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TOP STORY



Participants at the APAC Space session at ICANN55 in Marrakech

Community Welcomes Inaugural APAC Space Web Conference

Did you know that the first community-led Asia Pacific (APAC) Space session was held in 2015 at the ICANN52 meeting in Singapore? The APAC community wanted a platform for raising issues, sharing views and coordinating activities. Since then, the APAC Space has been a feature at every ICANN Public Meeting whenever possible. At the recent APAC Space session at ICANN55 in Marrakech, community members expressed the need for more regular discussions, which led to this APAC Space web conference.

The inaugural APAC Space web conference was held on 21 April 2016. Close to 40 APAC community members engaged in a vibrant discussion on APAC participation in the Generic Names Supporting

Organization (GNSO). Community members created a [list of recommendations](#) on ways to enhance APAC contributions to policy development - both in GNSO and ICANN as a whole. [Read more](#) or [watch the session recording](#).

The APAC Space session is open to all APAC community members. To receive updates about the next web conference happening on **Thursday, 16 June 2016 at 03:00 UTC / 11:00 SGT**, or to suggest topics for future sessions, email apachub@icann.org.



APAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS



Participants at the ICANN readout session

Engaging the Japanese Community: ICANN Readout Sessions, Media Briefing and More

In late March, the Japanese community successfully held its 45th ICANN readout session, where community members and ICANN staff shared information about the most recent ICANN Public Meeting with community members who did not attend.

About 30 participants attended the readout, which covered the key developments of ICANN55 in Marrakech, including updates related to the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Registry Services Group, GNSO Intellectual Property Interests Constituency and more.

After the readout session, a media briefing was held for the first time to update Japanese media on the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition. The questions were mostly around the impact of the transition and next steps.

In addition, the ICANN teams from the APAC hub, led by VP and Managing Director Jia-Rong Low who was on his introductory visit to Japan, also took the opportunity to meet with key Japanese stakeholders to discuss how to increase dialogue and participation by the Japanese community in ICANN.

We would like to thank our partner, Japan Network Information Center, for its collaboration in these events.



From left to right: Fred Christopher, Manager of PITA; Savé Vocea, ICANN's VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Australasia/Pacific Islands; Ioane Koroivuki, Director of the International Telecommunication Union-Asia Pacific; Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Deputy Prime Minister of Tonga; and Hon. Monise Lafai, Tuvalu's Minister of Communications and Transport

Pacific Islands ICT Operators Consider Future Challenges and Opportunities

Over 300 senior-level delegates from the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) industry gathered at the 20th Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association Annual General Meeting (PITA AGM), held last month in Pape'ete, Tahiti. For the first time, telecommunications ministers from seven Pacific Islands countries attended the event - joining communications ministry and telecommunications regulator representatives from other countries.

Participants debated the industry challenges and opportunities for the next five to ten years in the Pacific Islands region. Key areas of discussion included affordable Internet access, international connectivity, cybersecurity and fraud.

Savé Vocea, ICANN's VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Australasia, spoke about ICANN's commitment to supporting the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet's unique identifier systems. He encouraged the country codes top-level domain operators in the region to deploy Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and host an L-root server instance in the country. ICANN will also continue to support Domain Name System (DNS) technical capacity building through the Pacific Network Operators Group.

Korean Stakeholders Reassured of ICANN's Commitment

Jia-Rong Low, VP and Managing Director of ICANN Asia Pacific, recently traveled to Korea to meet the stakeholders for the first time. Stakeholders included the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning; Korea Network Information Center and Korea Internet Governance Alliance. It was an opportunity to reaffirm ICANN's constructive working relationship with the stakeholders



Korean stakeholders and ICANN APAC

and underscore ICANN's commitment to supporting the Korean community. Discussions are underway for ICANN to work with the Korea Internet and Security Agency to organize the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy from 8-12 August 2016. This project aims to encourage Korean youth to become active in Internet governance issues.

hub staff

In Picture: ICANN APAC Hub Welcomes Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. to the Singapore Office



Yoshitaka Murakami (fourth from left), Ryo Arai (fifth from left) and Atsushi Endo (fourth from right) from the Japan Registry Services Co., Ltd. (JPRS), with the ICANN APAC hub staff



ICANN NEWS



ICANN's New President and CEO Göran Marby Starts 23 May 2016

Göran Marby, an experienced business executive and government leader, **joins ICANN** as its President and Chief Executive Officer on 23 May 2016. He will be based at our Los Angeles headquarters.

Marby sat down with ICANN's Brad White to talk about his new appointment. "I'm very happy to be coming to this role right now. I see it as an important role, but it's a role within a community. I feel that I am part of an interesting and good team." You can find the full interview on [ICANN's YouTube channel](#) or click [here](#) to

watch.

