

*A parallel event to be held during the World Summit on the Information Society at Tunis*

Presented by Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility ([www.cpsr.org](http://www.cpsr.org)),  
in cooperation with the Secretariat of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance  
([www.wgig.org](http://www.wgig.org))

## **Reforming Internet Governance:**

### **Perspectives from the UN Working Group on Internet Governance---**

#### **Book Release Event**

**Wednesday, November 16, 11:00-13:00, Hammamet room, the Kram Exhibition Centre**

At the December 2003 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva, governments adopted a Plan of Action that, inter alia, called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to set up a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). The WGIG's mandate was to analyze the governance of Internet and make proposals for action, as appropriate; develop a working definition of Internet governance; identify the public policy issues involved; and advance a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders. In November 2004, Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed forty individuals from government, the private sector, and civil society to the WGIG. After seven months of work, the WGIG's Report and a longer Background Report were released in July 2005. The two reports surveyed the landscape of public and private sector Internet governance mechanisms; advanced recommendations for improved governance in a range of key issue-areas; offered alternative models for the future oversight of the Internet's core resources and logical infrastructure; and proposed the establishment of a global, multistakeholder forum to facilitate continuing, inclusive dialogue on Internet governance. The reports elicited much debate around the world and served as key inputs in the second phase of the WSIS process, which culminates with the November 2005 Summit in Tunis. The issues they addressed will remain of central importance in the post-WSIS global debate on Internet governance.

With the continuing debate in mind, after the release of the two reports, a group of former participants in the WGIG process decided to collaborate on the production of a book on the WGIG experience and Internet governance issues. Edited by William J. Drake, the book includes contributions by the WGIG's Chairperson and Executive Secretary, twenty one members of the WGIG, and four members of its Secretariat. Writing in their personal capacities, the authors offer reflections on the value of the multistakeholder cooperation in the WGIG and beyond, and on some of the key substantive issues and institutional reform proposals currently under consideration by the international community. The volume is being published in the United Nations Information and Communications Technologies Task Force's book series and will be released at this parallel event in Tunis. The book will subsequently be available on the WGIG and UNICT Task Force websites, which are [www.wgig.org](http://www.wgig.org) and [www.unicttaskforce.org](http://www.unicttaskforce.org), respectively. The book's Introduction and Conclusion are now online at [www.wgig.org/book-Launch.html](http://www.wgig.org/book-Launch.html).

## Overview of the Event

### *Opening Remarks:*

Markus Kummer, Executive Coordinator of the Secretariat supporting the Working Group on Internet Governance

### *Moderator:*

Nitin Desai, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the World Summit on the Information Society, and former Chairperson of the Working Group on Internet Governance

### *Panel Participants :*

Peng Hwa Ang, Director of the Singapore Internet Research Centre and Dean of the School of Communication and Information, Nanyang Technological University, on, “Self Regulation After WGIG”

Vittorio Bertola, Chairman of ICANN's At Large Advisory Committee, on, “Oversight and Multiple Root Server Systems”

Avri Doria, independent researcher, on, “WSIS, WGIG, Technology and Technologists”

William J. Drake, President, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, on, “Why the WGIG Process Mattered”

Baher Esmat, Telecom Planning Manager at Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, and Juan Fernández, Senior Advisor in the Ministry of Informatics and Communication of Cuba and Coordinator of the Cuban Commission for Electronic Commerce, on, “International Internet Connections Costs”

Willy Jensen, Director General of the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority, on, “Striking the Appropriate Balance Between all Stakeholders”

Wolfgang Kleinwächter, professor of international communication policy and regulation, University of Aarhus, Denmark, on, “DeMystification of the Internet Root: Do we Need Governmental Oversight?”

Alejandro Pisanty, Head of Academic Computing Services for the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and Vice-Chair of the Board of ICANN, on, “Internet Names and Numbers in WGIG and WSIS: Perils and Pitfalls”

Others possible, TBC

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