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Cybercity, Ebene, Mauritius

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Pierre Ouedraogo is the winner of the 2012 Jonathan Postel Service Award. He was awarded for of his immense contributions to the growth of the Internet in Africa. A founding member of AFRINIC, Mr. Ouedraogo is currently the Director of Digital Francophonie at Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) based in Paris, France. He is also a founding member of numerous organisations including the AfTLD (African Internet Top Level Domain Names Association); AFNOG (African network operators group); AfCERT (African CERT network), and AfrICANN (African network of participants to the ICANN process).

The Internet Society presented the award, including a US$20,000 honorarium and a crystal engraved globe, during the 84th meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, July 29 - August 3, 2012. The Award Ceremony was held on 1 August 2012.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Ouedraogo said he was immensely proud to have contributed to the development of the African information society. He paid tribute to the Internet community for the honour. “I’m very proud to be here with you, and to be honoured by our community; this community that makes dreams come true. We dreamed of an open Internet, we have done together many things to make it happen with open standards and improving accessibility to all world languages to the Internet. Open standards are very important for African development, this means that it’s important for improving lives, poverty alleviation, bridging digital divide and building democratic open societies,” said Mr. Ouedraogo.

The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Internet Society, Lynn St. Amour, praised Mr. Ouedraogo for helping bring the Internet to Burkina Faso and other French-speaking African countries. “Pierre Ouedraogo is a highly-regarded technical leader in Africa,” said Ms St. Amour. “His commitment to the expansion of the Internet and encouragement of young engineers to help them build their skills through training workshops has had a profound impact on the growth of the Internet across Africa.”

Notes to Editors

About the Jonathan Postel Service Award

Each year, the Internet Society awards the Jonathan B. Postel Service Award. This award is presented to an individual or an organization that has made outstanding contributions in service to the data communications community. The award includes a presentation crystal and a prize of US$20,000. The award is focused on sustained and substantial technical contributions, service to the community, and leadership. For more information see: http://www.internetsociety.org/what-we-do/grants-and-awards/awards/postel-service-award

About the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)

Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) are independent, not-for-profit membership organisations that support the infrastructure of the Internet through technical coordination. There are five RIRs in the world today. Currently, the Internet Assigned Numbers Association (IANA) allocates blocks of IP addresses and ASNs, known collectively as Internet number resources, to the RIRs, who then distribute them to their members within their own specific service regions. RIR members include Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecommunications organisations, large corporations, governments, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders, including end users. The RIR model of open, transparent participation has proven successful at responding to the rapidly changing Internet environment. Each RIR holds one to two open meetings per year, as well as facilitating online discussion by the community, to allow the open exchange of ideas from the technical community, the business sector, civil society, and government regulators.

About AFRINIC

The African Network Information Center (AFRINIC) is the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Africa, responsible for the distribution and management of Internet number resources such as IP addresses throughout the African region. 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 to strengthen Internet self-governance in Africa by encouraging a participatory policy development.

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