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Stewardship of IANA Functions Transitions to Global Internet Community as Contract with US Government Ends

On 1 October 2016, the contract between ICANN and the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), to perform the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, officially expired. This historic moment marks the transition of the coordination and management of the Internet's unique identifiers to the private sector, a process that has been committed to and underway since 1998.

Read ICANN's statement...
IANA Stewardship Transition, Multistakeholder Model and More at the CTO Forum 2016

ICANN thanks stakeholders from the Commonwealth countries for their contributions to the IANA stewardship transition, and encourages them to support future ICANN activities. This was part of a goodwill message from ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization Forum (CTO Forum 2016) in Nadi, Fiji, from 12-16 September 2016.

ICANN’s Savé Vocea, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Australasia, delivered the message on behalf of Marby. The forum attracted senior policymakers, regulators and industry leaders from the Commonwealth and beyond to examine topical issues in the information and communication technology (ICT) sectors.

Vocea was also a speaker at a session called “Inclusive Multistakeholder Internet Governance.” He explained ICANN’s multistakeholder model (a consensus-based decision-making model) and gave an update on the IANA stewardship transition. The session produced engaging discussions - with the audience asking how to ensure participation from diverse stakeholder groups in the Pacific at national and regional Internet governance forums.

DomainFest Asia: Universal Acceptance Takes Center Stage

"We need to get users and consumers on board in the Universal Acceptance (UA) discussion... Because if we can do that, their needs can in turn become a driving force for companies to adopt UA."

This was a conclusion from a discussion at DomainFest Asia, held from 19-22 September 2016 in Hong Kong. Jia-Rong Low, VP and Managing Director of ICANN Asia Pacific, was a speaker at the Universal Acceptance workshop that was held at the sidelines of DomainFest. Low also delivered the opening address, where he encouraged the players in the domain name industry to get involved in ICANN’s policymaking. He emphasized the importance of getting their voices heard in discussions of policies that could affect their business operations.

On the sidelines of the event, ICANN’s Global Domains Division team - Valerie Heng, Senior Manager of Registry Services and Engagement, and Howard Li, Registrar Services and Industry Relations Senior...
ICANN Strengthens Relations with ccTLD Community

He ain't heavy, he's my brother...

No, this isn't a reference to the 1960s *song by The Hollies*. It's actually the title of a session at the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association 70 (APTLD 70) conference, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13-16 September.

ICANN's Jia-Rong Low, VP and Managing Director of ICANN Asia Pacific, was a panelist at this session. The discussion explored how country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and geographic TLDs could complement each other, given that both have geographical target audiences. The session explored business and marketing strategies vis-à-vis ccTLDs and geo TLDs.

Champika Wijayatunga - Security, Stability and Resiliency Engagement Regional Manager - conducted a two-day pre-event training on best practices in managing Internet identifiers and securing networks. Topics included Domain Name Systems (DNS) operations and security.

ICANN took part in other panel discussions. Low spoke about the ccTLD community's involvement in the IANA stewardship transition and what changes the community could expect from this change. At a cybersecurity session, Wijayatunga talked about the root zone key signing key (KSK) rollover.

Joyce Chen, Global Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Senior Manager, also attended the event.

Don't Get Locked Out - Australian Network Operators Learn About the KSK Rollover

A total of 150 participants from 89 organizations came together at the Australian Network Operators Group (AusNOG 2016) in Sydney, Australia, from 1-2 September 2016.

Terry Manderson, ICANN's Director of DNS Engineering, informed the conference's technical participants about the root zone key signing key (KSK) rollover. We know that Internet users should change their system passwords regularly to protect against compromises by attackers. To make the DNS more reliable, a similar maintenance task is changing the KSK for the root zone, which acts as a "trust anchor" for all of the Internet's Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) queries. To learn more, read David Conrad's recent blog about the KSK rollover.

Accompanying Manderson was ICANN's Savé Vocea, VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Australasia. Both Manderson and Vocea attended technical update sessions on the adoption of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) and big data.
Students Learn by Doing at the Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance

The first Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance (APSIG) was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 12-15 September 2016. From the nearly 180 applicants, 38 students from 20 countries were selected to attend the school. The students were early career professionals from the private sector, government and civil society. The curriculum included a diverse range of topics, including the history of Internet technologies and governance, political and social perspectives on Internet policy, and the IANA stewardship transition.

A highlight of the school was the role-playing exercise. The students - playing the different stakeholders in the multistakeholder model - developed a policy statement on how their constituency would address the problem of connecting the next billion users to the Internet.

