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## Internet Experts to meet in Qatar to Discuss Regional Issues

04 January 2006

*Important forum for discussing effective management of IP address space and networking across the region*

Internet Service Providers (ISPs), regulators and government representatives from across the GCC region will have the opportunity to discuss local topics related to IP networking at the RIPE NCC Regional Meeting in Doha, Qatar, to be held 17 - 18 January. The meeting will be hosted by ictQATAR, Qatar's Supreme Council of Information and Communication Technology and sponsored by (Qatar Telecom), Qatar's exclusive telecommunications provider, with Carnegie Mellon Qatar Campus and Qatar Foundation as 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 DNS Registry and DNS Security (DNSSEC), and there will be demonstrations of services that can help with detailed analysis of network behaviour.

Dr Hessa Al Jaber, Secretary General of ictQATAR, which is hosting the event, extends a warm welcome to all the delegates attending the meeting. "This will be an important opportunity to co-ordinate our activities and develop a progressive forum for the development of internet usage across the region," she said. "We are delighted to welcome so many leading experts in the region and look forward to a productive and useful series of discussions."

"This meeting comes at an important time for the Internet community in the region," said.

Axel Pawlik, Managing Director of the RIPE NCC. "We are seeing, now more than ever, the importance of discussing the issues that affect Internet users and service providers in the region. I look forward to a productive meeting in Doha."

The RIPE NCC Regional Meeting, Qatar, is part of continued efforts to encourage feedback from the regional community and provide a clear overview of how all stakeholders participate in regional and global policy processes. The meeting will also provide a platform for an in-depth technical discussion, and a forum for focusing on the factors and developments that affect the Internet community in the region.

More information about the RIPE NCC Regional Meeting, Qatar, is available on the RIPE NCC website at: <http://www.ripe.net>

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### About ictQatar

ictQATAR is Qatar's national planning and coordinating agency for ICT programmes, the Government's Chief Information Officer and Regulator of the Nation's Telecommunications Sector. Its main responsibilities include drafting telecommunications-related regulations as well as defining, maintaining and implementing a national ICT vision, strategy and master plan that will encourage the use of ICT technologies and ensure they advance the nation's objectives by enhancing the social and economic development of the country.

### About RIPE NCC

The RIPE NCC is an independent, not-for-profit membership organisation that supports the infrastructure of the Internet in its service region. The most prominent activity of the RIPE NCC is to act as the Regional Internet Registry, providing global Internet resources and related services (IPv4, IPv6 and AS Number resources) to members in the RIPE NCC service region. Membership consists mainly of Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecommunication organisations and large corporations in Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia.

More information about the RIPE NCC is available at: <http://www.ripe.net>

Issued on behalf of ictQATAR by Hill & Knowlton Qatar LLC.