

Meet on Internet begins - Qatar

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DOHA: Internet Service Providers and IT professionals from across the Middle East are attending the RIPE NCC regional meeting which began at the Marriott Hotel yesterday.

The two-day meeting is hosted by ictQATAR, Qatar's Supreme Council for Information and Communication Technology sponsored by Qtel. Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and Qatar Foundation are co-hosts.

Dr Hassa Al Jabor, secretary general of ictQATAR, while addressing the inaugural session of the conference, explained the role of ictQATAR in promoting communication and information technology in Qatar.

She said ictQatar was striving to create a knowledge-based society and raise the country to international standards in the field of technology and innovations. Internet is an inevitable source and basis in this transformation, she noted.

RIPE chairman Rob Blokzijl and Axel Pawlik, managing director, RIPE NCC gave presentations on the activities of the organization. RIPE stands for "Reseaux IP Europeens" or European IP Networks. Started in 1989 and based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, RIPE is a forum where Internet Service Providers and others interested in the advancement of the Internet meet to discuss and work on problems common to all.

RIPE NCC is an independent and not-for-profit membership organization that supports about 4000 members in more than 30 countries, the speakers explained.