IDN, Multilingualization, and the Empowerment of Local Communities

Presented by

Khaled Fattal
Chairman & CEO
MINC
Khaledfattal@aol.com

ICANN Kuala Lumpur
Internationalized Domain Name Workshop
21 July 2004

www.minc.org

A Question, A Challenge.

- When asked new questions....

  Do you answer with old answers?

MINC

Presentation Outline

- Who is MINC?

- What is the Global Internet?

- Why Multilingualization?

- Multilingualization...How?

- Call to Action

- Summary

MINC

Who is MINC?

- Non-profit, non-governmental, international organization

- Committed to the *Multilingualization* of the internet

- Members from industry, academia, research, government, investment, and international organizations from every corner of the world

- Focused on some of the fundamental prerequisites to the establishment of a *Global Internet* :
  - **Language Standards**
  - **Interoperability Testing**
  - **Global Cooperation**
  - **Local Empowerment**

MINC

MINC's strengths are derived through its outreach & from its Language Communities which
represent over 4.5 billion people

- **JDNA – Japanese WG**
- **IAK – Korean WG**
- **INFITT – Tamil WG**
- **Arabic language and Scripts WG**
- **CLINC – Cyrillic WG**
- **CDNC – Chinese WG**
- **Indian languages WG**
- **Russian – WG**
- **Urdu – WG**
        With more to be added soon
- **Cambodian WG**
- **African languages WG i.e. Swahili**

MINC

MINC's strengths are in the Diversity of its Board of Directors and their heritage.

- Dongman Lee   Korean
- S Subbiah   Tamil/ Singaporean
- S Maniam   Indian
- Nii Quaynor   Nigerian
- Charles Shaban   Jordanian
- Dr. Charles Lee   Chinese-American
- Nico Popp   French
- K Konishi   Japanese
- Prof. Tan Tin Wee   Singaporean
- Khaled Fattal   Arab-American

MINC

MINC's new Policies and activities since restructuring announcement of Dec 2002

- **Announcement of major reform and restructuring drive of MINC, Dec 12, 2002**

- **RELEASE OF MINC DOCUMENT ON INTEROPERABILITY TESTBED: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS, Feb 25, 2003, Taipei, Taiwan**

- **MINC Board Approves a Motion on Linguistic Relevance for IDN Development , London 11 June 2003.**

- **MINC announces Tender Document for Interoperability Testbed After Extensive Feedback, London 20 June 2003.**

- **Reform of the language working groups, our core strength, to promote cooperation and coordination between languages of similar scripts with variances.**

MINC's new Policies and activities since restructuring announcement of

Dec 2002 *cont..*

- **MINC's Language Working Groups (WG) new mandate to develop and publish RFCs, language tables and develop standards for their own languages and variants in order to remain in good standing. June 2003**

- **MINC issues invitations to all network information centres and ccTLDs to participate in the development of Internationalized Domain Names (IDN)**

- **MINC Interoperability Testbed Tender Awarded to EP.net, September 2003**

- **Coordination between IDN Connect and MINC's Interoperability Testbed, 20 September 2003.**

MINC

MINC's new Policies and activities since restructuring announcement of Dec 2002 *cont..*

- **MINC's ongoing reforms of its election & voting structure, Oct 03**

- **MINC Carthage Conference Oct 2003 initiatives**
  ML/IDN- UDRP (Uniform Domain Name dispute resolution) in   cooperation with WIPO:

  UDRP was designed for ASCII. Areas in it that need to be improved upon to address domain names disputes resolution in the Multilingual while recognising the local and legal structures and their challenges. CNNIC example.
  ML/IDN-IETF:

  MINC recognizes the IETF standards as the basis upon which additional development on local and regional language and cultural factors need to addressed by local experts and to add and incorporate linguistic and cultural factors in language standardization as well.

