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**IN MEMORY**

In memory of Tarek Kamel
8 May 1962 – 10 October 2019

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**A Blog About Friendship**
Read [ICANN President & CEO Göran Marby's blog](#) about his friend Tarek Kamel and share your stories about Tarek in the comments section. Here's an excerpt from the blog: We have a Swedish saying for when someone you love passes away: He is missed in me. As you now know, our dear friend Tarek has passed away and he is missed in me.

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**ICANN's Adiel Akplogan Inducted into Internet Hall of Fame**
Adiel Akplogan has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to the Internet's growth, reach, and security in Africa, joining luminaries inducted into the [Internet Hall of Fame](#). Akplogan, the Vice President of Technical Engagement, has been with ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer.
since 2015, where he develops and coordinates ICANN org's technical engagement. ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby said, "Adiel is the embodiment of ICANN's mission to work in the public interest. I know everyone at ICANN wishes Adiel congratulations on this significant achievement."

Recognized as an Internet pioneer in Africa, Akplogan contributed to technical capacity-building and the deployment of some of the first private Internet Service Providers in Africa. He helped found and was the first CEO of the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC). Akplogan said, "We dreamed and worked relentlessly to build a regional registry that would become a catalyst for the African Internet ecosystem, tackling our challenges one at a time with diligence, discipline, and courage to build consensus."

Read more about Adiel and the Internet Hall of Fame here.

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**ICANN Commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Birth of the Internet**

Fifty years ago, a [message was sent from a computer lab](#) at the University of California - Los Angeles (UCLA) to another machine at the Stanford Research Institute. The 29 October 1969 message consisted of the letters "LO." The intention was to spell out the word "LOGIN" but the system crashed after the first two letters were transmitted. That first message is considered the milestone that marked the birth of the Internet.

The UCLA team was led by Professor Leonard Kleinrock. The message was transmitted over the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network, or ARPANET, the precursor to the Internet. Visit this [page](#) to see a record of the sent message.

Ready to celebrate this important event in Internet history? Be sure to follow #ICANN on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) as we look back at how much the Internet has grown over the last 50 years, and hear from some of the pioneers who built the Internet we use today.

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**ICANN66 Prep Week Starts Today!**

Mark your calendars! ICANN66 Prep Week will feature seven webinars from 14-17 October to help the ICANN community prepare for the Annual General Meeting. Visit the [ICANN66 Prep Week page](#) to see the full list of webinars, presentation topics and materials, and call details.

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**GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY**

**Danish GAC Representative Finn Petersen Tells His ICANN Story**

How long have you been involved with ICANN?
I have attended all GAC meetings for the past five years, starting with ICANN50 in London. Before that, I had participated in the first High Level Government Meeting (HLGM) held during ICANN45 in Toronto.

In addition to being in the GAC and a few GAC working groups, I have also represented Danish ministers in the four High Level Government Meetings held up to now.
I was also heavily involved in the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, both Work Stream 1 and 2, in connection with the IANA Stewardship Transition.

**What are the most challenging things about being a part of ICANN community?**
TIME! My involvement in ICANN is only part of my portfolio and it is challenging to find the time. For a government official, there is a tendency that the day-to-day work always gets priority.

The work in ICANN is not "lean", meaning there is too little analysis and too many repetitive viewpoints. I could also add that structures and decisionmaking processes at ICANN are somewhat complicated.

**What are the rewarding things about being a part of ICANN community?**
The work you do matters and it is important. It was good to see that the ICANN multistakeholder model was able to deliver effective results on the IANA Stewardship Transition. It helped enhance ICANN's accountability, an outcome that fit Danish priorities.

**What would you suggest to the newcomers at ICANN?**
Be engaged but be aware that you cannot be involved in everything. Therefore, be sharp on your priorities and connect with a mentor that can help you navigate through the ICANN terminology and structures. And don't give up - you will have the feeling that you have landed on another planet. YES you have landed on Planet ICANN!

By the way, I still feel like a newcomer!

