

# BURKINA FASO DELEGATION VISIT TO RICTA (RINEX)

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## INTRODUCTION

From 2<sup>nd</sup> of March to 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2015, a delegation from Burkina Faso, led by Eng. Joseph Nana spent a week in Rwanda. The delegation was hosted by RICTA Ltd. The main objectives of the study tour were primarily to learn how the Rwanda Internet Exchange (RINEX) was put in place; the learnt experience and challenges, and secondly on how Rwanda implemented a virtual landing point (VLP).

The Burkina Faso delegation was composed of seven (7) members, representing various institutions. Below are the names of the institutions:

1. MDENP: “Ministère du Développement de l’Economie Numérique et des Postes” (Ministry of development of digital economy and posts);
2. ANPTIC: “Agence Nationale de Promotion des TIC” (National agency in charge of ICT promotion);
3. ARCEP: “Autorité de Régulation des Communications Electroniques et des Postes” (Regulating Authority in charge of électronique communications and posts);
4. PST: “Programme Sectoriel des Transports” (Sectorial transport program)
5. ONATEL-SA (Office National des Télécommunications)

The names, roles and responsibilities of the respective members of the delegation, are contained in the annex. During their stay, they were able to meet, not only RICTA staff, but as well representatives of local ISP/ICT companies and institutions.

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS IN REGARDS TO BFIX

- As per the discussions held during the visit and the feedback recorded, Burkina Faso Internet Internet eXchange (BFIIX) project has started. BFIIX is hosted in a facility that has been provided by the ANPTIC. BFIIX uses a Cisco 3750 series for the IXP LAN.
- The IXP LAN is yet to be setup with dedicated IP address segment from AFRINIC. RICTA advised the delegation to fast track the establishment of the local Internet community association. Thereafter, the association will engage with AFRINIC to get the required IP address segment for the BFIIX IXP LAN.
- Burkina Faso has eight (8) Internet service providers. And while the entire country is waiting for the installation of a metro fibre network in the capital city Ouagadougou, the ISPs shall interconnect through BFIIX via wireless links.
- RINEX (RICTA) pledged, in the limit of its capabilities, to support BFIIX in any matter related to the operationalization of BFIIX.
- In terms of capacity building, networking and getting support, RICTA team advised the BF delegation to participate in events such as Africa Internet Summit (AfNOG), Africa Peering and Interconnect forum (AfPIF), and other regional/continental events. The BF delegation was advised and urged to join the

Af-IX forum. (Af-IX is the definitive group of Internet exchange point operators from across Africa).

- According to the BF delegation, BFIX is planned to launch in two (2) months from March 2015.

#### OTHER DISCUSSIONS HELD

- The BF delegation gained experience on the rollout of some of the major national projects such as 4G LTE network deployment, National PKI project and Virtual landing point.
- In regards to the Virtual landing point, the BF delegation was seeking to understand the value and purpose of a virtual landing point. The CTO of Broadband Systems Corporations – BSC, Mr. MUHIRWA Christian, provided a brief overview of the benefits of a virtual landing point: basically, it allows a landlocked country such as Rwanda (and also Burkina Faso) to virtually have access to Internet bandwidth capacity as any other coastal country.
- The BF delegation met as well with some of the senior directors in the office of the Regulator. Some of the issues discussed were the RICTA financing model among other things, the positive impact of the Universal Access Fund in implementing some critical public projects.
- The BF delegation met with the chief operating officer (COO) of liquidtelecom Rwanda, Mr. KABEJA Alexis. He explained the latest developments of the company, and most importantly the progress of the rollout of the fibre cables on the African continent.

ANNEX-1

LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BURKINA FASO DELEGATION

	Nom	Prénom (s)	Structure	Fonction	Function	e-mail
01	NANA	Joseph	MDENP	Conseiller Technique du Ministre	Technical adviser to the Minister	joseph.nana@tic.gov.bf
03	KEBRE	B. Marcel	MDENP	Directeur des Infrastructures	Director of Infrastructure	mkebre@hotmail.com marcel.kebre@tic.gov.bf
04	TOE	Izaï	ANPTIC	Directeur de l'Exploitation et du Support Technique	Chief Operating Officer and Technical support	isotoe@yahoo.fr izai.toe@tic.gov.bf
05	SAVADOGO	Yassia	ARCEP	Chef de département service des transactions électroniques et de la cybersécurité	Head of department of electronic transactions and cyber security	Savadogo.yassia@arcep.bf
06	TRAORE	Anfana	MDENP	Directeur de la Réglementation, de la Normalisation et de la Dématérialisation des Procédures	Director of regulation, standardization and dematerialization or procedures	Anfana.traore@tic.gov.bf
07	OUEDRAOGO	Michel	PST	Spécialiste Suivi-Evaluation	Expert Monitoring and evaluation	micheloued@yahoo.fr
08	OUEDRAOGO	Eloi	ONATEL-SA	Chef de service Réseau Fixe & Entreprise	Head of Network and Enterprise service	el.ouedraogo@onatel.bf