

Jean Paul Nkurunziza

I was born in Burundi, and I graduated in Education Sciences at the University of Burundi in the year 2000. While teaching in some local secondary schools and volunteering in a youth centre, I was able to take some computer training: this was my first contact with ICT's. Using computers was a fascinating experience that had a powerful impact in my life and I wanted more people to be empowered as well.

Because of this feeling, I was motivated to take action. With some friends, I co-founded a youth organisation called the Burundi Youth Training Centre (BYTC www.bytc.bi). Our goal is to empower youth by training them in ICTs.

At the end of 2006, I participated in a mailing list called "Youth and IG". This mailing list triggered a curiosity in my mind. I really felt I needed to know more. Through that mailing list, I was informed about the call for applications for the DiploFoundation Internet Governance Capacity Building Program for 2007. I applied successfully for the fellowship and completed this training also. During the next year's program, I had a chance to be a tutor of one of the program's regional groups. This was really interesting for me as I experienced both online training and tutoring.

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The more knowledge I got in these Internet Governance issues, the more I realised that my country needs some awareness programs on Internet and other ICT issues: combating cybercrime, setting up of Internet Exchange points, adoption of a legal framework allowing e-commerce, evolution from IPv4 to IPv6, as well as access to ICTs.

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Attending the IGF in 2008 allowed me to understand many Internet Governance issues in more depth, such as the good practices carried out in other parts of the world for the adoption of IPv6 and combating online child abuse.

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Yes, I got some positive replies. The chairman of SETIC Burundi Secretariat Exécutif des Technologies de l'Information asked me to have a meeting with the Technical Coordinator of that institution. We met and talked during thirty minutes. The result of our meeting was that the IGF Burundi is welcome. We even scheduled it for mid-September 2009. The SETIC is ready to support such an event! I am thinking about the most relevant issues to be discussed and working to fine tune the project idea. I am also seeking for other potential partners.

In addition to the project of IGF BURUNDI, I have begun to add French subtitles to a training video in IG issues released by DiploFoundation. This will make it easily understood in a French speaking nation.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Canada and the ITU for their support, which allowed me to attend the 2008 IGF in Hyderabad. The deeper understanding of IG issues I got there, and the information I acquired about actions initiated in the other parts of the world, will allow national stakeholders to set actions locally in Burundi. Whenever I speak to those stakeholders, I feel their reaction is this: Burundi shouldn't stay out of this important debate! ■



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:

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empowered people from developing countries**