

**To the Members of the
ISOC Cambodia Chapter**

The following is a lengthy Documentation, quotations mainly from the ISOC Chapter Delegates list. It is provided here as background to the present situation, in order to show with original quotes from other chapters that our initiative, to discuss the dissolution of our ISOC Cambodia Chapter, has found a wide echo. Many others are now expressing their frustrations with ISOC procedures, in response to our starting this discussion.

Highlighting is added in some places by us.

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Mon, 23 Sep 2013 10:33:40 -0400

From: Eduardo Diaz <eduardodiazrivera@gmail.com>

To: Chantira Be <chantira.be@gmail.com>

CC: Chapter Delegates <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

Chantira:

I can empathize with your chapter grievances after reading your mail. **If the decision to close the chapter goes forward at least try to keep together board members and the current membership through an informal group even if the group is not a legal entity.** After all, you were able to do many things the way you are set up at the moment.

Eduardo

ISOC-Puerto Rico

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Fwd: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Mon, 23 Sep 2013 19:07:14 +0200

From: CW Mail <mail@christopherwilkinson.eu>

To: Ted Mooney <mooney@isoc.org>

CC: Norbert Klein <nhklein@gmx.net>

Ted: This is not good publicity for ISOC having let it be understood (some time ago) that funding

would be available for Chapters.

Regards

Christopher

[[Who is Christopher Wilkinson:

ISOC Wallonia, and he is in the European Chapters Coordinating Council]]

[[Who is Ted Mooney:

Ted Mooney

Senior Director, Membership & Services

The Internet Society

1775 Wiehle Avenue

Reston, VA 20190 USA]]

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Mon, 23 Sep 2013 16:03:17 -0400

From: Veni Markovski <veni@veni.com>

Reply-To: veni@veni.com

To: Chandra Be <chantra.be@gmail.com>

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org, ISOC Chapter Support <chapter-support@isoc.org>

Wow.

This is serious.

Would be helpful to hear ISOC global.

v.

[[He is the President of ISOC Bulgaria]]

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Mon, 23 Sep 2013 21:56:15 -0500

From: info@isoc.org.ec <info@isoc.org.ec>

To: Chantra Be <chantra.be@gmail.com>

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

Several Chapters face the same kind of problems. We need work with support of several volunteers and partners because simply to have an office is not only to have a place.. It means to have people, pay taxes, social security for employees and legal representatives, accounting people, plus office equipment and much much more. Even If you share some space office you need a contract and so. Because of this, HQ made this very flexible and one way is not to be a formal NGO. Maybe this can work changing the bylaws

Carlos Vera

Internet Society Ecuador

www.isoc.org.ec

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Tue, 24 Sep 2013 03:01:10 +0000

From: Julian Vincent <julian@isoc.my>

Reply-To: julian@isoc.my

To: veni@veni.com,"Chantra Be" <chantra.be@gmail.com>

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org, ISOC Chapter Support <chapter-support@isoc.org>

Would be good to see ISOC APAC team reply on this list on efforts to keep the Cambodia Chapter alive.

Cheers,

Julian Vincent

Chair

ISOC Malaysia Chapter

[So far no mail from the two ISOC staff at the Asia Pacific Regional Office in Singapore]

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Tue, 24 Sep 2013 10:40:03 +0545

From: Baburam Aryal <babu@isoc.org.np>

To: veni@veni.com

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

Dear All

This is serious issue one of Chapter is considering dissolution. As a chapter leader, I never expect such situation.

Last year when I was there in Cambodia and had a brief meeting with the then Chapter President Norbert and discussed the chapter's plight and relation with HQ or Regional Office.

In Nepal

We had also similar situation here in Nepal. When you incorporate any NGO, you have to register at local administration office and must identify where your office would be located? We also need recommendation of Ward office of Municipality and District Development Committee. Local Administration also seek character certificate of proposed committee members from Police. Once you register, you have to register at local office of inland revenue office for PAN. For pan, you have to have a contract with a landlord where your office is registered and 6 months house rent tax has to be paid in advance to the government.

Is this possible to run with out registering?

Simply, No. When you have to negotiate or deal with the government at various stages, that time you are not recognized. Yeah, you can occupy street, but not represent at formal places.

ISOC Activities in Local Jurisdiction

I'm also with the opinion and we have discussed this issue in committee many times and committee is with the same opinion that any ISOC involvement must be notified to the local chapter whether they have any official visit or granting any fund to individual member. This keeps a good rapport among HQ and its members.

What we did?

