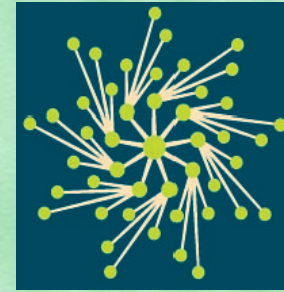


# Vision for the Future

Presentation by the  
Bahá'í Internet Agency

# Bahá'í Internet Agency



- We support the International Teaching Centre with its Internet related work.
- Today's goal: Helping the institutions take advantage of the Internet.

"The presentation of the Faith on the Internet, and through other media will undoubtedly prove an important area of experience and learning in advancing the process of entry by troops..."

International Teaching Centre, 12 July 2006

# The Internet in Context

The powers released by  
Bahá'u'lláh match the  
needs of the times.

From the Message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World, Ridván 1983

**You are here**

Each color represents a region;  
North America, blue; Europe/  
Middle East/Central Asia/Africa,  
green; Latin America, yellow;  
Asia Pacific, red; Unknown,  
white. (Image: Opte.org)



# How to Build Your Community



# The Faith as Guidebook

- If a building can be based on Bahá'í principles, just think how the principles can be used for the design of web sites, blogs, podcasts, etc.
- You're dealing with real people. Apply Bahá'í principles accordingly.
- Perfection is impossible. Sincerity of purpose almost always comes through and people are forgiving of mistakes made by people with good motives.

# Goals for the BCCA

- Internationalize membership
- Help support institutional sites on the Internet
- Supporting individual initiatives
- Mentoring youth
- Online service projects
- A source of technical advice to Bahá'í institutions and individuals.
- Hosting for some Bahá'í projects

# Specific Ways You Can Help

- The Bahá'í Internet Agency is looking for all types of volunteers.
- Write for One Magazine (one-magazine.com)
- Help the BCCA.
- The Bahá'í World Centre has a number of positions open that work with the Internet.



# Finding Help

- Encouraging Bahá'í Participation on the Internet
- Guidance for Blogging
- Search Engine Optimization Basics
- Guidance for Online Behavior

**Encouraging Bahá'í Participation via the Internet**  
The Bahá'í Internet Agency  
Fall, 2006

**Introduction**

The powers released by Bahá'u'lláh match the needs of the times. We may therefore be utterly confident that the new throb of energy now vibrating throughout the Cause will empower it to meet the oncoming challenges of assisting, as maturity and resources allow, the development of the social and economic life of peoples, of collaborating with the forces leading towards the establishment of order in the world, of influencing the exploitation and constructive uses of modern technology, and in all these ways enhancing the prestige and progress of the Faith and uplifting the conditions of the generality of mankind.<sup>1</sup>

The Internet is truly one of this age's most revolutionary and transformative technological developments. New terms, such as wikis, RSS, podcasting, blogs, FOAF, VoIP, and folksonomies,<sup>2</sup> while virtually unknown to the general public are terms that in fact represent the activities of many millions of Internet users. The Bahá'í Internet Agency believes that these new forms of communication technology represent major social trends that the Bahá'í community can take advantage of.

However, to take advantage of these new trends, it is important to understand these new communications technologies and how they can provide new avenues for furthering the interests of the Faith.

Bahá'u'lláh makes it clear that while the old world order disintegrates around us, there is simultaneously the creation of new structures and tools that are required for the new world order. The Internet appears to

**Technorati**

Doubling Rate of Blogs

<sup>1</sup> From the Message of the Universal House of Justice to the Bahá'ís of the World, Ridván 1983  
<sup>2</sup> Wikis are a form of publicly editable web site; RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a communications protocol being used by blogs and podcasts; blogs are online journals; FOAF (Friend Of A Friend) describes social networks such as Friendster; VoIP (Voice over IP) is the use of the Internet for telephone service; and folksonomies (or social tags) are systems by which the author and/or users classify content based on keywords.

1

<http://www.bahai.org/bia>