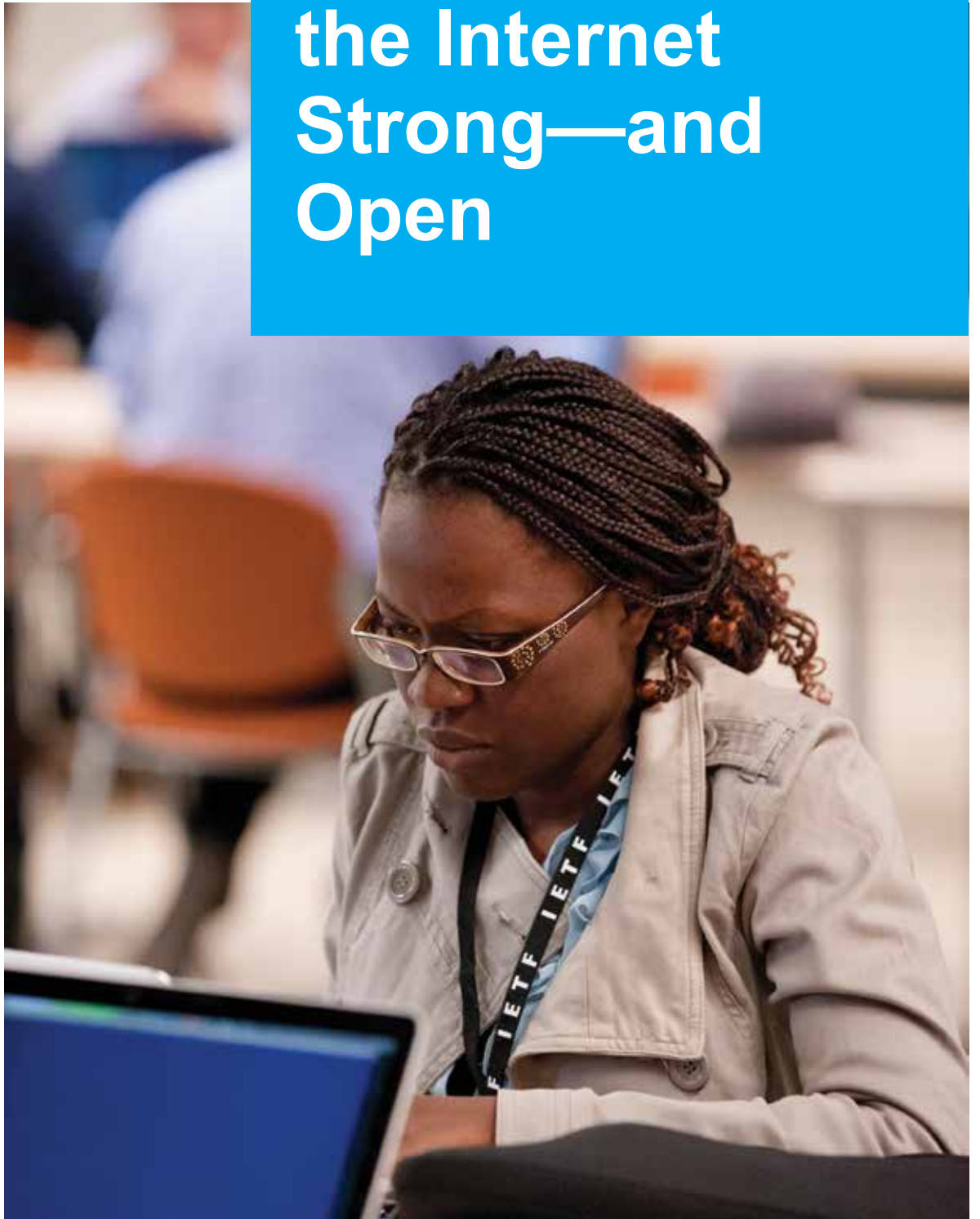


Help Keep the Internet Strong—and Open





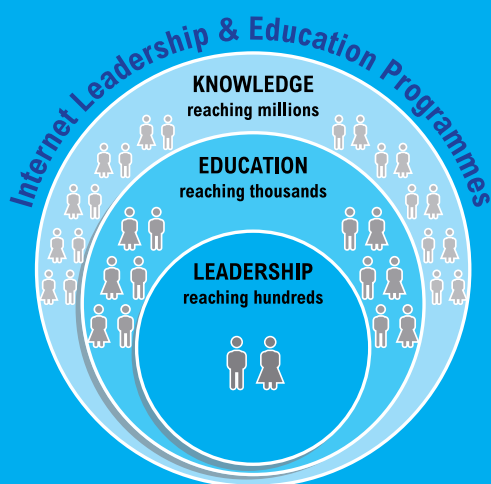
Help Keep the Internet Strong— and Open

The Internet is a global platform for innovation, creativity, and economic opportunity. It provides individuals with the dependable ability to connect with others; to express themselves freely; and to share, educate, and collaborate.

