LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE OBSERVATORY
On 28 September, the Geneva Internet Platform launched Digital Watch observatory which is developed in partnership with the Internet Society. The GIP Digital Watch will serve diplomats and other communities by providing a concise overview of all Internet governance and digital policy issues, actors, events and digital policy processes.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL AGE
At the 30th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), the Internet was tangentially discussed as an enabler of good governance in the public service, but also as a medium for perpetuating sexual violence against children. For the latter, also in focus at the next HRC session, the shared responsibility of industry actors was stressed by HRH Queen Mathilde of Belgium.

US-CHINA CYBER ARMS DEAL?
The USA and China have agreed not to conduct, or knowingly support, cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information for commercial advantage. They have also agreed to work together, and with other nations, to promote international rules of the road for appropriate conduct in cyberspace.
The 30th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) included a panel on a human rights-based approach to good governance in the public service (24 September). In connection with the findings of the report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, the importance of using the Internet to increase transparency and access to information for better public service was underscored by Tunisia, India, and Estonia.

In a side session with HRH Queen Mathilde of Belgium on the rights of children and the elimination of online sexual violence, the shared responsibility of the Internet, telecom, financial, and tourist industries was stressed for both prevention and awareness-raising. Sexual exploitation online will also be in focus at the thematic half-day discussion dedicated to children’s rights at the next HRC session in March 2016.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) launched the 2015 edition of its Global Innovation Index, *Effective Innovation Policies for Development*, presenting mechanisms for boosting innovation through policy-making and enabling conducive environments at national level. In the survey of 141 economies based on 79 indicators, Switzerland ranks first in the world for its innovation capabilities and results, followed by the UK, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the USA. The report highlights the importance of institutions as the ‘most visible differentiator’ for innovation performance across regions, in particular for emerging economies.

Three Internet-related International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council Working Groups (CWGs) met during the week: *WG-WSIS*, International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (*CWG-Internet*), and Child Online Protection (*CWG-COP*).

*CWG-Internet* held its inaugural physical open consultation on 28 September, on the topic of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs). There was much debate about whether or not the CWG has been tasked to debate common proposals on Internet-related issues.

*WG-WSIS* had its best attended meeting in years, due to interest in the overall review of the WSIS process. Pending the outcomes of the United National General Assembly (UNGA) review in December, there was agreement to: (a) conduct consultations on how to improve the annual WSIS Forum hosted by the ITU, in conjunction with other partners; (b) discuss the outcomes of the UNGA process at the February 2016 meeting of the WG-WSIS as well as the implications of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) on the ITU’s activities related to WSIS Action Lines.

*CWG-COP* members agreed on 30 September to extend the open consultation process on a COP Framework, to be further presented for consultation at Telecom World 2015.

The policies needed for trade to flourish in the global digital economy were addressed in a number of panel discussions at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Public Forum, held in Geneva for three days from 30 September. Entitled Trade Works, the forum touched on the need to address the challenges posed by the pace at which technological advances are occurring, leaving the policy world lagging. Suggestions were made for the entrepreneurial mindset present in start-ups to be applied to diplomacy and public policy contexts.
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Visit [http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org](http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org)

Participating in Internet governance can be a daunting experience, due to its decentralised nature, diverse participants, and parallel processes. The main challenge is to provide a global space where citizens and officials can seek related information and become informed stakeholders on issues they care about.

Addressing this challenge, GIP Digital Watch provides a neutral one-stop shop for an overview of Internet-related issues, featuring both explanatory texts and live updates. The head of the GIP, Dr Jovan Kurbalija, said that 'the need for a navigation mechanism for digital policy is clear and urgent. GIP Digital Watch addresses this need. It is broad enough to provide comprehensive coverage, yet specific enough to supply detailed summaries of digital policy issues.'

This new platform draws from the strengths of its partners’ assets: the resources DiploFoundation has developed over the last 15 years, the GIP’s international reach, and the Internet Society’s network of Chapters that will help shape localised content.

The Internet Society’s president and CEO, Kathryn Brown, stressed in her opening remarks: ‘With the accelerating pace of Internet governance discussions, our community has expressed a clear call for the Internet Society to step up in developing tools to better address issues and navigate Internet governance processes. This partnership with GIP Digital Watch allows us to respond to this need, and also to involve our local Internet Society Chapters, which will, over time, enrich the platform with their knowledge of local issues, processes and participants.’

According to the Swiss Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva Ambassador Alexandre Fasel, 'GIP Digital Watch will provide a unique contribution to global digital policy by facilitating a smart interplay between traditional knowledge analysis, tested by centuries of human learning, and new forms of research based on cognitive science and big data. Ultimately, more evidence should help shape more informed policy.'

