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Prepare for ICANN61!
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 10-15 March 2018

ICANN61 kicks off in just five days. The meeting website is now available in both English and Spanish, and features the final schedule, mobile phone app, and pre-meeting reports.

We hope to see you in San Juan!

ICANN61 website English | Spanish

ICANN mobile app (online or in app stores)
Learn About Open Data at ICANN
Wednesday, 14 March, 10:30-12:00

Join us at the ICANN61 cross-community session, Open Data at ICANN: Developing Avenues Forward for Transparency. Team members from the Open Data Initiative (ODI) and the Information Transparency Initiative (ITI) will discuss the goals of their respective projects, answer questions, and solicit feedback from the community. Please check the schedule for updated meeting room information.

APAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Inaugural Capacity-Development Workshop for Asia Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Representatives Concludes Successfully

The first capacity-development workshop for Asia GAC members took place from 24-25 February in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) 2018.

The Asia GAC representatives agreed to explore increasing engagement with local and regional communities at future Internet governance forums such as the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) and ICANN Public Meetings. Impressed by how the ICANN Readouts are conducted in local communities, they are exploring the idea of replicating the readouts within their own communities.
Look out for our upcoming blog on this event.

Country Code Top-Level Domain (ccTLD) Operators Discuss Financial Contributions to ICANN at APTLD 73

This was at the 73rd Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association meeting (APTLD 73), held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 22-23 February 2018.

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council adopted the Guidelines for ccTLD Financial Contribution to ICANN in 2013. At APTLD 73, Asia Pacific ccTLD operators had a lively discussion on the ccNSO’s guiding principles behind their voluntary financial contributions to ICANN. A review of the ccTLD voluntary contribution model will take place in 2018. All ccTLD operators are encouraged to participate in the review.

ICANN was also involved in other sessions at APTLD 73. See agenda.

In Pictures: ICANN Organization and APAC Community Members at the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) 2018

ICANN was in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 19-28 February 2018 for APRICOT 2018, where we gave updates on ICANN and presented on technical topics such as domain abuse. Here are some of the photos of the APAC community members and ICANN in action at APRICOT 2018.
Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) - Microsoft Announces New Expanded Support

Universal Acceptance (UA) is a foundational requirement for a truly multilingual Internet. Email Address Internationalization (EAI), which allows email addresses to use local scripts, is an important part of this process and a core component of the UASG’s work. The UASG created resources, including the Quick Guide to EAI, to help companies with EAI efforts. Recently, UASG member company Microsoft made another step forward in EAI when it announced support for email addresses in 15 Indian languages across its email apps and services, including Office 365, Outlook 2016, Outlook.com, Exchange Online and Exchange Online Protection (EOP).

ICANN to Cohost IETF 101 in London

Along with Google, ICANN is hosting this year’s meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), to take place in London from 18-23 March. Be sure to read the new blog by ICANN’s Adiel Akplogan, VP, Technical Engagement, where he describes ICANN’s important role in supporting the standards that ensure an open and interoperable Internet.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

Heather Forrest
Chair of the Generic Names Supporting
I am a member of the GNSO Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC), and I have been representing the IPC on the GNSO Council since ICANN51 in Los Angeles.

As the Chair of the GNSO, it is my goal in 2018 to develop strategies to improve communications and effectiveness in GNSO’s policy development processes. This will help us to better manage the increasing community workload. Indeed, this was one of our key discussion topics at the pilot GNSO Council strategic planning sessions held in January in Los Angeles.

Currently living in Tasmania, Australia, I teach media and intellectual property law at the University of Tasmania. My academic research focuses on legal rights in domain names, and my particular area of expertise is in legal rights in geographic names.

**GNSO Council Decision Underscores Commitment to Empowered Community**

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council recently adopted modifications to the GNSO Operating Procedures that add GNSO voting thresholds for certain Empowered Community-related decisions. The changes are effective immediately, and aim to ensure the GNSO can fulfill its roles and responsibilities as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community. In a related action, the GNSO Council proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws, which are currently under ICANN Board consideration. [Read more...](#)

**GAC Highlights at ICANN61**

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) will start ICANN61 with a capacity-building workshop on Domain Name System (DNS) resiliency and recovery in the context of natural disasters. During the meeting, the GAC will review topics such as:

- Two-character and country and territory codes at the second level
- Protections for international governmental organizations
- Independent Review Process Panel
- Policy development process and cross-community working groups
- General Data Protection Regulation
- New generic top-level domain subsequent procedures

The GAC will meet with the Generic Names Supporting Organization, At-Large Advisory Committee, Country Code Names Supporting Organization, and the ICANN Board.

**At-Large News**

**Proposed Changes to ICANN Meetings**

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) ratified a policy advice statement on the Proposed Incremental Changes to the ICANN Meetings Strategy that recommends:

- Community Forum: no changes
- Policy Forum: at least five days for outreach
- Annual General Meeting: six days plus an additional day for wrap-up activities

**At-Large Review**
The leadership of the At-Large Review Working Party continues to prepare the response to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee mapping exercise of the At-Large Review. Next steps will be determined at ICANN61.

**WHAT’S NEW IN REVIEWS**

**Reviews: How to Get Involved**

Learn about the draft recommendations of the NomCom Review at ICANN61
Join the independent examiner at the ICANN61 session covering the draft recommendations of the Nominating Committee (NomCom) Review. There, you'll have the opportunity to engage directly with the independent examiner.

Give feedback on the RSSAC Review Assessment Report
The independent examiner has published its assessment report of the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) and invites your input by 23 March. Learn about their findings, ask questions, and share your input at the ICANN61 session.

Get the status of all active Specific and Organizational Reviews
Visit our Review Status Update page.

**GDD UPDATE**

**Call for Experts - Study the Application of Root Zone Label Generation Rules**

ICANN is forming a technical group to study how to apply the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) for Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and IDN generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The study group will be composed of technical subject matter experts from various groups, organizations and committees. See announcement for details.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

ICANN will be participating in these upcoming events:

- 14 March | APAC Space at ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 14 March | APAC Social at ICANN61 | San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 9-11 April | ICANN Domain Name System (DNS) Workshop and Public Seminar in Collaboration with MobICorn Corporation and Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- 23-27 April | Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) 22nd Annual General Meeting & Tradeshow | Tumon, Guam

Learn more about how ICANN will be participating in regional events near you.
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