

Partnership to grow Internet information in African nations

Increasing awareness about Internet Governance issues and working together on the development and growth of the Internet in Africa are part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the African Telecommunications Union (ATU).

By [HANA Reporter](#) 19 Nov 2007

"It is clear there are issues where we can accomplish so much more by working together - even is as simple a step as sharing information can have a large benefit for both sides in this MoU," said Dr Paul Twomey, ICANN's President and CEO. "The Internet is all about sharing ideas and information - and this MoU is signed in that spirit."

The MoU is based on a number of common goals, including:

- That there is a need for increased awareness of African policy makers and regulators on issues related to Internet governance;
- That there is a need to increase understanding and to build the capacity of African policy makers and regulators on Internet technical and policy issues;
- That there is a need to strengthen the communication channel with African policy makers and regulators in order to disseminate information on issues related to Internet Governance;
- That African governments should play an appropriate role in Internet governance at national, regional and international levels;
- That African governments should set appropriate frameworks for public policy issues related to Internet governance with the objective to promote the development and the growth of the Internet in the African region.

"ATU is the leading continental organisation fostering the development of information and communication technologies infrastructure and services, and as such we are looking for partnerships that help us advance the interests of our members at global decision-making fora like ICANN," said Akossi Akossi, Secretary General of the African Telecommunications Union.

ICANN and the ATU have agreed to:

- Regularly exchange information and material related to Internet governance issues.
- To organise, as often as possible, joint workshops and seminars for the purpose of disseminating information and increasing the understanding of African policy makers and regulators on issues related to Internet governance.
- To co-operate as far as reasonably possible in matters relating to the development and the growth of the Internet in the African region with a view to fostering involvement of appropriate policies and regulations by exchanging experience and relevant material.

A copy of the signed MOU will be posted soon at: <http://icann.org/>

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