



GIPI Progress Report
3rd Quarter 2002
November 25, 2002

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 16 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>

-- **Highlights**

Highlights of GIPI's work in the third quarter of 2002 included:

- Organizing ISPs and providing the legal support for creation of Internet Exchange Points in India and Nigeria (an IXP has already launched in the Kyrgyz Republic with GIPI support);
- Convening a roundtable in Ukraine on telecommunications policy reform;
- Participating in government working groups in Russia drafting laws on communications, information security, and IT.
- Compiling on the GIPI India web site ICT policies from India's states and regions and prompting the government in Uzbekistan to develop an official web site for draft ICT legislation;
- Playing a key role in developing or expanding the capacity of ISP associations in Nigeria, and Yugoslavia, ISOC chapters in India and Tajikistan, and other stakeholder policy networks in Bulgaria, Indonesia and Georgia;
- Convening a roundtable of key government agencies and the private sector on cybercrime in Indonesia;
- Providing assistance to government agencies or working groups drafting ICT legislation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan;
- Organizing regional roundtables in Ukraine and in Tajikistan, the latter leading to an ongoing consultative process among government and key stakeholders;
- Organizing a broad coalition in Bulgaria to support competitive telecom policies.

-- **Priorities**

Consistent themes have emerged in GIPI's work. In almost every country where GIPI is active, its priorities presently include:

- Reforming telecommunications regulatory policy, to introduce or strengthen competition and guarantee ISPs and other service providers non-discriminatory treatment by monopoly or dominant carriers;
- Eliminating or streamlining burdensome licensing requirements for ISPs;
- Developing national ICT strategies that emphasize market solutions, innovation and user control;
- Crafting e-commerce framework legislation, including digital signature legislation, that avoids unnecessary regulation;
- Securing effective management of the ccTLD, including pursuing redelegation to local entities that will administer the domain with technical competence and pursuant to sound dispute resolution practices;
- Creating Internet Exchange Points to bring down the cost and improve the quality of Internet service.

In the third quarter of 2002, two new emphases emerged: cybercrime policy and e-government.

-- **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.
- 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.
- As advocate, supporting competition and seeking to ease regulatory burdens on ICT companies.
- 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.

-- **Regional activities**

GIPI played a major role in organizing the Stakeholder Conference on the Information Society for the CIS region. The first phase of the conference was held in Kyrgyzstan on September 9-11, 2002. The conference was organized jointly by the Kyrgyz Government, the Russian Government, the UNDP, and GIPI. Most GIPI offices in the CIS were involved in the planning and in preparing their respective government officials to participate. The main objective of the conference was to engage all major stakeholders from governments, telecom industry, the business community and NGOs in the ongoing preparation process for the World Summit on the Information Society. GIPI's country coordinators used the preparation for the conference as an opportunity to educate local policymakers.

COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTS

Armenia

Removing Regulatory Burdens on ISPs: Working with the World Bank and the national ICT Development Council, GIPI helped persuade the government to prepare legislative changes to the ISP licensing process, specifically to simplify licensing procedures. In terms of the competitive environment, GIPI-AM has been providing legal advice to ISPs in litigation related to the incumbent telecommunications operator's abuse of its monopoly position.

Ensuring Protection of Internet Users' Privacy: GIPI continued working for the elimination of a requirement that ISPs allow national security authorities to obtain data from their systems without judicial permission. In September, the Ministry of Transport and Communications requested GIPI's assistance in drafting a new rule that will require the government to obtain prior judicial authorization for surveillance.

Reforming Telecommunications Policy (Regulation of VoIP): On the request of the Prime Minister, GIPI prepared an overview of the legal regulation of VoIP services in NIS countries, the EU and the US. Based on GIPI's analysis and a recommendation from the ICT Council, the Prime Minister requested that the Ministry of Transport and Communication develop a legal definition of VoIP services and consider the introduction of a license that is distinct from those issued to ISPs.

Establishing Effective ccTLD Management: GIPI is working to develop a domain name registration system and dispute resolution policy in Armenia.

