

Report on WS212: Promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the Global South

Session Title	WS212: Promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the Global South
Date	9th December 2016
Time	9.00am to 10.30 am
Session Organizer	Mwendwa Kivuva, Project Manager, AFRINIC Vymala Thuron, External Relation, AFRINIC
Chair/Moderator	Kevon Swift, Head of Strategic relationships and Integration, LACNIC
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Mohit Saraswat, Senior Manager - IT Infrastructure at Pepsico (UAE), and ISOC UAE Chapter.
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Cadena, Sylvia: Head of Programs, APNIC Foundation. Caeiro, Carolina: Coordinator of Development Projects, LACNIC Dogniez, Joyce: Senior Director, Global Engagement, Internet Society Kukubo, Paul: Board Member, Communications Authority of Kenya. Sergio Ariza, Social Tech, Mexico
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	No presentations
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	Kevon Swift provided the background to the session by mentioning that the central concepts behind Innovation and entrepreneurship are Value and Risk. He emphasized that the innovation takes care of the value creation for the public benefits, at the same time managing risks for the things without a precedent. In order to start the discussion, he requested the panel members to share their thoughts and experience around

Challenge and Opportunity within the space along with mentioning the key success factor and the metrics.

Senior Director of Global Engagement at Internet Society (ISOC), **Joyce Dogniez**, quoted that ISOC has “Innovation is in our spirit”. She provided cases from India and Kenya such as Ushahidi and Brck and reinforced a thought that the innovation and entrepreneurship is surging in the Global south. She mentioned that Knowledge, Education and Research and availability of enough capacity networks of entrepreneur as the three main challenges that are affecting innovation in the global south. She maintained that creating a sustainable policy environment, frameworks, and Investment enabling environment is critical for addressing these challenges. She gave an example of a project from Buenos Aires where visually disabled community have a digitized library where they utilize the internet for fundraising and mobilising community volunteers for their work.

Carolina Caeiro, LACNIC's Coordinator of Development Projects-FRIDA program, provided the background on the programs currently undertaken by SEED alliance and FRIDA program. She emphasized on the use of technology not as a final product but as an enabler for the community work. She presented the case of SEED Alliance winners for 2016, which included Agrinet (Farm Management solution) and Mexicoleaks (Safe and secure platform to share information online and also encourage civic participation). She asked for a need to improve the current process of traversing the landscape of funding and investors, as this currently leaves the entrepreneurs lost.

Former Chief Executive of the Kenya ICT Board, **Paul Kukubo**, started the conversation by saying that “Policymakers and entrepreneurs do not live in the same worlds mentally, as entrepreneur do not understand frameworks, while policy makers cannot live without it”. He claimed that in the Global south the barrier for the entry is not high anymore, however the barrier to sustainability is still a challenge that need to be addressed.

Sylvia Cadena, Head of Program, APNIC mentioned that the biggest challenge in the current entrepreneurship space that we are still working on the assumptions for innovation, rather we

	<p>should move towards more soul searching and analysis. She explained the challenges faced by the internet community in the pacific islands, where they do not have access to “Paypal payment” due to restriction as per the money laundering regulations. She requested the entrepreneurs considering an advice from her grandmother “Not good to have only Plan B but plan for plan Z-260”</p> <p>Sergio Ariza, representing Social Tech, NGO based in Mexico City, presented cases from the latin America where ICT is being utilized to enable civic participation, bringing transparency in the government processes etc. He called for an update in ICT policy for mexico that is considered outdated and document in the “last century”.</p>
<p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>I noted remarks made by Mr Paul Kukubo, who sits at Communication Authority of Kenya Board, that policymakers and entrepreneurs do not mentally live in the same world, as entrepreneurs, and they do not understand frameworks, while policy makers do not understand the needs of entrepreneurs and innovators. He claimed that in the global south the barriers to entry are not high anymore, however the barriers to sustainability are still a challenge that need to be addressed. He added that in the global south not many businesses have the ‘DNA’ or perspective to scale. Most are satisfied by breaking even.</p> <p>The session was graced by the presence of Vinton Cerf, Google Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist. Mr. Vinton brought up the point of identify the true entrepreneurs so that much can be invested on them. He said that the measure of success of start up ought not be how many starts up start but rather how many start ups actually survive. He also asked the different programs that support entrepreneurs to come up with statistics of success and failure rates.</p>

Observation:

The room allocated was very small, some participants had to sit outside. Total turnout was about 50 participants. We had to change the workshop format because the room could not allow breakout sessions. The session interested very many participants. We should continue the same discussion in the next IGF in 2017, and get a bigger room, probably the Plenary, and have 2 hours allotted.

Gender composition of participants:

Estimated participants: 50

Estimated overall number of women present: 20

The session did not deal with gender issues per say, but dealt with global issues facing innovators and entrepreneurs without considering the gender.

1. Mwendwa Kivuva, Project Manager, AFRINIC - Male
2. Vymala Thuron, External Relation, AFRINIC - Female
3. Kevon Swift, Head of Strategic relationships and Integration, LACNIC - Male
4. Mohit Saraswat, Senior Manager - ISOC UAE Chapter - Male
5. Cadena, Sylvia: Head of Programs, APNIC Foundation - Female
6. Caeiro, Carolina: Coordinator of Development Projects, LACNIC - Female
7. Dogniez, Joyce: Senior Director, Global Engagement, Internet Society - Female
8. Kukubo, Paul: Board Member, Communications Authority of Kenya - Male
9. Sergio Ariza, Social Tech, Mexico - Male