APAC Newsletter
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JANUARY 2019

Regional Events Calendar   **ICANN website www.icann.org**   **Feedback**

TOP STORY

Register For ICANN64 Community Forum in Kobe

ICANN64 is going to feature the multistakeholder participation model in action! The ICANN64 Local Host Committee (LHC) has some of the broadest multistakeholder participation for an ICANN Meeting host. It comprises 18 organizations from registries, registrars, Internet associations and Internet Service Providers in Japan, all of whom engage with ICANN on a regular basis. Additionally, the LHC has two supporting organizations, the Ministry for Internal Affairs and Communications and the Kobe Convention Bureau, generously contributing to ICANN64.

While planning may be easier for a single host organization, the LHC represents a "community-led" multistakeholder way of hosting. The team is now busy preparing to welcome the global ICANN community to Japan, and exploring ways to make this a successful meeting. The LHC is working hard to make sure the community enjoys their time in Kobe, including a Gala Event highlighting Kobe's many cultural offerings. See you in March!

Register for ICANN64 here.

APAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

ICANN representatives, Vietnam Internet Association organizers, and speakers at Vietnam Internet Day 2018.

Vietnam Community Celebrates Twenty-One Years of Internet

Since the Internet first launched in Vietnam in 1997, the country's digital ecosystem has grown in size and sophistication. Its country code top-level domain (ccTLD) has the highest registrations of all ccTLDs in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) according to the Vietnam Internet Network Information Center (VNNIC). About 460,000 .vn domains were registered in 2018, an 8.9 percent annual growth rate. Also, Vietnam is aggressively deploying the next generation Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6).

These highlights and more were celebrated at the annual Vietnam Internet Day on 5 December 2018. About 300 participants from local companies, government agencies, and regional stakeholders attended the event organized by Vietnam Internet Association (VIA). Hot topics discussed included a briefing on the Internet landscape in Vietnam, the impact of new technologies on Internet development, Internet resource governance, and data privacy issues.

Another key highlight was the outreach by Satish Babu, chair of the Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO), facilitated by ICANN APAC team. Babu said the main objective of his trip was to open ties with Vietnam, where the At-Large community still has no presence. He hoped to enhance awareness about ICANN, the At-Large community, and APRALO.

APAC Space Web Conference Discussion On ICANN Five-Year Strategic Plan

Don't forget to join us on 17 January as Theresa Swinehart, ICANN Senior Vice President, Multistakeholder Strategy and Strategic Initiatives, will share details about the ICANN Five-Year Strategic Plan. This will be followed by community discussion and feedback. We welcome your questions and view points. If you would like to submit questions in advance, please email them to **apachub@icann.org**.

Date: 17 January 2019
Time: 11:00-12:00 SGT | 03:00-04:00 UTC
Adobe Connect link: **https://participate.icann.org/apacmtgrm**

 POLICY UPDATE

Share Your Input on the Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025

ICANN published the FY21 - FY25 Draft Strategic Plan for Public Comment at the end of December 2018. Please **click here** to share your input to help shape the future of ICANN as it sets out long-term strategic objectives that reflect the ICANN mission and vision. The Public Comment will be open until 11 February 2019.

To prepare for the development of this plan, ICANN initiated a process to identify internal and external trends that impact ICANN's future, mission, and operations. The ICANN community, Board, and ICANN org all provided extensive input to this effort.

After this public comment period, ICANN org will revise the draft. A strategic planning session is scheduled at ICANN64 in Kobe to further refine the plan. Following ICANN64, the ICANN org will incorporate any last revisions to the draft Strategic Plan. The Board will then finalize and adopt the new FY21 - FY25 Strategic Plan.

To learn more about the strategic planning process and to stay up-to-date on progress, please visit the **ICANN Strategic Planning page**.

EPDP Update

On 21 December 2018, the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team on the Temporary Specification for Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Data closed the Public Comment proceeding on its Initial Report. The EPDP Team has been actively reviewing all comments received and preparing its Final Report. From 16 to 18 January, the EPDP Team will meet in Toronto, Canada with the goal of finalizing its Final Report.

GNSO Council Update

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council:

- Adopted the GNSO **Review** of the ICANN63 Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Communiqué. The GNSO has transmitted the Review to the ICANN Board and informed the GAC.
- Confirmed Heather Forrest to serve a two-year term as the GNSO representative to the ICANN Fellowship Program Selection Committee and nominated Andrew Mack to serve as an ICANN Fellowship Program mentor for a period of one year.

GAC Creates New Operating Principles Working Group

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Chair has created a new committee working group. The purpose of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group is to study, develop, and recommend to the GAC membership changes to the current **GAC Operating Principles**. Potential recommendations will help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity, and specificity of the committee's operations, processes, and procedures, particularly in light of the ICANN Empowered Community.

