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## TOP STORY

### Register Now for ICANN71

Join us 14-17 June 2021 for the ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum! ICANN71 will feature plenary sessions selected by the community. A community selection panel will also announce the recipient of the ICANN Community Excellence Award.



You can register for the Virtual Policy Forum [here](#).

Participants can register for ICANN71 Prep Week, which will take place from 1-3 June 2021. Prep Week helps improve community preparation for ICANN Public Meetings.

You can view the schedule [here](#).

If you're interested in information and metrics about the ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum, check out the ICANN70 By the Numbers report, available [here](#).



## ICANN NEWS

### ICANN Domain Name System Symposium 2021 Will Address DNS Ecosystem Security



25 – 27 MAY 2021

The fourth ICANN Domain Name System (DNS) Symposium (IDS 2021) will be held virtually from 25 to 27 May 2021 in the +2 UTC time zone.

The theme for 2021 is "DNS Ecosystem Security: We're All in This Together." As the DNS protocol and its ecosystem have matured, the threat landscape and the risks and tradeoffs have also evolved. IDS 2021 will focus on measuring and mitigating risk, which is the result of the significant work by the ICANN community.

You can register [here](#) or visit our IDS page [here](#).

# Strengthening Technical Engagement Around the World



*Members of the Technical Engagement team. From left to right: David Huberman covers Europe and North America; Nicolás Antoniello covers Latin America and the Caribbean; Yazid Akanho and Paul Muchene cover Africa and the Middle East, and Champika Wijayatunga covers the Asia Pacific region.*

*By Adiel Akplogan, VP, Technical Engagement*

Since the beginning of 2020, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) and its Technical Engagement team have begun a transformation with the objective of reinforcing ICANN's engagement on technical topics globally.

In a [blog](#), I highlighted the publication of an OCTO series of papers intended to promote best practices and new research to further understand the trends in the unique identifier system, which ICANN helps coordinate. In parallel to these publications, we have also started restructuring our team to focus more on how we engage on technical topics with the community. One of our first conclusions was that the type of engagement and level of resources needed are not uniform across the globe; hence, we need a regional approach to our engagement activities.

Continue reading the blog and access ICANN's Technical Engagement course catalogue, [here](#).

**For more of the latest research and analysis from OCTO, check out their Publications page [here](#).**



## APAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

### Second ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum Focuses on Cybersecurity



*Lively discussion of key topics for the 2nd ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum during the High Level Opening Plenary on the first day.*

Co-hosted by ICANN and TWNIC, the [Second ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum](#) was held from 15-16 April 2021 in hybrid format.

Speakers emphasized the cybersecurity theme as a responsibility shared by all. ICANN organization (org) highlighted the importance of Domain Name System (DNS) security, particularly DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), and shared new initiatives like [Knowledge-Sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security \(KINDNS\)](#). The org also participated in discussions addressing domain name abuse, cybersecurity incident response and management, participation in ICANN's multistakeholder community, and Universal Acceptance (UA) implementation.

The Forum also featured the 35th TWNIC Internet Protocol Open Policy Meeting (IP OPM), in collaboration with Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC). ICANN Board member Akinori Maemura, Vint Cerf, and Milton Mueller from the Georgia Institute of Technology were among the speakers during the opening ceremony.

Missed it? Catch the recordings on [YouTube](#).

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## Sri Lanka Internet Day on Digital Inclusion

At the inaugural Internet Day in Sri Lanka, ICANN org participated in a panel discussion at the "Improve Internet Usage by Breaking Language Barriers" session. The focus was on three topics: Universal Acceptance (UA), Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), and Email Address Internationalization (EAI).

ICANN has supported the Sri Lankan community's involvement in UA work, as well as its contributions in the Sinhala and Tamil Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) and second-level reference LGR.

This digital inclusion-themed event featured several initiatives in Sri Lanka, such as its digital strategy and national priorities for enhancing digital infrastructure. The President of Sri Lanka, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, highlighted Sri Lanka's digital vision in his keynote address. The event was held virtually from 6-7 April 2021.

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# Chinese Community Applauded for Contribution to Multilingual Internet



*Göran Marby, ICANN President and CEO, delivering his keynote address to participants at the Fourth Forum for Creative Application of Chinese Domain Names.*

ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer Göran Marby commended the Chinese community's involvement in making the Internet more accessible with Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance (UA) contributions.

