

## Solution in sight for Internet governance

Global Knowledge Partnership 3, Kuala Lumpur

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Article blurbHopes are high that debate on Internet governance will soon come to an end.

Regional Liaison of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Africa, Anne-Rachel Inné says the solution to the debate on Internet governance can only be achieved by considering different options available to stakeholders.

"There cannot be one answer to it all but in the meantime we must take whatever solution is available and make it workable."

She was speaking at a workshop on the topic *Multi-Stakeholderism in Internet Governance (a look at ICANN and IGF)*.

Inné said the work and functions of ICANN had been misconstrued by governments and civil society but discussions held since World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) phase II had generated some understanding in the area of assigning names, security and what it means to have a Country-Code Top-Level Domains (CCTLD).

For Africa, Inné said the understanding of the dimensions to Internet governance means better management and use of assigned or domain names.

The United Nations initiated a multistakeholder dialogue on Internet governance at the end of the WSIS when there was a deadlock on the question of who would manage the Internet and what function should be assigned to each participant.

The step by the UN led to the formation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a platform for stakeholders to negotiate the roles and functions of private or public players.

GK3 served as another platform to deliberate on the work done so far, the need for an all inclusive solution and the way forward.

Inné reminded participants that the issue of content should be given a priority in the negotiations without which much would not be achieved by 2010 when the first phase of the IGF ends.

Former chair government advisory committee of ICANN, Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi emphasized the need for a participatory approach instead of separating responsibilities of governments, civil society and the private sector in the negotiation processes.

Head of IGF Secretariat, Markus Kummer is optimistic there can be a solution to the debate on Internet governance.

Over 1,500 delegates from all over the world are participating in the GK3 dubbed "the event of the future".