Promoting a Regulatory Framework for E-Commerce. GIPI is collaborating with the ICT Council, the government's main consultative body on the development of ICT policy, and other policymakers to implement Armenia's national ICT plan and develop a legal framework for e-commerce. GIPI provided extensive assistance to the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development in drafting a Law on Electronic Documents and Electronic Signatures.

Azerbaijan

Adoption of a Legal and Regulatory Framework for ICT: With assistance from GIPI, a draft law on e-signatures was completed in mid-July and circulated to the National ICT Strategy (NICTS) development team. Since the draft requires further improvements, GIPI continued to work with the UNDP, the government and stakeholders.

Improving the Regulatory Treatment of ISPs: GIPI-AZ urged the NICTS legislative working group to develop proposals to ease the administrative requirements imposed on ISPs. GIPI worked with the local ISOC chapter to oppose a proposed per minute tariff on telephone charges. GIPI and ISOC worked on an appeal to the Ministry of Communications and GIPI assisted ISPs in negotiations with the Ministry regarding the issue.

Adoption of Legal and Regulatory Framework for ICT (VoIP Regulation): GIPI met with the Committee on ICT within the Ministry of Communications to discuss needed reforms in the regulatory treatment of IP telephony.

Development of National ICT Strategy: GIPI is a member of the National ICT Strategy (NICTS) development team working with the UNDP and other local organizations. GIPI chairs the working group on legislative reform, which includes members of the Providers Association, the Internet Association, government officials and NGO staff. GIPI is also working with the NICTS team to develop a national e-government plan.

In addition, in preparation for the World Information Society Summit and the preparatory conferences in the NIS, GIPI provided expert assistance to the national working group developing a response to ICT policy challenges. GIPI-AZ prepared an article about the preparatory conference, which was published in the newspaper “Internet News,” available at <http://www.internet.news.az:8101/> and at the GIPI site, www.gipi.az.

Improvement of ccTLD policies: As a member of the NICTS commission, GIPI-AZ is taking part in working out the mechanisms for domain name management in Azerbaijan. During the third quarter, GIPI explored the matter with organizations currently involved in the management of the domain name.

Belarus

Promoting competition policy for the telecom sector: GIPI worked with the UNDP and OSI to develop a strategy to facilitate the licensing of VSAT for non-commercial use, providing legal advice on the licensing process.

Developing E-Commerce Framework Legislation: GIPI-BY has been working to support formation of a governmental department devoted to the development of ICT-related legislation. GIPI worked on the draft law on information privacy .

Educating Policymakers: GIPI-BY is organizing two international conferences for November – one is on e-trade, and the second is a Belorussian Internet Forum. GIPI has been preparing conference programs, holding press conferences and handling various administrative issues.

Developing E-Government: GIPI-BY worked with the National Law Information Center and the Belorussian Institute of Law to draft a proposal for an Internet portal for legal materials. The purpose of the project is to use ICT to provide citizens with free access to legal information, to implement distant education, and to provide lower income people with access to free legal assistance.

Promoting Effective Management of the ccTLD: GIPI worked on several fronts to develop greater national capacity to address domain names management issues. In July, GIPI prepared an analysis of laws and policies governing domain name registration in Belarus and proposed the creation of a working group to recommend specific reforms.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

GIPI BiH began operations in September with funding from the Open Society Institute and USAID through SETA, Inc. The project in Bosnia was just getting underway at the end of the third quarter.

Creation of National ICT Strategy: The GIPI coordinator for BiH and regional coordinator Bob Horvitz met with the official in charge of the BiH Council of Ministers' project for formulating a national ICT development plan, to discuss ways for GIPI to support the project.

Capacity Building for the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA): GIPI has discussed with the head of the CRA plans to support the agency through training and other capacity building. GIPI also met with the Office of the High Representative, which identified capacity building at the CRA as one of the most useful activities for GIPI.

Bulgaria

Developing E-Commerce Legislation: In July, GIPI-BG signed an MOU with the Minister of State Administration, under which GIPI will provide expert assistance to the Ministry in the drafting of an e-commerce law. GIPI convened key local experts to serve as founding members for a working group that will assist in drafting the e-commerce law. GIPI also signed an agreement with the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to provide policy expertise to the Chamber on IT, Internet and telecommunications related issues.

