

# Mwende Njiraini

I currently work as an engineer in the New Technologies unit of the Communications Commission of Kenya, involved in new and emerging technologies research.

In this capacity I have been involved in the development of regulatory guidelines for new technologies that have brought significant changes in the Kenyan communications sector; these include Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Wireless Fidelity (WiFi). My work has also provided the opportunity of facilitating the establishment of the Kenya Network Information Centre ([www.kenic.or.ke](http://www.kenic.or.ke)), the dot ke country code top level domain (ccTLD) manager.

These projects sparked an interest in Internet governance and in order to enhance my knowledge in this field I undertook the DiploFoundation Internet Governance Capacity Building Programme (IGCBP) in 2005. Subsequently, I have been engaged in capacity building at a local level as well as a regional level through the IGCBP. This involvement led to the chance to attend the Internet Governance Forum in Hyderabad, India.

At the IGF I was interested in joining sessions that addressed developing countries' concerns with regard to cybersecurity, IPv6, net neutrality and capacity building. Because of the projects I have for this year and beyond, I attended sessions on a wide range of

issues, including legal aspects of policy issues, strategies to combat child pornography in developing countries, DNS competition, Net Neutrality, IPv4 to IPv6 transition, capacity building and security and confidence in ICT usage in African countries.

I have been active in the Kenya and East Africa Internet Governance Forum ([www.eaigf.or.ke](http://www.eaigf.or.ke)) initiatives, where I have been involved in facilitating online discussions and identifying Internet governance capacity building issues. Based on my participation in these initiatives I will be involved in the development of a regional IG capacity building curriculum which is targeted at policy influencers.

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The set-up of the 2008 IGF presented excellent opportunities for interaction, at the meeting rooms, IGF village, during coffee and lunch breaks. At the IGF in Hyderabad I approached or was introduced to many people who were attending the IGF as delegates or speakers from government, civil society and industry players, which helped me understand different perspectives, and laid the foundation for new networking relationships. In these interactions I was interested in learning from other people's experiences particularly with regard to cybersecurity and seeking support for the IG capacity building initiative. I have continued to pursue the issues raised through these interactions via email.

Attending the IGF presented me with an opportunity to interact with the people behind the emails and with notable personalities in the IGF process or Internet-related institutions including the IGF secretariat, ITU, ICANN, etc. It was interesting and fun to 'meet the people behind the names' too.

In India, the local people were hospitable and respectful. The Indian government organized the forum against many odds, following the Mumbai attack, and demonstrated openness to the IG process respecting the views of both industry and civil society, giving further meaning to the meetings.

