Annual Report 2024 Dynamic Coalition of Schools of Internet Governance

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New SIGS

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During 2024 the number of Schools of Internet Governance (SIGs) continued to grow. Some of the new schools joining the DC SIG throughout the year 2024; include:

- Salerno Winter School on Internet Governance (SWING)
- Summer School on Internet Governance and International Law (SSIGIL)
- Lanka School on Internet Governance (LKSIG)
- Ecole sur la gouvernance de l'Internet en RDC (CdSIG)
- Chile School of Internet Governance "Internet Governance and International Relations", University of Chile.

Projects

• Fundraising

Since the beginning of the DC SIG the costs for running the DC SIG have been carried almost exclusively by Medienstadt Leipzig. This has included; basic secretariat services, including support of the DC website and wiki, providing zoom meetings, support for the coordinator, and other expenses. A single SIG could not continue to support the DC SIG on their own. After discussion in the DC, and with the consensus of the DC SIG, an application was made to the Internet Society by Medienstadt Leipzig. This was successful and resulted in funding for 18 months of assorted secretarial support services.

• The website

The DC SIG Secretariat followed the development of all tools used to provide the DC SIG Web infrastructure and integrated necessary updates for the ongoing maintenance of the installations, including all plug-ins and the wiki.

• Doing session merge for IGF 2024

This turned out to be a very time consuming task in that we felt that the SIG's, which strive for a goal of sustainable education in Internet Governance, did not seem a good fit with any of the specific issue DCs. Attempting to find one was a very time consuming effort.

In the end, a merge was found with DC on the Universal Internet Indicators. This was a wonderful fit between the goals of the two. In the end, the effort was worth it as there were paths toward cooperating with the other DCs whenever Capacity Building was among the methods to be used to achieve their particular goals on issues.

• What does it mean to be a SIG

A question that pends over the DC is a delineation for schools. Up to now the view has been that if an activity calls itself a School on Internet Governance (SIG), the DC includes this initiative in the wiki (https://www.igschools.net/mw-sig/wiki/Main_Page). A set of questions to be answered was agreed among members of the DC some years ago. One minimum criteria is to have a website. (https://www.igschools.net/sig/sig/entry-form-for-schools/). Meanwhile all sorts of initiatives that have a digital focus and want to register as an SIG, but many times it is not clear to which extent the curriculum is about Internet Governance. As part of the fundraising and other activities, like the web listings, it has become important to delve deeper into the

delineation of types of schools, and when an activity is not SIG but some other sort of activity. The discussion was broached in 2024 and will continue in 2025.

IGF 2024

- Had a successful merged session with DC IUI
 - Report:

https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-dc-sig-dc-iui-schools-of-ig-and-the-int ernet-universality-indicators

• Transcript: <u>https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-day-4-workshop-room-7-dc-sig-dc-iui-schools-of-ig-and-the-internet-universality-0</u>

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• Held our yearly plenary session

Lessons learned from Best Practices

- Streaming sessions to Facebook ie NASIG
- Second course in Spanish in Cuba (NASIG)
- Offering course in multiple languages (3 for VSIG)
- Commenced translation into Urdu and Bengala VSIG
- Shared over 200 recordings of specific IG topic lectures as Youtube Playlist (VSIG)

Possible Plans for 2025

- Produce briefing on how DC can be sustained, including discussion of financing, outreach, and organization.
- Continued discussion on how to delineate a SIG.
- Continue discussion on how the DC SIG and the schools themselves can make further input to the SDGs.
- Discuss how to bring the DC SIG into line with the <u>charter</u> that has been approved for all DCs. While for the most part, the DC SIG meets those conditions there are elements that are worth reviewing on an annual basis, especially as the charter is a living document.
- How do we see schools and training in IG evolving
- Value of schools in reinforcing relevance of the multistakeholder model
- Update of existing DC SIG documents
- Financial Support for schools

Currently, each school needs to find its own financing. Often they end up approaching the same funders and end up in competition. This is unfortunate. There have been several discussions in the past of what can be done. Those need to continue and

perhaps a plan can be found. Discussions are needed on how to do fundraising appropriately and whether it is possible to work with the IGF Support Association or other funding associations on a funding plan.