- **MINC Conference Apricot KL Feb 2004 Chairman's Commissions**
  MC01:
   MINC Technical Commission on Applications Challenges
  MC02:
   MINC Commission on Language standardization and coordination in IDN
  MC03:
   MINC Commission on Root Coordination for IDN deployment
  MC04:
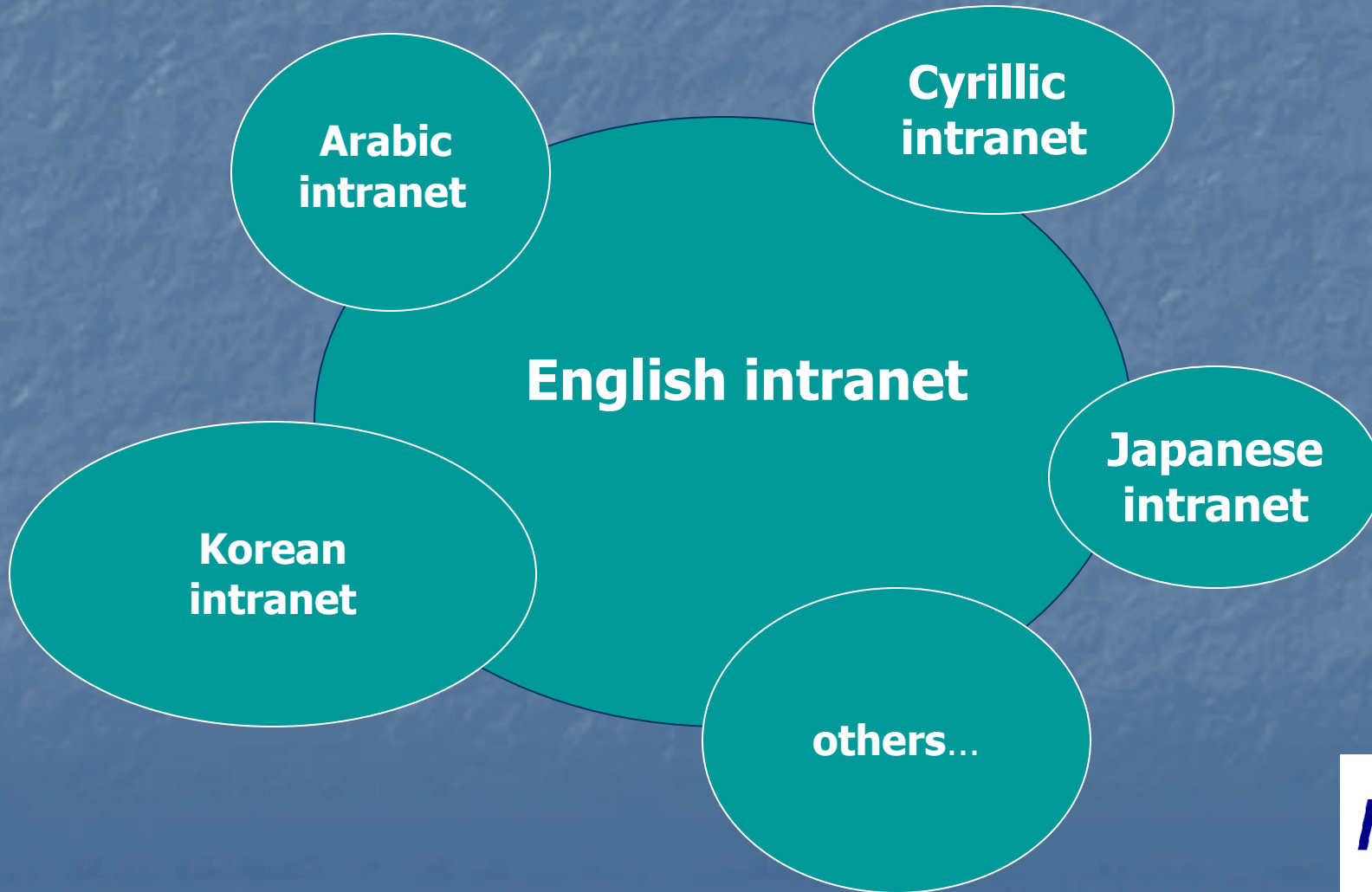   MINC Commission on Keywords-IDN Internet   Navigation

MINC

What is the *Global Internet*?