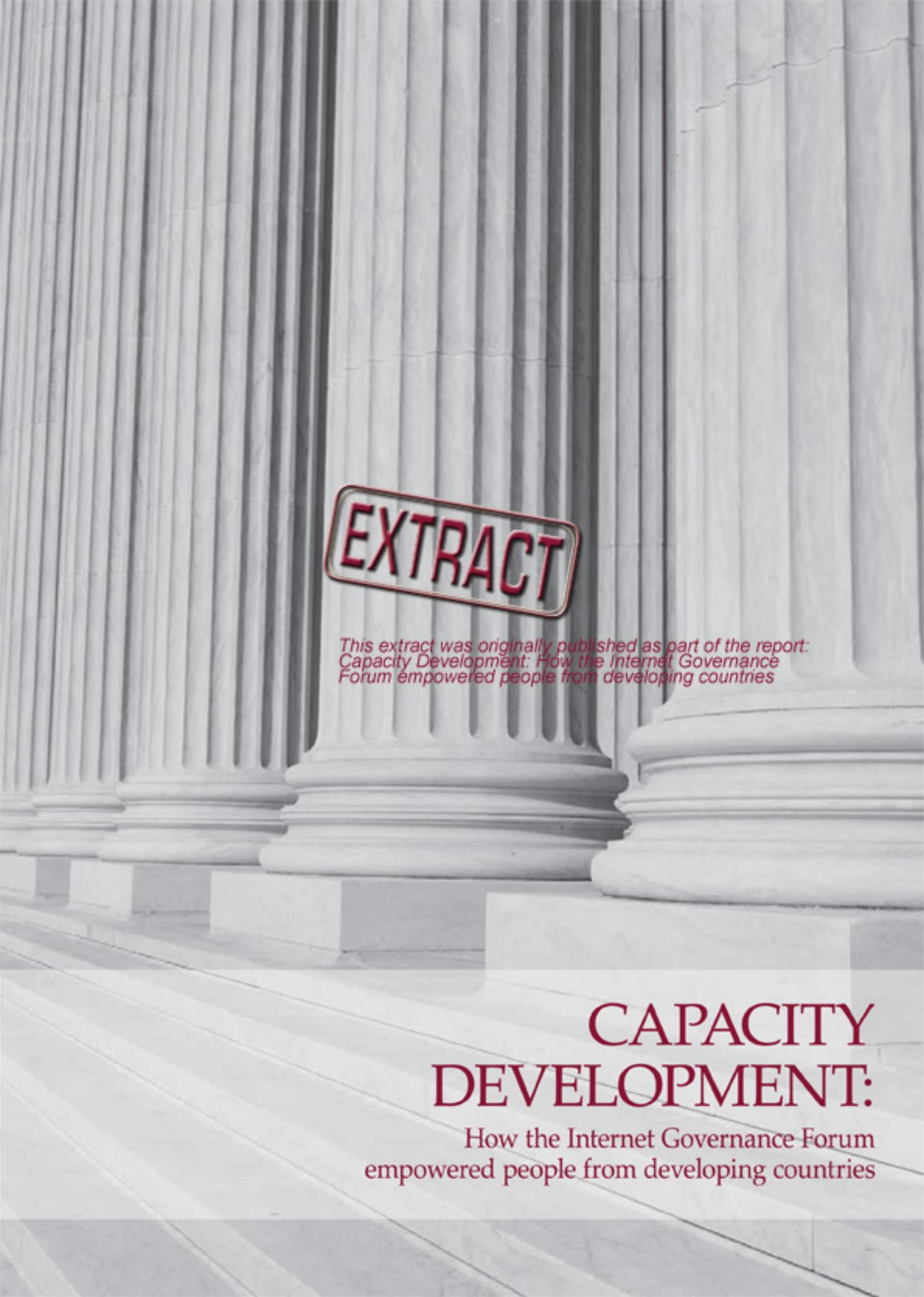
I have now attended the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> IGFs, which have been very different from each other, as there have been different participants, 'hot' topics and meeting venues. In the IGF meeting in Athens, stakeholders were, in my view, seeking to have their status recognized and their voice heard while at the IGF meeting in Hyderabad there was definitely more interaction with the discussions focused on addressing issues in an open atmosphere where there was mutual respect among stakeholders, who have over time recognized that they need to work together.

In Africa Internet security issues have not been addressed critically. With the increase of local, national and international broadband connectivity in the continent, including the impending landing of the East African Submarine Cable (TEAMs), networks will be exposed to high speed exploits. Consequently the set-up of Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) is critical. For this reason, I plan to work on developing a public-private partnership (PPP) framework for setting up a CERT as well as designing an IG curriculum for East Africa under the auspices of the East African Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF).

I hope that capacity building initiatives will increase the number and level of understanding of policy influencers as well as result in meaningful participation in the 2009 IGF in Cairo. ■



*“I have been active in the Kenya and East Africa Internet Governance Forum ([www.eaigf.or.ke](http://www.eaigf.or.ke)) initiatives, where I have been involved in facilitating online discussions and identifying Internet governance capacity building issues. Based on my participation in these initiatives I will be involved in the development of a regional IG capacity building curriculum which is targeted at policy influencers.”*

A row of white classical columns with a red 'EXTRACT' sign. The sign is a red-bordered rectangle with the word 'EXTRACT' in red, slanted, capital letters. The background is a grayscale image of the columns, with a semi-transparent dark gray area at the bottom containing the main title and subtitle.

**EXTRACT**

*This extract was originally published as part of the report:  
Capacity Development: How the Internet Governance  
Forum empowered people from developing countries*

# CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

How the Internet Governance Forum  
empowered people from developing countries