Updates from some participating Schools of Internet Governance

Asia-Pacific School on Internet Governance (APSIG)

The tenth version of APSIG is being convened at Kathmandu (TBD) co-located with APrIGF in October 2025 at Kathmandu. APSIG is an Asia-Pacific initiative founded in 2015, and a roving model with different cities in each year, last years being Bangkok, Colombo, Singapore, and Taipei.

Brazilian School on Internet Governance

The Brazilian School on Internet Governance is preparing its 10th edition, that will take place from 20th to 25th of July in Sao Paulo, and for the first time will welcome three fellows from Portuguese-speaking countries, as an outcome of the agreement established last year between member countries of LUSNIC during the Lusophone Internet Governance Forum. This course is an immersive course aimed at training those who are already involved in the Internet ecosystem in some way, and has the main objective of deepening the debate on the challenges for Internet usage and development. And above all, it seeks to present different perspectives and promote multistakeholder dialogues that could contribute to building effective responses to improve the digital environment.

However, the Brazilian School on Internet Governance continues to evolve in terms of diversification of the activities offered and target audience. Through partnerships with private and public institutions, the Brazilian School has the opportunity to develop courses focused on specific themes and audiences, which allows us to encourage society's participation in the debate on Internet challenges in Brazil, as well as to expand the thematic scope and incidence of Internet Governance. In 2024, the Brazilian School led the following projects:

- 1. Mini course in partnership with the University of the State of Rio Grande do Norte on the topic: Internet and Communication: impacts of private control of the Network and online cultural diversity
- A study group with leaders of Quilombola, indigenous and peripheral communities and mini course in partnership with Institute for Research on Internet & Society (IRIS) on the topic: Internet Governance and Social Participation: How to Strengthen Community Representation
- 3. A mini course in partnership with University of Brasília and the National School of Public Administration (Enap) on the topic: Internet, Democracy and the Transformation of Political Participation.

4. Research Group in partnership with the University of International Integration of Afro-Brazilian Lusophony (UNILAB) on Internet Governance.

The Brazilian School also conducted a pilot project with public High School students which aimed to develop the autonomy of young people in the use of the Internet, thus contributing to their critical capacity to decide how they want to participate in the worldwide network of people mediated by computers and how they can benefit from it.

Finally, the Brazilian School on Internet Governance will launch a global board game on themes related to Internet Governance and the Multistakeholder Model. Named as "Confluence", this interactive game was designed in 2024 with the support of the alumni community of the Brazilian School on Internet Governance.

Chile School of Internet Governance "Internet Governance and International Relations"

This school has been recently added to the DC SIG. It is a joint initiative organized by the Institute of International Studies of the University of Chile, in partnership with NIC Chile (ccTLD .CL). For the first time in the country, it introduced an academic experience on Internet Governance within the framework of the University of Chile's 2023 Winter School, offering the course "Internet Governance and International Relations: regimes, trade agreements, and global foresight" The course features distinguished speakers from leading institutions in the multistakeholder Internet ecosystem (ICANN, CETyS, Internet Society, Derechos Digitales, LACNIC, LACTLD, ECLAC, among others).

The course has continued to be offered during the Summer and Winter Schools of the Institute of International Studies (IEI), gaining greater visibility and reaching broader audiences. In its 2024 Winter edition, 25 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru received scholarships to take the course free of charge.

In terms of community engagement and outreach, the School has also been implemented within the country's public sector, delivering adapted versions of the course to officials of the Chilean Foreign Service (including diplomats and staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile), as well as to students from the "Andrés Bello" Diplomatic Academy.

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European Summer School on Internet Governance (EuroSSIG)

The EuroSSIG 2024 edition was once again a very dynamic and intensive encounter, not only for the fellows, but also the interaction with the faculty and the organisers was an enrichment. How the fellows rate our programme is summarised in the fellows' reports: https://eurossig.eu/eurossig/summer-school-impressions/fellows-reports/

We are preparing now for the 19th edition, taking place in the last week of July 2025 in Meissen / Germany. Again we are inviting 30 fellows from across the world, all stakeholder groups and all ages. However, the target group is people with an academic degree, master level students or relevant practical experiences.

EuroSSIG has become a place for mid-career education. Besides the basic knowledge transfer on the structure of the IG ecosystem, technical issues, security and human rights we contribute with our practicum to ongoing global IG processes and look into emerging technologies.

We are also putting effort in building an EuroSSIG alumni network with regular virtual and in-person meetings and we are preparing for our 20th anniversary in 2026, where we would like to organise an activity for alumni's, faculty and supporters of EuroSSIG in Meissen.

