



Mid-Year Progress Report August 26, 2002

OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Full time policy advocates in 15 countries
- Working in India on opening wireless spectrum for Internet use
- Supporting creation of an Internet Exchange Point in Nigeria
- Educating government officials in Indonesia
- Providing expert assistance to governments in drafting laws on e-commerce
- Convening stakeholders to successfully oppose restrictive laws or decrees in Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan
- Cooperating with UNDP in planning for World Summit on the Information Society by organizing and cosponsoring a pre-summit regional conference
- Posting new resources online, including country sites and “Best Practices” papers

GIPI works in developing countries to promote the adoption of legal and regulatory frameworks that will support the growth of an open, affordable and user-controlled Internet – an Internet that can drive economic growth and advance human development. GIPI's local policy coordinators are working in 15 countries to convene dialogue and build informed consensus among all stakeholders, providing objective expertise on policy issues, commenting on draft legislation, and assisting policymakers and civil society in achieving a better understanding of the legal environment needed for the Internet to develop. Further information about the need for GIPI, its approach and its role in policy development can be found at <http://www.internetpolicy.net/about/>

-- 2Q02 Accomplishments

GIPI staff are having a major impact on Internet policy development, both in advancing progressive legislation that will support growth of the Internet and in convincing governments to withdraw regulatory measures that would stifle innovation and communication:

- In Armenia, GIPI's recommendations on a draft e-signature law were adopted, such that a mandatory licensing scheme was rejected in favor of voluntary accreditation; the legislation is now pending in the Parliament.
- 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 Belarus, based largely on GIPI's analysis and organizing, the Parliament rejected a draconian law on information security.

- In Georgia, Parliament is considering a package of legislation drafted by GIPI to recognize electronic documents, to provide for public access to information via the Internet and to repeal the burdensome ISP licensing regime.
- In Kazakhstan, draft laws on electronic documents and informatization, which were drafted with GIPI in consultation with government officials and a wide range of stakeholders, have been submitted to the government for review, with an analysis prepared by GIPI.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Uzbekistan has adopted a national ICT strategy incorporating many key GIPI recommendations.

-- GIPI's Priorities

In almost every country where GIPI is active, its priorities presently include:

- Reforming telecommunications policy, to introduce competition;
- Streamlining or eliminating burdensome licensing requirements for ISPs;
- Securing fair and effective management of the ccTLD;
- Working with policymakers and stakeholders on framework e-commerce legislation;
- Supporting the creation of Internet Exchange Points;
- Fostering the establishment of effective ISP associations and other coalitions.

-- GIPI's Roles – Convenor, Expert, Advocate, Coalition-builder

In pursuit of these objectives, GIPI plays a variety of roles:

As **convenor**, GIPI brings together stakeholders, often for the first time ever, for dialogue and consensus building on practical solutions to policy issues:

- In Azerbaijan, GIPI convinced the Communications Minister to create a National ICT Council with broad representation from commerce, civil society and academia.
- In Indonesia, GIPI has formed a Cyber Policy Consultation Group with participants from government, industry and civil society.
- In Kazakhstan, GIPI organized a parliamentary roundtable on draft laws with participation of MPs, the telecom operators council, ISPs, NGOs and international organizations.
- In the Kyrgyz Republic, GIPI met with local business associations and helped them develop a series of recommendations to the government, the adoption of which resulted in regulatory relief from burdensome and arbitrary inspections.
- In Ukraine, GIPI organized a panel discussion on electronic government, with participation by high ranking government officials, business representatives, and civil society.

As **legal expert**, GIPI's advice is sought by governments, parliamentary committees, international donors, and the private sector, to analyze draft laws and to educate policymakers on ICT policy:

- In Armenia, GIPI was appointed a full member of the National ICT Council, the government's main consultative body for Internet policy issues, and the World Bank has asked GIPI to be one of its main partners in reforming telecom regulations.
- In Belarus, Parliament officially requested GIPI's analysis of the draft law on information security.
- In Bulgaria, GIPI has signed MOUs with the Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Telecommunications, the Center for Economic Development, and the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce to provide expertise in the drafting of ITC legislation.
- In Georgia, the ICT department in the Ministry of Transport and Communications asked for GIPI's analysis of a draft law on personal information.
- In Kazakhstan, the government's Informatization Council asked GIPI to serve as official expert on draft legislation.
- In the Kyrgyz Republic, GIPI's regional coordinator has been named Presidential ICT Adviser.
- GIPI Russia is assisting the Regional Communications Council in preparations for the World Summit on the Information Society.
- In Ukraine, the Internet Association has asked GIPI to develop a draft law "On telecommunications."

