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Annual Report 2018

ISOC Namibia

Compiled By:
Josaphat Tjiho
Nashilongo Gervasius



Internet Society
Namibia Chapter

During the later days of 2016, a need aroused in two individuals, for that matter young women – to bring a local chapter of the Internet Society in Namibia. This; after some international travels and being exposed to the work of the Internet Society (ISOC) at continental and global level. While we credit our founding President Nashilongo Gervasius and Vice-President Annastacia Shipepe for making all efforts to get the chapter in Namibia, there is no doubt that this idea was shaped by global trends in the internet space, but oh indeed, the power of a dedicated Woman! In the early days of 2017, a group of Internet enthusiasts made up of Academia, Civil society, Media, Business and Technical, began meeting to kick-start the process and bring this chapter home. The legal and technical process was long but nonetheless they withered. The group of the then 29 members set up the founding goals which are:

- To assist in the Achievement of Universal Access to Internet in Namibia
- To advocate for a secure Cyber environment
- To promote ICT and digital literacy i.e. computer use and awareness
- To promote online protection for all
- To promote awareness for advanced technology in the country
- To advocate for protection of citizens online against surveillance and online profiling
- To promote the development of Open Data
- To promote the Namibianisation (Promotion of Local content, Cultural Diversity & Usage) of the Internet
- To promote adoption of open development of standards, protocols and the technical infrastructure of the internet in Namibia
- To promote Techpreneurship in the country
- To advocate for web neutrality
- Promote free & secured Internet access for all

These are the foundation of the chapter.

After what we call “a long wait”, but others including those at the global office called “a record time of setting up a chapter”, the Internet Society Namibia Chapter was finally chartered by the Internet Society global in September 2017, making us the 32nd Chapter of the Internet Society on the African continent.

We officially launched the chapter on November 17th 2017. Our launch signalled a commitment to serve the “Land of the Brave” but also a call to work together with all stakeholders in the true Multistakeholder model that ISOC globally is known for. It was also a get-together of sorts, where our members pledged to serve, completely voluntarily, this beautiful nation of ours. Off course we were honoured by the presence of the then Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology as well as members of the Parliamentary Committee on ICT Development, who attended in full force.

The Internet Society Namibia chapter meant a lot for Internet enthusiasts locally, and the aim has been clear from the onset, that the Chapter would serve as a platform for robust and impactful engagement related to the technical and policy development of Internet in Namibia. This has not changed to date.

This annual report is really just a snapshot of our 1ST YEAR on the ground, a year of partnerships, over 365 days of creating awareness about opportunities that lies on the internet, but also a reflection of one year calendar of policy and technical engagements and advocacy.

Our Focus areas for the year 2018 were based on the global ISOC’s approach on

- Internet Governance
- Internet of Things (security)
- Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Systems (MANRS)
- Community Networks

The content of this annual report highlights that, we have tried at least to create awareness on all the four areas. Going forward, this is a call to you as a user of the internet first and secondly an expert in your respective field to join this body, to stand together and form an even stronger voice in shaping the internet we want in Namibia. We leave you with the quote below by Vinton Cerf, the Founder of the Internet Society and one of the founding fathers of the Internet as a global resource who sums up the work of the Internet Society throughout the world perfectly.

“The Internet Society is operating on a world stage to help all of the stakeholders of the Internet to understand what the implications of the technology are, what policies are beneficial, and what right and freedoms need to be preserved in the use of this system.”

Vint Cerf



Internet Governance

In the Internet policy world, there is a talked about “multi-stakeholder approach.” Basically meaning that everyone who has a stake in the future of the Internet needs to have a voice in how it's run. - ISOC

Engaging the Python programmers of Namibia

As in 2017, this year too, the Internet Society Namibia Chapter sponsored this an annual programming conference, attended by ICT professionals, software entrepreneurs, engineers, researchers, students and educationalists.

This platform provides an opportunity for ongoing engagements with the Programming Community, who are a core part in the internet ecosystem and highlight key concerns, challenges and lessons related to the policy development and technology of the internet.

