East African Peering and Interconnection Forum

Concept Note

By:

East African Peering and Interconnection Committee
WG5, IP Networks, Standards and Cybersecurity
East African Communication Organization - EACO

INTRODUCTION

What is EACO?

The East African Communications Organization (EACO) is a regional organization that brings together national ICT regulators, operators, services providers (in the telecommunication, broadcasting and postal sub-sectors) ICT training institutions and other stakeholders in the communication sector within Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The broad objective of EACO which was established in 2000 is to strengthen and promote cooperation among the five EAC Countries in the development and provision of postal, telecommunication and broadcasting services in East Africa and Headquartered in Kigali, Rwanda.

Working Group 5 on IP Networks, Standards, and Cyber Security

EACO has several Working Groups (WG). One of which is WG5 on IP Networks, Standards, and Cybersecurity which aims to "*Develop strategies towards keeping regional Internet traffic local within East Africa".* The complete WG5 Terms of Reference can be found here: http://www.eaco.int/index.php/working-groups-committees/typo-page/wg-5-ip-networks-standards-and-cyber-security

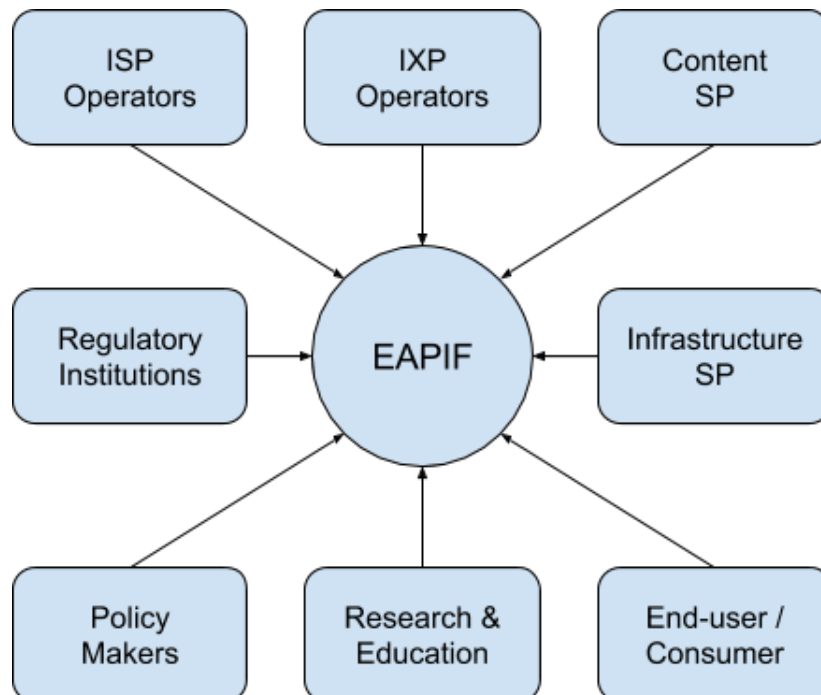This concept note focuses on ToR item #7 which aims to keep local Internet traffic within the East African region.

Problem Statement

For several years, the idea of interconnecting the Internet eXchange Points was considered the best solution for keeping local Internet within the East African region. However, this idea ultimately proved unworkable for both technical and economic reasons. After many meetings and consultations, WG5 came to the conclusion that the best approach would be best to establish a forum aimed at enabling growth in the regional peering and interconnection ecosystem through regular dialogue with Internet exchange point operators, Internet service providers, content providers, policy makers, and other key industry stakeholders.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

1. To bring together all the players and stakeholders of the Peering and Interconnection ecosystem. This includes but is not limited to:
    a. Internet Service Providers,
    b. Content Service Providers,
    c. Datacentre Service Providers,
    d. Hosting Service Providers,
    e. Regulatory Institutions,
    f. Policy makers
    g. Academia, educational institutions
    h. etc.
2. To facilitate dialogue and interaction amongst and between the stakeholders to address the peering at inter-connection opportunities and challenges in the EA region.
3. To promote peering and inter-connection best practices in the EA region.