TOPICS:

- The Internet of the Past & Present

- The Internet of the Future

- The role of IDN and Multilingualization

MINC

The Internet of the Past & Present: a set of language based intranets

Arabic intranet

Cyrillic intranet

English intranet

Korean intranet

Japanese intranet

others…

MINC

The existing Internet is merely a series of Language based intranets with the English language or ASCII intranet being the most dominant and well known.

This is what is often
…INCORECTLY…

referred to as the *Global Internet*

MINC
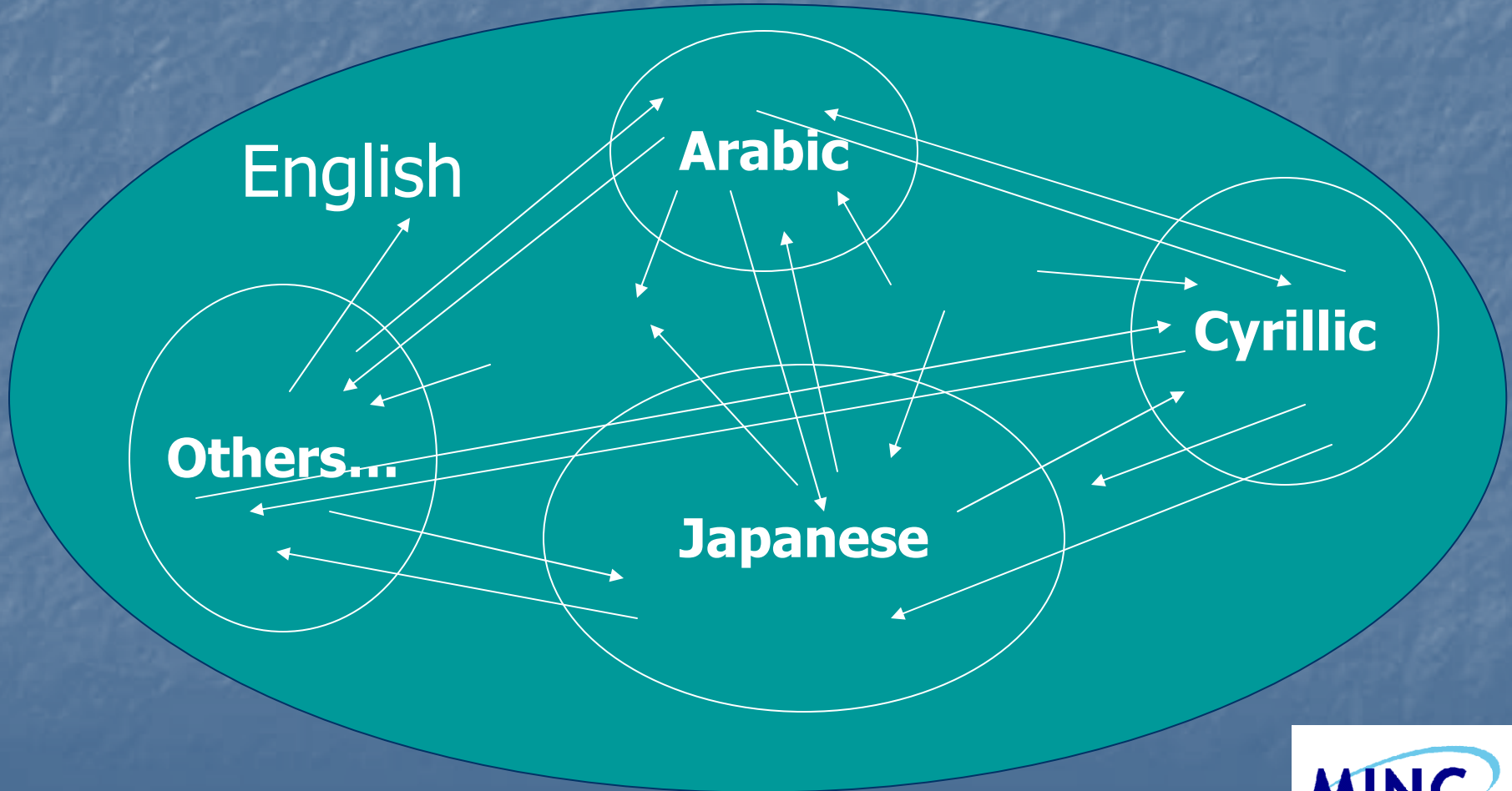
How do we create a truly Global Internet