The chapter presented the Internet Society strategy for the year 2018 and briefed participants on ways to be members and showcased beneficial opportunities for becoming a member. ISOC membership is free.

The chapter sponsorship included the following

- WIFI
- Participation fees to attend the event

Event: PyCon Namibia

Date: 20/02/2018

Participants: 82, 21 talks and 16 sponsors



Hosting Africa's 5th YouthComm in Namibia

Together with The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology and UNESCO, we organized a 1& half day workshop aimed at empowering Namibian youth with deeper knowledge and understanding of the internet ecosystem and its functions. This workshop also aimed to strengthen Internet Governance in Namibia, by creating local youth networks that will benefit from ISOC & ICANNs leadership, through training sourced locally, in partnership with national stakeholders of the internet such as the government, Academia, private sector and civil society. This workshop provided an opportunity for the chapter to deepen youth engagement in the Internet Ecosystem, as the youth are key players in the Internet ecosystem.

Event: YouthComm

Date: 26-27 February 2018

Participants: 50



Raising awareness on “Online Violence Against Women” #EndOVAW

Online violence against women has become an issue of great concern in Namibia with revenge porn being an emerging trend amongst others. Hence there was a need to raise awareness, especially during the Women's month of march but also highlight the human rights aspect of the Internet. In collaboration with the Namibia Women in Computing, ISOC Namibia organized this panel discussion, which amongst others highlighted legislation and legal instrument in curbing online violence but also to create local partnerships and sound a local call to speak out against online violence in general in the country. The panel included Ms Sabine Witting of UNICEF, Ms Emilia Nghikembua of the ICT Regulatory Authority, Ms Meunajo Tjiroze from the Office of the First Lady as well as the Dean of the Faculty of Computing & Informatics at NUS Dr Anicia Peters.

Interactions from this panel discussion, revealed a deeper need to continue advocacy on the safety of women and children online - which are global best practices on Internet Governance. The chapter seeks to continue engagement and further discussions with other stakeholders, on the extent and kinds of violence and identify ways to fill the existing gaps, as well as formulate strategies to deal with online violence.

Event: Online Violence Against Women Panel Discussion 2018

Date: 24 March 2018

Participants: 50



Hosting the Wikipedia Women Edit-a-thon Namibia node

Online content for Namibia is a key concern, and it is also one of our founding aims. When ISOC global's Women's Special Interest Group (SIG) reached out with this global outreach initiative, our chapter was only too pleased to partake. The aim of the initiative was to edit profiles of women on the Wikipedia platform within 24 hours, preferably in local languages and the editing needed to be done by women. With this initiative, the chapter collected about 25 profiles of women leaders in the ICT industry in Namibia, featuring women founders, pioneers, entrepreneurs and developers. This is in recognition of their roles in the technology and internet space. For us an opportunity to add more Namibian content online was a bonus. Eleven women came together for this editathon, which received support from the Wikipedia Foundation, through quick refresher on-the-spot training and supply of t-shirts by its Ambassador in Namibia, Peter Gallert of NUST.

ISOC Namibia further seeks to localize this idea and spread it across all other fields, but firstly to finalise editing profiles on hand, through a locally coordinated edit-a-thon. This was done primarily to highlight the importance of having local female role models documented and available for the world and generations to emulate. This activity, complements the Internet Governance best practice on Women

Event: WIKIPEDIA WOMEN EDITATHON

Date: 24 APRIL 2018

Participants: 11



Expanding the Bloggers Network in Namibia

The aim of this workshop was to train the unemployed and students with blogging and coding skills; and further empower them with digital security skills and an awareness of blogging opportunities on the African Continent, and how that ties in with access and development of the internet. Thirty one (31) participants took part in this workshop which was a build up event of the World Press Freedom day celebrations and was co-organized by local partners such as the Editor's Forum of Namibia, NUST Department of Media Technology and UNESCO.

The participants were trained by three local trainers in the field of media and online business and marketing, who are Ms Natasha Tibinyane - ISOC member & Media Trainer, Mr Milton Louw as well as Mr Hugh Ellis from NUST Department of Media technology and were joined by Ms Janet Faden a media trainer from Nigeria. Participants acknowledged the need to share their Namibian narratives through platforms such as this.

