

Introduction

As you all know, AfriNIC is trying to keep you updated about its activities. Since the release of Vol. 1 of our newsletter in November 2003, a lot has happened that we would like to put to your attention.

Activities

End of RIPE NCC Training

As of January 15th 2004, the two AfriNIC staff fully completed their 6 months training at RIPE NCC. With the experience gained, they are now ready to technically and administratively enable AfriNIC get operational.

Relocation of Staff to South Africa

The two staff are in the process of relocating to Pretoria, South Africa. Though several administrative issues relating to their work permits in South Africa are not yet solved, they are one site with temporary visas to start dealing with the urgent actions related to the establishment of AfriNIC technical operations in order to beat the deadlines in the transition plan.

AfriNIC, CSIR and DoC WorkShop in Pretoria

A workshop was held on Wednesday 11th February 2004 at the CSIR in Pretoria (where AfriNIC technical operations facility is hosted). The major purpose of this workshop was to discuss the details of the DoC - CSIR - AfriNIC contractual relationship and the legal aspects of staff working in SA (where AfriNIC does not have a legal existence). Solutions were proposed from which all parties were enlightened on the way-forward.

AfriNIC Project Manager visits Mauritius

From 18th to 20th February 2004, the AfriNIC Project Manager had a two days working visit to Mauritius where AfriNIC is legally incorporated. His mission was to finalize the organisation's incorporation and the implementation details. He had meetings with various entities including the main bidder for AfriNIC's hosting in Mauritius, the fiscal adviser from DCDM (a consulting company), the Mauritius ISP Association - FAIR, the National Computer Board and the Mauritius Board of Investments. The good news is that we can publicly announce that AfriNIC is now registered as a non-for-profit organization under Section 24 of the Mauritius Company Act 2001 as of 3rd February 2004 under Company Number 43338. There is still some ongoing discussion about the taxability of the company incomes and any other particular status that can benefit AfriNIC activities in Mauritius.

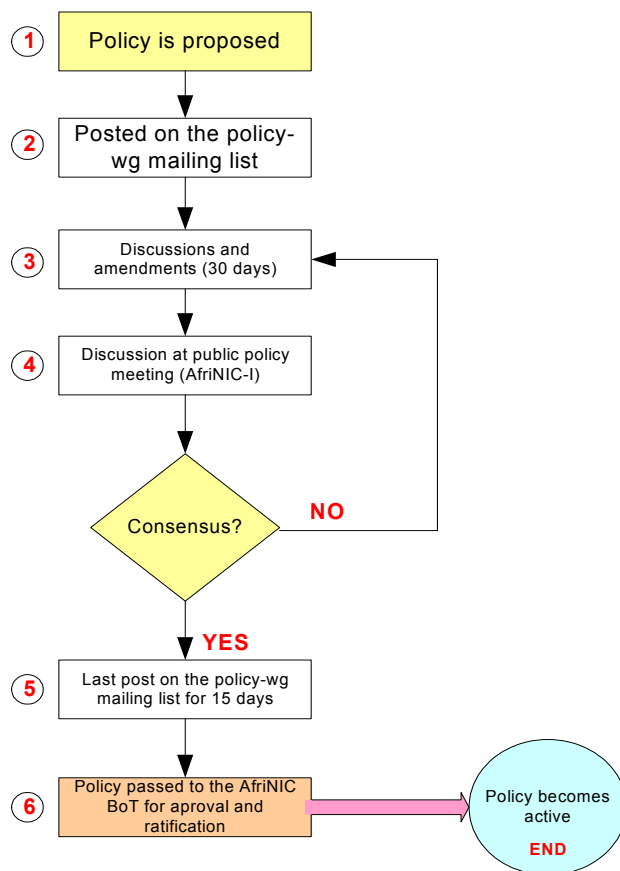
AfriNIC's new website

Remember the old-fashioned 'plain-text' website? That is no more! AfriNIC has now in full effect a new website at www.afriNIC.net. Feel free to browse for any information relating to AfriNIC's past, current and anticipated future plans. Any comments on the new web site are also welcome.

