Internet Governance in Korea: Government, Legislation, and the Internet Community

Young Eum Lee
KISA / KNOU
yesunny@knou.ac.kr
Topics

1. What is Internet Governance?
2. Historical Overview
3. Internet Governance in Korea at Work
4. Thoughts on Governmental Legislation and Participation
1. What is Internet Governance?

- Who governs?
- What is governed?
Internet Governance: WSIS

- Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.
IG Elements 1: Who?

- Key Concepts
  - Shared

- Who governs?
  - Civil Society
  - Private Sector
  - Governments
IG Elements 2: What?

- **Content Layer**
  - Pollution Control
  - Cybercrime
  - Intellectual Property Rights

- **Logical Layer**
  - Standards
  - Domain Name System
  - IP Allocation and Numbering

- **Infrastructure Layer**
  - Interconnection
  - Universal Access
  - Next Generation Pathways
2. Historical Overview

**Academic Community Led**
1986 – 1994 : Operated by KAIST

**Civil society led cooperation**
1994 – 1999 : Operated by NCA

**Independent organization established**
1999 – 2004 : Operated by KRNIC

**Legislation – government takeover**
2004 – 2009 : Address Law, NIDA

**Government led cooperation, Role Expansion**
2009 – Current : KISA
Academic Society Led

- 1986 .kr assigned
- KAIST operates DNS
- 1988 Academic Network Committee
- 1993 KRNIC established
Civil Society Led Cooperation 1994 – 1999: NCA Operated

- ANC becomes KNC

Private Sector

Government Sector

- NCA operates DNS
Independent Organization
1999 – 2004: KRNIC Operated

- **Civil Society**
  - Policy: NNC, Namecom

- **Private Sector**
  - KRNIC established, operates .kr

- **Government Sector**
  - MIC (Ministry of Information and Communication) oversees KRNIC
Legislation – government
2004 – 2009: Address Law

Civil Society
- Members of the related councils

Private Sector
- KRNIC becomes NIDA (National Internet Development Agency)

Government Sector
- NIDA reports directly to MIC
- 2008: MIC becomes KCC
Government led cooperation
2009 – 2012 : Merged KISA

| Civil Society | • Internet Governance Forum begins
|              | • Central role in implementing kr IDN |
| Private Sector | • NIDA merges with KISA (Korea Internet Security Agency), expands |
| Government Sector | • KISA reports directly to KCC |
3. Internet Governance in Korea at Work

- Implementation of IDN ccTLD
- Discussion within KISA advisory committee
- Discussion within Internet Governance Forum
  - Government recognized the need for a multi-stakeholder model
  - Composed of members of former NNC, the civil society-led effort
  - Substantial discussion on relationship between ASCII IDN TLD, registration policy, whois policy, reserved names, etc.
- Significant influence on the implementation of .한국.
4. Governmental Legislation and Participation

- Makes us weary

- Negative Aspects
  - Loss of community voice
  - Multistakeholder model not sustained

- Positive Aspects
  - Government recognition of multistakeholder model
  - Voice of national sovereignty strengthened
yesunny@knou.ac.kr