

Dear AfNOG student,

(Préférerz-vous parler francais? Dites nous.)

You may have already received a message from Nii Quaynor on this subject. The leaders of AfNOG are planning for the future, and, as part of that planning, they have asked for us to take a look at the workshop and the organization from the outside, and to report back to them on what we observe. We are Chris Owens and Lyman Chapin of Interisle Consulting Group, and Anne-Rachel Inné, a long-time friend and supporter of AfNOG.

We are talking to students, former students, instructors, track leaders, local hosts, AfNOG leadership, people in partner organizations, and others with an interest in AfNOG's continued growth and success.

Your name has been given to us as someone who might want to help. What we're asking for is half an hour of your time to talk with one of us, to share your thoughts and observations. We can talk to you by telephone, or, if you are at AfNOG 2008, you can talk to Chris in person, which is preferable. There is also an e-mail address to which you can send any comments or ask any questions: afnog-review@interisle.net

We know you are busy. Sharing your thoughts with us is important in making AfNOG the best it can be. We are looking for your frank and honest observations as to what works well, what needs improvement, and what should be added to or taken away from AfNOG. What you say will be kept confidential and shared only among the three of us who are working on the project. We will not disclose your words and opinions to anyone else in any way that identifies you. In the report, your name will be included in a list of people who helped, but will not be linked to any of your comments.

What follows on the next page is not a questionnaire; we will not ask you every question. It is just to give you the outline of where we're looking for your thoughts. The questions below are focused on the experience of AfNOG students; we are asking different questions of the other groups of people. We are also, of course, interested in hearing from you about topics that are not on this list.

Question topics for AfNOG students

This is not a questionnaire, please do not feel like you need to prepare answers to every question; it is just to help guide the conversation.

- 1) About you
 - a) Who are you, where do you come from, what job do you do?
 - b) What kind of experience, training and background do you have?
- 2) Your needs
 - a) What is your main reason for attending AfNOG?
 - b) What benefits are you expecting to get from AfNOG?
 - i) As a result of attending this meeting?
 - ii) From the organization in general, not necessarily from this meeting?
 - iii) Please think not only in general terms (“I wish to know more about building big, resilient IP networks”) but also about specific, concrete things, like “I want the e-mail addresses of other people in my profession.”
 - c) What is the biggest (or top 3?) need you have, in the general area of building up your own (or your company or university’s) technical capacity?
 - d) Do you have needs, in AfNOG’s general area, that AfNOG is not meeting but could perhaps meet?
- 3) Learning about AfNOG
 - a) How did you first learn about AfNOG?
 - b) What, in your own words, do you think is AfNOG’s mission and purpose?
 - c) Was it easy to gather information about AfNOG?
 - d) Were there any people you dealt with (in person, by phone, by e-mail?) who helped you learn more about AfNOG?
 - e) Did you have a pretty good idea what to expect when you got to the workshop?
 - f) What could make it easier for more people to learn about AfNOG?
- 4) Administration
 - a) Was AfNOG easy to work with, when you made application, registered for the conference, learned about travel, etc.?
 - b) At the conference itself, how well did all the arrangements (registration, transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) work for you?
 - c) What could make it easier for future students?
- 5) Curriculum
 - a) Does the content of the courses match your expectations?
 - b) Does it meet your needs?
 - c) How is the level – Too basic? Too advanced? Just right?
 - d) What could improve the **content** of course you are taking?
 - e) What other courses might AfNOG add in order to serve you better?
- 6) Instruction
 - a) How knowledgeable are your instructors?
 - b) How is the quality of their teaching?
 - c) How is the format, the balance between instruction and hands-on?
 - d) Are the other students at about the same level of experience as you?
 - e) Are you getting help from or giving help to your fellow students?

- f) How about the files, handouts, slides, materials? Do they work well for you?
- g) What would improve any of the above?
- 7) Local Arrangements
 - a) Do the classrooms, network, and equipment work well for you?
 - b) What might make the experience better?
- 8) Outreach and Localization
 - a) Do you think you could teach some of this material at home?
 - b) What would make it easier to do that?
 - c) Are there special issues you face at home that may be different from what your colleagues in other countries are facing? Can AfNOG help in any way?
 - d) Can you think of a few people who you might want to include in a future AfNOG meeting, especially if it is closer to home?
 - e) What would make it easier for you to reach out and include other people?
- 9) Interaction / Collaboration Support
 - a) Is it easy to meet other participants?
 - b) Do you expect that you will stay in touch after the workshop?
 - c) Are you aware of AfNOG's mailing list? Do you use it?
 - d) In the future, will you be able to ask for technical help (or offer technical help) to the people you met at AfNOG?
 - e) Would you like to see additional tools to help stay in touch? Web sites, chat forums, file repositories, newsletter?
 - f) Do you use any social networking sites like Facebook, Linked-In, etc?
- 10) Results
 - a) For you personally, how well is AfNOG accomplishing its job?
 - b) Do you think AfNOG should add to its mission, do more or different things than it is doing now? What and why?
- 11) Anything else
 - a) Is there anything we didn't ask that we should have asked?