AfriNIC creates a Policy Working Group

In its quest to create harmonized policies that will encompass its future members from the ARIN, RIPE and APNIC service area, AfriNIC has called for volunteers to work in a policy working Group. At the end of the deadline, we got 8 volunteers. A public and opened discussion list was created. The list has now got 70 subscribers, with about 60 from Africa. The work of the volunteers is to put forward a draft of policies that AfriNIC will put in effect to manage and distribute the Internet resources on the continent.

The development process followed is summarised like this:



1. A policy is proposed (by anyone).

2. It is posted to the AfriNIC policy-wg for discussion. (The policy-wg list will from now onwards be open to community at all times, and anyone can join the list for discussion).

3. After at least 30 days of discussion and comments on the mailing list, the policy is brought to the public open-policy (face to face) meeting for the community and members' endorsement through consensus. (The first meeting will be the AfriNIC-1 meeting in Dakar, Senegal, May 2004).

4. If there is consensus at the meeting, go to step 5, if not, back to step 3.

5. A last call for comments on the policy will be announced on the policy-wg list. A period of 15 days will be given for the community to suggest any final changes and amendments.

6. The Board of Trustees will then ratify and adopt the policy for use.

The archives of previous and ongoing discussion on the list are also available at <http://listserv4.cfi.co.ug/pipermail/policy-wg/>

To subscribe, send an e-mail to policy-wg-request@afriNIC.org with 'subscribe' in the subject line or body. Remember to omit the '' quotes.

Relations with the international community

To reinforce its relationship with the other RIRs and the Internet community at large, AfriNIC is making an effort to attend all meetings or conferences involving the internet community. Such events include RIR meetings, ICANN, AfNOG, IETF, NANOG, and others. We have close and strong working ties with APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC and RIPE NCC. They have all been participative in AfriNIC's progress. Below are the most recent meetings we have had/attended with the various RIRs.

When	Where	What
Jun 2003	LACNIC	Emerging RIR Workshop
Sep 2003	APNIC	APNIC16
Sep 2003	RIPE NCC	RIPE46, LIR Training
Oct 2003	ARIN	ARIN XII, support to 2003-15
Nov 2003	LACNIC	LACNIC V
Jan 2004	ARIN	Working Visit
Jan 2004	RIPE NCC	RIPE47, Policy proposal
Feb 2004	APNIC	APNIC17 and Working Visit

Various presentations have been made both from AfriNIC to the international community and viceversa. The following URL's will point to some of the most recent

<http://www.apnic.net/meetings/16/programme/docs/amm-pres-ernest-afrinic.ppt>
<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/meetings/ripe-46/presentations/ripe46-plenary-afrinic.pdf>
http://www.arin.net/library/minutes/ARIN_XII/PDF/Wednesday/AfriNIC_Akplogan.pdf
<http://lacnic.net/lacnic-V-AFRINIC-Report.ppt>
<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/meetings/ripe-47/presentations/ripe47-ap-afrinic-policy.pdf>
<http://www.apnic.net/meetings/17/docs/amm/amm-pres-adiel-afrinic-status.ppt>

Announcements

AfriNIC has regularly sent announcements to the local community though the 'afrinic-discuss' mailing list and various mailing lists related to the Internet Protocol. These announcements are also published on our new website at:

<http://www.afrinic.net/announcements.htm>

We invite you to read through them at the URL above. Noteworthy among the announcements is the coming [AfriNIC-1](#) member meeting in Dakar (Senegal) in May 2004.

Support Received from the African ICT Community

It is interesting to note that the whole of the African Internet Community want their own regional internet registry. This has been evidently shown by the letters of support we have received from particularly, ISP's and Telecommunication operators on the continent. Interested in reading through these letters of support? Feel free to browse through them at the AfriNIC website. A few among the many are available at :

<http://www.afrinic.net/suport.htm>