



Internet Society
Pulse

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Abstract

Title: What if...? Peer-storming Future IXP Research

Type: Group exercise

Time: 60-90 minutes

Abstract: Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) serve as the critical junctions for regional connectivity, economic growth, and network resilience. However, the unique geographical and regulatory landscape of APAC presents challenges that require targeted, data-driven inquiry.

This interactive workshop invites participants to move beyond technical theory and engage in collaborative problem-solving. Working in groups, attendees will analyze the current state of APAC peering to identify critical knowledge gaps in infrastructure, policy, and performance.

Through a structured "Research Sprint," groups will draft and refine high-impact research questions designed to address real-world bottlenecks—from submarine cable dependency to the growth of tier-2 edge hubs. Participants will leave the session with a sharpened lens for analyzing regional traffic flows and a framework for turning technical observations into actionable research agendas.

Outcome: Four research proposals that address critical gaps in our understanding of the resilience and sustainability of IXPs within the Asia-Pacific region.

Agenda

Introduction (10 minutes)

Explain the exercise and required outcome. Split room into 4-5 groups.

Phase 1: The Brainstorm (10 Minutes)

Before settling on a question, discuss these three thematic pillars within your group. Which one interests you most?

Technical and Performance: (e.g., Latency, routing efficiency, IPv6 adoption, security/RPKI).

Economics and Policy: (e.g., Peering costs, government regulations, impact on local ISP markets).

Resilience and Geography: (e.g., Submarine cable diversity, disaster recovery, rural vs. urban connectivity).

Agenda

Phase 2: Identifying the "Gap" (10 Minutes)

Use the following prompts to find a problem worth solving:

- "We currently don't know enough about how IXPs in [Sub-region, e.g., Central Asia/Pacific Islands] affect..."
- "While we understand how IXPs work in mature markets, we are seeing a different trend in [Emerging Market] regarding..."
- "There is a lack of data comparing the performance of [Distributed IXPs] versus [Core IXPs] in the region."

Agenda

Phase 3: Drafting the Question (20 Minutes)

A strong research question should be F.I.N.E.R. (Feasible, Interesting, Novel, Ethical, and Relevant). You should also consider whether and how this can be measured and suggest required resources.

The group will draft 1-2 sentences to answer the following questions:

- Complete this sentence to visualize the outcome/solution from your research: “What if...”
- What is the problem/gap?
- What is the proposed solution?
- What would initial success look like (after 1-2 year)?
- What are the obstacles that need to be considered?
- What would success look like in the future (after 5 years)?

Agenda

Phase 4: The Final Pitch (40 minutes)

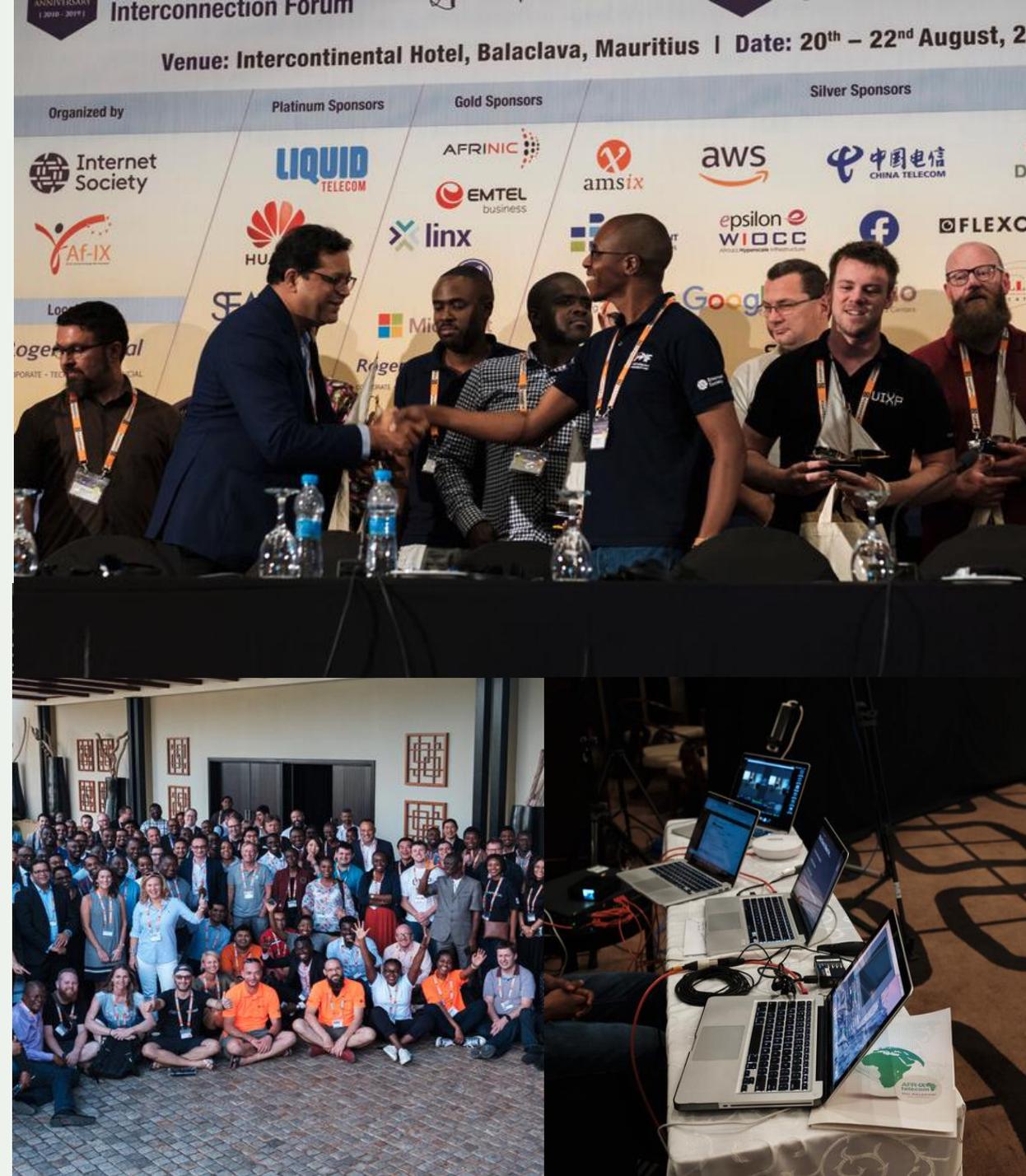
Each group will have 2 minutes to pitch their question to the room, followed by 8 minutes of Q&A. Be ready to answer:

- Why now? Why is this question urgent for the APAC region in 2026?
- What data? What kind of data (BGP tables, latency tests, interviews) would you need to answer this?

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