

Statement of Interest
Sarmad Hussain

• *Current vocation, employer and position*

Professor and Head, Center for Language Engineering, Al-Khawarizmi Institute of Computer Science, University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

• *Type of work performed in 1 above and declaration of relationships with entities holding a Financial (or declarable) Interest in ICANN*

I do teaching and research and development in localization and language processing, mostly working on languages spoken in Pakistan and in developing Asian region.

• *Identity any financial ownership or senior management/leadership interest in registries, registrars or other firms that are interested parties in ICANN policy or any entity with which ICANN has a transaction, contract, or other arrangement*

Member of IDN ccTLD committee, Ministry of IT (MoIT), Govt. of Pakistan. Fast Track application for Pakistan IDN ccTLD in process.

• *Identity any type of commercial interest in ICANN policy development outcomes. Do you represent other parties in any PDP or other ICANN related processes?*

Member of DNS Stability Panel for ICANN's Fast Track process for IDN ccTLDs; Observing member of JIG.

• *Geographic Region associated with the nationality of volunteer (Africa, North America, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia/Australia/Pacific and Europe)*

Asia

• *Stakeholder Group(s) AC's or SO's in which I volunteer or currently participate within ICANN*

Member of SSAC.

Additional information, as appended with the CV:

Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) are sure to change the way internet will be used in the future. Though it will not change the underlying DNS, it will still have significant technical and policy implications. For example, language table development, variant domain name management, synchronized TLD delegations, and internationalized WHOIS are some emerging areas.

I am a professor of Computer Science, specializing in local language computing and working in the Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) as one of the focus areas of my research. As part of the work on IDNs, I have led an effort for developing language tables (including variant analysis) for 10+ languages and an equal variety of scripts from developing Asia. This work has been conducted through the PAN Localization project (www.PANL10n.net) in collaboration with country partners. I have also been actively involved in the IDNAbis email discussion list, over past two+ years, where I have contributed to the IDN protocol development. The work through PAN Localization project was converted into a detailed report, **Feedback of PAN L10n project on IDNAbis for Languages of Developing Asia**, which was also formally submitted to the IDNAbis process. This work also included developing an Urdu test IDN TLD for Urdu with ICANN (see Urdu page link at <http://idn.icann.org/>). Since 2008, I have also been involved, as the founding member, with Arabic Script IDN Working Group (ASIWG). ASIWG is a self-organizing group which has been working on developing IDN specifications for languages using Arabic script, and have also authored a book titled **From Protocol to Production: Implementing the IDNs**, which was published in 2009. I have led the IDN ccTLD program in Pakistan and have been the member of the IDN ccTLD committee formed by Ministry of IT, Govt. of Pakistan. Over past two years, I have worked with the ministry to develop a national consensus on IDN implementation in Pakistan, the most recent achievement being consensus on and finalization of a single language table encompassing the 66+ languages spoken in the country, based on feedback from community and experts. The work has also included, and continues to evolve around, development of IDN registry test-bed, user-end application plug-ins for IDNs, IDN registration and resolution process, and policy formulation for the IDN ccTLD registry (some details at www.crupl.org/idn).

I have also been a member of DNS Stability Panel, which advises on the security and stability issues around IDN ccTLD strings applied for during the ICANN Fast Track Process, have been part of the IDN Implementation Committee of ICANN. I am an observer member of Joint ccNSO-gNSO IDN Working Group (JIG) and a member of Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) at ICANN as well.

I am interested to be a member of the review team for **WHOIS policy**, as a member of SSAC, with a special focus from the perspective of IDNs.