Below is a diagram which describes the main stakeholders of the EAPIF:

THEME

"Fostering stakeholders' dialogue"

VENUE AND DATES

EAPIF shall be held back-to-back with the annual EACO Assemblies meetings in order to bring together a maximum number of participants from various sectors and industries.

EAPIF 2017 shall be held on July 24, 2017 in Kampala, Uganda.

GENERAL SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

The meeting shall have the following format:

Time slots	Activities
08:00 - 09:00	Registration of participants
09:00 - 10:00	**Session-1: Opening Session**
10:00 - 10:30	Health break
10:30 - 12:30	**Session-2: Presentations / Panel discussions (Operators)**
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:00	**Session-3: Presentation / Panel discussions (Regulators, Policymakers)**
15:00 - 15:30	Health break
15:30 - 16:45	Networking - Bilateral meetings
16:45 - 17:00	Closure
19:00	Social Event

EAPIC Organising team's: (Leaders in bold)
Programme and speaker: **Fiona**, Leonard and EACO Secretariat
Communication and promotion: **Ghislian**, Ismail and EACO Secretariat.

PROPOSED DETAILED PROGRAMME

The following gives an in depth description of the event program. It gives a description and the objectives of each Sessions.

Session - 1: Opening session

This session aims at setting up the scene, the tone, and laying the foundation of the event. It gives the main and big picture of the event. The key speakers should be well chosen to create the foundation of the day/event.

The proposed speakers:

1. EACO Executive Secretary, Mr. Hodge Semakula
2. Dr. Dawit Bekele, ISOC - Global and regional trends in the Internet ecosystem
3. UCC - Executive Director - Mr. Godfrey Mutabazi
4. Host Minister of the host country (Hon. Tumwebaze Frank).

N.B: Moderator from UCC

Session - 2: Presentations / Panel discussions (Operators)

This session is a combination of a panel discussions and presentations. The objective of the session is to establish a platform where the key stakeholders (i.e. operators) of the peering and interconnection ecosystem can discuss key issues pertaining to their respective areas/sectors. The presentations and talks can be about:

Moderator: Fiona Asonga
WG 5 overview of activities: Connie Francis - TCRA
Preamble: The status of peering and interconnection in East Africa - Ghislain EAPIC
Theme:
1. Content hosting/content distribution within the region; Zuku
2. Opportunities and challenges around terrestrial links; SEACOM, TEAMs. EaSSY

The session should mainly be composed of:
1. IXP operators; UIXP
2. Internet service providers (ISP) operators; Seacom, BSC, BBS, Roke Telecom, SMILE (need one)
3. Mobile Network operators (MNO); Safaricom, UTL, Vodafone, MTN-UG, Airtel, TiGO and EcoNET Leo.
4. Content service providers; Angani (Kenya)

5. Datacentre operators; EADC (Kenya), iColo, and Kooba.
6. Research and Education. RENU, TERNET, KENET, BERNET and RWEDNET (need one)

Session - 3: Presentations / Panel discussions (Regulators, Policy-makers)

This session is dedicated to Regulators and Policy-makers. It aims and focuses on policy and regulatory aspects in the peering and Interconnection context. It is as well a platform where key challenges can be voiced and discussed about.

Theme: Facilitating and enabling a regulatory environment for peering and interconnection.

Moderator: Michuki Mwangi, Alice Munyua, Bob Ochieng

The presentations and talks can be about:
1. EAC Cross-border interconnection regulation - EAC Presenter
2. Internet Governance models (Best practices) - ICANN Presenter

Responses from the panelists - the five respective DG's of the Regulators.

Lightning talks:
●   GSMA / GRX Presentation

Done and prepared by:

East African Peering and Interconnection Committee
EACO WG5