Help Shape ICANN's Future

ICANN org’s new draft Five-Year Operating and Financial Plan and FY21 Operating Plan and Budget include details about the funding and execution of major strategic initiatives.

The FY21-FY25 Operating and Financial Plan also includes the “Evolving ICANN’s Multistakeholder Model Work Plan,” for which ICANN also seeks your input. Over the years, ICANN’s multistakeholder model (MSM) has evolved, addressed important issues, and developed policies for the Internet’s domain name and numbering resources.

ICANN wants to hear what you think. View the documents and submit Public Comments here on or before 25 February.

Join Us in Cancún for ICANN67!

Don’t forget to register for ICANN67 coming up 7-12 March in Cancún, Mexico. The Community Forum will include plenary sessions on high-interest topics, cross-community discussion, and internal work of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. Register here and find the schedule and travel information here.

 Breaking Down the Language Gap with APRICOT

Calling all interested parties to join the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) and Email Address Internationalization (EAI) Birds of Feather (BoF) session at the upcoming Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference and Operational Technologies (APRICOT) in Melbourne, Australia.
This session will introduce EAI and Universal Acceptance concepts, and encourage the regional community to start implementing EAI. Allowing local language character sets to be used in domain names and email addresses will pave the way towards a multilingual Internet. Full details of the session can be found here.

IDN and EAI BoF
Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2020
Time: 18:00 – 19:00 MEL
Venue: Room M1 and M2

**Spotlight on Internet Governance for Thai Youth**
Thai youth recently learned more about Internet governance at the 9th Thailand Networking Group (THNG) Camp in Phetchaburi, Thailand. Organized by the Thailand Network Information Center (THNIC) Foundation, the Camp also included a Universal Acceptance (UA) hackathon.

ICANN org representative at the camp spoke about how Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) enable local languages in the Internet, and how UA deploys this technology to benefit end users. This is especially useful for those who are unable to access the Internet due to language barriers.

Apart from focusing on networking and educating local youth on Internet governance, the annual camp also gathered ideas for initiatives and solutions which could improve the local community’s quality of life.

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**Inaugural India Internet Week Embraces Internet Governance**
The first India Internet Week was hosted by the India Internet Foundation in Kolkata, India recently. The local community participated in five separate events that saw high quality discussions across a wide range of Internet governance subjects. Representatives from ICANN org were also present at different events to lend our voices to the discussions.

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**Chinese Community Discusses Internet Governance Forum**
The Chinese multistakeholder community sees value in continuing their participation at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). This was the conclusion drawn at the IGF14 Readout and China IGF Community Meeting held on 19 December 2019. The Chinese government has also recognized the broad acceptance of the multistakeholder model by the global community. There was a call for more capacity building to help the community to be more effective in the IGF forums. ICANN org is committed to support and grow active, informed, and effective stakeholder participation in ICANN and Internet governance
ICANN Wants to Hear from You
ICANN org is seeking Public Comment on the proposed Amendment No. 3 to the .COM Registry Agreement between ICANN and Verisign. Post your Public Comment submission here on or before 14 February 2020.

In addition, ICANN and Verisign have announced a new proposed framework for working together on initiatives related to the security, stability, and resiliency of the Domain Name System (DNS) in the form of a binding Letter of Intent (LOI) between the two organizations. Read the full announcement.

Apply Now for ICANN and PTI Leadership Positions
The ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom) is welcoming applications for key leadership positions within ICANN and Public Technical Identifiers (PTI). Successful candidates will have a unique opportunity to help shape the Internet’s technical coordination and policy development. Find more details here. The deadline to submit applications is 25 February 2020.

Improved Public Comment Feature
The Information Transparency Initiative (ITI) has released an improved Public Comment feature based on invaluable input from members of ICANN's Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. Please check it out here and register your feedback.

Open Data Platform Update
ICANN’s Open Data Program’s goal is to enhance the transparency and accessibility of data. As part of the program, ICANN org is developing an Open Data Platform to provide the community access to specific datasets. At launch, the Open Data Platform will include the following datasets:

- Registry Monthly Reports
- Identifier Technology Health Indicators (ITHI)
- Domain Name Marketplace Indicators

For more information about the Open Data Platform, register here for an informational webinar on 18 February 2020 as part of the ICANN67 Prep Week. You are also invited to attend a session on the Open Data Program during ICANN67 with the date and time to be announced soon.
Apply Now: ICANN Community Childcare Grants Program

ICANN’s Community Childcare Grants Program is aimed at making it easier for community members with children to attend ICANN Public Meetings and other eligible ICANN events. The application cycle for those seeking a childcare grant for ICANN68 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is now open and will close on 4 March 2020. Applications must be submitted by 11:59pm UTC on that day.

For more information and details about the program and how to apply, please visit here.

POLICY UPDATE

Nomination Period for ICANN Community Excellence Award 2020 Now Open

The nomination period for the ICANN Community Excellence Award 2020 is now open. Formerly known as the Multistakeholder Ethos Award, the ICANN Community Excellence Award recognizes ICANN participants who substantively contribute to policymaking within the ICANN ecosystem and who are deeply invested in developing consensus-based solutions within ICANN’s multistakeholder model. Learn more about the nomination process and submit your nominations here.

Register for ICANN67 Prep Week Webinars

Mark your calendars! Ahead of ICANN67, there will be a series of webinars during the week of 18-24 February 2020 to help the ICANN community prepare for the Community Forum in Cancún, Mexico.