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Ghana school on internet Governance (GhanaSIG)

The Ghana School on Internet Governance (GhanaSIG) is an annual fellowship and non-academic event organised by the <u>E-Governance and Internet Governance Foundation for</u> <u>Africa</u> (EGIGFA).

The aim of the <u>GhanaSIG</u> is to create an avenue for people from diverse sectors and backgrounds to acquire the requisite skills in order to participate meaningfully to Internet Governance discourse at the local, national, regional and the international levels.

The programme continues to unearth and raise new global Internet governance participants who are making meaningful impacts in the ecosystem. The fellowship specifically examines global Internet Governance issues by taking into consideration its bearing on local and regional contexts in Ghana and Africa. Whilst the programme targets people from Ghana, we have participants from other countries who come and learn our processes and procedures to deepen their experience.

GhanaSIG 2024 commemorated our 5th year of existence and the celebration of fellows who are making various strides in the ecosystem. The event has seen a phenomenal improvement in women's enrollment. It has equally gained traction for individuals who would like to further their participation in global discourse.

The opening of GhanaSIG 2025 application has garnered over 400 applications out of which 50 people will be selected for the next stage. The 50 will be made up of 40 Ghanaian applicants and 10 foreigners. Ghana SIG is a hybrid event with one month of online learning sessions scheduled for 28th April, 2025 and this will be followed by a one week face-to-face session from the 1st to 4th July 2025.

Conclusion

GhanaSIG currently remains one of the most active SIGS in Ghana that thoroughly trains the fellows and fully equips them with the skills to participate in IG issues. They are equally encouraged to volunteer at the slightest opportunity. Our mode of teaching and learning has confidently allowed the fellows to find their feet in ISOC SIGS and ICANN all over.

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India School on Internet Governance (inSIG)

inSIG was founded in 2016 with the tenth edition being organized in 2025 in Gujarat (TBD). Previous editions were held in Hyderabad, Trivandrum, New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, and Bangalore.

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School on Internet Governance Japan

Introduction

SIG Japan was established on the occasion of IGF 2023 Kyoto, with its secretariat hosted by KCG.edu. As the registry operator for the ".kyoto" gTLD, KCG.edu is committed to internet governance and aims to contribute to a safe and secure cyberspace that supports the local economy.

2024 Edition Highlights

In the first half of FY2024, SIG Japan organized a three-part online seminar series titled "<u>Domain Business Study Group</u>", consisting of 90-minute online lectures held monthly from June to August. The series attracted considerable attention beyond the university, drawing 35 participants, including professionals from both industry and academia. The lectures covered a wide range of topics, from fundamental knowledge for newcomers to the domain name business to the latest developments in top-level domain (TLD) policies.

The series also featured discussions on the role of civil society in internet governance, reflecting on the multi-stakeholder approach emphasized at the UN IGF and further elaborated at the

international *NetMundial* meeting held in Brazil. Experts shared insights on issues such as the latest ICANN developments regarding new gTLDs and domain name management challenges.

In January 2025, SIG Japan, in collaboration with Center for International Economic Collaboration (CFIEC), <u>hosted another online seminar</u> focused on understanding the current status and discussions around the Global Digital Compact. The seminar was conducted in a hybrid format, with participation from both university students and online attendees.

Beyond its seminar series, SIG Japan also functions as a flexible platform for addressing ad hoc needs in the field of Internet governance, which are often underrepresented in formal education. As an example, in January 2025, a discussion session was organized in Tokyo, bringing together representatives from AFNIC and the Japanese IGF community to share insights and perspectives.

2025 Edition Preparations

To empower young people and enhance their foundational understanding of Internet governance, SIG Japan plans to organize a seminar on digital well-being and literacy at the end of May. Building on interactions at NetMundial+10, this seminar aims to facilitate understanding among international and Japanese youth, including international students, on how to critically engage with the use and design of social media, while anticipating policy implications. SIG Japan will continue to contribute to the strengthening of the Japanese IGF community and will further enhance its collaboration with domestic and international stakeholders, following up on the efforts made last year.

Nigeria School on Internet Governance

Progress and Preparations for the 2025 Edition

Introduction

The Nigerian School on Internet Governance (SIG) continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of internet governance in Nigeria. Building on the remarkable success of the 2024 edition, the SIG is making proactive strides toward the 2025 edition, reinforcing its commitment to developing leaders who will drive Nigeria's digital future.