As **advocate**, GIPI supports competition and seeks to ease regulatory burdens on ICT companies:

- In Armenia, GIPI is assisting ISPs in their lawsuits against the anti-competitive practices of the monopoly telecom operator.
- In Georgia, GIPI assisted local telecom operators in their conflict with the Ministries of Security and Economy, securing temporary relief from conflicting regulations.
- In India, GIPI submitted comments to the regulatory bodies urging a lifting of constraints on Internet telephony and use of the ISM band.

As a **coalition builder**, GIPI is working in each country to create and support both an ISP Association and an Internet Society chapter, thereby creating opportunities for stakeholders to become involved in the policy process:

- In Azerbaijan, GIPI took a primary role in establishing both an ISP association and ISOC Azerbaijan.
- In Belarus, GIPI assisted in founding and registering the Internet Development Promotion Foundation.
- In the Kyrgyz Republic, GIPI is supporting the Telecom Operators' Association, formed to develop policies vis-à-vis the national monopolist.
- In Nigeria, GIPI is supporting the ISP Association in its effort to become a more effective coalition.

- In Tajikistan, GIPI convened the first ever meeting of ICT stakeholders

-- **On the horizon**

GIPI is playing a major role in organizing the Bishkek Stakeholder Conference on the Information Society for the CIS region (with participation of China, India, South Korea, Mongolia, and Turkey) to be held in Kyrgyzstan on September 9-11, 2002. The conference is organized jointly by the Kyrgyz Government, the UNDP, and GIPI. The objective of the conference is to engage all major regional stakeholders from governments, telecom industry, business community and NGOs into the ongoing preparation process for the World Summit on the Information Society.

-- **Collaborative relationships and program development**

The GIPI core staff have been active in promoting the project and building collaborative relationships with related digital divide initiatives:

- GIPI Managing Director Eric Johnson visited Pakistan to lay the groundwork for a possible GIPI project there, and a proposal was submitted for a project in Lebanon.
- Johnson gave a presentation to the European Commission, as part of our effort to expand relations with the EU.
- Executive Director George Sadowsky gave a presentation on GIPI at the World Bank, followed by a second meeting and an agreement to cooperate.
- With support from OSI, GIPI Policy Director Jim Dempsey participated in the World Economic Forum meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, briefing representatives of business, government and international organizations.
- GIPI staff counsel Paige Anderson has been working in Rwanda under USAID's dot-GOV initiative, helping to set up a multi-sector regulatory body, and has been helping frame other dot-GOV projects.
- Sadowsky and Dempsey participated in a meeting of the steering committee for the Global Digital Opportunity Initiative, the follow-up to the G-8 digital divide commitment, which the Markle Foundation is spearheading for the US.

COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTS

-- **Armenia**

Promoting Transparency and Simplicity in ISPs Licensing Conditions: GIPI has recommended to the Ministry of Transport and Communications specific changes in the licensing procedures, backed up by a detailed analysis of ISP licensing law and practice.

Reforming Telecommunications Policy: GIPI has prepared a study of institutional and legal problems in Armenia's telecommunications market, outlining how the anti-competitive practices, poor service and high tariffs of the monopoly telecommunications operator, ArmenTel, limit growth and innovation.

- GIPI is providing legal assistance to local ISPs who are litigating against ArmenTel with regards to the terms and conditions of ISP access to the Internet.
- The Ministry of Communications has asked GIPI to participate in a discussion of its proposed Telecommunications Development Plan and interconnection rules.
- The World Bank, which is preparing recommendations for reforms in telecommunications regulation in Armenia, has included GIPI's recommendations on simplified licensing procedures and the establishment of an independent regulator in its report.
- GIPI will coordinate the implementation of a grant that the Eurasia Foundation awarded to study the telecommunications market in the South Caucasus.

Promoting Effective Management of ccTLD: GIPI is working with ISOC Armenia to develop a national dispute resolution policy for domain name related conflicts.