Please register here by 14 February to receive your calendar invitation.

SO/AC Leaders Plan for 2020

The chairs of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees (SO/ACs) met in Los Angeles on 27 and 28 January 2020. This meeting provided a space for leaders to hold strategic discussions outside of an ICANN Public Meeting. The collaborative agenda included discussions on governance, the respective priorities for each of the SO/ACs in the upcoming year, and a summary and status update on the FY20 goals for the ICANN Board of Directors and CEO.

Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Playbook Now Available

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS) Standing Committee published its Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Playbook, which serves as a basic business continuity strategy and implementation guide for small country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators. The playbook is primarily for upper or middle management at ccTLDs and aims to develop resilience
GNSO Council Meets to Develop Strategy for 2020
The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) held its third Strategic Planning Session (SPS) from 22 through 24 January 2020 in Los Angeles. For the last few years, the annual SPS has allowed time for the GNSO Council to onboard new Councilors and develop a strategic work plan for the upcoming year. This year, the GNSO Council also learned more about how to carry out its responsibilities as a Decisional Participant in the Community, as well as how to more effectively execute its role as a policy development process (PDP) manager by using the toolkits developed from the PDP 3.0 implementation effort. In addition, some of the ICANN Board Directors observed the sessions.

EPDP Update
The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data published its Phase 2 Initial Report for Public Comment on 7 February 2020. From 27-29 January, the EPDP Team met in Los Angeles to reach agreement on recommendations and finalize the content for the Initial Report. Discussions related to the EPDP Phase 2 Initial Report will continue during ICANN67.

GAC Begins Work on Universal Acceptance-Internationalized Domain Name Issues
The Governmental Advisory Committee’s (GAC) newly formed Universal Acceptance-Internationalized Domain Name (UA-IDN) Working Group has been developing an initial work plan, including its terms of reference. The GAC is expected to endorse the group’s first phase of work prior to ICANN67. The UA-IDN Working Group was established during ICANN66 to help the GAC track, consider, and address UA and IDN matters relevant to governments. Learn more.

At-Large Review Implementation Nearly Complete
The At-Large Advisory Committee submitted for review the second status report of the At-Large Review Implementation to the ICANN Board’s Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) in December. Nearly all of the eight issue areas identified in the previous status report have been implemented by At-Large or will be
implemented in the near future.

For more information about the issues currently under review by the OEC, please visit the At-Large Review Implementation Plan Development workspace.

REGISTRATION DATA POLICY (EPDP) IMPLEMENTATION WORK PRESENTED AT ICANN67 PREP WEEK

During ICANN67 Prep Week, learn about the many activities involved in implementing the new Registration Data Policy (EPDP Phase 1). This webinar will cover current policy requirements, the Implementation Review Team’s work supporting the policy document drafting, completed reports and studies, and other activities stemming from the consensus policy recommendations. The informational session takes place on Monday, 24 February at 15:00 UTC and registration is required by this Friday, 14 February. The webinar will be followed by a Q&A session and you are welcome to submit questions ahead of time. Register here.

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE: LOOKING TO FORM LOCAL INITIATIVES

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) is looking for advocates to form local initiatives at both regional and national levels to drive awareness and aid the development and deployment of UA-ready software and email services. These groups will work in close collaboration with UASG leadership and working groups, as well as with ICANN org. Please contact UAProgram@icann.org for more information. Universal Acceptance is key to enabling a multilingual Internet and bringing the next billion users online – let’s work together to make this a reality!

RDAP: MOVING TOWARDS A MORE ROBUST AND SECURE TECHNOLOGY

The technology transition from WHOIS-based services to solutions based on the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) is well underway. Contracted parties are already offering services based on this protocol, which allow users to access domain name and other Internet identifier registration data in a secure and structured manner. ICANN also offers a registration data Lookup tool based on RDAP – bookmark the page. RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a replacement for the WHOIS protocol. Are you ready for this technology upgrade? Learn more here.
Pensri Arunwatanamongkol
Member, Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

Pensri Arunwatanamongkol has been involved in the Internet and domain name industry for more than 25 years. She is the Managing Director of DotArai Co., Ltd., the first and only ICANN-accredited registrar in Thailand.

Arunwatanamongkol contributes to the Thai Internet community via the Thai Network Information Center (THNIC) as the .th technical contact. She believes that language is an obstacle to local Thai people accessing the Internet. Together with THNIC, Arunwatanamongkol developed and promoted the use of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Email Address Internationalization (EAI). She became a member of the UASG when it was first formed.

Arunwatanamongkol attends ICANN Public Meetings at least once a year. She urges all Internet stakeholders to put focus and effort in checking and adjusting their systems to accept IDN and EAI. This will help to bridge the digital gap for the next billion users to access the Internet using their own language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ICANN will be participating in these upcoming events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-16 February</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) Workshop</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-21 February</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) Conference</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-19 February</td>
<td>Asia Telecoms, Regulatory, and Media Forum</td>
<td>Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21 February</td>
<td>77 Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD)</td>
<td>Melbourne, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-12 March</td>
<td>ICANN67</td>
<td>Cancún, Mexico</td>
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Learn more about ICANN at [regional events near you](#).
SINGAPORE
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38 Beach Road, Unit 04-11
Singapore 189767

ICANN AROUND THE WORLD

Regional Offices:
- Los Angeles, U.S.A. (Headquarters)
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- Geneva, Switzerland
- Nairobi, Kenya
- Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

For address and contact information, visit:
icann.org/contact