

**Icann Legon introduction**  
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In the olden days, not that old, the public had to queue at central Accra GPO in order to make phone calls or send cable

There were very few subscriber lines, few international circuits which were always busy. Busy tone was normal

The reason was that we were inefficient in using the available circuits by allocating whole circuits for the duration of whole call even if silent

Internet made it possible to remove this inefficiency by allowing circuits to be shared amongst users at level of pieces of conversations mixed together

The internet is able to chop up information into smaller pieces called packets, send them over these circuits we call links and reassemble the message and deliver to the destination. On the journey to the destination your packets are mixed with others going different places realizing tremendous efficiencies

Internet is defined as a global communication system with accompanying information resources. The internet first arrived in Ghana end of 1993

Thus we can communicate with anyone anywhere on the globe if they are on the internet and want to communicate with you

Likewise one can access any information resource on the global internet if they are public or if have credentials for the private resource

How the equipment know where to send packets or how a user of the internet can name what information resources they interested in, is by “identifiers”

Machines speak on the internet using IP numbers and normally humans speak using domain names

There’s a whole set of communities, an ecosystem, that evolve these identifiers and other related services. You’ll hear about these technical institutions and some of what they do in presentations today

There are multiple core institutions in this ecosystem who all share open processes and an inclusive approach to decision making referred to as multi stakeholder bottom up process. At the global level the main institutions include standards development, ietf; internet society which houses ietf, educates on internet issues and influences policies to be favorable to internet; and iana that maintains global registry of numbers, names and protocols in support of standards; ICANN which ensures stability of the internet name to number translation system called DNS; and the regional number allocation organizations known as regional internet registries (RIR)

I served on the board of ICANN from 2000 to 2003

One of the RIRs, Afrinic, serves the Africa region and ensures unique numbers assignments to operators in the region

In 1998, VP, icann organized an Internet Governance meeting in Cotonou, Benin to discuss how Africa would get involved in the global changes occurring during formation of icann. At the meeting we defined a number of technical institutions we called Af\*. Principal among them was Afrinic which finally got established in 2004. Other institutions included AfNOG, AfTLD, RENAfrica, AfRegistrar, AfricaCert and others

Multi stakeholder approach we share is dictated by the structure of the internet. Inter networks. Imagine we all own our networks and thus determined our own

policies then its inevitable that to create a shared infrastructure we must talk, we must coordinate. Hence, no one can hide in their closet and dictate a policy to affect all of us. It simply will not work. Hence we all must get involved and find a way to contribute but we should stick to our roles as civil society, private sector, governments, technical community and academia

Ghana...

In the recent world intellectual property organization (wipo.int), global innovation 2019 index rankings, the first African country on list, South Africa, ranked 63 with Ghana at 106 out of 129 economies assessed. These 129 economies covered 91.8% of world population and 96.8% of worlds GDP

Internet penetration at December 2018 is 53.7% for South Africa and is 33.69% for Ghana

The number of identifiers we call IPv4 of size /32 per user and GDP varies widely. for the highest ranked African economy, South Africa, are 0.840 and 0.510. while that of Ghana are 0.167 and 0.075. That is for the core network

Recent data for country code TLD shows that South Africa (.za) has 1,152,912 names; Ghana (.gh) has 2,645 names. The GH Registry is in transition to be operated by government GDNR

The multi stakeholder approach thrives when participation is high. When this fails it's easy for the process to be captured by

a handful of players. They can make decisions and impose on community. We should therefore see our participation as essential for the success of the Internet

Let's Get involved...

Thank you