The chapter is looking forward to furthering this initiative, by partnering with bloggers networks on the continent and continue to avail avenues where local bloggers can explore and thrive.

Event: Bloggers Workshop

Date: 7 May 2018

Participants: 31



Ensuring that the Namibia Internet Governance Forum 2018 happens

As part of our Internet Governance programme, the Chapter organized this national event with the support of the National Working Group for Internet Governance. This one and a half day event brought together 110 participants, made up of players in the internet in Namibia, who discussed different policy issues related to internet development in Namibia. The event was held under the theme "Internet of Trust" as derived from the global Internet Governance Forum theme. Some key topics worth noting were Cybersecurity, ICT Policy Harmonization, Online safety for children and as well as indigenous identity on the internet.

ISOC Namibia served as a secretariat for this national event and sourcing funding and technical expertise and support for this event, on behalf of the national working group. The event took place at the UN House thanks to local partner UNESCO - who at global level also hosted the IGF in Paris.

Event: Namibia Internet Governance Forum

Date: 6&7 November 2018

Participants: 110



The need to create a clear and simple ways for everyone – regardless of background – to understand and be a part of how the Internet is run is critical.

Submitting input for the National Broadband Policy

Responding to the call by the Ministry of ICT to provide input on the draft Broadband policy of 2016, the Chapter provided input on this said policy in April, with assistance from the ISOC global Policy team. Our input focused mainly on the policy direction, its technical content as well as seeking clarity on a number of issues. Namibia is yet to pass its Broadband Policy and consultations over the years have not made this possible, since the 1st draft in 2014/2015.

A copy of the submitted input is available on our website. isoc.na

Event: Submission of input for the National Broadband Policy

Date: 14 April 2018

Participants: Chapter Officers

Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Systems (MANRS)

The Internet’s routing foundation has cracks, and they’re growing. Not a single day goes by without dozens of incidents affecting the routing system. Route hijacking, route leaks, IP address spoofing, and other harmful activities can lead to DDoS attacks, traffic inspection, lost revenue, reputational damage, and more. These incidents are global in scale, with one operator’s routing problems cascading to impact others. - Internet Society

Localising IETF in Namibia through the IETF Remote Hubs

To date, 72 participants have attended the IETF Viewing Hub 101 and 102. The purpose of the remote hub is to promote the work of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) in Namibia and expose the local network and other related engineers to the IETF with the aim of one day contributing to the work at IETF at a global level. The Hubs also aims at allowing those who cannot travel to a meeting to still experience the goings on through live event streaming. While the First IETF of 2018 meeting took place in London, and the 2nd taking place in Canada, Namibians for the first time took part in the discussions and practical workshops on setting up the standards of the internet remotely.

To date, we have created a database of technicians and engineers of the internet in Namibia, from participants who attended IETF hubs, with the aim to engage them and open them up to more information and opportunities on the IETF.

#IoTSecurity #MANRS

Under this programme the chapter held 2 related events

Event: IETF Remote Hubs (101 and 102)

Date: 20 March 2018 & 17 - 18 July 2018

Participants: 35 + 37



IoT Security

Cybersecurity will be the most pressing challenge of the next decade, and IoT will play a critical role in it.”

Internet Society 2017 Global Internet Report

Internet of Things in Namibia -awareness is key

Our Chapter is taking part in the 2018 chapterthon through a project focusing on developing and distributing teaching materials to schools, which raises awareness on Internet of Trust (IoT), cyber security in local languages through multiple formats such as digital videos and audios by one of our members, Sebulon David - a former University lecturer who now implements ICT based projects in rural Namibia.

We hope that this campaign reaches university platforms and initiate discussions at a national level.

The future of the Internet is ours to shape for the next generation. Humanity must be at the centre of tomorrow’s Internet.

Internet Society

Event: ISOC Chapterthon 2018

Namibian Participants: 164 Teachers



Community Networks

Community Networks Can Bridge the Digital Divide

“The Internet can open up a world of opportunity. With half the world’s population unconnected, it’s urgent that we shape a tomorrow that benefits everyone.

