Internet Governance Panel

Gordon Lennox

Peering Day 2014

The following is a summary of the points
I made or tried to make!

- "Internet Governance" is an unfortunate term, a "bad idea", a "bad label". It can and often does cover way too many different things.

- Part of the problem has been a lack of a useful, shared understanding of what is meant by "Internet" or "governance" or "Internet Governance".

- Another part of the problem is that "Internet Governance" also often excludes telecommunication regulation, either locally or globally, and yet this can have significant effects.

- Almost despite this there is a very rich and on-going set of "Internet Governance" meetings at the global level.

- So there is a community that obviously either feels that these "Internet Governance" meetings are useful or feel that they have to be present. At the same time others feel that that more clarity or focus is very much required.

  ➔ Meanwhile there are very many Internet professionals who find it all a bit too much. They have neither the time nor the funding nor the inclination to "follow the circus".

- There are however certain issues being discussed currently both in terms of "Internet Governance" and "telecoms regulation" which are important for the people present and the organizations they work for.

- There are also issues that are important more generally - the Snowden affair is an obvious example - where the expertise of the people present would be very helpful in bringing clarity.

- It is important that people, people with both responsibilities and expertise, such as those in the audience, engage and participate.

- Following what ISOC and RIPE NCC are doing can be enough to remain informed. They participate in all the meetings. Raising your concerns with them can obviously be very helpful.

- Then making policy people and legislators and regulators aware that you are there, that you are concerned, can be also very useful. A short letter to a Commissioner in Brussels, either the one from your country or the one that has the lead on the topic, or your telecoms regulator or to an MEP can be enough.

For more specific pointers just ask!

gordon.lennox.13@gmail.com