



Addressing the global Internet

Rod Beckstrom
CEO and President

Professors Qian and Tseng
Co-Chairs
Chinese Domain Name Consortium (CDNC)
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Haidian District, Beijing
100190, P.R. China

Dear Professors Qian and Tseng,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 July 2009, concerning CDNC's IDN considerations. Even this early in my tenure, I am already aware of the valuable IDN development work conducted by CDNC and I appreciate the great support CDNC has demonstrated for global IDN development and implementations. ICANN and its community appreciate your continued expertise and support in this area.

As you correctly indicate, version 2.2 of the IDN Guidelines anticipated the delegation of IDN TLDs. The IDN Guidelines team identified the need to continue the revision when version 2.2 was released. That work will recommence after the completion of the IDNA protocol revision and some other technical work associated with the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process (i.e., shortly) so that the Guidelines can take into account the results of that work. It is important to emphasize that the revision of these Guidelines will not be a delaying factor for the launch of the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process, which we are looking at launching as quickly as feasible.

I understand the detailed explanation you provided concerning issues associated with the 3-character requirement. As discussed during ICANN's Sydney meeting, ICANN has formed a working group, comprised of community experts (including representatives from China), to discuss this issue and find a solution to accommodate all DNS community concerns. The working group has been requested to have their proposal or recommendations made available for discussion by the ICANN meeting in Korea, 25-30 October 2009.

I also understand the importance of having variant labels addressed in the DNS to ensure broad community usability of IDNs in regions such as your own. Our goals here are: ensuring DNS stability, avoiding user confusion, and ensuring a satisfactory user experience. When ICANN initially proposed to allocate preferred variant TLDs (through "aliasing") the technical community expressed concerns about the readiness of the root-



server system to accommodate the aliasing methodology. Since we are at the stage where the first IDN TLDs are about to be implemented, a conservative approach must be taken.

Of course, some of your proposals are not part of these controversies and are already included in the implementation.

The working group described above will address the topic of variants as well, and their recommendation is also expected in time for the meeting in Korea. I will make sure that your detailed proposal is provided to them for incorporation in their discussions.

I am looking forward to the recommended approaches on these topics from the working group. I am also personally looking forward to meeting with you both during the ICANN meeting in Korea and continuing discussions on the topics you have raised.

Meanwhile I ask that you continue to discuss these topics with Tina Dam who will be present at the upcoming APTLD and APNIC meetings in Beijing, China, to ensure that your proposals are being included in the working group discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rod Beckstrom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rod Beckstrom
CEO and President
ICANN

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cc: Tina Dam
Chris Disspain
Ram Mohan
Kurt Pritz