Let’s build a digital future that puts people first.

Closing the digital divide is critical and community networks offer a solution. These are “do it yourself” networks built by people for people.”

-Internet Society

The Groot-Aub Community Network (CN), that is run and supported by the ISOC Namibia Chapter members Nicola Bidwell and Quantilian Louwe received a double boost this year. Funds of US\$2,500 have just been provided for networking and solar equipment by ISOC’s Community Network Development Assistance Programme Africa. These funds will enable community members to extend the network across the settlement.

Additionally, Groot-Aub CN is the southern African site in Afchix’s <http://www.afchix.org/> initiative to promote women in establishing, using and managing CNs. The Afchix initiative, one of 12 winners in USAID’s 2018 Women Connect Challenge, <https://www.usaid.gov/wcc>, builds the capacities of women in CNs to serve disadvantaged communities in Senegal, Kenya, Morocco, and Namibia. The initiative uses gender sensitive approaches to involve women as leaders and focal persons in designing, installing and maintaining CNs, both locally and through fellowships to develop and support experienced women from each of the four countries.

Namibia also features in a new book on Community Networks. An article featuring Quantilian Louwe discussing the Seeds of Groot-Aub, <https://www.giswatch.org/en/country-report/infrastructure/namibia> and an article by Nic Bidwell on her research on CNs around the world. Nic undertook this research with Association for Progressive Communications (APC), which has also taken her to Accra, Ghana to run a workshop for women in CNs at The Web Foundation’s African Women and Girls in Technology (supported by ISOC-global) and to the IGF2018 in Paris.



Community Network Summit

Aiming at engaging community networkers and give them hands on experience in the setting up of some nodes in the expansion of networks, the Community Network summit took place in the Zenzeleni rural area in South Africa. Our Chapter member Quantilian Louw was one of the fellows for this summit. Who wished that the expansion of the community networks increase in Namibia and hopes for further engagement of community members in the setup of the community networks

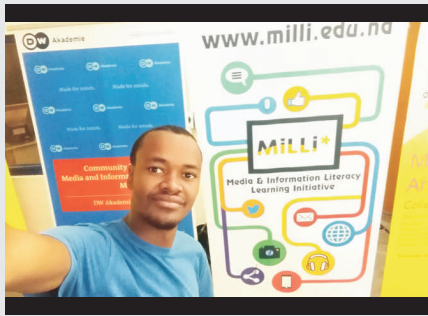


“structured to be open, free, and to respect network neutrality. Such networks rely on the active participation of local communities in the design, development, deployment, and management of shared infrastructure as a common resource, owned by the community, and operated in a democratic fashion. Community networks can be operationalised, wholly or partly, through individuals and local stakeholders, NGO’s, private sector entities, and/or public administrations.”

- Internet Governance Forum Dynamic Coalition 2017

As part of the Internet Advocacy and technical community in Namibia Our Chapter has also been invited to partake in the following events

Event: Media Literacy Training (MiLLi)
Date: 5-15 September 2018



Event: Namibia 5th ICT Summit
Date: 15-17 October 2018
Participants: over 150



Event: Global IGF
Date: 12-14 November 2018
 Paris France



Event: TechCamp 2018
Date: 17-19 September 2018



Event: Youth Conference 2018
Date: 17 October 2018



Event: Namibia Youth to Business Forum
Date: 10 March 2018
MODE: Twitter online discussion



Event: ISOC Chapters Advocacy Meeting
Date: 19-21 June 2018
 Addis Abbaba , Ethiopia



Event: NBC Panel Discussion and Radio Interview on Tupopyeni - "Consequences of filming accident scenes and circulating these Footages on social media"
Date: 04 September 2018



Event: ISOC Meeting with New MICT Minister
Date: 24 May 2018
Participants: 6



Event: Parliamentary Engagement
Date: 11 September 2018



Event: World Press Freedom Day
Date: 24 July 2018



Event: UPRoar & #FIFAfrica2018
Date: 25-28 September 2018
 Accra Ghana



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