Two Options:

- Teach English to more than 4.5 billion non-English speakers worldwide…

-OR-

- Multilingualize it by fully incorporating the languages of non-English speakers into the internet infrastructure through local community empowerment.

MINC

The Internet of the Future:
a truly *Multilingualized* Global Internet

So…What is IDN?

- Distinction between Mixed and full IDNs (ML.ML)
- Inadequate in focus for the future
- Mixed IDN URLs are only *part* local language, the other part being ASCII (English)

 ex. www.日本語.com = English.Japanese.English

- IDN is only part of the story (narrow scope)

- IDN is **NOT** Global Internet

MINC

Where does IDN fit in?

- Full IDN (ML.ML) can be **_successfully_** deployed as the *next objective...*

- But only if the **_FOCUS_** on the final objective is...

MULITLINGUALIZATION

MINC

What is Multilingualization?

- Part of the "Future"

- Making the Internet accessible to all peoples in their own native languages, regardless of what an individual's language may be.

- Addresses policy making from a local and global scopes.

ex. <u>ててて.日本語.らすき</u> = Japanese.Japanese.Japanese

- Multilingualization is the whole story (broad and inclusive scope)

- Multilingualization will create a truly Global Internet.

- Multilingualization is Local Empowerment.

- And much more

MINC

So Why MUST the focus be on Multilingualization and not just IDN alone

IDNs are seen simplistically as a just a product (domain names in scripts other than English/ASCII).

Whereas Multilingualization is an inclusive and evolutionary process that would ensure IDN is a healthy product when deployed assuring the acceptance of the their local respective communities.

An example: If IDNs were a tomato, then a Multilingual Internet is not just the salad but perhaps the restaurant the salad is served in, and the type or theme of this restaurant will determine what and how that tomato will used for!!!?

MINC

IDN vs. Multilingualization Focus

GLOBAL INTERNET !!!