At the heart of the Internet's ability to continue in these roles is its open, decentralized nature, and reliability.

The Internet's *open technological standards* enable its very existence and its growth; they matter to everyone. Open standards are what allows an individual connected to an enterprise server in Singapore to interact with someone logged on through a solar-powered network in Malawi.

The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is the primary entity responsible for establishing the Internet's open standards and best practices—standards for networking protocols, infrastructure, software, operations, maintenance, and security.



As the Internet grows, the IETF is well-positioned to address multiple technological frameworks by developing and maintaining open standards. These standards help provide an open Internet for those who are online and those yet to come. The Internet Society, the IETF's administrative home, provides support for the IETF through numerous programmes. These broaden the base of participation so that all interests are represented and fresh ideas are brought to the work.

You can help keep the Internet strong by supporting these Leadership Programmes. And you can benefit, as well. Together, we can make a difference for the billions of current users and the billions of Internet users yet to come.



What is the Internet Engineering Task Force?

The Internet Engineering Task Force is an open-membership organization whose mission is to make the Internet work better from an engineering viewpoint. It produces standards and best practices that influence the way people design, use, and manage specific aspects and segments of the Internet.¹

Participating engineers volunteer their time to develop and refine protocols that are useful to organizations, manufacturers, and vendors who utilize the Internet. The IETF is open to any individual who wants to participate. Participants become involved by subscribing to one of the IETF working group email lists and offering input on a standard being developed by that group.

The open nature of this structure allows thousands of people from around the world to contribute to the IETF's work. As many as 1100 individuals from more than 50 countries participate in each of the meetings of the IETF and its working groups. Many others do not attend the meetings but are involved in other ways.

How Does the IETF work?

Most of the IETF's work occurs in about 100 working groups. Anyone on a group mailing list can propose a new standard or best practice. If the proposer can generate sufficient support from others, the working group may decide to take on development. A well-defined review process assures that the final document is technically sound, meets security requirements, and is consistent with other Internet processes.

The IETF and each of its working groups make all decisions by consensus. This assures consideration of all member perspectives so that the final standard will work for the broadest possible constituency.

The great majority of work performed by the IETF and its working groups is done by email. Three international meetings are held each year, each lasting a full week. These provide opportunities for participants to meet one another face-to-face, to network, and to generate support for initiating new standards or best practices.

¹These standards and best practices are referred to as Requests for Comment, based on historical usage.

How Does the Internet Society Help Support the IETF?

The Internet Society supports programmes to broaden the base of involvement in the IETF and contribute to its continued open development. These programmes include:

- **The Internet Society Fellowships to the IETF**
- **Enhancing the Dialogue Between Policymakers and the IETF**
- **Remote Engagement Hubs**
- **Outreach on IETF and Open Internet Standards**



Fellowships to the IETF

Most people have never experienced an organization like the IETF. Participating in an IETF meeting brings interested individuals a new level of understanding and commitment to the IETF process. It's an opportunity for them to become comfortable with how the IETF operates and determine where they can best fit in.

For individuals from developing and emerging economies, the cost of travel and accommodations can make participating in an IETF meeting prohibitively expensive. To help overcome this barrier and encourage involvement from these countries, the Internet Society awards fellowships to participate in IETF meetings. Since the programme began in 2006, the Society has awarded well over a hundred fellowships to people from more than 40 countries.

The Fellowship programme:

- Creates connections between new and established developers of open Internet standards
- Empowers fellows through broadened experience and participation in standards development
- Reinforces the importance of multiple disciplines in fostering the robustness, security, stability, and sustainability of the Internet
- Increases the diversity of participants and the global awareness of the IETF's vital work
- Develops a pool of participants with greater ability to participate in and contribute to IETF work
- Improves the fellows' ability to deliver meaningful impacts on Internet development at the local and regional level.

