

**Contribution to Internet Governance Forum
Involving Multi-Stakeholders to the Global Internet Governance Process**

By Kuo-Wei Wu,
kww9@columbia.edu
Member of Executive Council,
Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC)
August 8, 2006

As long as the world is still connected by the Internet and the Internet continues to play an essential role in global communications, technology and business innovations, its relevant public policy discussions should be carried by involving as many stakeholders as possible.

The multi-stakeholder mechanism should be further strengthened and applied to the IGF discussions, so that Internet communities, civil society, businesses and individuals, along side with states or intergovernmental organizations, could be able to get more involved in the relevant process of public policy formulation. Such governance arrangements will also reflect the considerations of WSIS and WGIG, and to conform to the definition of work and functions for IGF, which is outlined in paras 73 - 79 of the Tunis Agenda.

The broad theme of openness outlined in the IGF Athens meeting lines up with the essence of the multi-stakeholder participation. Based on this principle, it is suggested that stakeholders who have interests in joining the IGF discussions, (such as participating in consultation meetings, Advisory Group meetings, and the October Athens meeting) should have the opportunity to directly express their opinions during those discussions. The features of meeting registration process and proceeding model currently applied in the ICANN and APNIC can be a good reference. Those features are open, transparent, minimum participant accreditations, and the inclusion of public sessions.

Additionally, to ensure the effectiveness of the multi-stakeholder governance model, an appropriate process or accountability mechanism need to be articulated to address diverse substantive issues and stakeholder needs. Managing distinct or even conflicting viewpoints, interests, values, cultural and political understandings will be tough challenges. However, only when multi-stakeholder participation system is established will the multilateral, transparent and democratic principles as defined in

the WSIS Geneva phase be implemented.