When we were recognized in 2007, we acted as loose network only. We encountered with some problem and rejuvenated in 2008. Since the rejuvenation to August 2012 ISOC Nepal's office remained at my office. We submitted that the same house as address and asked my landlord to give a contract on behalf of ISOC Nepal as well. I was General Secretary when we officially founded ISOC Nepal and registered at local administration. Still, ISOC Nepal Office is combined at my office however ISOC Nepal bears the cost it occupies. We have a staff as well. We are able to bear this as we had got few research opportunities and other activities [NOT FROM ISOC HQ].

Suggestion,

If office space is only the cause for the dissolution, any one member can come forward and adopt similar model what we experienced. Once you start, then you will get support from the stakeholder. It is not necessarily to be much dependent to ISOC HQ. As Internet Society Nepal, we have independent status in Nepal and will remain even if ISOC HQ scraps its affiliation. According to our local law, now no one can register Internet Society Nepal even if HQ pours any sum. I mean, we need to act Independently in some extent.

We need Cambodia Chapter

Cambodia is special chapter for the cause of ISOC. I had first hand experience how people are afraid to speak and express. Existence of ISOC Cambodia will help people to exercise FOE.

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Recent Correspondence from the Cambodian Chapter

Date: Wed, 25 Sep 2013 23:19:14 +0300

From: Elver Loho <elver.loho@gmail.com>

To: Dave Burstein <daveb@dslprime.com>

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

Hi all,

I haven't kept up with this email list, but from what I can gather the Cambodian Chapter wants to disassociate from ISOC due to lack of direct financial support for the basic running and operation of the Chapter.

I do not speak for my Chapter here, but **personally I wholeheartedly support this gesture. If this happens, then maybe, just maybe, ISOC senior staff will start taking the issue of providing support for Chapters around the world seriously.**

Right now Chapters seem to exist more as a way for ISOC HQ to show that they have support and members around the world. We're all providing a sort of legitimacy for the people at the HQ. Do we get something back for this? Sort of. I mean, maybe. To some degree. Though here in Estonia very few people have heard of the Internet Society while our own local language brand carries a lot of weight. Your situation may be different.

Meanwhile we're battling with basic organizational issues, because we can't even afford to keep up basic maintenance. At times we're even

unable to reply to government's requests for comments on pending legislation, because we all have regular jobs or businesses to run. **This has to end.** If what it takes is for one or more Chapters to secede from the union, then so be it. If the Cambodian Chapter goes through with this, I'm willing to put the question of secession up for debate in our own Chapter.

I urge other Chapter leaders to consider the same.

Best,
Elver
.ee [Estonia]

elver.loho@gmail.com
+372 5661 6933

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Fri, 27 Sep 2013 19:45:28 +0200

From: Klaus Birkenbihl <Klaus.Birkenbihl@Isoc.de>

Organization: Internet Society German Chapter e.V. (ISOC.DE)

To: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org

Norbert Klein wrote on 2013-09-27 11:15:

During this process we also faced the dilemma resulting from the following section of the proposed Bylaws:

Article XI. - Amendment and Voting Procedures

1. All proposed changes to these Chapter Bylaws shall have been approved by the Internet Society (International) before being presented to the Chapter membership for a vote.

Hoho! Would be good to know how many chapters have this in their bylaws. **(I wonder how to work as a responsible board member of a registered association in county (A) while non members of the association in country (B) can control and block decisions.)** Not being the lawyer in our board I wonder if this would be legal at all. And what btw. if a chapter member requests a change of the bylaws? How could this work? Just for curiosity: is the guy who "proposed" this still on ISOC staff?

Best, Klaus

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Klaus Birkenbihl
Treasurer and Board member
Internet Society German Chapter e.V. (ISOC.DE)
c/o ict-Media GmbH
<http://www.isoc.de/>

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Fri, 27 Sep 2013 15:49:53 -0400

From: Veni Markovski <veni@veni.com>

Reply-To: veni@veni.com

To: Klaus Birkenbihl <Klaus.Birkenbihl@Isoc.de>

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org

But wait, that's not all!

This is becoming more and more worrisome!
The text, actually, comes from... ISOC Global !!
It is mandatory!

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/chapters/guidelines/bylaws.shtml>

Article XI. - Amendment and Voting Procedures

1. *All proposed changes to these Chapter Bylaws shall have been approved by the ISOC Membership Team before being presented to the Chapter membership for a vote.*

I have no recollection about these guidelines, but they have so many flaws, errors and statements which contradict the national law, that if it was up to me, **I would remove them permanently right now from the web site, and will put a statement that they were there by a mistake.**

Why I am saying it? Because it is not the only mandatory text in these guidelines, and the rest is equally unacceptable by national legislation, but also by common sense. Take article 1:

Article I. - Name

1. * This organization shall be called the [**your chapter name**] Chapter of the Internet Society.*

There's no way for a non-profit, which is created, and is not yet a recognized chapter to have this in their title. Further, to put it in the title, in some jurisdictions, would require some kind of document from ISOC, and in some cases this may be a Board decision. A Board decision of ISOC HQ. Really? Really???

