

Date: May 20, 2010

Re: DotAsia ICANN Agreement Amendment

Dear Kurt Pritz,

I am writing this letter on behalf of DotAsia Organisation as a formal request to amend the Registry-Level Operator Transaction Fee described in Section 7.2(b) of the Registry Agreement for the .ASIA top-level domain with ICANN dated December 6, 2006.

DotAsia is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to Internet development and adoption in Asia. According to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) Emerging and Developing Economies List – World Economic Outlook Database, October 2009 (<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2009/02/weodata/groups.htm#oem>) – among the around 70 economies in the Pan Asia Pacific community (Sponsor Community of DotAsia), over 40 (i.e. majority) are still considered developing economies. According to Development Asia (<http://development.asia/issue02/cover-01.asp>) – A publication of the Asian Development Bank, while many economies in Asia are experiencing economic growth, that growth has also not been inclusive and widely shared. “It is also essential to improve access to markets and basic productive assets by putting in place good policies and sound institutions, and leveling the playing field.” This can also be observed from the statistics at Internet World Stats showing that while Asia already has the largest online population in the world, the penetration rate of Internet access is only around 20%.

DotAsia has a mandate to promote Internet development and adoption around Asia. Since the launch of the “.ASIA” domain, DotAsia has demonstrated its commitment towards community development projects and its contribution to the Internet community in Asia through many community projects, including for example: ISIF.Asia (www.isif.asia), an R&D grants fund in cooperation with other community organizations; Relief.Asia (www.relief.asia) which has supported relief and rebuild efforts in various catastrophes; OLPC Asia Pacific (www.olpc.asia) the One-Laptop-Per-Child initiative in Asia; AOSSC (www.oss.asia) the Asia Open Source Software Consortium, Digital Solidarity Fund (hk.dsf.asia) a grants fund for digital inclusion projects; NetMission Ambassadors Program (www.netmission.asia) a youth Internet governance volunteer program; Paragon 100 (www.paragon100.asia) a social entrepreneurship mentorship program, and many other initiatives in Asia.

A lower fee would enable DotAsia to invest further into meaningful community projects as well as to extend the awareness and adoption of the .ASIA domain. A lower fee from ICANN will also support a more level playing field, that would help DotAsia's development and promote the equitable and inclusive development of the Asian economies, especially the developing and disadvantaged. The suggested amendment would also bring the fees into line with other gTLDs.

DotAsia proposes to amend Section 3.14 with the following provisions:

(b) Registry-Level Operator Transaction Fee. Commencing as of the Effective Date, Registry Operator shall pay ICANN a Registry-Level Transaction Fee in an amount equal to US\$0.50 for each annual increment of an initial or renewal (including renewals associated with transfers from one ICANN-accredited registrar to another) domain name registration during the calendar quarter to which the Registry-Level Transaction Fee pertains. For purposes of this Section 7.2(c), a "domain name registration" shall include a domain name within the registry for the TLD, consisting of two or more (e.g., domain.domain.asia) levels, about which Registry or an affiliate thereof maintains Registry Data on behalf of Registry Operator.

The proposed change does not have any impact on the security or stability of the registry or the DNS, and the proposed changes do not impact the registry-registrar provisioning system or WHOIS.

DotAsia looks forward to ICANN approving this amendment at its earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Edmon Chung
Chief Executive Officer
DotAsia Organisation