CALL FOR PROPOSALS (GRANTS)
“Internet Policy Observatory – Regional Hub Grant”

1. Description and objective

The Center for Global Communication Studies (CGCS) at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, announces a call for proposals under its Internet Policy Observatory (IPO). One of the goals of IPO is helping to develop a broad understanding of the conditions, processes and stakeholders that drive the development of Internet policies in pivotal countries, and of how those conditions influence developments at the regional and international levels.

The objective of this Call is to add to a global network of Regional Hubs supporting Internet policy research with specific regional perspectives. The purpose of these grants is to encourage research from a variety of disciplines to help further understanding on how global Internet policies evolve.

2. Eligible applicants

This Call is open to persons and organizations who are particularly interested in Internet policy research, and who are based in countries that are located within the key regions.

These regions are: (1) Latin America & Caribbean, (2) Middle-East and North Africa, (3) South & South-East Asia / Pacific (4) Central Asia (5) East Asia (6) Sub-Saharan Africa

Prospective applicants need to be able to work across multiple countries within their specific region, including being able, though they may have a state focus, to work with various information sources in different languages and have access to research and policy formulation structures within key countries in their region.

The IPO welcomes applications from all the regions mentioned above, but special preference will be given to regions (1), (3) and (6).

Research groups, universities, and civil society organizations which already have research programs on Internet policy issues in the relevant countries and regions are particularly encouraged to apply. Beneficiaries of related, but different grants awarded under the Internet Policy Observatory may also apply to this call.

Proposals that involve a consortium of actors within a specific region are welcome, but need to be headed by a consortium lead for administration and communication purposes.

Fluency in English is required both for research and relevant administration tasks.

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1 Including Iran
2 Including Afghanistan, Pakistan and India
3 Including Russia
4 Including China, Korea and Japan
3. Eligible proposals

Eligible proposals should address the four core deliverables of the Regional Hub:

(1) **Hub Study:** The Internet Policy Observatory welcomes proposals that seek to investigate Internet policy issues within specific countries within a region, or alternatively the region as a whole. Special emphasis should be paid to core stakeholders (e.g. government, private sector, civil society) and the recent development and current role of their engagement in creating norms and/or formulating and delivering policy. Potential topics to consider range across the wider field of Internet policy, including, but are not limited to, issues of Internet governance, Internet filtration and censorship, implications of military and security services activities and concerns on policy development, to name but a few examples. Research Study proposals should suggest deliverable papers suitable for “white paper” or academic publication (between 3,000-6,000 words).

(2) **Hub Survey:** Proposals should speak to the organization’s capacity to carry out qualitative and quantitative research. As part of the Internet Policy Observatory’s effort to create a global Delphi (expert) survey on Internet policy formation, organizations will be expected to incorporate a strategy for the creation and implementation of regional surveys. These surveys will be executed by the Regional Hubs, who will leverage their own networks to approach research institutions within countries in their area, and gain their assistance in approaching individual researchers and policy makers within those specific countries. The exact methodology of the Survey as well as the questions will be developed by CGCS in consultation with the Hubs. Proposals to be a Regional Hub should highlight which research institutions or civil society groups within countries within the specific region can be approached to gain assistance in this Delphi survey. A small part of the grant (around 10-20%) will be mandated to spend on the Survey, which will be completed within the first third of the Hub’s engagement with this project. The results of the global survey will be made publicly available.

(3) **Hub View:** A key task of the Regional Hubs is to regularly provide news on Internet-policy-relevant developments within their region to the IPO website. These updates should be in the form of very short English-language summaries of notable news items, possibly within a twitter-format, and with a link to the (local-language) item in question. Proposals should highlight the applicant’s capability to cover a wide range of news sources.

(4) **Hub Action:** Each Regional Hub should also propose further, regional specific activity – such as local conferences or workshops – that can be financed directly from the Grant or might be financed from other sources. Initiatives that involve partnering with a third-party institution or funding source are particularly welcomed.
Representatives of the Regional Hub are also expected to participate, where possible, at IPO workshops - expenses for which, to the extent possible, will be covered directly by CGCS.

4. Budget and duration

Grants are expected to be USD 20,000-40,000 per application selected. The exact amount depends on the scope of Hub Action proposed, the topic of the Hub Study, as well as the other requirements. The application should state clearly what funding level is requested.

Projects should begin shortly after award announcement, with a minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 15 months.

5. Submission deadline and award criteria

Applications submitted to the CGCS must contain the following information:

- Information on the institution and persons within that institution that are applying to become the Regional Hub. Particular emphasis should be paid to institutional experience, subject matter knowledge, and strength of regional network
- A specific proposal for a “Hub Study”, and detailed notes on how to help fulfill each of the relevant Hub deliverables listed in point 3.
- A cover letter indicating the reasons and motivations for applying for the Grant.
- A detailed budget proposal, listing all potential costs, including time and labor, overhead, research expenses, and other, as appropriate.
- A point of contact available between the time of application and September 15 for further inquiries prior to the selection of award recipients in September 2013.

Awards will take into consideration the background of the institution and individuals applying for the grant, the relevance of the work proposed and the quality of work to be anticipated. Special consideration will be given to institutions which also plan to apply to one or more thematic grant.

Please send proposals to internetpolicy@asc.upenn.edu by 5pm EST on September 15, 2013. Applications submitted after the deadline are not guaranteed consideration.