At the time of its launch, GIP Digital Watch is a rich source of policy data and evidence featuring:
- 42 digital policy issues
- 158 organisations and entities
- 335 policy instruments such as treaties and documents
- 291 events
- 1638 cross links among issues/actors/instruments/events
- 28,862 articles and documents gathered for data analysis

GIP Digital Watch also offers:
- Monthly briefings on Internet governance in Geneva/online held on the last Tuesday of every month
- Geneva Digital Watch, a monthly newsletter with a focus on Geneva digital policy developments
DEVELOPMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

Cybersecurity

The USA and China have agreed not to conduct, or knowingly support, cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information for commercial advantage. They also agreed to work together, and with other nations, to ‘promote international rules of the road for appropriate conduct in cyberspace’. During the White House summit, President Obama reiterated the USA’s readiness to impose sanctions against cyber criminals, while President Xi denied involvement of the Chinese government in espionage incidents, and called for the issue to be de-politicised and addressed through bilateral cooperation.

Cybercrime: In the Wikipedia extortion scam, rogue editors targeted small businesses and celebrities. Lizard Squad cyber-attackers disrupted the UK National Crime Agency’s website after teenagers were arrested and released on bail over an alleged Lizard Squad cyberattack.

Cyber threats are evolving, warns the US National Intelligence director: we might soon see cyber operations that will change or manipulate electronic information to compromise its integrity, instead of deleting or disrupting access to it.

Governments unanimously adopt 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), and commit to ‘significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020’ (Goal 9.d). The Internet will also be essential for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

German Foreign Minister Steinmeier: ‘The Internet is a global public good that we need to protect.’ The statement was delivered during an open business forum on ICT, technology, and foreign policy in Berlin.

As part of the WSIS+10 process, a non-paper including stakeholders’ comments was published. The ‘zero draft’ paper is expected to be published soon. Meanwhile, the Internet Society has published the WSIS+10 Matrix of countries’ positions, which summarises the positions of governments submitted during the preparatory process for the High-Level Meeting in December.

The Los Angeles face-to-face meeting of the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability triggered intense discussions with ICANN Board members on the second draft proposal for enhancing accountability.

Comments were submitted to IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination group (ICG) on the Interim Final Proposal to Transition the Stewardship of the IANA Functions. Comments were also submitted to CCWG-Accountability on its second draft proposal.

GoDaddy Inc., won a cybersquatting lawsuit brought by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences regarding 293 domain names (including academyawards.net, and oscarsredcarpet.com). The Academy failed to show that GoDaddy acted in bad faith.

ARIN, the American Registry for Internet numbers, has issued its final block of IPv4 addresses from its free pool. Will this have an impact on the rate of deployment of IPv6?

European Court of Justice advocate general Yves Bot issued a non-binding opinion in Max Schrem’s case against Facebook: A ‘deal easing the transfer of data between the United States and the EU is invalid’; ‘the surveillance carried out by the United States is mass, indiscriminate surveillance.’ Activists are proposing the International Treaty on the Right to Privacy, Protection Against Improper Surveillance, and Protection of Whistleblowers, or the ‘Snowden Treaty’, which was unveiled in New York last month.

In Thailand, a cabinet resolution unearthed by a Bangkok-based reporter, shows Thailand’s intention to create a national firewall - or a ‘single Internet gateway’. The gateway would be used ‘to control inappropriate websites and to control the flow of information into the country from overseas via the Internet.’

For more information on the IG Barometer, consult www.giplatform.org/barometer
A new US Justice Department policy will require federal law enforcement officials to obtain a warrant before using Stingray technology to surveil mobile communications. The policy does not apply to state and local agencies, or federal agencies using the device abroad.

**Net neutrality**

As predicted, several Internet service providers (ISPs) and trade organisations have filed suit against the US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to overturn the Net neutrality rules issued by the FCC in March. In response, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) is inviting network engineers and computer scientists to sign a statement for the amicus brief.

**Jurisdiction**

The French data regulator rejected Google’s appeal against the global enforcement of the right to be forgotten. Google must now comply with the formal notice or face fines.

In the Microsoft case, the US government is requesting emails from a Hotmail account hosted in Ireland over a 2013 drugs case. A jurisdiction battle has ensued: Microsoft says the US government has no authority over the data centre in Dublin; the US government says Microsoft is a US company, subject to US laws.

**E-commerce**

Google rebuffed the European Commission’s anti-trust charges as ‘unfounded’. Google’s General Counsel said that the preliminary conclusions were ‘wrong as a matter of fact, law, and economics’.

