information Technologies and Telecommunications Regulation & Policy are the fields of my academic records. Since 1993 until now, I have been gaining some experiences either through ownerships, or teaching, or projects, or self-experience. Indeed, my experience in teaching IT during six (6) years at academic level has strongly enhanced my understanding of information technologies including, networks, databases, Internet, and telecommunication. Some trainings and projects I participated in were also the opportunities which helped to practice and then gain more experience in the technology field.

My current job is of a lot importance for my understanding of technologies. I have been present since the beginning of the implementation of our ISP as the local projects responsible, administrator of the network. A system with four (4) Base Stations, 2 VSAT, many servers, firewalls, 2 routers and numerous clients at the end of the chain! In working daily on various technologies such as Ethernet, Wifi, Wimax and some applications which go with such as Internet, VoIP, data transmission, I enhance every day my understanding and knowledge in technologies.

My studies on Telecommunications Regulation & Policy at the University of West Indies are on the basis of my understanding of economics and policy (law) fields. These two new fields have brought to my former technical background a significant added value. The goal of the economics in the context of ICT sector is to set up mechanisms which lead to the efficiency of the sector, and achievement of social welfare. On another hand, policies play an important role in the ICT sector planning. Policy affects separately the market structure and regulation, which in its turn have an effect on service delivery and the ultimate performing of the sector. I have made some study cases from which, I understood that among the challenges of developing countries, the lack of clear policy goals and missions can be considered as majors one. The policy goals include stimulating competition and investment, managing public resources, promoting innovation and protecting the interests of users.

I have no direct experience on business issues. However, as I have been working for an ISP, which is a business company, I have to understand a little the stakes of this sector. About the finance, my responsibilities at the head of the organizations (CACSUP, ACSIS, ISOC...) led me to take care of finance issues, in term of research on funding, setting and controlling the budget, as well as the classic account operations.

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.

It is necessary for each organization that the members who composed it have various and specific skills to work and manage people, teams and things. The team work requires in addition to intellectual knowledge, other values such as tolerance, moral, frankness, initiative, and enthusiasm for working. I have experimented a little in my modest record of member of different organizations, how it is important to have a team composed of competent and enthusiastic members.

In the following lines, I am going to present four (4) situations through which I think I have tried to prove enthusiasm in the management of some teams, people, projects and activities. Those four situations are the following:

- Setting up a community high school where ICTs are broadly taught
- To initiate and manage the appropriation of the national Internet domain name (ccTLD)
- Capacity building project and consciousness raising on Internet matters (financed by ISOC global)
- To Initiate and manage two national meeting on Information Society

1- The *Ecole Communautaire de l'Enseignement Supérieur (ECES)*, was initiated by the NGO CACSUP in 2001 as part of the project: Access otherwise in the Higher education. The objective of the project was to create a framework for post-baccalaureate training, which should accommodate students who could not be accepted by the state or private higher education structures. It was so for various reasons related to costs of training, absence of certain training fields or the fact that most of the localities in country are far from the capital Brazzaville, the locality where the only state university is located. The country had just emerged from a series of fratricidal civil wars particularly destructive and deadly.

The students paid an annual financial contribution which was 29.300 CFA (US \$ 60) . I was the initiator of this project and have managed it, part-time job, until last year as the coordinator. With at least 2000 students, 189 teachers and 17 administration members (permanents and voluntary workers) the job required a little management and others skills! By now the most of our hold students on ICT fields particularly, have found jobs in various local and international companies/organizations. Many have joined ISOC after many attending lectures and conferences we gave thereupon. The ECES is the only school in the country where Linux for example is trained.

On 2005 ECES opened its upper school of professional diploma. The setting up of this had two objectives: To create an educational higher level to allow students who wish to continue

their studies to access professional diploma class at the third study level. The second objective was to enable students from the faculties of State University, qualified in general sciences, economics, law, geography and so on to complete their training in order to gain professional skills. The project had succeeded, through this additional program, to 'convert', in one (1) academic year, some old students qualified in physics, maths so that to make them qualified in telecommunications, networks and databases. The success of this experience encourages us to pursue it until so far and to extend and share this in Africa.

CACSUP and ECES created since 2005, a business group, the [GPPS](#), to give to all ECES graduates who have not yet found job, the opportunity to initiate and participate in business projects. ECES and GPPS started on the second half of 2008 to initiate ICT research & development programs.

At the last prepcom3, CACSUP has been accredited by the WSIS as a WSIS / NGO. From that moment, the CACSUP began to really focus all of its projects to the use of new technologies. Thereby, in 2007 the ECES opened an E-Learning school: [ECES-ONLINE](#).

2- If we can consider the Congo as far as ICT are concerned, one of the major issues which this country faces is the non management of its Internet Domain Name (.cg). In fact, this causes a big trouble in the framework of Internet development in this country. The Internet community surely would not want to see such a situation to go on. I have presented this problem in some parallel meetings during the last prepcom3. I also discuss it on some informal occasions. We have set up a national committee on the question and have begun to work upon the question. I am always going ahead upon by putting around the table all interested stockholders. Although the 'combat' has gone since four years, the participation of all could help solving *in fine* this technical delay which imperils and delays the development of Internet in the Congo.

3- The [Congolese chapter of ISOC](#) had presented its application for the ISOC global funding project in 2007. The ISOC-CG project was among the ten (10) accepted projects. Our project consisted in capacity building consciousness raising towards the populations of three localities apart from the two biggest cities which are Brazzaville and Pointe noire. The course targeted people who were unaware of Internet and its interests, and those who knew it but could not use or even access this powerful tool. After conferencing on Internet and its related questions and training more than 5000 people in how to use Internet as a development tool, the general target was reached and outcomes of this project were measurable by the growing of adhesions to ISOC-CG and ISOC-global, but also by the fact this created a sort of dynamic which pushes people to claim for more training and consciousness raising on Internet issues. In each of those localities, an ISOC club was set up. Thanks to this activity, ISOC-CG is planning to go back to one of the localities (Oyo) so that to organize a national multi-stakeholders meeting on the Information Society in order to pursue its endeavours in the framework of promoting Internet for all. As the responsible of this important and rich activity.

4- - One of the fundamental problems of our country and sub-region is the ignorance of some stakeholders upon ICT by the major part of our populations. ICT are still considered as a strict intellectual matter. ISOC-CG in its vision has deployed a strategy which focuses on the consciousness-raising campaigns everywhere in the country. Thereby, since 2005 we organized the national meeting on Information society, and we are planning to organize in another locality, the [next phase of these meetings](#) so that to raise consciousness of the public about the Internet and ICT stakes.

Comments and/or Remarks

Not sure how the elections are organized. It will be great if the election committee have planed to share this nominees ability evaluation documents and other candidate documents to the all potential electors...