In September, the GIPI-BG representative was elected as chairman of the new IT Development Association (ITDA), a non-profit NGO formed by a cross-section of local politicians, ex-ministers, businessmen, journalists, advanced computer users, engineers, etc., to promote IT and Internet usage.

Reform of the Telecommunications Law. In August, in a sudden move, the government offered a new telecommunications law that contained numerous problematic provisions. GIPI-BG prepared and circulated a written analysis summarizing the problems with the law, especially its implications for the Internet. GIPI mobilized a coalition of non-governmental stakeholders, including the Bulgarian IT Association, the ISP association, the ITDA, the ABA/CEELI project, local ISPs, the Danish Internet Society and the World Bank, to seek changes in the draft.

In addition, GIPI met with the Minister of State Administration, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, USAID, and one of the authors of the draft law to discuss needed changes and the collective action needed to achieve these reforms. GIPI arranged for international experts to come to Bulgaria to speak publicly about the flaws in the draft and to meet with relevant parties.

In September, GIPI worked with the ABA/CEELI and the Bulgarian IT Association to convince the Ministry of Transport and Communications to hold a public conference, scheduled for October 4, to discuss the new telecommunications law, thereby offering an opportunity for all interested parties to engage in comment and dialogue.

Georgia

Development of a National ICT Strategy: GIPI worked with the State ICT Council to convene a September 9 Forum on the Information Society, attended by most of the major stakeholders in ICT policy development. Participants agreed to hold regular forums on different issues. GIPI was tasked to bring together the efforts to develop a national ICT policy.

Development of a Personal Data Law: GIPI worked with the State Department of Informatization and advised the Parliament on changes needed in the draft legislation “On Personal Data of Physical and Legal Entities.” GIPI is a member of the working group tasked to finalize the bill.

Reform of the Telecommunications Regulatory Framework: GIPI is working to create a more competitive telecommunications environment within Georgia and has been meeting with local stakeholders to discuss collaborative efforts to achieve this goal. In addition to government agencies and the dominant carrier, this work also involves the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the UNDP.

E-Government. GIPI-GA prepared a paper on the importance of public access to information and the usefulness of e-government.

Adopting 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 technical committee on Georgian coding standards. GIPI worked with the State Department of Informatization and the Department of Standardization to prepare the necessary documentation for Georgian keyboard standards.

Developing Policy Networks: GIPI supported the formation of an “Alliance on ICT Policy,” as a forum for policy discussions on national ICT issues. Members would include representatives from the Ministry of Communications, the Informatization Department, the State Council, the National Communication Commission, and the dominant telecom provider, as well as ISPs, NGOs and other local stakeholders.

India

Opening the ISM Band to Broader Communications Uses: This summer GIPI continued to engage in dialogue with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), the Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI), the leading consumers group, the Computer Society of India, the Telecom Users Group of India and the media on the importance of delicensing the ISM band. Due to the efforts of GIPI and others, TRAI issued recommendations to the Government of India that include delicensing the ISM band.

Support Creation of a Local Internet Exchange Point (IXP): GIPI India prepared and circulated to key stakeholders a paper entitled “Internet Exchange – A Solution Towards Cost Effective and Quality Internet Access,” discussing the needs, benefits and technical aspects of deploying an Internet Exchange in India. The paper will be published in two leading technical journals.

At the request of the ISP Association of India, GIPI assisted in formulating a business proposal for the creation of an IXP, covering technical, commercial and financial considerations. In a key breakthrough, the TRAI agreed to include the formation of an Internet Exchange as one of its recommendations to encourage growth of the Internet in India.

Supporting Telecom Policy Reforms. In response to a request by TRAI, GIPI India gathered information on countries that offer “unmetered” local telephone calls for Internet access/ or lower tariffs for local phone calls. The information GIPI presented was incorporated into an agency consultation paper.

Removing Regulatory Barriers to Internet Telephony. GIPI India worked with other local stakeholders to organize a workshop with TRAI officials on Internet Telephony. GIPI also has worked to educate various local stakeholders, including the Computer Society of India, the Telecom Users Group of India about various aspects of India’s current policy on Internet Telephony.