Google is accused of abusing its dominant search position in India and Russia: the US Federal Trade Commission has allegedly opened a preliminary antitrust investigation on Google over Android.

Are Uber’s drivers employees or independent contractors? A San Francisco court ruled that drivers can enter class action litigation, exposing the company to potential litigation by more than 160 000 Californian drivers. Meanwhile, the Brazilian President has called for the regulation of Uber.

The US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) is now considering Bitcoin and other virtual currencies as commodities, requiring companies to register in order to operate a trading platform for Bitcoin derivatives.

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**AHEAD IN OCTOBER**

- **1-2nd OCTOBER**
  - 6th Meeting of CWG on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (Geneva)
- **13-14th OCTOBER**
  - Council of Europe Conference on Freedom of Expression: New Battlefronts (Strasbourg)
- **17-21st OCTOBER**
  - 133rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Geneva)
- **19th OCTOBER**
  - Second WSIS+10 Informal Interactive Stakeholder Consultations (New York)
- **12-15th OCTOBER**
  - ITU Telecom World 2015 (Budapest)
- **14-16th OCTOBER**
  - CYFY 2015: India Conference on Cyber Security and Internet Governance (New Delhi)
- **18-22nd OCTOBER**
  - ICANN54 (Dublin)
- **28-30th OCTOBER**
  - 2015 World Internet Conference (Zhejiang Province, China)
The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was established in Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as a forum for multistakeholder policy dialogue to discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance. The IGF has been holding annual meetings since 2006, originally under a five-year mandate, renewed for the first time in 2010 and expected to be renewed again by the UN General Assembly in December.

Its 10th annual meeting will take place 10-13 November in João Pessoa, Brazil. The substantive agenda and programme are prepared by the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) to the UN Secretary General, taking into consideration stakeholder views. The IGF Secretariat, based in Geneva and currently led by Mr. Chengetai Masango, conducts the preparations for the annual event and assists the MAG’s work between the meetings. The Secretariat has provided valuable internships and experience for Internet governance, also experimenting with remote participation hubs as innovations.

As a platform for discussions, the IGF brings various stakeholder groups to the table as equals to exchange information and share good practices. While its outcomes are non-binding, it facilitates a common understanding of how to maximise Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges. Regional and national IGF initiatives have appeared as a result of the global process; remote participation systems are an integral part of the IGF.

Markus Kummer, a former Swiss diplomat, is one of the key figures who shaped the global debate on Internet governance (IG). Back in 2003 he headed delicate negotiations that led towards the establishment of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGI G) and subsequently the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2005. He led the IGF Secretariat before he moved to the Internet Society. Today, he is a member of the ICANN Board.

You were there when IG was shaped. How do you see it 10 years later?
Ten years in IG is like many decades in the ‘normal world’. The Internet has evolved and trebled its reach. Many services and applications that we now take for granted didn’t exist 10 years ago. Twitter, Facebook, or Skype did not exist. Today, they shape the user’s experience of the Internet. Ten years later we can say that the IG architecture we confirmed at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis has passed the test of time.

What has worked so well?
Well, WSIS confirmed that existing arrangements work well and should be dealt with by the technical community. In addition, WSIS agreed to create a new forum for policy dialogue under the UN umbrella: the IGF. This created a realistic basis for further development. Actors had a chance to voice their views. Many communities were engaged. In this process, countries also developed capacity to follow IG issues.

What did not work?
The Internet has changed and the IGF has to change and evolve. What worked in 2005 may not work anymore in 2015. In 2005 there were one billion Internet users – today there are more than three billion users. New users come mainly from developing countries, speaking different languages, and with different cultural background and expectations. This will have an impact on the evolution of the Internet as the core infrastructure of modern society. Security concerns are more explicit. The IGF has to reflect this transformation and evolve. There are expectations that it should produce more concrete outcomes.

In December at the WSIS+10 the future of the IGF will be discussed. What is your expectation?
I expect that the IGF mandate will be extended. This would reflect the broad support it acquired over the years. The IGF has become the place where governments, business, civil society, and the technical community can speak to each other and voice their concerns and, whenever possible, get answers to their questions and concerns. This role should be strengthened.