ICANN's Adam Peake, Senior Manager of Civil Society Engagement, and Fahd Batayneh, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager for the Middle East, participated as lecturers. Peake spoke about Internet governance principles and moderated sessions on the multistakeholder model and the IANA stewardship transition. Batayneh joined remotely and shared his experience with the Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG).

Engaging the Next Generation at the 14th Youth Congress on Information Technology

With 75 percent of the population in Asia's developing countries still living without the Internet, how can today's youths leverage ICANN's multistakeholder model to take their first step as digital citizens and connect the unconnected?

This question was at the crux of a technical talk by ICANN's Joyce Chen, Global Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and Development Senior Manager. She addressed a crowd of 7,000 tertiary students at the 14th Youth Congress on Information Technology (Y4iT), held from 27-29 September 2016 in Manila, Philippines. In a session called "Digital Citizenship to Connect the Unconnected," Chen highlighted that 56 percent of the population of the Philippines remains unconnected to the Internet. She stressed that urgent actions are required to solve this issue, and highlighted two ways in which ICANN is addressing this challenge:

- Developing local digital content and services through ICANN's New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program and Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Program
- Building digital skills through the ICANN Asia Pacific hub's efforts in capacity building, outreach and discussion on Internet governance topics

Chen concluded her presentation by encouraging the students to engage with ICANN through NextGen@ICANN and the ICANN Meeting Fellowship Program.

News From the GAC: All Governments and Territories in Oceania Represented; Nepal Joins GAC

The ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) recently celebrated a milestone - all independent governments and territories from the Oceania region have representation in the GAC. ICANN is also pleased to announce that the Government of Nepal has become a member of the GAC, bringing the total number of GAC members to 171.

ICANN is encouraged to see more governments from the Asia Pacific region joining the GAC. We look forward
Finding a Common Solution for Accessing Domain Names in the Han Script

Did you know that the Chinese, Japanese and Korean writing systems all use the Han script? For Internet users to access domain names in all three languages using the Han script, Generation Panels (GP) from China, Japan and Korea held a joint meeting in Taipei, hosted by the Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC) on 29-30 September. The three groups worked on developing proposals with a common solution for the root zone label generation rules (LGR) for the Han script.

The Han script has a character set with tens of thousands of characters, of which several thousand characters are in common use in each language. The Han script is found in the Chinese language (ancient and modern), in simplified and traditional forms. It is also used in Japanese writing (Kanji) and Korean writing (Hanja).

The meeting was successful - the participants agreed on solutions to most of the remaining variant sets that differ between Chinese and Korean. The groups will continue their efforts to finalize their proposals at ICANN57 in Hyderabad, India.

Only 17 Days to ICANN57 Hyderabad

Register Now!

If you plan to attend ICANN57 in Hyderabad, India, please register and make visa arrangements as soon as possible. To help you navigate the visa process, ICANN has posted frequently asked questions on the ICANN57 website. Each region is different - we urge you to contact your closest Indian mission or consulate to see if you can obtain a Conference visa in time for the meeting.

We'll see you in Hyderabad!

Participate Remotely

Can't attend ICANN57 Hyderabad in person? You can participate remotely.

Register Now for Tomorrow’s Quarterly Stakeholder Call

Tomorrow, we're rolling out a new format for the ICANN Quarterly Stakeholder Call. Our goal is to increase participation and understanding of ICANN's regional efforts. We will focus on how ICANN has implemented community policy, and will add a Board update and news from a specific region. This quarter's call features the Asia Pacific (APAC) region - note the APAC-friendly time zone.

Register here! Everyone is welcome.

17 October at 20:00 Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)
18 October at 03:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) | 11:00 Singapore Time (SGT)
Live interpretation is offered in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The call will be recorded and posted in all languages on the Quarterly Reports page. Read the full announcement.

Take the At-Large Review Survey

Help make At-Large a more efficient and effective part of the ICANN community by taking part in the At-Large Review survey, which will be open through 21 October 2016.

The At-Large Review is conducted by ITEMS, acting as the independent examiner. The survey takes just 15 to 20 minutes, and by giving us your feedback, you will contribute to the success of this important review process.

Please pass this information along to your colleagues! Read At-Large’s full announcement.

Fire on Cargo Ship Affects IT Equipment Bound for ICANN57 Hyderabad

ICANN Meetings are a large-scale technical event. The visible portions like microphones, monitors and cameras are the tip of an iceberg. Beneath the surface, there miles of cable and hundreds of pieces of equipment providing connectivity, and enabling engagement and the seamless presentation of ICANN sessions.

Unfortunately, some of our equipment was recently impacted by a fire.