In a video address at the Fourth Forum for Creative Application of Chinese Domain Names in Beijing on 20 April 2021, he noted that this is a joint responsibility and encouraged the community to continue efforts in this area.

ICANN org then provided an update on the current and upcoming UA projects by ICANN and the UA Steering Group (UASG). There was also acknowledgement of the Chinese community's achievements in developing the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) and adopting UA readiness within popular Internet applications in China.

The Forum was attended by over 200 industry experts, government officials, and end user representatives.



## SPOTLIGHT

### **Making the Internet Work for All Users**

The Domain Name System (DNS) has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. There are now more than 1,200 active generic top-level domains (gTLDs) some of which include domain names in different scripts and with varying length.

Despite this growth, a large number of global systems and applications don't support these internationalized and long domain names and email addresses.

But ICANN organization and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) are

working to change that. Check out the latest updates below and get involved if you're interested in helping to make the Internet work for all global users.

#### Latest Universal Acceptance (UA) News and Resources

- LACRALO Leads the Promotion of Universal Acceptance in the LAC Region - [read announcement](#).
- ICANN70 Showcases Universal Acceptance (UA) Progress - [read blog](#).
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): UA Readiness of Programming Languages and Email Tools ([UASG031](#)).

#### Recent Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Developments

- Second-level Reference Label Generation Rules for the Arabic, Hebrew, and Sinhala Scripts, and Hebrew Language are Published - [read announcement](#).
- Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 5 (MSR-5) Public Comment - [read announcement](#).

For more information on ways you can get involved in supporting an #Internet4All, visit <https://uasg.tech/>, and follow, like, and share with the UASG on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)).



## POLICY UPDATE

### ccNSO Policy Development Efforts

ICANN | ccNSO

The latest Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) policy development process (ccPDPs) updates include:

- Following closure of the Public Comment proceeding on the Initial Report, the proposed policy for ccPDP3 on the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) will be presented to the ccNSO Council and ccNSO members for decision-making. The ccTLD and broader communities will have an opportunity to learn more about the proposals before voting begins.
- The ccPDP3-RM Working Group, which develops a review mechanism for decisions regarding the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs, will present its results to date and seek feedback. The working group has identified which decisions should be subject to a review and explored the requirements for the review mechanism.
- The ccPDP4 Working Group is advancing the process for the selection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings. The results of this ccPDP will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process. The working group has made considerable progress and intends to seek feedback and input from the broader community.

For the latest information on ccNSO work, please check out their [website](#).

### Contracted Parties House DNS Abuse Working Group Briefs GNSO Council

ICANN | GNSO

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council seeks to better understand community definitions of Domain Name System (DNS) abuse and where gaps remain in the community's ability to combat DNS abuse in an effective manner.

As the first step of this educational and level-setting exercise, the GNSO Council invited the Contracted Parties House (CPH) DNS Abuse Working Group to provide an update during the GNSO Council meeting on 22 April 2021. Serving as a fact-finding mission, this briefing helped the GNSO Council understand what the contracted parties have been voluntarily doing to combat DNS abuse and inform GNSO Council decision regarding the possible next steps.

Find more information [here](#).

## At-Large Community Launches Two New ICANN Learn Courses

Two new courses about the At-Large community are now available on ICANN Learn.

The first course provides an introduction to the At-Large community and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), how they function within the ICANN community, and how end users can start and continue their involvement. The second course, “ICANN Policy Development: A Guide for At-Large Participants” provides a deeper dive into how the ALAC develops policy advice and forms policy positions.



[Find out more and enroll here!](#)



### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

#### Dr. Kenny Huang

Chair of ccPDP4 Working Group  
Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Dr. Kenny Huang is currently chairing a working group to recommend a policy for the (de-) selection of Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) country code top-level domains (ccTLD), commonly termed ccPDP4. He is also co-chair of the Chinese Generation Panel.

Dr. Huang’s interests at ICANN are varied. Besides IDN, he is also keen on topics like Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC), Internet governance, policy development, and stakeholder engagement. He actively participates in the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) to encourage youth participation. He is also the co-organizer for the ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum.



A leading figure amongst the Internet communities in Asia, Dr. Huang has taken up roles in many Internet technology and policy organizations including Executive Council of Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC), Addressing Supporting Organization (ASO) Address Council, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TWNIC, to name a few.



### ONE MORE THING



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South Beach Tower  
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