What should we do in order to have the Internet growing in the next 10 years?
We should be smart and careful in governing the Internet. There are legitimate concerns, such as security. These concerns should be addressed. At the same time, regulation should be handled with care. There is the danger and fear that hasty regulation could suffocate innovation and the future growth and evolution of the Internet.
IGF SESSION TRANSCRIPTS: BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE MODEL

Ten years since the inception of the IGF (2006-2015), and thanks to the IGF Secretariat’s good practice of storing and making publicly available the verbatim transcripts1 of the IGF sessions and workshops, significant knowledge and experience has accumulated. Prima facie, the IGF session transcripts present a set of texts, a collection of linguistic utterances, an archive, a story on the currently evolving IG debate. It will one day represent a valuable historical record of the early twenty-first century. Naturally, faced with such an archive, a future historian of the Internet would ask the question: How were these people thinking about the complex challenges that they were facing in their times?

The future historian would be faced with the challenging task of reading, analysing, categorising, and interpreting our voluminous discussions. But thanks to the most contemporary achievements in cognitive and computer science, we are able to prepare the understanding and interpretation of such an archive immediately, helping not only future, but present discussants and analysts navigate the complexity introduced by many interrelated issues, of a technical, political, diplomatic, economic, legal, and cultural nature.

DiploFoundation operates the IGF Session Transcripts Text Corpus (IGF Corpus), a collection of more than 600 session transcripts from the IGF 2006-2014, all retrieved from the official IGF website. It is much more than a simple collection of texts. Following the statistical modelling of the corpus—a set of mathematical procedures performed over the text statistics of the IGF Corpus—one begins to discover meaningful patterns of data at its core.

For a human analyst, the task of identifying the underlying structure of 40 different themes in a collection of more than 600 lengthy documents would take months of work. However, if one combines expert human knowledge with the power of fast computational systems, navigating such complexity becomes feasible. That is exactly what DiploFoundation does with its IGF Corpus. All session transcripts were first manually tagged by several IG experts. A hand-picked Terminological Model was developed, encompassing approximately 5000 unique IG-specific keywords and phrases. Following the statistical modelling computers began to discover the complex patterns of interrelatedness among 40 selected IG issues in more than 600 IGF session transcripts. One such pattern, relying on a so-called topic model of the IGF Corpus, is presented in Figure 1. It depicts the hierarchical structure of connectedness among many different issues under discussion at the IGF. Such results then present a first step in further IG analytics, such as the Digital Watch IG Barometer, which relies on a Knowledge Model of a kind presented Figure 1.

The Geneva Internet Platform and DiploFoundation welcome partnerships and funding support to complete their work on the Internet governance terminological model and enrich the tech corpus with transcripts from ICANN, the ITU, the IETF and other policy processes.

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1 Closed captioning for participation of persons with disabilities was a main force for implementation of transcripts, which was then strongly supported by remote participation advocates.
CROSSWORDS

Across
2 The name of the US company against whom the French court ruled in 2000 to prevent access from France to Nazi memorabilia. Recently, France’s data protection authority (CNIL) has ordered Google to de-list search results globally, following the logic from the 2000 case. (5)

4 European capital in which violent protest from taxi drivers against the Californian ride-sharing app erupted in June 2015 (5)

6 An intellectual property right whose infringement by users could lead to liability for Internet service providers (9)

10 The online platform enabling individuals to rent out their rooms, houses, apartments, or even private islands (6)

12 Internet slang for a person who posts inflammatory, off-topic or insulting messages in an online community with a deliberate intent to provoke a response from readers (5)

13 Term referring to any person or company who controls a website or webpage which allows third parties to upload or post material (4)

14 The Californian ride-sharing platform that has been banned in a number of European countries (4)

15 Online marketplace which lost a number of legal battles against Louis Vuitton for failing to stop the sale of counterfeit handbags and other products by merchants using its platform (4)

16 Legal order obtained by content owners against an Internet service provider requiring them to block access to a particular website (10)

Down
1 Centralised peer-to-peer file sharing service that was hugely popular in the late 1990s and mainly used by users to share MP3 files (7)

3 The safe________ is a model of Internet intermediary liability, present in the E-Commerce Directive 2000, which provides intermediaries with a legally safe place in which they will not be liable for users’ actions (6)

5 Acronym given to a network operator or company which provides services such as access to the Internet and email services (3)

7 The ________ Bay is a Swedish torrent indexing website to which a number of Internet service providers throughout Europe have been ordered to block access (6)

8 The name of the company which, in May 2014, was ordered by the European Court of Justice to consider users’ requests according to the right to be forgotten (6)

9 The________ effect, named after an American singer and actress, in which an attempt to hide a piece of information has the unintended consequence of publicising it more widely (9)

11 Geo-________ is the practice of restricting access to content based upon a user’s geographical location, to ensure the ownership of territorial rights to content are enforced online (8)

For more information on Internet intermediaries and platforms, visit http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org/issues/intermediaries