Developing a Regulatory Framework for E-Commerce: GIPI is collaborating with the government's ICT Council to implement Armenia's national ICT plan and develop a legal framework for e-commerce.

- In the draft e-signature legislation, as a result of GIPI's analysis, provisions that would have required the licensing of certification centers were replaced with voluntary accreditation procedures and other provisions of the draft law were harmonized with the UNCITRAL model law.
- In April, pursuant to a presidential decree, the GIPI country coordinator was appointed as a full member of the ICT Council.

Educating stakeholders. GIPI worked closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to organize the conference "E-development in the Caucasus." GIPI made presentations on several topics, including on the benefits of e-government, and methods to develop regional and international cooperation in the area of e-government. GIPI's presentation is available online at: www.citiam.com.

-- Azerbaijan

Developing a Legal and Regulatory Framework for ICT and E-commerce: GIPI has submitted legislative comments to the relevant parliamentary committee to begin the process of repealing the provision regulating the Internet as "media." The chairman of the committee has agreed to cooperate with GIPI on this matter and to form a joint working group to address this question and to develop other media and ICT-related legislation.

- GIPI also has recommended revisions in two other proposed national ICT policies -- the National Security Ministry's "Concept for National Security" and the draft law "On the Basis for Providing Information Security."
- As a basis for more comprehensive reform of Azerbaijan's ICT regulatory system, GIPI has begun to review the regulations, administration, licensing, certification, and tariffing policies of the Ministry of Communications.

- GIPI is serving as co-chair of the legislative working group established by the government's National ICT Strategy ("NICTS") team and the UNDP.
- Based on recommendations by GIPI, the Minister of Communications created an advisory Council on Information and Communications Technologies, which will provide an inclusive forum for dialogue and consensus building on issues of Internet policy. The GIPI representative has been elected as the council's deputy chairman.

Ensuring Effective Management of .az ccTLD. GIPI is working with local stakeholders to develop plans to redelegate management of the .az ccTLD. At the request of OSI, GIPI has prepared an analysis of model practices for ccTLD administration and will present its recommendations at the next meeting of the National ICT Strategy team.

Establishing Effective Coalitions and Promoting Dialogue: GIPI drafted charters for both the Azerbaijan ISP Association and the Azerbaijan Internet Society ("ISOC"). GIPI arranged two educational roundtables for ISOC, bringing together service providers, government officials and others to seek mutually acceptable agreements on policy problems.

-- Belarus

Developing Framework Legislation for E-commerce: GIPI has analyzed the draft media law, identifying as a significant flaw its definition of the Internet as "media," which would have required the registration of Internet web sites. GIPI worked with various government officials to remove some of the more problematic provisions.

- In June, working with a key MP, GIPI began preparing a draft law "On Protection of Personal Information."

Developing a Balanced Policy on Information Security: GIPI's close collaboration with the parliament and the objective quality of GIPI's analysis contributed significantly to the ultimate defeat of a proposed law on information security that would have required registration of all web sites and would have imposed significant limitations on use of the Internet for the dissemination of information.

Promoting Effective Management of Domain Names in the ccTLD: GIPI has forged a collaborative relationship with the Belarus State Patent Agency (BelGosPatent), which is involved in intellectual property issues, and therefore has an interest in domain name regulation. GIPI has begun to draft registration rules for second-level domain names and a policy for dispute resolution.

Creating Policy Institutions: GIPI registered the Internet Development Promotion Foundation ("IDPF"), which is expected to play a key role in ICT policy development in Belarus.

Educating Policymakers: GIPI submitted a proposal to TACIS requesting funding to support an 18 month project that would develop a national ICT strategy, identify needed reforms in ICT legislation, and develop ICT training programs for MPs and Parliament staff.

-- **Bosnia**

GIPI has received sufficient funding from the Open Society Institute and USAID through SETA, Inc. to initiate a GIPI project in Sarajevo. The search to identify a suitable coordinator has begun, but the office has not yet been opened.

-- **Bulgaria**

Developing E-Commerce Enabling Legislation and Reform of ICT Law: GIPI is collaborating with the Minister of State Administration, responsible for the e-government initiative and other ICT issues, to form a group of experts and draft an e-commerce law.

