



Cameroon Chapter



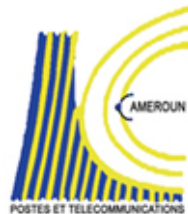
**KICK-OFF CONFERENCE  
OF  
THE INTERNET SOCIETY CAMEROON CHAPTER  
(ISOC CAMEROON CHAPTER).**

November 18th 2011, Hilton Hotel Yaounde, Cameroon

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**REPORT**

The energy was palpable at the Kick-Off Conference of the Internet Society Cameroon Chapter ([www.isoc-cameroon.org](http://www.isoc-cameroon.org)) at the Bouma C lobby of the Hilton Hotel in Yaounde Cameroon, the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011. There was a decent turnout, but we were stunned by the 70+ in attendance! We were also impressed by the female / male ratio. We had a good mix of students, IT professionals, Civil Society, government representatives and private sector.

Placed under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre BIYITI Bi ESSAM, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon ([www.minpostel.gov.cm](http://www.minpostel.gov.cm)) with the financial support of The Internet Society ([www.internetociety.org](http://www.internetociety.org)), the event was aimed at informing the government and the public at large of the rejuvenation of the Internet Society Cameroon Chapter, the mission of the Internet society and the opportunities for Cameroon to be part of this international organization. The last but not least objective of the kick-off conference was to attract and recruit new members for the young Chapter.

This colorful event was chaired by Dr. Ebot Ebot ENAW, the Director General of ANTIC (National Agency for Information and Communication Technology – [www.antic.cm](http://www.antic.cm)), representant of H.E. Mr. Jean Pierre BIYITI Bi ESSAM, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon with Pierre Ewodo (ISOC Cameroon Chapter vice chair) as moderator in the distinguished presence of Dr. Dawit Bekele, Regional Bureau Director for Africa of the Internet Society, Mr. Raphael NLEND, Director of Planning and development of Posts and Telecommunications in the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication of Cameroon officially represent the ministry and Janvier Ngnoulaye (ISOC Cameroon Chapter Chair).

With the stage set for the event, Janvier Ngnoulaye took the floor to officially welcome the participants and gave a brief overview of the “fight” to rejuvenate the Cameroon Chapter. He globally presented the advantages of having a chapter in Cameroon and some of the challenges that await the Chapter in the long run. He invited all members and would be members of ISOC Cameroon Chapter to be ready to commit a great deal of their time to ISOC.

Next to take centre stage was the address of the director of Africa Bureau of ISOC-Dawit Bekele. The Director in slightly above an hour presented in detail the mission and goals of ISOC and also on the opportunities for Cameroon having a chapter. He also presented the "Next Generation Leaders" program of ISOC and invited young men to seize the opportunities when the time comes. He concluded by presenting some examples of funded projects in Africa by the Internet Society.

The Director of Infrastructure and Projects of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of Cameroon on behalf of his ministry gave a presentation with the theme “Multipurpose Community telecentres: Solution to the challenges of universal access in Cameroon”. These telecentres should be noted is a means by the government to increase access for all Cameroonians to the Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) and especially the rural populations. He

presented a vivid picture of how the government plans to increase access for all Cameroonians. He concluded by citing examples of areas where the telecentres are already operational in the territory.

The high point on the agenda was the speech of Dr Ebot Ebot Enaw, the Director of ANTIC (National Agency for Information and Communication Technology) of Cameroon. In a few words thanked all those who worked for the success of Internet Society Cameroon Chapter and promised the full support of the government and the organization which he heads. We also appreciate the distinguished presence Mr. Jean-Jacques Massima-Landji, Chief of ITU bureau in Central Africa.

After all those interesting opening remarks and presentations, we directly move to the second and last phase of the kick-off conference. This phase consisted of the distribution of ISOC marketing materials, networking among participants, interviews with journalists, information and recruitment of new members and the memories pictures.

The Kick-off Conference ended with cocktail offered by the Internet Society Cameroon Chapter and special thanks to the Internet Society, the main sponsor of the event and to all other local sponsors.

The organization of this Kick-Off Conference meets all our expectations and gives us a clear view of the bright future of the Internet Society in Cameroon. The best is still to come for ISOC Cameroon Chapter.

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**A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS!**

**WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE SOME PICTURES OF THE EVENT OF YOU...**



*The Bouma C conference hall of the Hilton Hotel set for the event...*



*Panelists...*



*Welcome message by Pierre Ewodo (ISOC Cameroon Chapter Vice-President)*





*Attendees...*



*Interviews with Journalist: Who is Internet society? And What does it do? Why Its mission is important?*



*Family's pictures... A cross section of ISOC Cameroon Chapter board, Dr. Dawit Bekele, Director ISOC Africa Regional Bure, Cameroon's officials (Dr. Ebot Ebot Enaw, Director General of ANTIC) and other conference participants.*



*Informing and recruiting new members and volunteers for the Chapter.*



*Distribution of ISOC's marketing materials.*



*Networking...*



*Dr. Janvier Ngnoulaye explaining why ISOC is?*



*Dawit Bekele with Jean-Jacques Massima-Landji of ITU*



*Mr. Nlend of Minpostel listening to Dawit Bekele of ISOC*





Some printing materials for the event.



We need more girls in Internet Technical Structure like [IETF](#). Girls, you are welcome!

**Thanks to all who make this Kick-Off Conference a great success!**