## GIPI Achievements – 2002

**In 2002, GIPI had a remarkable impact on Internet policy in developing and transitional countries.**

### Promoting Legal Reforms that Support ICT Development

Relying in part on the comments and analysis of GIPI, India loosened restrictions on Internet Telephony.

As a result of GIPI's efforts, the government of Armenia decided to eliminate burdensome licensing requirements on ISPs.

In Azerbaijan, as a result of roundtables and meetings that GIPI organized, the Ministry of Communications, the telephone operator and key ISPs mutually agreed upon a plan to reduce Internet phone access charges.

In Kazakhstan, GIPI convinced the Ministry of Transport and Communications to turn away from a highly regulatory approach to e-commerce.

GIPI's analysis helped convince the government of India to partly open the ISM band (2.4 GHz) to unlicensed communications uses.

### Providing Expert Assistance to Policymakers and Stakeholders

GIPI provided assistance to government agencies or working groups on e-commerce legislation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan, cybercrime legislation in Indonesia, and ICT legislation in Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, and Russia.

In Nigeria, the Ministry of Science and Technology accepted most of GIPI's comments on a draft IT bill.

In Indonesia, the World Bank's ICT project adopted GIPI's analysis of the draft cyberlaw as the basis for its consultations with the government.

Uzbekistan adopted a national ICT strategy incorporating many key GIPI recommendations.

GIPI participated in government working groups in Russia drafting laws on communications, information security and IT.

### Promoting Telecommunications Policy Reform

GIPI submitted detailed comments on telecommunications laws in Bulgaria, Nigeria and Serbia, a communications law in Russia, and a mass media law in Belarus.

GIPI organized a broad coalition in Bulgaria to support competitive telecom policies.

In Nigeria, GIPI convened a series of meetings with ISPs, the government and the monopoly carrier resulting in resolution of several longstanding barriers to Internet development.

**Convening Stakeholders and Building Local Capacity**

GIPI has convened dozens of roundtables on ICT policy issues, such as an important roundtable in Ukraine on telecommunications policy reform and one on cybercrime in Indonesia that brought together key government agencies and the private sector.
GIPI helped establish an ISP association in Armenia and improved the institutional capacity of ISP associations in Azerbaijan, Nigeria, the Kyrgyz Republic and Yugoslavia.
GIPI created Internet Society chapters in Belarus, India and Tajikistan and other stakeholder policy networks in Bulgaria, Indonesia and Georgia, thereby creating forums for Internet policy development.
GIPI's regional seminars in Tajikistan led to an ongoing consultative process among government and key stakeholders
GIPI organized ISPs and provided the legal support for creation of Internet Exchange Points in India and Nigeria.  These IXPs will bring down the cost and increase the quality of Internet service.  An IXP launched in the Kyrgyz Republic with GIPI support commenced operations in October.

**Educating Policymakers and the Public**

The GIPI India web site compiles ICT policies from India's states and regions.
GIPI prompted the government in Uzbekistan to develop an official web site for draft ICT legislation.
GIPI organized regional seminars in Ukraine and in Tajikistan.
An ICT forum in Belarus organized by GIPI attracted over 400 participants.
GIPI launched web sites in local languages in a majority of its countries – see, for example, http://www.gipi.uz -- and expanded the content on the main GIPI web site, http://www.internetpolicy.net .

**Expanding Civic Participation in the Policymaking Process**

In Ukraine, GIPI worked with the Parliament to convene a roundtable and create an online forum on draft telecommunications laws.  Stakeholder comments submitted online were incorporated in a revised draft.  To our knowledge, this is the first time in Ukraine's history that citizen comment affected the legislative process.

**Organizing Coalitions Against Restrictive Policies**

In Tajikistan, the government withdrew two bills after GIPI's analysis showed how they would unduly increase government control over information systems. Also in Tajikistan, GIPI brought together major ICT stakeholders and successfully convinced the government to repeal a decree that imposed a per minute fee on ISPs.
In Belarus, based largely on GIPI's analysis and organizing, the Parliament rejected a draconian law on information security.
In the Kyrgyz Republic, following organizing and analysis by GIPI, the government withdrew a decree on publishing that would have severely restricted Internet activity.
In Russia, acting on very short notice, GIPI was able to get significant amendments made to a draft law on "extremist activity" that would have had negative implications for the Internet.