- GIPI has signed MOUs with the Parliamentary Committee of Transport and Telecommunications (PCTT) and the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce to provide expert assistance in the drafting of e-commerce laws.
- The GIPI coordinator has been designated as an expert to the PCTT to assist in preparation of the new telecommunications law.
- In June, GIPI and the Center for Economic Development, a prominent Bulgarian think tank, signed a MOU to allow the organizations to jointly pursue projects in the field of ICT legal and policy reform.

Development Framework for Online Protection of Intellectual Property: GIPI has met with the Executive Director of Musicautor and key MPs to review proposed changes in Bulgaria's copyright law.

-- **Georgia**

Providing Expert Assistance on Drafting Personal Data Law. At the request of the head of the ICT Department in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, GIPI reviewed the draft law "On Personal Data of Physical and Legal Entities." To solicit a wide range of views, GIPI organized a roundtable and then prepared a legal analysis, identifying several significant flaws in the draft and recommending numerous changes.

Development of Technical Standards for the Georgian Language. Because the lack of a coding standard for the Georgian alphabet has impeded the development of local language content online and thus the development of the Internet, GIPI has supported and participated in the work of the TC18 technical committee on Georgian coding standards. The group recently agreed on a technical standard for the Georgian keyboard, a key element in Georgian computing standards.

Reform of the Telecommunications Regulatory Framework: GIPI has met with staff from the National Communications Commission ("NCC") to discuss a wide range of issues relevant to

ICT development, with the result that the staff agreed to the need to review and reform certain policies.

- GIPI represented local telecom operators in negotiating a temporary solution to their regulatory dispute with the Security Ministry and the tariff department of the Ministry of Economy. Now GIPI is seeking to find a permanent solution that will clarify the current confusion regarding regulatory authority.

Developing E-Signature and E-Commerce Legislation. GIPI submitted comments on e-signatures, e-documents and e-trade legislation that had been presented to the Parliamentary Economic Policy Committee. The committee revised its proposals in light of GIPI's comments and agreed to submit the revised proposal to Parliament.

Removal of Customs Barriers Affecting ICT: The law "On Changes and Additions to the Law on Customs Duties" was adopted in May, representing the accomplishment of a long-sought GIPI objective. Since the law affects the importation of most types of computer equipment, GIPI had worked to ensure that local ISPs and computer vendors had an opportunity to submit comments on the draft version of the law.

Building Cooperative Relationships: GIPI and UNDP organized Georgia's first ICT donor meeting on March 15, providing an opportunity for donors to share ideas about the most significant ICT priorities within the country.

-- India

Opening the ISM band to Broader Communications Uses: GIPI has been engaged in a wide-ranging dialogue with industry and government officials, including officials of the Ministry of IT and Communications and the Wireless Planning Commission, on the need to eliminate the licensing requirement for use of spectrum in the ISM band.

Supporting Creation of a Local Internet Exchange Point (IXP). GIPI is working with ISPs, various government officials and others in preparing a business plan for the creation of a local Internet exchange point.

Removing Regulatory Barriers to Internet Telephony. Even after an elaborate consultative exercise by the regulatory authority (TRAI), the government did not accept the recommendations to open up Internet telephony. Instead the government sought another round of comments within a very short span of time (the intent seemed to be not opening Internet telephony at all). GIPI submitted comments in favor of opening of Internet Telephony without any restrictions, and also presented its views on the subject during a public seminar where the concerned officer of the Department of Telecommunications was also present. As a result, TRAI's liberalizing recommendations were accepted.

Building Collaborative Relationships: GIPI was elected to the Governing Council of the Computer Society in India (“CSI”), a major organization devoted to the spread of IT and related technologies and the formulation of IT policies.

Educating the Public on ICT Policy Issues: To educate journalists -- and through them the public -- on Internet policy issues, GIPI has briefed journalists from leading publications, including E-Commerce, Financial Express, Business World, and Indiatimes.com, providing them with background information on wireless technologies, Internet exchange points and Internet telephony policies.

-- **Indonesia**

Removing Limits on VoIP and Use of ISM Band. GIPI has participated in dialogue with numerous stakeholders on VoIP, spectrum usage in the 2.4 GHz band, and other disputes between regulators and industry organizations.

- Based in part on GIPI’s work, the regulator agreed to issue temporary licenses for 2.4 GHz (ISM Band) usage until definitive regulations are in place.