“Since attending my first IETF meeting last year, I have arranged seminars and workshops in Pakistan on different priorities of the IETF and the Internet Society and conveyed the Internet Society message to our research community”.

Peer Azmat Shah

Returning Fellow to the IETF, Pakistan

Fellowships are available to technology professionals, advanced IT students, and other qualified individuals on a competitive basis. First-time Fellows attending an IETF meeting are paired with an experienced mentor.

Returning Fellowships are available to individuals who have attended a prior IETF meeting as a Fellow. This enables highly committed former Fellows to return to the IETF to advance specific standards work, more fully integrating technologists from developing economies into the IETF.

Returning Fellows help build IETF communities in emerging economies by serving as a local source of information on the IETF standards development process and increasing the visibility of the IETF in those countries.



“I went there with a point of view that got wider and wider as the days went by and I attended the different meetings and held conversations with very fascinating people...I came out with a very rich panorama of the Internet. My time at the 84th IETF turned into an invaluable learning experience that, at the end, was more important than I had originally expected”.

Fred Clark

*Gerente de Regulacion de Telefonía,
La Superintendencia de Telecomunicaciones
de Guatemala, participant, Policymakers programme*

Enhancing the Dialogue Between Policymakers and the IETF

Openness, transparency, and collaboration have been critical to the evolution of the Internet, creating the world’s greatest platform for economic growth and social change. Policymakers can facilitate further evolution along this path by interacting with open Internet standards bodies, such as the IETF.

The Internet Society brings policymakers to IETF meetings to facilitate exchanges between policymakers and IETF participants in an environment that supports dialogue, information sharing, and problem solving. The programme also provides an opportunity for the IETF to gain a better understanding of policy concerns and priorities.

Remote Engagement Hubs

The Fellowship and Policymakers programmes provide very high quality interaction, but can only involve a limited number of people. To meet the demand for greater involvement beyond the IETF meetings, the Internet Society holds an introductory auxiliary meeting at the same time as each IETF meeting. An IETF meeting in Europe might have a Hub meeting in South Africa, for example. Participants may include engineers, policymakers, academicians, and business people.

Remote Engagement Hub meetings help acquaint those who are new to the IETF process with how the organization works and how they can become involved. Hub meetings include:

- Live audio feed of the IETF working group meetings and broadcasts of plenary sessions
- A facilitated collaborative leadership exchange
- Deep dive discussions, so those already familiar with the IETF can learn the logistics of remote participation and engage more fully on a regular basis
- Discussions lead by locally based, former Internet Society Fellows to the IETF, to demystify open standards and multi-stakeholder approaches.

The primary focus of the Hubs is on broadening engagement and participation in the IETF.



Outreach on IETF and Open Standards

The Internet Society's efforts to raise awareness of, and encourage participation in the IETF also include these outreach initiatives:

- **A speakers' network:** Leveraging our network of past Fellows to the IETF, we find local speakers, solidifying the idea that participation in the IETF isn't just for a small subset of engineers.
- **The USTTI workshop:** The Internet Society has partnered with the US Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) to create a workshop covering the Internet ecosystem, the IETF, and how to participate.
- **Media development:** Targeted to everyday web users, this includes development of short videos (available on YouTube and via other channels) and interactive online presentations on topics such as the IETF, open Internet standards, and protecting your online persona.

“My attendance at the IETF 84 will help me in my future work at the .MN Registry and in activities for the Mongolian Internet communities on security and Internet resource management for IPv6”.

Baasansuren Burmaa
Returning Fellow to the IETF, Mongolia

How Can Being a Sponsor Benefit my Organization?

By sponsoring the programmes of the Internet Society in support of the IETF, your company can associate itself with the cause of development in the emerging economies, and position itself to take a role in those economies. As a sponsor, you can:

- Gain access to new engineering talent around the globe
- Demonstrate your commitment to building technical capacity in less developed regions
- Show your support for extending participation in the IETF to developing countries
- Build contacts with technologists and potential regional leaders who are highly knowledgeable about conditions in developing countries
- Gain insight into the issues that are important to people who are building-out the Internet infrastructure in developing economies, and reach their professional networks
- Put your company's name in front of thousands of Internet engineers from around the world

Sponsoring organizations also benefit from a variety of opportunities for publicity within a global pool of thousands of network engineers and participants in related fields; contact us for more information.

Become a Programme Sponsor

To learn more about sponsoring the Internet Society's Leadership Development / Open Internet Standards programmes for the IETF, please email us at sponsorship@internetsociety.org.





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