Assessment of Regional ICT Policies. GIPI India compiled and posted on its web site www.gipi.org.in the ICT policies of the 25 states and 7 Union territories in India for assessment and analysis. GIPI India will identify the best practices among the various states and suggest ICT strategies to those states that do not currently have policies.

Developing Local Policy Networks: GIPI India drafted the terms and conditions for establishing an ISOC chapter in New Delhi. Upon completion, this will be the first ISOC chapter in India.

Indonesia

Liberalization of Telecommunications Policy: GIPI-ID is working with stakeholders to develop legislative reforms that will bring Indonesia’s policy framework into closer alignment with global liberalization trends.

GIPI-ID became a member of the Working Group reviewing policy proposals on the provision of the Universal Service Obligation. Numerous policy issues that need to be addressed include developing universal service models that are attractive to the private sector, and network configurations that are suited to the geographical conditions in Indonesia.

The Supervising Committee on Competition and Antitrust (KPPU) asked GIPI to provide ongoing advice on ICT policy. KPPU is tasked with policing corporate business practices, but lacks expertise in the ICT field, which has led to problems when evaluating issues that involve VoIP, telephone tariffs, privatization, liberalization and licensing.

Developing the E-Commerce Legal Framework (Cybercrime Legislation): GIPI-Indonesia, in collaboration with other stakeholders, including the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, held a roundtable discussion on cybercrime. After the roundtable, GIPI worked with the Ministry of Communication and Information, the Indonesian Police Headquarters, the Partnership for Economic Growth, Indonesia ICT Watch, and the Indonesian Infocosm Business Community to develop a strategy that includes the drafting of a Cybercrime Act and the convening of a series of workshops on the cybercrime issue. In September, GIPI, in cooperation with PEG-USAID, Indonesia Infocosm Business Community and National Police, held the first workshop on cybercrime and started writing a report on cybercrime law.

Building Coalitions: The Cyber Policy Group created by GIPI-ID, which provides a forum for local stakeholders from various organizations to discuss current ICT policy issues and work together for ICT legislation, met periodically throughout the third quarter.

Domain Names Management. The Ministry of Communication and Information asked GIPI-ID to propose a policy draft for the National Internet Registrar and asked GIPI to serve as a neutral broker in mediating a dispute between the ISP association and the local ISOC, which are vying to run the registry. In August, GIPI suggested that the parties hold a roundtable discussion to examine solutions to the problem.

Promoting E-Government: GIPI is a member of the E-Government Task Group under the Ministry of Communications and in that capacity prepared proposals on institutional capacity building, authorization, information exchanges and private sector roles, which were incorporated in the proposed National Policy on E-Government. The National Policy for E-Government was submitted to the President for her approval.

Educating Policymakers and the Public: The GIPI ID coordinator maintains an extensive schedule of public presentations and trainings on ICT policy issues. In the third quarter, the following were among the more noteworthy educational activities of GIPI ID: GIPI provided training on ICT policy to 38 mid-level staff within the Ministry of Communication and Information. GIPI chaired and made a presentation at the “ICT for Small Medium Enterprises Seminar” that was organized by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Youth Movement for Economic Development.

Kazakhstan

During the third quarter, GIPI KZ underwent a staff transition, as the former GIPI coordinator for Kazakhstan left and a replacement with extensive experience was recruited and hired. As a result of this process, substantive activity during the quarter was limited.

Development of Legal Framework Supporting e-Commerce and ICT Development: During the third quarter, GIPI worked closely with responsible governmental officials on drafting the laws “Digital Signature and Electronic Document Flow” and “On Informatization.” Substantial efforts were undertaken to educate members of Parliament and other policymakers

about these two pieces of legislation, which are currently under consideration in the Parliament and are likely to be adopted in the near future.

Kyrgyz Republic

Developing an Effective Legal Framework for E-Commerce: A draft law “About Electronic Digital Signatures” is being considered by the Parliament. GIPI provided policy input on the measure and proposed amendments as well as suggestions on rules needed to implement the previously-adopted law on electronic payments. In August, GIPI and the UNDP jointly arranged a two day roundtable with numerous national ICT stakeholders to discuss a variety of ICT related policy issues. The roundtable participants made several recommendations on policy actions that should be taken to develop an e-economy, including recommendations on creating a competitive telecommunications market.