Developing Sound Legal Framework for ICT: GIPI has commented on the draft cyberlaw pending before Parliament, noting its positive and negative aspects. Members of Commission IV of the National Parliament asked GIPI to provide legal expertise in finalizing the text of the cyberlaw. The Commission members also asked GIPI to provide guidance to other members of the Parliament on general ICT and Internet issues.

Educating Policymakers: GIPI provided a tutorial in E-Government to members of the national government. GIPI conducted a presentation at the University Atmajaya Jogjakarta on the “Development and Current Status of ICT Policy in Indonesia.” The discussion explored the role of ICT in economic development and how ICT policy can accelerate economic recovery.

Promoting Dialogue and Consensus Building: GIPI has formed a Cyber Policy Consultation Group with participants from government, industry and civil society, which meets monthly to discuss ICT policy issues.

-- **Kazakhstan**

Developing the Legal Framework Supporting E-Commerce and ICT Development: GIPI played a substantial role in the consultative process that drafted the proposed laws “On Electronic Document and Electronic Digital Signature” and “On Informatization.” In April, the drafts were approved by key ministries and submitted to the government, accompanied by an analysis prepared by GIPI.

- GIPI provided expert assistance to the Ministry of Economy and Trade and the National Bank in connection with the drafting process.

- GIPI organized a parliamentary roundtable to analyze the draft laws “On Electronic Digital Signatures” and “On Informatization.” GIPI made a presentation on how provisions in the draft laws compare with internationally accepted legal standards.
- The government’s Informatization Council asked GIPI to act as official expert on draft legislation.

Educating policymakers: GIPI has received permission from Harvard's Berkman Center on Internet & Society to translate its cyberlaw modules into Russian and adapt them to local needs, and we have asked AED and OSI to help fund this activity. We would like to hold periodic seminars for policymakers and legislative drafters in the Internet policy field from around the region, and introduce a course on cyberlaw at the state law school.

-- **Kyrgyz Republic**

Developing Effective Legal Framework for E-Commerce: Resolution 20, a presidential decree on publishing activity, would have imposed unreasonable regulatory burdens on the Internet and severely reduced public access to information. Working with other stakeholders, GIPI opposed the decree.

- Resolution 20 was repealed in May, due largely to GIPI’s advocacy efforts.
- GIPI has reviewed model laws on digital signatures and electronic document exchange drafted by a regional body, the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Eurasia Economic Community. In the CIS, such regional activities are taking on increasing importance.
- After GIPI met with business associations to discuss legal barriers to business development, the groups developed and delivered to the government a series of proposals that were included in a presidential decree placing a moratorium on government inspections and reducing the number of licenses and certificates required for many areas of business.
- Jim Dempsey, GIPI Policy Director, made a presentation on e-document and e-signature laws to members of the Kyrgyz Parliament.

Providing Expert Assistance to the President’s Office: GIPI’s regional coordinator resident in Bishkek has been appointed by the President of Kyrgyzstan to serve as his ICT Advisor, in which capacity she will consult with the government on a range of ICT issues.

Streamlining or Eliminating Burdensome Licensing Requirements: GIPI has worked with the state communications agency of the Ministry of Communications to repeal licensing and certification requirements for public access points such as Internet cafes, salons and business centers.

Building Coalitions: GIPI has participated in the working sessions of the Association of Communication Services Providers, which is addressing current problems in Kyrgyzstan’s ICT development and planning a national ICT development conference.

Development of Collaborative Relationships: GIPI signed an MOU with the UNDP and the government of Kyrgyzstan. GIPI also signed an agreement with the Elcat ISP to participate in a project to research the national Internet market and develop ICT legislation.

- GIPI is participating in the planning committee for the WSIS preparatory meeting in this September, GIPI is gathering relevant legislative materials from NIS countries, forming the meeting agenda, and preparing analytical materials.

-- **Nigeria**

Reforming Telecommunications policy: GIPI has been engaged in a series of consultations with the National Information Technology Development Agency (“NITDA”), the Nigerian Communications Commission (“NCC”), and NITEL, the monopoly carrier, regarding a variety of topics including: the NCC’s order for ISPs to terminate operations on the ISM band; high import duties/taxes imposed on imported IT equipment; revenue sharing between NITEL and ISPs; and the need for faster provisioning of lines to ISPs.