Global Policy Infrastructure

Recognition, Acceptance, Participation

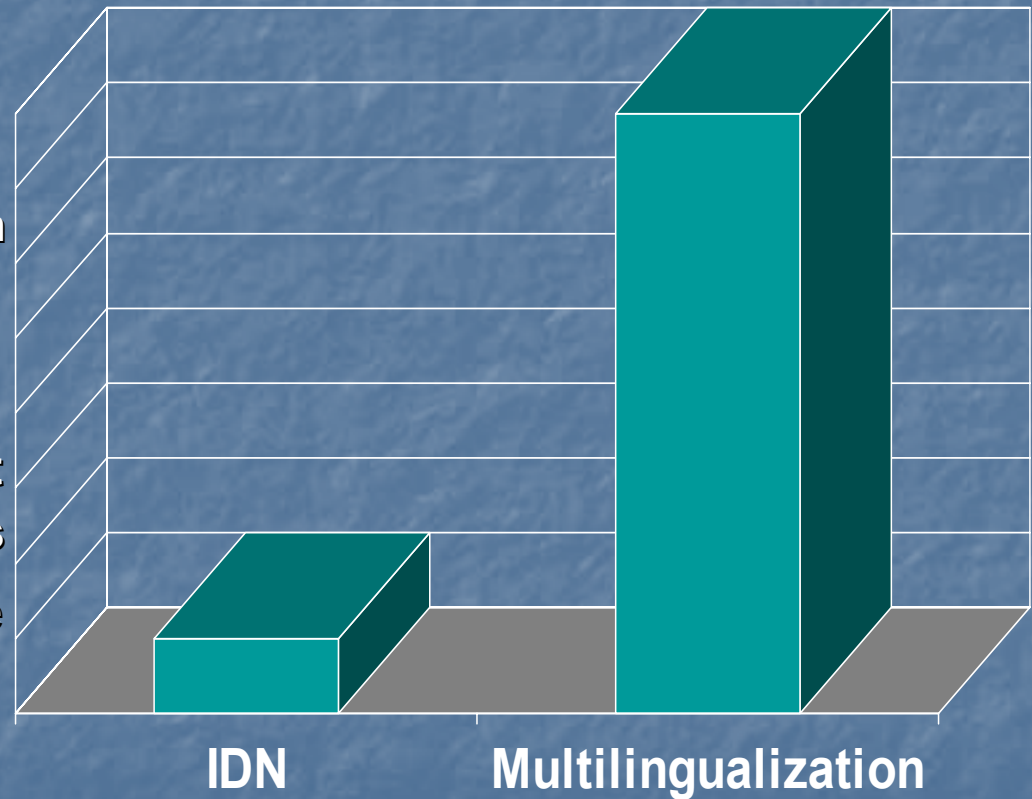**Universal Language Standards**

Cultural Relevance

Local Empowerment
Language & Community Rights

Part ASCII / Part Local Language

ASCII English Intranet

IDN

Multilingualization

MINC

Why Multilingualization?

TOPICS:

- Local Empowerment

- World Summit on Information Society ('WSIS')

- Internet Governance

- Moral duty

MINC

Why Multilingualization?

- *Only when we focus on Multilingualization will we be able to see the relevance of the following crucial issues in deploying full IDNs or ML.ML*

MINC

Local Empowerment is a function of the Declaration of Human Rights

- Incorporation of the internet's disenfranchised
- Language & Community Rights
- Acceptance and Recognition
- Representation
- Sustainable Development
- Community Building
- Opportunities
- …and much more!

MINC

WSIS Declaration of Principles and Action Plan (12 December 2003)

- Bridge the Digital Divide
- Create the Information Society
- The internet should:
  - "take into account multilingualism" (§B.48)
  - "be adapted to local needs in languages and cultures" (§B.51)
  - "respect cultural identity [as well as] cultural and linguistic diversity" (§B.52)
- We have a responsibility to:
  - "put into place technical conditions to facilitate the presence and use of *all* world languages on the internet" (§B.6i)
  - "create policies that support, respect, preserve, promote, and enhance cultural and linguistic diversity within the Information Society" (§C.23a)
  - "enhance the capacity of indigenous peoples to develop and access content in their own languages" (§BC.23g)

MINC

Internet Governance

- Multilingualization:
  - Is a prerequisite to any type of internet or Information Society governance
  - Encourages awareness of and participation in Internet Governance
  - Involves local communities in the internet and thus ensures increased cooperation in regulatory matters

MINC

Moral Duty

- Multilingualization benefits all mankind

  - Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations welcome speech closing remarks to the UN Summit on Internet Governance, UN headquarters, NY March 2004.

    "I urge you to keep in mind the paramount goal of helping people everywhere build free and decent lives. That is the real backbone of your deliberations. Whatever you do must contribute to the cause of human development."

MINC

Multilingualization…**How**?