2024 Edition Highlights

The 5th edition of the Nigeria SIG, hosted at the University of Port Harcourt's Centre for Information and Telecommunication Engineering, was a resounding success. Under the leadership of Engr. Kunle Olorundare, the program provided an exceptional training experience to 100 participants, all of whom graduated with distinction. These graduates exemplified academic excellence and outstanding character, setting a high benchmark for future editions. Impact and Graduate Contributions

The 2024 graduates have made significant contributions to the internet governance landscape, emerging as trailblazers in various areas:

- Cybersecurity Special Interest Group Leadership: Graduates are leading initiatives within Special Interest Groups focused on cybersecurity.
- Advocacy for Online Safety: Many have become influential speakers and advocates, promoting safer digital spaces.
- Policy Influence: Alumni are actively shaping internet policy through ICANN's Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group and end-user experience projects.
- Community Engagement: They are contributing to Communities of Practice (COP) dedicated to online safety.
- Global Recognition: One graduate showcased the program's caliber by presenting at the prestigious Mobile World Congress 2025, on : "Transforming Telco- Role of Technology and Diversity".

These achievements highlight the SIG's success in cultivating proactive leaders who are driving meaningful change in the digital sphere.

Website

For more information on the 2024 edition, including team details, visit: <u>https://2024.sig.ng/teams/</u>.

2025 Edition Preparations

Preparations for the 6th edition of the Nigeria SIG in 2025 are well underway. Building on the momentum of 2024, the upcoming program aims to be even more comprehensive and impactful, further strengthening Nigeria's position in the global digital ecosystem. Additional details will be announced as the plans progress.

Conclusion

The Nigeria SIG remains a cornerstone in developing the next generation of internet governance leaders in Nigeria. The success of the 2024 edition, coupled with the ongoing contributions of its graduates, underscores the program's effectiveness. We eagerly anticipate the 2025 edition, which promises to further elevate Nigeria's role in the digital world.

North American School of Internet Governance (NASIG)

The North American School of Internet Governance (NASIG 2024), taking place from February 28 to March 1 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, gathered experts, professionals, and students to discuss critical issues surrounding Internet governance. In conjunction with EDP University, this three-day event centered on the themes of "Truth, Trust, and Hope," examining the challenges and opportunities present in today's digital world. Participants deliberated on the evolution of the Internet, data privacy, cybersecurity, online disinformation, and the significance of cross-sector collaboration in promoting a more inclusive and secure online environment.

A key aspect of NASIG 2024 was the involvement of engineers from the College of Professional Engineers (CIAPR), who earned academic credits for their participation. This collaboration reflected the event's commitment to integrating academic learning with real-world Internet governance issues. The event provided a platform for participants to explore the ethical, legal, and technical aspects of Internet governance while fostering new perspectives on shaping the future of the digital landscape. NASIG 2024 highlighted the critical role of education and collaboration in addressing the complexities of the global digital economy and governance.

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South School on Internet Governance (SSIG)

The SSIG will host its 17th edition in 2025 in Mexico City.

SSIG is proud to announce that the WSIS Forum of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) awarded the WSIS Prize to the SSIG in the category "International and Regional Cooperation".

In 2022 the SSIG was awarded with the WSIS Champion 2022 recognition for its dedication to Internet training in developing countries.

The 2024 edition hosted 150 fellows on site and 200 virtual fellows, all activities were available in Spanish, English and the pre-training course also in Portuguese language. University of Mendoza provides fellows with a platform where they can access the contents in the three languages and see videos, do the evaluations and interact among them. The same platform is used during the one week hybrid event and after that for the research phase to obtain a diploma in Internet Governance and Regulations.

The SSIG has evolved from a one week onsite training in two languages (2009) to a six month training program in hybrid format with content in three languages, receiving fellows from the five continents from all over the world, with the possibility of obtain a University Diploma.

No payment is needed to participate in the SSIG and most of the onsite fellows receive hotel and meals.

All contents are available in the <u>YouTube Channel</u> and in the <u>SSIG website</u>. SSIG has published the book "Internet Governance and Regulations in Latin America" available online in <u>Spanish</u>, <u>English</u> and <u>Portuguese</u> languages, free for the community at <u>www.gobernanzainternet.org</u>