- GIPI has been providing expert support to the Internet Service Providers Association (“ISPAN”). In June, to better understand the policy issues influencing the development of the Internet in Nigeria, and to promote better collaboration among ISPs, GIPI’s country coordinator conducted an extensive survey of ISP executives and managers in cities throughout Nigeria.
- Based on GIPI recommendations, NITDA has established a committee to undertake a detailed review of its ICT policy and developing a new implementation plan.

Creation of Internet Exchange Point: GIPI has been asked to head an ISPAN committee tasked with establishing the first Internet Exchange Point in Nigeria. With support from ISPAN, GIPI is organizing a series of educational workshops for ISP managers on the details of establishing and managing an Internet Exchange Point.

- GIPI has secured a pledge from Network Start Up Resource Center to donate equipment, and some management services, to the planned IXP. Several other entities have pledged to provide trainers and instructors for workshops related to the establishment of the IXP and the French Embassy has also offered it support.

Supporting Effective Coalitions: GIPI has assisted in improving the management structure and effectiveness of ISPAN. GIPI and ISPAN, with financial commitment from ISPAN, are organizing a series of educational policy workshops for local ISPs, government officials, parastatal staff and other policy makers.

-- **Russia**

Establishing GIPI as an Independent Entity: GIPI Russia has been constituted as a separate legal entity and an Advisory Board has been formed consisting of significant ICT stakeholders, including Dr. Evgeny Velikhov, academic secretary of the Russian Academy of Science’s

Information and Computer Technology Department and President of the Kurchatov Institute, and Alexei Plantonov, director of the Russian Institute for Public Networks (RIPN) and President of RELARN.

Developing a Legislative Framework Supporting ICT Development. GIPI assisted the government's working groups drafting a new law "On Communications," providing language from, and information on, relevant international models. The resulting draft law was reviewed by the government, approved, and then submitted to the Duma.

- GIPI also provided advice on the draft law "On Preventing Extremist Activity" and was able to obtain several needed revisions to the legislation.
- GIPI has been working with local organizations and specialists concerning the government decree "On Approving Regulations on Licensing Design and/or Production of Data Protection Measures."

Supporting the WSIS Process: GIPI Russia worked with several other organizations on preparations for the September 2002 Bishkek sub-regional conference on the WSIS preparation process, including UNDP; Regional Communications Council (RCC); potential members of the Russian national taskforce; the Communications Ministry's International Cooperation Department; and the Chair of the ITU Permanent Taskforce for the WSIS preparation process.

Working Collaboratively: GIPI joined a working group headed by the Ministry of Education. The group was established to conduct an open tender for implementation of the Russian Federal Destination Program entitled "Development of Unified Educational Information Environment."

- In April, GIPI played a key role in the meeting of the Regional Communications Council (RCC), an important regional body of operators and regulators. GIPI was consulted in planning the meeting and presented a report on IP telephony in the CIS. GIPI also took part in a discussion concerning the legal and technological aspects of telecom liberalization. GIPI had arranged for the presence of a leading expert, William Garrison, who reviewed the international experience in telecom privatization and liberalization. This was the first time that the RCC had included any NGO or international expert in its deliberations. Based on the quality of GIPI's contributions, numerous participants from CIS countries asked GIPI for further information and proposed further collaboration.

-- Tajikistan

Developing the Legal Framework to Support ICT Development: Based on GIPI's analysis and coalition building, the government withdrew Decree #37, which would have charged ISPs an additional fee for each minute of use on their dial-up lines. GIPI representatives also met with various government officials (i.e., the Executive Apparatus of the President, the Parliament, the Security Council, the Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Justice, and other agencies), and industry representatives to discuss this measure.

Building Coalitions: In response to Decree #37, GIPI galvanized most of the major stakeholders, including members of the ISP and NGO communities, organizing a meeting of numerous local ICT stakeholders. This meeting represented the first time that a majority of local stakeholders worked cooperatively together on an issue of mutual concern.

Analysis of Proposed ICT Legislation: GIPI has consulted extensively with government officials regarding two draft laws -“On Electronic Document” and “On Information Security.” GIPI organized discussions with ISPs and ICT associations on both draft laws and shared the most useful suggestions with the Parliament.

