

Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance

25-29 May 2015

Regency Tunis Hotel

Tunis, Tunisia

Call for Attendance

Introduction

The Internet is a fundamental component of economic, social, and political life around the world. It currently connects more than three billion people, and it is estimated that 50 billion devices will be connected to the Internet by 2020. The stable and flexible functioning of the Internet is increasingly important for developed, emerging, and developing countries and their citizens.

The governance of this ecosystem has long been the concern of a selected group of stakeholders, but the number of interested parties, both state and non-state stakeholders, is increasing as global connectivity spreads. Internet Governance is a contested topic, where the *Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG)* will try to offer understanding, framing, and actions to be taken in this Internet governance current environment. It will offer potential governance scenarios and analyse its international, regional and national political, economical and technical implications.

Objective

As part of the ICANN Middle East Strategy derived from the Middle East Strategy Working Group ([MESWG](#)), ICANN in collaboration with national and regional partners, aims at developing and sponsoring outreach programs and initiatives in order to stimulate the Arab regional Internet community and ensure effective participation in regional and global Internet Governance fora.

The *MEAC-SIG* will help individuals from the Middle East and Adjoining Countries¹ to better understand the global and regional Internet Governance issues, settings and processes while gaining access to comprehensive and structured knowledge on the various aspects of Internet Governance, and the actors, issues and settings surrounding it.

Venue

The Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG) 2015 in its 2nd edition will be held on 25-29 May 2015 in Tunis, Tunisia. This annual five-day event will be comprised of focused sessions on Internet Governance and related topics tailored to fit the region's needs, covering a broad range of issues from technical to policy aspects.

¹ The MEAC Region covers the 22 Arab States, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

Format

The MEAC-SIG will offer a 5-day intensive learning course spanning five tracks. The course will cover the political, legal, economic, socio-cultural, technological and other dimensions of the Internet Governance (e.g. academia and research) within the context of the MEAC regional imperatives. The program is expected to carry practical oriented workshops, round tables and case presentations.

You can learn more about the inaugural edition of this school at <https://community.icann.org/display/MES/MEAC-SIG+2014>.

Target Audience

We are inviting Academia and Research, Civil Society and NGOs, Government and Public Sector, Technical Community, in addition to the Private Sector and Businesses from the Middle East and Adjoining Countries to take this unique opportunity to attend taking into consideration the limited seats available.

Future Aspects

The MEAC-SIG program intends to continue community development by creating an alumni network and have students engage in ICANN, ISOC, IGF, Arab IGF and other relevant regional activities and fora. Those involved will ensure that the MEAC-SIG program is rotated on yearly basis to various countries of the region.

Fellowships

There is a limited amount of funding to cover travel costs of a limited number of attendees. The fellowship package will include the following:

- Return economy class airfare;
- Hotel accommodation for the duration of the event; and
- A flat stipend to cover incidental costs.

Applications will be evaluated by a steering committee, and successful candidates will be contacted to initiate next steps.

How to Apply?

Whether applying to attend via your own source of funding or applying for a fellowship seat, please read the Terms and Conditions on the next page, fill out the application form and send it back to meswg@icann.org.

Terms and Conditions

1. The applicant must be above the age of 18 years.
2. The applicant must be a citizen of the MEAC region as specified in the footnote on page 1. Applications from outside of the MEAC region will not be considered. Preference will be given to citizens of developing and least-developed countries.
3. All fields within the application form are mandatory. Applications with missing fields will not be considered.
4. In addition to the application form, all applicants have to submit:
 - a. A 500 word Statement of Interest in Arabic or in English answering why they should be considered for the school, and what their views are about Internet Governance;
 - b. Submit a recommendation letter of support from their organization, company or department confirming that they are allowed to attend the MEAC-SIG and will have the necessary leave sanctioned; and
 - c. A clear colour copy of the applicant's passport information page, as well as any renewal pages.
5. Successful fellows will have their travel logistics taken care of by the organizers of the event.
6. Selected attendees and successful fellows are expected to attend the entire 5-day event and any social activities.
7. All attendees; whether fellows or non-fellows, are expected to report on the event within 2 weeks from the end of it. The report must explain the fellow's experience attending the MEAC-SIG, and how they will use the knowledge gained to benefit their local community.

Full Name		
Nationality		
Passport Number		
Passport Issue Date		
Passport Expiry Date		
Mobile Number		
Email ID		
Stakeholder Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Academia and Research	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Society and NGOs
	<input type="checkbox"/> Government and Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical Community
	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Sector and Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Intergovernmental Organization
How are you Funding Your Self?	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Fellowship	
Experience in areas related to Internet Governance and Development		
What plans do you have for your local community or stakeholder group after attending the MEAC-SIG		