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ICANN's 34th International Meeting Opens in Mexico City

Mexico City, Mexico... March 2, 2009... The future of the Internet addressing system is the focal point of ICANN's 34th international meeting opening today in Mexico City. More than 1,000 attendees from every corner of the globe are gathering to participate in wide ranging discussions that could help define the way we use the Internet.

Latest developments relating to the planned introduction of new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) will be key areas of focus during the meeting.

The Mexico City meeting will provide an opportunity for further community discussion on the important subject of new gTLDs. On February 18th, ICANN issued a second version of its Draft Applicant Guidebook on gTLDs, consisting of detailed analysis of comments received over recent months and it is now seeking further input as part of an ongoing consultation process.

Commenting on the Mexico City meeting, Paul Twomey, President and CEO of ICANN said: "This is the first ICANN meeting of 2009, in what will be a significant year for the Internet. As a community, we continue to take steps towards the introduction of new generic Top Level Domains, which will bring with them new opportunities for growth and innovation."

Strong local interest in the ICANN meeting is a noteworthy aspect of this gathering. For the first time, representatives of the host nation (i.e., Mexico) to an ICANN meeting have out-numbered attendees of any other country.

"We are delighted to celebrate for the first time in Mexico, this important event, which allows our industry to take part in the international efforts to maintain the proper operation of the Internet, while allowing us the

opportunity to demonstrate our talent and the Mexican contributions to this important community," said Enrique Bustamante, CEO of the Internet Mexican Association (AMIPCI).

The complete schedule for ICANN's 34th meeting, as well as links to webcast sessions and our public participation website, can be found at: <http://mex.icann.org>.

About ICANN:

ICANN is responsible for the global coordination of the Internet's system of unique identifiers like domain names (like .org, .museum and country codes like .uk) and the addresses used in a variety of Internet protocols that help computers reach each other over the Internet. Careful management of these resources is vital to the Internet's operation, so ICANN's global stakeholders meet regularly to develop policies that ensure the Internet's ongoing security and stability. ICANN is an internationally organized, public benefit non-profit company. For more information please visit: www.icann.org.

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