Reform of Telecommunications Law: GIPI submitted to the deputy chairman of the committee on power, industry, construction and communication recommendations for amendments in the law “On Telecommunications.” Some of these recommendations have been passed on to Parliament’s upper house. The legislation is awaiting signature by the President.

Promote Effective Management of the ccTLD: GIPI has begun a discussion with local organizations on the issue of redelegating the .tj ccTLD.

Developing Collaborative Relationships: GIPI has signed an MOU with the Communications Operators’ Association, which is implementing the Tajikistan Development Gateway, under which the organizations will collaborate on ICT projects, including conferences and the development of a national ICT strategy.

Educating Policymakers: GIPI is conducting a series of workshops promoting increased ICT awareness for local government officials in the southern regions on the country.

Promoting Dialogue: In collaboration with an influential government agency, the Informational and Analytical Department of the President’s office, GIPI is organizing a series of roundtable discussions with relevant local organizations in key cities within the southern region in an effort to find innovative ways to support ICT development.

- The working group created for this purpose is unique in the history of Internet development in Tajikistan. It brings together representatives of the President’s office, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Communications, four ISPs, an email provider, associations within the ICT industry, universities, and the UNDP.
- These roundtable discussions developed recommendations to the government, including proposed changes in the tax law to attract local and international investments for ICT development, to encourage commercial ISPs to extend their services to underserved regions of the country, and to promote the creation of new ISPs.

Building Coalitions: GIPI is also using this working group as the foundation for creating a Tajik ISOC.

-- **Ukraine**

Development of Telecommunications Law. Working with the Internet Association of Ukraine, UkrTelekom, the National Bank, and the Cabinet of Ministers, GIPI is developing a draft law “On Telecommunications.”

Development of E-commerce Legislation: GIPI has been asked to provide guidance on effective digital signature and e-governance practices.

- On April 8, GIPI published an article on the draft digital signature law in Business, a highly respected newspaper.
- GIPI has been asked to work with the Informatization Department for the City Administration of Kiev in developing an on-line journal on e-governance.

Developing Collaborative Relationships: GIPI has been asked to assist the Department for Strategic Development of Information Resources and Technology within the Cabinet of Ministers in drafting laws “On Telecommunications”, “On Electronic Digital Signatures” and “On Electronic Document Exchange.” The Ministry of Justice’s State European Law Translation Centre has signed an MOU with GIPI so that the two organizations can work jointly on certain projects.

Supporting the Establishment of Other Institutions: GIPI assisted in the founding of the Ukraine Internet Society.

Educating Policymakers: GIPI organized an educational session on “Electronic Government and Electronic Democracy” during a World Bank sponsored business forum entitled “Technology, Business and Society.” Several high-ranking officials from the Cabinet of Ministers, State Tax Administration, State Communications Committee and Kiev City Administration attended. GIPI has collected the presentations and other materials and made them available at: <http://gipi.internews.ua/rus/activity/initiatives/seminars/april12.html>.

Public Education: In cooperation with the UNDP, GIPI conducted two regional seminars in (Vinnitsa and Mykolaev) on ICT development. More information (in Ukrainian) is available at: <http://gipi.internews.ua/ukr/about/news/archive/020524.html> and <http://gipi.internews.ua/ukr/about/news/archive/020711.html>

-- **Uzbekistan**

Supporting Development of National ICT Strategy: GIPI has been involved extensively in dialogue with government and stakeholders about the formulation of a national ICT development plan for Uzbekistan.

- On May 30, the national strategy was issued by way of Presidential decree. The strategy incorporates many of the policies advocated by GIPI.

- The national strategy decree created a national council on ICT issues, which will be crucial to realization of GIPI's objective of developing and implementing a National ICT Strategy and a legal framework for ICT development. The council's work will be carried out through a variety of working groups. Several working groups have been established to date and will work to: prepare a development program for the national telecommunications and data networks for 2003-2010; prepare a program to introduce electronic technologies to government administration; and develop e-commerce frameworks. GIPI serves on each of these working groups.

Developing ICT Framework Laws. In April of 2002, Jim Dempsey and Shaukat Valitov met with Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov and agreed that GIPI would provide expert assistance to the government in developing a package of ICT laws.