TOPICS:

- Local Empowerment

- Safety and Integrity of the System

- Global Policy Infrastructure

MINC

Local Empowerment

- **Cultural Relevance**
  - Language working groups
- **Coordination Method**
  - **NO** single organization can do it alone.
- **Intellectual Property Protection ('IPP')**
  - Encourage IPP in ML.ML regions to spur product and service development

MINC

Recent Local Empowerment Pilot Project Successes

- **Cooperation between MINC & UN ESCWA**
  - Cooperation on Arabic language RFC.
  - MINCRFC AR0101
  - Already submitted to IETF and provided to ICANN and IANA
- **ML/IDN-IETF initiative Oct 2003**
  - Result: formation of "*Arabic Information Engineering Task Force*" with more than 120 members with over 20% being linguistic experts from the pan Arab region (consensus building) to address local concerns in deployment of future Arabic DNS and Arabic ML UDRP.

MINC

Safety and Integrity of the System

- **Universal language standards**
  - Based on legitimate language tables derived from the local regions themselves (*As in MINC's Working Language Groups*)
  - Where applicable: One version per language…NOT 243 potential versions!

- **Interoperability testing**
  - Operational mechanism that ensures elements of the internet work well together thus ensuring stability and Integrity of the system

- **ML UDRPs**
  - to address UDRPs from local cultural factors of that languages community in coordination with WIPO.

- **ML-IETF**
  - Launch and Duplicate recent pilot successes in Arabic language into other language communities to complement the great work done by the IETF factoring local linguistic and cultural relevance into actual code and to raise and resolve issues that complement the existing IETF IDNA standards in technical and region/language specific ways.

MINC

Global Policy Infrastructure

- To complement the current and future Global Technical Infrastructure
- Protect the rights of local communities by guarding against language and cultural infringements
- Prerequisite to the realization of a Multilingual Internet
- Cannot be successfully developed without the participation of non-English speakers

MINC

Can we afford to pursue IDN only?

NO!!!

- If we do not Multilingualize the internet, non-English speakers (approximately 80% of the world's population) will continue to be excluded from the so called "Global Internet"
- This is because IDN is only part of the story
- IDN lacks:
    - **Full indigenous language URL scripting**
    - **Language & Community Rights**
    - **Local Empowerment**
    - **Linguistic & Cultural Relevance**
    - **Universal Language Standards**
    - **Acceptance, Recognition, Participation**
    - **Global Policy Infrastructure**
        ….Therefore the focus has to be on…

MULTILINGUALIZATION!!!!!

MINC

Call to Action

- Multilingualization requires the active participation and effective coordination and cooperation of:
  - Non-English speaking regions and communities
  - International bodies, i.e. ICANN, MINC, UN, ITU, IETF, etc.
  - International Organizations
  - Governments
  - Corporations
  - Academia
  - Private Individuals
  - **You!!!**
- Multilingualization is a moral calling to bridge this divide and bring everyone everywhere into the Information Society and No organization can do it alone

MINC

In Summary, The Pre-Requisites.

- **To deliver Information Society Governance we need a Global & Multilingual Internet (GMI)**

- **To deliver that we need to have the _inclusive_ & active participation of the local communities _in their own Native languages_, a new Global policy infrastructure based on local empowerment, and legitimate language tables from the local communities.**

- **To deliver that we need to first respect and recognize local citizens/consumers, languages, communities rights.**

- **When we come to terms with that we can deliver functional IDNs.**

- **Luckily many of these issues have been successfully tackled,**

- **But what is still needed is more new thinking outside of the Box.**

To deliver that there is need for good faith coordination amongst all !

MINC

A new Question, A new Challenge.

- Now when asked new questions....

> ...*will we still answer with old answers or will we answer with new ones?*

MINC

THANK YOU!

MINC is committed to leading and delivering true Multilingualization of the internet to all humanity, enabling all peoples everywhere to access the internet in their own native language for a truly ***Global Internet,***

Which we believe is a function of their Human Rights!

Please contact MINC at
sec04@minc.org
Khaledfattal@aol.com
www.minc.org

MINC