Read more about Marby [here](#).

NPOC Announces Elections for Executive Committee Positions

ICANN | NPOC

The Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC)

will be holding elections for all positions on its Executive Committee:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretariat
- Membership Committee Chair
- Policy Committee Chair
- Communications Committee Chair

NPOC focuses on the impact of Internet and Domain Name System (DNS) policies on not-for-profit and non-governmental organizations with registered domain names. NPOC is the organization through which these groups can engage on how existing and proposed policies affect them.

Any member of NPOC who is in good standing may apply to become a nominee for a position. Position terms are not limited, so current members of the Executive Committee may also apply.

Nominations are open from 26 April to 26 May. Read about the [election process and timeline](#).

ICANN | NEXTGEN

ICANN NextGen Candidates Selected for ICANN56

Fifteen individuals from universities in Europe have been selected to participate at the ICANN56 Policy Forum in Helsinki, Finland, from 27-30 June 2016. These individuals are engaged in studies that encompass policy, business, technical, security, law and communications. Five additional selectees who attended a previous ICANN Public Meeting as NextGeners will serve as ambassadors.

[Read the full announcement.](#)



POLICY UPDATE



Policymaking in the ICANN Community



[Learn about Multistakeholder Policy Development](#)

Policy recommendations are developed and refined by the ICANN Community through its Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees. These groups are composed entirely of volunteers from across the world - working in a bottom-up, open and transparent process. Each Supporting Organization has its own specific policy development process. Learn more about this work in the new "Multistakeholder Policy Development" [infographic!](#)

GNSO Council Unanimously Adopts Review Feasibility and Prioritization Analysis

The GNSO Review Working Party reviewed the GNSO Review Independent Examiner's Final Report. The report presented recommendations for improving GNSO processes. The reviewers gave detailed feedback on the priority and feasibility of all 36 recommendations. The Working Party Council adopted the assessment unanimously. It sent a [letter](#) to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee, which will oversee the implementation process.

ccNSO Council Promotes Transparency

The Country Codes Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council recently adopted a resolution making all ccNSO, ccNSO Council or ccNSO-chartered working group meetings open to observers. This practice will apply unless a majority of the voting members present at the meeting resolves to close the meeting due to the confidential nature of agenda. Recordings, transcripts, notes and minutes are made publicly available after meetings. Consult the [draft agenda of ccNSO sessions](#) for ICANN56.

GAC Prepares for ICANN56

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) recently finalized its agenda for ICANN56. Each morning will begin with a GAC working group session. The working group will then report back to the GAC plenary. Discussions will follow; issues could include:

- Preparations for future rounds of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs)
- Use of two-character country codes as second-level domains
- Protection of acronyms for intergovernmental organization

Afternoons will be dedicated to cross-community topic sessions. The GAC is also considering whether to present formal advice to the ICANN Board in a communiqué or in a letter. In view of the limited meeting time available, a letter may be more feasible, but the GAC has not yet made a final decision.

GNSO Council Formalizes GNSO Liaison to the GAC

The GNSO Council decided that beginning 1 July 2016, the role of GNSO Liaison to the GAC will become permanent. The decision came after a successful trial period with Mason Cole serving as GNSO Liaison. The GNSO Council also adopted a [request for candidates](#) to fill the role, and will issue a call for volunteers soon.

ALAC Advises on Draft Budget and Updates to the Five-Year Operating Plan

In a **statement**, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) noted the improvements in the FY17 Operating Plan & Budget. The ALAC highlighted several areas in need of further clarification, including:

- Operational responsibilities of the Post-Transition Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)
- Expenses related to strategic and operational planning
- Programs and projects categorized as "Support Operations"

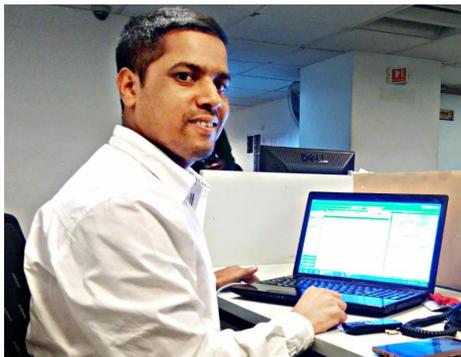
Furthermore, the ALAC suggested ways to improve data presentation related to community support requests and variance analysis of the New gTLD Program. In addition to this statement, the ALAC also submitted a formal **proposal** requesting ICANN to establish a multiyear budget to facilitate the forward planning of Regional At-Large Organization General Assemblies and At-Large Summits.

ccNSO SOP Working Group Submits Comments on Draft Budget

The ccNSO Strategic and Operational Planning Working Group (SOP WG) submitted public comments on the Draft FY17 Operating Plan and Budget. Their views do not necessarily represent the views of the ccNSO or country codes top-level domain (ccTLD) community at large. The ccNSO SOP WG looks forward to a discussion leading to further improvements to the document. Read their **comments!**



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY



Ganeswar Sahoo

Ganeswar Sahoo

Assistant Manager at Domain Tech Solutions, New Delhi, India

Ganeswar Sahoo is a web and data analyst with over six years of research and professional experience in innovation and technology. In his current role, he works on domain and IT security issues, and is also involved in customer relationship management.