What Happened?

On 1 September 2016, an explosion caused a fire on a cargo ship docked in Hamburg, Germany. Our Public Meeting technical equipment was on board. We had two containers - a 40-foot and a 20-foot container.

It took 150 firefighters four days to extinguish the fire. The ship crew initially tried to extinguish the fire and sustained slight injuries. No one else was hurt. Reports indicated that welding in the cargo hold caused the accident.

The ship had departed Helsinki, Finland, after ICANN56 and the equipment was bound for Hyderabad, India via Mumbai.

Read more...

Now Open! ICANN Fellowships and NextGen@ICANN Application Rounds for ICANN58

Are you interested in participating in the NextGen@ICANN or ICANN58 Meeting Fellowship program at ICANN58? ICANN is accepting applications for the ICANN58 Public Meeting - to be held 11-16 March 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Successful candidates will be announced on the ICANN website.

For ICANN58 Fellowships, the application deadline is 21 October 2016. Successful candidates will be announced on 12 December 2016. Read the announcement and apply here.

For NextGen@ICANN58, the application deadline is 4 November 2016. Successful candidates will be announced on 2 December 2016. Read the announcement and apply here.
Rohan Wadhwa
NextGen@ICANN57

Rohan Wadhwa is an associate at the Asia Pacific Institute for the Digital Economy (APIDE), a regional think tank based in Tokyo. He is currently completing his bachelor’s degree in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy and Governance at Keio University in Japan. At APIDE, Wadhwa helped organize several programs and events focusing on both regional and global Internet policy issues. His research interests lie in the intersection of technology, politics and business.

Wadhwa devotes considerable time and energy to the youth Internet governance sphere. In August, he was a fellow at the inaugural Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA), a five-day capacity-building program to familiarize youths with Internet governance. He will join the upcoming ICANN57 Public Meeting in Hyderabad as a NextGen@ICANN participant.

In Wadhwa’s words: "The Internet is simply too important to be left without the voice of the future - the youths. Initiatives like APIGA and NextGen@ICANN provide the perfect platforms for building sustained youth engagement in Internet discussions."

GAC Working Group Plans Capacity Building Session for Asia Pacific Region

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Underserved Regions Working Group (USR WG) will be organizing a capacity building session for the Asia Pacific region at ICANN57. The primary purpose of this session is to better understand the needs of GAC members from the Asia Pacific region in order to increase their participation in the GAC and in the work of ICANN.

This open session will feature a short introduction to ICANN and the GAC, followed by an overview of policy matters, emphasizing the importance of contribution, and then possible issues the Asia Pacific region may face. Additionally, the session will cover the IANA stewardship transition and its impact on the Asia Pacific region and will end with a question and answer period. Please refer to the ICANN57 schedule for updated session information.

RSSAC Issues Statement on the Unavailability of a Single Root Server

In its recent statement, the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) reviewed information on current architectures, root server availability and short-term (hours or days) outages caused by administrative errors or attacks. Based on information available today, the RSSAC concluded that the loss of a single root server would not cause immediate stability issues for the root server system and the Internet that depends upon it.

Comments on Guidelines for the Extended Process Similarity Review Panel

On 31 August 2016, the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) published "SAC084: SSAC Comments on Guidelines for the Extended Process Similarity Review Panel (EPSRP) for the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Country Code Top-Level Domain Fast Track Process [r20.rs6.net]." This comment focuses specifically on the EPSRP and some very basic issues that have been exposed in a review of the proposed guidelines.

In June 2015 the ICANN Board of Directors had requested "the ccNSO, in consultation with other
stakeholders, including GAC and SSAC, to provide further guidance on and refinement of the methodology of second string similarity review process, including the interpretation of its split recommendations, to be applied to the relevant current and subsequent cases in the IDN ccTLD Fast Track process as well as to inform the proposed policy for the selection of the IDN ccTLD strings”. In October 2015, the ccNSO established a working group with participants from the ccTLD community and GAC. In July 2016, the EPSRP working group[ccnso.icann.org] sought feedback, via a public comment proceeding[icann.org], on its proposed guidelines for the methodology on the second string similarity review process, including the interpretation of split recommendation.

The inputs received within the public comment timeframe included: a statement from ALAC ([https://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-proposed-epsrp-guidelines-20jul16/msg00000.html][forum.icann.org]), input from Verisign ([https://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-proposed-epsrp-guidelines-20jul16/msg00001.html][forum.icann.org]), and SSAC (as per the SSAC comments mentioned above). Comments from the GAC ([https://ccnso.icann.org/about/schneider-to-sataki-28sep16-en.pdf][ccnso.icann.org]) were also submitted at a later stage.