Building Coalitions: GIPI hosts the regular meetings of the Association of Communications Operators, which includes almost all participants in the communications service market, and provides expert advice and strategic assistance to the association. GIPI has also worked to establish an Internet users association, drafting its charter and articles of incorporation. GIPI’s work with the Association led to the creation of an Internet exchange point, scheduled to become operational on October 1, 2002. See www.connect.kg.

Implementing the National ICT Policy: In September, GIPI prepared a draft decree “On the Establishment of a Foundation for Information and Communications Technologies Development.” It is hoped that this foundation will be a powerful mechanism for ICT development. GIPI drafted documents to outline the main objectives and duties, funding sources, and management practices for the planned foundation.

Promoting E-Government. GIPI worked with UNDP staff, the President’s office and the Ministry of Transport and Communications to develop recommendations for e-government.

Educating Policymakers and Stakeholders: In August, GIPI and the UNDP prepared and published two brochures -- “Kyrgyzstan Development Gateway” and “ICT Development in Kyrgyzstan - Monitoring & E-Readiness” -- designed to attract new stakeholders to the ICT policy and development process.

In August and September, GIPI KG worked extensively on organizing the regional preparatory conference for the World Summit on the Information Society. This involved intense collaboration with the government, the UNDP, private industry and NGOs. The process and the meeting itself (September 9-11) served to educate key stakeholders on a number of ICT policy issues and get them working together on developing concrete policy recommendations. More information can be found at <http://www.ict.kg>.

Nigeria

Crafting a Policy Framework for ICT. GIPI continued to work with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to implement the national IT policy. GIPI was elected as the Secretary for the technical committee tasked with implementing the policy. In addition, NITDA heavily relied upon GIPI's analysis of the draft Information Technology Act when presenting the bill to the Federal Executive Council. Based in part upon GIPI's analysis, the IT Bill was approved in July by the Council and is being forwarded by the President as an Executive Bill to the National Assembly for enactment into law.

Removing Regulatory Barriers Limiting ISPS, Building Local Capacity: GIPI has been providing expert assistance to the ISP Association of Nigeria (ISPAN) on a variety of issues facing the ISP community in Nigeria, including the creation of an Internet Exchange Point. GIPI facilitated meetings between ISPAN and NITDA and between ISPAN and the monopoly telco in an effort to resolve policy concerns.

Developing a Sound Policy Framework (Opening Access to the ISM Band): GIPI NG is working with ISPAN members and the government to reverse a directive from the NCC requiring ISPs to vacate the ISM spectrum by February of 2003.

Promoting more effective management of the .ng ccTLD: In July, at a consultative seminar on the Nigerian ccTLD, where the focus of the discussion was on bringing the administration of the .ng domain back within Nigeria, participants agreed to GIPI's suggestion to consult broadly with local ICT stakeholders in developing a new management agreement.

Russia

Advancing Telecommunications Liberalization: GIPI assisted the government's working groups drafting the new law "On Communications," providing information on relevant international models. While many aspects of the draft are progressive, GIPI has continued to work to improve it yet further. In September, GIPI prepared comments on the most recent draft, recommending specific amendments to make the draft law more consistent with international standards and to ensure that the law does not have an adverse effect on the development and use of the Internet.

Developing Balanced Information Security Legislation: In July, GIPI Russia became a member of the special governmental working group on another draft law, about open access to state information. GIPI Russia also is a member of several working groups on information security organized by the Ministry of Communications. The Deputy Head of the Department of Information Security agreed to participate in GIPI's information security project.

Other Work on Legislative and Regulatory Framework: In July, GIPI-Russia was nominated to participate in a session of the Science and Technology Council of the Russian Ministry of Communication and Information to discuss outlooks for the development of Russian Internet and information resources.

GIPI has been active in a working group, organized by the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Trade, that is developing policies for the regulation of information technologies.