Sahoo participates in ICANN activities through the ICANN's Business Constituency and At-Large Community. He was selected to attend the ICANN56 Public Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, having attended ICANN48 and ICANN51. He is also actively involved in DNS management, domain forwarding, enterprise email, name servers and DNSSEC. By participating in ICANN, he hopes to learn more about ICANN's work on policies related to DNSSEC, data protection, domain transfer, email database and intellectual property rights.

Sahoo has a keen interest in many areas of technology, including innovation, digital marketing and cybersecurity.



Update on the IANA Stewardship Transition

It's now been roughly two months since the submission of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition Package to the U.S. Government. Work is progressing to ensure that if the package is accepted, ICANN can implement any changes required by the proposals. The planned implementation work has been mapped across 14 projects and grouped into 3 tracks.

A focal point for ICANN and the community is the updating of ICANN's Bylaws. A draft of the new Bylaws has been posted for a 30-day public comment period, which ends on 21 May 2016. After the comments are analyzed and incorporated, the ICANN Board can consider adopting the new Bylaws by the end of May. Once the ICANN Board adopts any changes to the Bylaws, the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) can complete its anticipated 90-day review.

ICANN is also continuing joint planning efforts to remove NTIA's administrative role from the root zone management system. ICANN and Verisign completed system code changes and began a 90-day "parallel testing" period on 6 April 2016. This is a key step in ensuring the continued security and stability of the Root Zone Management System operation after the successful completion of the transition. Over a month has passed since the start of parallel testing, and everything is going smoothly.

Additionally, ICANN hopes to complete three other critical agreements this month:

- Service Level Agreement for the IANA Numbering Services
- Memorandum of Understanding Supplemental Agreement with the Internet Engineering Task Force
- Root Zone Maintainer Agreement

ICANN will make these documents publicly available when they are final.

To keep everyone informed on all these strands of implementation planning, ICANN has begun publishing weekly updates. We encourage anyone who is interested in the transition's implementation planning details to read the inaugural update.



New gTLD Delegation Deadlines

There are about 200 TLDs with New gTLD Program delegation deadlines approaching between now and the end of August 2016. The ICANN team is here to help registry operators navigate the final few steps toward the shared goal of delegation. For more information about delegation deadlines and tips on how to stay on track, read the blog.

IANA Functions, DNSSEC Audits: ICANN Systems Have Appropriate Controls

For the sixth consecutive year, ICANN has achieved Service Organization Control (SOC) 3 certification for its management of the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) Root Key Signing Key. Additionally, a SOC 2 audit of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) registry maintenance systems confirms that ICANN has the appropriate controls in place to ensure the security, availability and processing integrity of these systems. [Learn more.](#)



DELEGATED TLDs

Twenty-three new gTLDs were delegated in April 2016

Here are some of them:

, "Weibo", /weibo/	htc
weibo	kpmg
statebank	mutual
sbi	mls
, "website", /wangzhan/	progressive

[+ READ MORE](#)



ONE MORE THING



Newcomer Toolkit on ICANN Learn is Up!

If you are new to the ICANN community and wish to learn more about some of the do's and don'ts in ICANN, the ICANN Newcomer Toolkit is here to help. Hosted on ICANN Learn, a free and open online learning platform by ICANN for the global Internet community, the course will introduce beginners to ICANN's expected standards of behavior and email etiquette. Click [here](#) to attend the course.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GDD Industry Summit | 17-19 May 2016

The second Global Domains Division (GDD) Industry Summit will be held in Amsterdam, from 17-19 May 2016. The three-day event gives contracted parties the opportunity to meet and address issues of shared importance. Attendees will be able to interact one-on-one with the ICANN GDD team.

 [READ MORE](#)

2016 APriGF | 27-29 July 2016

The 2016 Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APriGF) will be held in Taipei from 27-29 July 2016. This year's theme is "A New Internet Era - Merging Physical Space with Cyberspace."

Look for these ICANN workshops:

- [Overcoming Challenges in APAC Outreach and Participation in the New Internet Era](#)
- [Internationalized Domain Names and Implications for the Next Billion](#)

On 26 July, ICANN will support a full-day capacity-building session to introduce newcomers to the basics of Internet governance and critical Internet resources.

Sign up for APriGF [here](#).

ICANN APAC HUB

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