The EPSRP finalized its report [community.icann.org] and submitted it to the ccNSO Council for adoption at their meeting in Hyderabad. If adopted, the recommendations will be submitted to the Board.

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**At-Large Publishes Briefing Paper on Policy Issues**

In a collaborative effort between community members and ICANN Policy Development Support staff, At-Large has published **“At-Large Community Policy Issues - Why End Users Should Care.”** The briefing paper provides an overview of 12 topics, ranging from accountability and transparency of ICANN to WHOIS and Registration Directory Services. The document also explains why each issue is relevant to end users, with the aim of helping more end users understand the work of At-Large and participate in ICANN. At-Large members have widely shared this briefing paper for outreach and capacity-building purposes.

**GNSO Council Approves Improvements**

At its meeting on 1 September 2016, the Council of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) voted to adopt modifications to the GNSO Operating Procedures relating to motions and elections of the chair and vice chair, as proposed by the GNSO Standing Committee on Improvements (SCI). With respect to motions, the SCI proposed a new section that records the informal processes that the GNSO currently uses. With respect to elections of the chair and vice chair, the SCI proposed minor modifications regarding eligibility, and a new section describing the procedures for four scenarios relating to the chair election and the selection of interim vice chairs. Following the completion of these two tasks, the GNSO Council subsequently instructed the SCI to disband.

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**ALAC Reappoints Alan Greenberg as Chair**

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) has reappointed current chair **Alan Greenberg** to another one-year term, beginning 9 November 2016. Following the call for nomination in
Alan Greenberg will serve another one-year term as Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee.

In August 2016, Greenberg was the sole candidate. Greenberg accepted the nomination, and therefore, the ALAC appointed him by acclamation.

Since 16 October 2014, Greenberg has been leading the ALAC to focus on several critical areas concerning the organizational effectiveness of the At-Large community. Examples include clarifying the accreditation criteria and participation expectations of At-Large Structures, mobilizing more At-Large members to get involved in policy development, and advancing the ALAC position within ICANN.

Notably, Greenberg has played a key role in leading ALAC involvement in the IANA stewardship transition and process to enhance ICANN accountability. These areas of work will remain ALAC priorities during Greenberg's next term.

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**GDD UPDATE**

**New Consolidated Operational Consultations Page Launched**

Requesting opinions from stakeholders is an essential part of the multistakeholder process, and is vital to our commitment to accountability and transparency. When the community asked for an easier-to-use way to provide feedback on open calls-to-action, we listened. We have introduced a new webpage that consolidates all public comments and operational consultations. We encourage you to bookmark this page and share your views. We're continuing to explore ways to improve the user experience. Email public-comment@icann.org and let us know what you think.

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**Check Out New Registrar Training Resources!**

New registrar training content on a variety of popular topics is now available in Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian. Do you need to brush up on the transfer policy and change of registrant procedures? Want to know more about the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy or WHOIS? If so, visit learn.icann.org to review the material and test your knowledge with quizzes in the language of your choice.

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**Now Available - Final Results of Phase Two of Global Registrant Survey**

How can we determine the success of the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program? “Global Registrant Survey Phase Two” is one of a number of studies that will play an important role in assessing the program. The study examines domain name registrants’ perceived sense of trust, choice and experience in the current domain name landscape. Findings will serve as inputs for a community-based review team that will assess the New gTLD Program in terms of competition, consumer trust and consumer choice. View the study.
How Are Companies Using New gTLDs?

More than 30 new gTLD case studies are now available. Each study highlights the background of a gTLD, what makes it unique and how it's being used. As part of ICANN's global effort to raise awareness of new gTLDs, all registries are invited to partner with us to develop case studies. Read case studies, or if you would like to tell the story of your new gTLD, email gdd-communications@icann.org with "Case Study [your gTLD]" in the subject line.

Seven New gTLDs Were Delegated in September

Here are all of them:
- .shop, "online shopping", /tsuhan/
- rogers
- fido
- wow
- observer
- monster
- dvr

Join us at these upcoming events in the APAC region:
- **FY17 Q1 Stakeholder Call** | 18 October | 03:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) / 11:00 Singapore Time (SGT)
- **India School on Internet Governance** | 31 October - 2 November | Hyderabad, India
- **ICANN57** | 3 - 9 November | Hyderabad, India
- **PacNOG (Pacific Network Operators Group) 19** | 28 November - 2 December | Nadi, Fiji

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

ICANN APAC HUB
38 Beach Road
#04-11 South Beach Tower
Singapore 189767