Supporting the WSIS Process: GIPI Russia worked extensively on preparations for the September 9-11, 2002 Bishkek preparatory conference for the WSIS, collaborating closely with the UNDP; the Regional Communications Council (RCC); members of the Russian national taskforce; the Communications Ministry; and the ITU. GIPI Russia established a “virtual roundtable” to develop proposed responses to various ICT policy challenges. A key success was achieved when the governments agreed to work together with NGOs to coordinate conference events and outputs.

Reforming Domain Names Management: GIPI Russia has worked actively to reform the national policy on domain names. There is discussion of resuming the registration of domain names under the .su country code previously assigned to the Soviet Union. Specifically, GIPI Russia is working with the Regulations Committee of the SU Register the ISP association, the Ministry of Informatization, and international organizations to develop a “Statute on Registration of Domain Names in SU Domain.” GIPI is collaborating with several organizations, including

Promoting Electronic Government: GIPI participated in developing the legal basis for the “Electronic Moscow” program and is active in a working group for the draft law “State Information in Open Access.” GIPI is a member of the working group headed by the Ministry of Education to conduct an open tender for implementation of the Russian Federal program entitled “Development of Unified Educational Information Environment.”

Tajikistan

Developing a National ICT Strategy and Legal Framework. GIPI worked in close collaboration with the Informational and Analytical Department of the Tajik President’s office to hold public roundtables in four cities in the southern region of the country on “ICT as an Enabler of Development.” To plan the events, a working group was created, composed of local ISPs, other companies, governmental institutions, ICT associations, universities, and the UNDP.

The roundtables, which were supported by OSI Tajikistan, were extremely successful. The discussions of the working group involved in planning the roundtables served to educate key stakeholders and government officials on ICT policy issues and resulted in a number of recommendations for the government. The roundtable recommendations were presented to the Prime Minister’s office and in September the Vice Prime Minister directed all ministries, agencies and local governments to consider the recommendations, take specific action, and report by January 2003.

The working group that GIPI created to plan the roundtables continued to meet monthly after the roundtables, becoming an ongoing forum for the discussion of ICT policy issues. At the urging of GIPI, three members of the working group (including a representative of the President’s

administration) were included in the Tajik delegation to the preparatory conference for the WSIS. Their participation in the conference and associated workshop helped them to recognize the growing digital divide in Tajikistan and the important governmental role in overcoming this problem.

GIPI is collaborating with TANTIS, the Tajik Development Gateway and the President's office in planning a National ICT Conference in November or December of 2002.

Creation of a Users Association: In September, GIPI began the process of establishing the Tajik chapter of ISOC. GIPI is drafting the bylaws and assisting in other legal questions that arise in the formulation of the new organization.

Ukraine

Developing Telecommunications Reform Legislation: GIPI collaborated with the Internet Association of Ukraine, UkrTelekom, the National Bank, and the Cabinet of Ministers to develop a new law "On Telecommunications," which should include reforms such as the creation of an independent regulator. A public hearing on the draft law is scheduled for November. GIPI Ukraine prepared a variety of analytic materials related to this law, most of which are available at <http://gipi.internews.ua/ukr/about/news/archive/021113.html>.

In September, GIPI Ukraine held a roundtable discussion on the challenges associated with implementing European standards in Ukraine's telecommunications sector.

Educating Policymakers and Stakeholders: In an effort to broaden civil society participation, GIPI met in August with representatives of several international and Ukrainian NGOs to propose joint activities during the fall of this year with respect to the draft "On Telecommunications" as well as the draft on personal data protection.

To serve as a basis for law reform activities, GIPI Ukraine prepared a translated compilation of the EU's directives on ICT issues, and distributed hundreds of copies of this book to state agencies, members of Parliament, NGOs and libraries. The project was supported by the International Renaissance Foundation (OSI in Ukraine).

Developing E-commerce Legislation: GIPI was asked by the government to provide expert assistance on digital signature legislation. The draft law "On Electronic Signatures" was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers in July and may be considered by the Parliament this fall. While the drafters adopted some of the changes recommended by GIPI, GIPI was not able to support the draft and continues to work for changes. The government also asked for GIPI's expertise on the legislative proposal "On Electronic Document Exchange."