Or how about article II - Purpose - **(again mandatory!)**

* This Chapter is chartered by the Internet Society. These bylaws neither supersede nor abrogate any of the Bylaws of the Internet Society that regulate chapter affairs.*

What if the bylaws of ISOC.org are against the laws of national chapters?

I can only imagine how some chapters might be feeling now, when they are reading these quotes.

But wait, that's not all!

How about "* All members of a chapter shall also be members of the Internet Society*" **(again mandatory!)**

Really?

Again - this page needs urgent take down.

best,
veni
chairman of the board
ISOC - Bulgaria.

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Sat, 28 Sep 2013 11:01:16 +0200

From: Klaus Birkenbihl <Klaus.Birkenbihl@Isoc.de>

Organization: Internet Society German Chapter e.V. (ISOC.DE)

To: John More <morej1@mac.com>

CC: chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

John, I'm with you that paragraphs like "The purpose of this association is educate the local government on how to apply censorship on the Internet in a inconspicuous way." should either be removed or lead to the denial of the chapter status.

But there should be/are explicit and implicit (aka spirit) standards that help chapters to make bylaws and programs that are compatible with ISOC's mission - without having to ask an ISOCian watchdog "is it OK?" before they move. (I admit that what contributes to a free and open Internet in one culture might be offensive to another. But **these issues should rather be resolved in a discussion than by command [ISOC global] and obey [Chapter]. This makes the difference between imperialism and cultural diversity.**)

I understand is that the "guidelines" are made to ensure chapters comply to ISOC's mission and goals. **But these guideline themselves are against the spirit of ISOC. They resemble "father knows best", cultural imperialism, lack of democracy, lack of transparency ... Reading these "guidelines" and following discussions and chapter activities I wonder if its really the chapters that need to be supervised and guided. Wouldn't make far more sense to have an instance to ensure, that the values and goals that we preach to the world are maintained and respected within the membership of the organization?**

Ceterum censeo: it should not be forgotten that chapters are associations of *members* - not payed staff.

Klaus

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Fwd: Follow-up: Serious considerations to dissolve the Cambodia ISOC Chapter

Date: Sat, 28 Sep 2013 16:46:21 -0400

From: Veni Markovski <veni@veni.com>

Reply-To: veni@veni.com

To: Eduardo Diaz <eduardodiazrivera@gmail.com>

CC: Chapter Delegates <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

I don't know anyone who would have it (except from Cambodia, and they should feel free to change their by-laws to reflect the national laws!). And I don't know why it's a mandatory text, and **it's still on the ISOC web site.**

This is another example of how resources are being wasted. Just think about the many hours spent on preparing these recommendations, the number of people involved, and the efforts used.

v.

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On 09/28/13 15:56, Eduardo Diaz wrote:

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> We never had such language in our by-laws.

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> -ed

> President

> ISOC-PR

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: [Chapter-delegates] Recent Correspondence from the Cambodian Chapter

Date: Sun, 29 Sep 2013 10:44:15 +0300

From: Charles Oloo <oloo6382@gmail.com>

To: Chapter Delegates <chapter-delegates@elists.isoc.org>

Dear All

Am pleased to read open and animated contributions on this subject. Indeed Chapters especially in developing countries have and are experiencing difficulties in chapter administration processes, that have led to some of us think of the essence of volunteerism. As mentioned by colleagues, I don't understand how model of Chapters administration, is supposed to function properly in regions / countries, and yet ISOC Global most times also deals / with individual members irrespective of the Chapter's hierarchy. This utterly devalues the authority and influence of local chapters and sends a point that participating in local chapters activities is not all necessary nor important as still access to

support and help from ISOC Global is still possible. These are some of the reasons why some members do not care about Chapter issues.

Some of us almost gave up, after volunteering passionately so much, using our own resources to advance the Society's agenda on different front, experienced surmountable difficulties, missions and object, yet getting little measurable support from ISOC.

The other issues I wish to mention is

There is a saying that life begins @ 40, having attained work experience as professionalism on any field. In fact its these professional that share their knowledge to help in mentoring and guiding upcoming young aspiring experts. But at ISOC when it comes to opportunities, preference is given to under 40. this is very demoralizing and has sincerely made most people who would have otherwise contributed, stay aside, seeing no reason since at the end of the day, he/she will be locked out of most existing opportunities defined by ISOC. I had supported this idea but after thoroughly analysing it, I think its not progressive and fair, and has somehow contributed to low number voluntary membership.

On this I strongly support Elver Loho position and comments, among others. These issues need to addressed comprehensively.

Regards
Charles

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End of the first section of the Documentation.