Redelegation of the ccTLD: GIPI is providing expert assistance to the government and local organizations in developing a strategy for transferring administration of the .UZ ccTLD from its current register, a commercial firm in Germany, to a local non-profit administrator.

Promoting Competition in Telecommunications: Due in part to concerns raised by GIPI, a proposed \$5 million loan from the Ex-Im Bank to UzPak has been cancelled. UzPak is a state run ISP and this loan would have helped the company consolidate its monopoly over international connectivity.

Development of Collaborative Relationships: GIPI has signed an MOU with the Legal Research Centre at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy to conduct joint research and other projects.

Educating Policymakers: GIPI and the UNDP held a joint roundtable on "State ICT Policy and Legislation" in June 2002. Numerous high ranking government officials, including the chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on ICT, participated in the roundtable. Jim Dempsey, GIPI Policy Director, also participated and made a presentation on Internet policy.

-- Yugoslavia

June was the first month of GIPI's operations in Yugoslavia. GIPI's initial activities in Yugoslavia have been devoted to investigating and analyzing the current status of ICT law and policy, with the objective of encouraging competition in the telecommunications sector and improving the general legal framework for ICT.

Promoting Competition in the Telecommunications Sector. GIPI is collaborating with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Yugoslav Internet Service Provider Association ("YUISPA") to review provisions of the draft telecommunications law. GIPI has raised concerns about a proposal in the draft law that would require all "telecommunications operators" to retain service logs for up to a three year period and make them available upon request for police investigations. This proposal raises concerns regarding

user privacy, and also presents a significant business issue for operators since data storage can be quite costly.

- GIPI has been seeking to lift monopoly restraints on the provision of VoIP services, assisting VoIP providers as they prepare for another round of court hearings that are scheduled for early September.

Developing an ICT legal framework. GIPI has met with the head of the Serbian Agency for IT and Internet to explore areas for collaboration as the agency prepares to liberalize parts of the telecom sector, drafts a law on electronic signatures, pursues a new telecommunications law, and works to reform the Yugoslav top-level domain name. The agency has occasionally been criticized for its reluctance to cooperate or consult with local private sector stakeholders. GIPI is seeking, therefore, to work closely with the agency, and is encouraging it to act in a more transparent manner and in cooperation with other local stakeholders.

Developing Collaborative Relationships: GIPI is assisting the YUISPA and VoIP providers in developing their organizations so they can respond to government ICT policy proposals more effectively.

POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WEB SITE

GIPI made substantial progress in increasing the quality and quantity of information available online about ICT policy. Our online efforts have three components:

- The main public GIPI web site, www.internetpolicy.net, serves as a resource for GIPI country coordinators, government officials in developing countries, and stakeholders, compiling in a useful format the best materials available on ICT policy from a developing country perspective. Moreover, the web site is the repository of original material prepared by GIPI for use by developing countries – materials that seek to identify “best practices” in ICT policy. In the first half of 2002, 7 papers were prepared by CDT and added to the GIPI web site, covering the following topics:
 - Voice-over-IP
 - Best Practices for Telecommunications Reform
 - Regulatory Treatment of 802.11b Services
 - Mass Media Regulation and the Internet
 - The Keys to the Back Office
 - Internet Exchange Points
 - Redlegation of Country Code Top Level Domains.
- A nonpublic portion of the GIPI site, where we post assessments and analyses of laws prepared for specific GIPI projects. The Web site is loosely protected with a password to indicate that these are not public documents until the GIPI country coordinator (CC) decides to make them public. Information needed to access this site is available from any GIPI staff upon request, and upon agreement that the access information is not to be redistributed.

- Country-specific web sites. We are creating GIPI web sites in each country where GIPI is functioning. These web sites publish laws, policy commentary and other materials relating to ICT development in the specific country. They serve as a public resource for policymakers, stakeholders, and the international community. In many cases the material they make available, including government material, is available nowhere else online. At the end of the second quarter of 2002, we have 6 country web sites:
 - Armenia: <http://www.gipi.am>
 - Georgia: <http://www.gipi.ge>
 - Kyrgyz Republic: <http://www.gipi.kg>
 - Russia: <http://www.internews.kg/russian/about/project/gipi/docs.htm>
 - Ukraine: <http://gipi.internews.ua/rus>
 - Uzbekistan: <http://www.gipi.uz>

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