Promoting E-Government: In August, GIPI conducted research to support a presidential decree "On additional actions to increase openness of the government," reviewing governmental sites and making recommendations for further development of e-government.

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. GIPI was asked to establish a working group on this matter in the Parliament and began establishing this group in October.

Educating Policymakers - Regional Roundtables: GIPI organized an educational session on electronic government 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 at:

<http://gipi.internews.ua/rus/activity/initiatives/seminars/april12.html>. In cooperation with the IRF and the UNDP, GIPI conducted two regional seminars in 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> The success of these events led to another roundtable in Sevastopol in September.

Uzbekistan

Developing ICT Framework Laws: At the request of the head of the Uzbekistan Post and Telecommunications Agency, GIPI advised the agency on draft legislation and was included in several new working groups to develop ICT programs and laws. GIPI also worked with TACIS and the Uzbekistan Parliament to draft an MOU to outline future cooperation with the Parliament in improving ICT legislation.

In July, GIPI entered into an MOU with the local UNDP office to collaborate on ICT issues. Under the MOU, the UNDP will hire three lawyers to work with GIPI to develop ICT legislation in Uzbekistan.

In response to suggestions from GIPI, the Coordinating Council on Computerization and ICT developed an official website that provides access to draft legislation and an open discussion of government ICT draft programs.

Promoting Competition Policy for Telecommunications: GIPI met with officials within several ministries to voice opposition to the continuing monopoly in the ICT sector.

Reforming Administrative of the ccTLD: GIPI played a key role in advising the government on a strategy for redelegation of the .uz ccTLD to a non-profit entity in Uzbekistan that will broadly represent the interests of the Internet community in the country.

Yugoslavia

Development of a National ICT Strategy: In August, GIPI initiated a series of meetings with the key stakeholders on the Yugoslav ICT scene -- government officials, representatives of the EU and other international organizations, corporate managers, and Internet activists. Based on

these discussion, GIPI is identifying the pressing issues and the best strategies for full engagement in the events that will shape ICT policy in the coming months.

Building capacity of the Yugoslav ISP association; limiting telecom monopoly: GIPI provided assistance to local ISPs in their fight with the monopoly over VoIP services. In June, Telecom Serbia started disconnecting dial-in/out capacities (ISDN PRIs) of the local ISPs without any prior notice and, soon after, unilaterally canceling the related written agreements. In September, GIPI brought in the head of the European ISP Association to advise the ISPs and publicly support their position. The ISPs took the case to Belgrade Trade Court and Serbian Ministry for Telecommunications. Both the court and the ministry supported the ISPs and ordered Telecom to completely reverse its actions directed against the ISPs.

Supporting ccTLD Reform: GIPI helped form a working group of local ICT experts, tasked with reforming the procedures of the .yuTLD registry. The Office for IT and Internet officially appointed members of the working group proposed by GIPI (which is also represented in the group).

Educating Policymakers: GIPI has established a close collaborative relationship with the Serbian Government's Office for IT and Internet, which asked GIPI to help in organizing ISP and NGO panels at the major regional conference on public policy in telecommunications. The conference will go under title "Telecommunications for Development" (<http://www.eSEuropeConference.org>) and will gather on October 28-29 all regional ministers of telecommunications, representatives of national telecommunication regulatory agencies, telecom operators, major ISPs and NGOs engaged in area of ICT development.

POLICY RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS WEB SITE

In the third quarter of 2002, GIPI expanded the quality and quantity of information available at the GIPI web site, www.internetpolicy.net. The site compiles and presents in a useful format the best materials available on ICT policy, focusing on materials of use to developing and transitional countries. Three new or revised papers were added to the GIPI web site:

- The Legal And Policy Framework for Addressing Cybercrime
- Best Practices for Telecommunications Reform
- Licensing Options for Internet Service Providers

In the third quarter of 2002, 3 new country web sites came online:

- Azerbaijan: <http://www.gipi.az>
- Bulgaria: <http://www.internews.bg>
- India: <http://www.gipi.org.in>

These country 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 nowhere else online.

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