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# IP networking meet starts on January 17

**Staff Reporter**

INTERNET services providers (ISPs), regulators and government representatives from across the GCC region will converge on Doha to discuss local topics related to IP networking at the RIPE NCC Regional Meeting being held from January 17 to 18 at the Marriott Hotel.

This meeting will be hosted by ictQATAR, Qatar's Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology and sponsored by Qtel with Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development as co-hosts.

In addition to providing a clear overview of the policy development process and management of IP address space in the region, the meeting will cover a range of IP networking topics.

There will be particular focus on key issues emerging from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as well as recent developments in Internet security and routing.

The RIPE NCC will provide training seminars on Routing Registry and DNS Security (DNSSEC), and there will be demonstrations of services that can help with detailed analysis of network behaviour.

ictQATAR secretary general Dr Hessa al-Jaber has described the event as an important opportunity to co-ordinate the council's activities and develop a progressive forum for the further development of Internet usage across the region.

RIPE managing director Axel Pawlik stated that the meeting comes at an important time for the Internet community in the region.

"We are seeing, now more than ever, the importance of discussing the issues relevant to Internet users and service providers in the region," he said.

The RIPE NCC Regional Meeting, Qatar, is part of continued efforts to encourage feedback from the regional community and to provide a clear overview of how all stakeholders participate in regional and global policy processes.

The meeting will also provide an opportunity for in-depth technical discussion, and a forum for focusing on factors and developments that affect the Internet community in the region.