At-Large Review Implementation

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) unanimously endorsed the **At-Large Review Detailed Implementation Plan**. The plan outlines eight activities raised during the At-Large Review and includes timeline and resource implications. The document will be reviewed by the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) shortly, and the ICANN Board will review it in January.

At-Large Appointments

- Justine Chew will be serving as the At-Large liaison to the New Generic Top-Level Domains Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group. Chew will also replace Maureen Hilyard on Work Track 5.

- The ALAC Appointee Selection Committee (AASC) reviewed expressions of interest for the position of At-Large mentor for the ICANN Fellowship Program. The AASC selected Amrita Choudhury as mentor and Sarah Kiden as alternate. The ALAC endorsed the AASC selections.

Approach of the Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains

At ICANN63, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains received feedback that its charter is too risk averse by focusing too closely on the ICANN Board request to inform the community about risks identified in **SAC 095 | Security and Stability Advisory Committee Advisory on the Use of Emoji in Domain Names**. However, the study group and the ccNSO Council reiterated that the study group is not just focusing on SAC 095 but is also seeking the perspectives from ccTLDs. As part of this balanced approach, the study group has approached individual ccTLDs who have the capacity to accept the registration of emoji domain names to solicit their views and perspectives and present those to the community. In addition, the study group reached out to the ccTLD community to seek broader input. The responses received will be discussed by the study group and included in a report that is expected by ICANN64. Learn more about the study group **here**.

We want your comments!

The ICANN org has posted its Draft FY20 Operating Plan and Budget for Public Comment. We want and need your feedback in this important process! Please share your comments by the 8 February deadline.
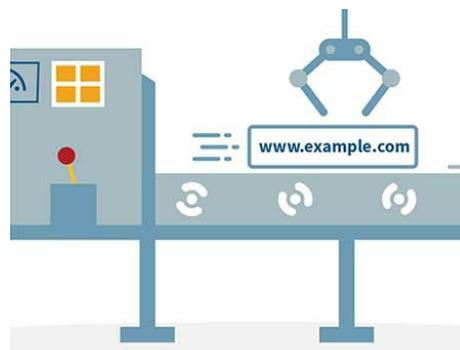
Get Started Now!

New Technical Study Group Begins Work

The Technical Study Group on Access to Non-Public Registration Data met to start exploring technical solutions for providing third parties access to non-public data via Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP). Read more about the invited members and their background **here**.

New Registrant Infographic: Renew Your Domain Name!

New registrant content has been published in multiple languages across the ICANN websites.

Check out the new infographic: **Renew Your Domain Name Before It Expires!**

WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS

Opportunity to Participate: ICANN Reviews

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has several opportunities for community input and participation to announce below.

Organizational Reviews are led by independent examiners to assess the extent to which ICANN's Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and the Nominating Committee (NomCom) fulfill their purpose; and examine whether any changes in structure or operations are needed.

- The Nominating Committee (NomCom2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available **here.**

- The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available **here.**

Visit the **Review Status Update Table** for the latest status on Specific and Organizational Reviews and additional key resources.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

Thin Zar Phyo
Myanmar Script Generation Panel Chair

Thin Zar Phyo is the chair for the Myanmar script Generation Panel (GP). With a background in computer science, Thin Zar

Phyo supports the Myanmar script to promote Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in Myanmar.

The Myanmar script GP was formed in June 2018 and developed a proposal for the Myanmar script Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR). It covers six languages written in Myanmar script: Myanmar (Burmese), Shan, Rakhine, S'gaw Karen, Mon, and Pa'O Karen. The challenge for this GP is that each language requires specific rules, thus the GP had to consult with each language user community separately.

The second draft of the Myanmar script LGR is now being reviewed by the Integration Panel, before the public comment consultation. The GP hopes to conclude the LGR work by the first quarter of 2019.

Thin Zar Phyo's day job is the Chief Technology Officer at IdeaLab at UMG Myanmar. She is also the Founder of the Techno Zenith, an information technology (IT) solution company supporting the Myanmar government and IT industry.

📅 UPCOMING EVENTS

ICANN will be participating in these upcoming events:

Date	Event	Location
17 January 2019	**APAC Space Web Conference**	Online
29 January 2019	**International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore**	Bangalore, India
2 February 2019	**Hosting and Domain Names Conference**	Hyderabad, India
11-15 February 2019	Tibetan Script Generation Panel Kick-off Meeting	Thimphu, Bhutan
18-28 February 2019	**Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) 2019**	Daejeon, Korea
27 February 2019	Japan IGF (TBC)	Tokyo, Japan

Learn more about ICANN at **regional events near you**.

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