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**EUROPE**

**Apply for the first Winter School on Internet Governance, Digital Policies, and Innovation**
Apply now for the first Winter School on Internet Governance, Digital Policies, and Innovation taking place in Bucharest, Romania from 9-13 December 2019.

The School is co-organized by ICANN and South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG), and hosted by the Romanian National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA). For more information, visit administratiepublica.eu/sidi/.
The First Internet Governance Forum in Hungary Held with the Support of ICANN

Authors: Máté Mester, At-Large community member, Head of the Organizing Committee
Ioana Stupariu, NCSG and At-Large community member, SEEDIG Ambassador, and part of the Organizing Committee

On 12 September, the beautiful city of Budapest hosted the first Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Hungary. The one day conference focused on youth and discussed regional Internet governance matters. The event was organized by two associations, the Hungarian Scientific Association for Infocommunications (HTE), and the ICT Association of Hungary (IVSZ), and was supported by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Hungary. The Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, ICANN org, and SEEDIG were partners as well.

The event featured three opening speeches. Károly Solymár from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (Hungary) and Ervin Kajzinger from the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (Hungary) both spoke about the importance of youth involvement in discussions on matters of technology and Internet. Agnieszka Gładysz from the Office for Electronic Communications (Poland) gave an overview of the telecommunications sector in Poland.

Following the opening speeches, three panels were held throughout the day. The first panel, moderated by Joanna Kulesza (ICANN At-Large), centered on the future of Internet in Central and Eastern Europe, with panelists sharing from their own experiences in their countries or the institutions represented. The second panel addressed information in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). Moderated by Levente Nyakas (National Media and Infocommunications Authority), members of the panel engaged in a lively discussion on what the approach to AI should be, both from the state and regulators’ perspectives, as well as from the private sector. The third panel, moderated by Ottó Dalos (CISCO, Hungary), discussed security and protection of youth online.

The event also featured the final round of a competition where university students were asked “what would you fix about today’s Internet to create a better Internet tomorrow?” Four teams from universities in Hungary and Armenia were selected to present their ideas to a panel of judges. The winner was the team representing Corvinus University of Budapest, made up of Anna Kollár and Virág Kiss. Their idea was that Google and Facebook should form a team together to find the right balance between freedom of expression and addressing threats such as fake news and cyber bullying.

The IGF was moderated by Péter Major, the Hungarian ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) representative and a member of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development. The organizing team declared the event a clear success, especially for the first event of its kind. More information about the event can be found at the official website and the Twitter account, or contact the organizing team at info@igfhungary.hu.
The New Middle East Strategy Working Group Kicks Off Its Work
Over the past month, the work towards developing a new ICANN regional engagement strategy in the Middle East has made progress. Two webinars have been held to highlight the key elements of the ICANN Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025, discuss with the regional community approaches to align the new regional strategy with the ICANN Strategic Plan FY2021-2025, and agree on the next steps.

As part of the ongoing effort to provide inclusive and equal opportunities in shaping the ICANN regional engagement strategy, an open call was made to invite those who are interested in developing the new strategy to join the new Middle East Strategy Working Group.

Recently, the new Working Group has begun its work. Stay tuned for the regional strategy updates moving forward.

Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) on an Outreach Trip in the Middle East
From 22-27 September, ICANN org's OCTO and Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team members traveled in the Middle East to raise awareness about Domain Name System (DNS) security. The trip had three stops: Cairo, Egypt; Amman, Jordan; and Ankara, Turkey.

The trip's objective was to inform the cybersecurity community representing government, private sector, and academia about the ongoing DNS threats and help them take preventive measures to protect their DNS infrastructure. This objective is part of ICANN org's mission of ensuring the security, stability, and resiliency of the unique identifiers system.

In Cairo, the ICANN org team met with representatives from the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Egyptian Internet Service Providers, mobile operators, the country code top-level domain registries (.eg and ﺣﺮﻤﺻ), and the Egyptian Computer Emergency Response Team (EG-CERT). The next stop in Cairo was the Arab Security Conference, where ICANN org's David Huberman, Senior Technical Engagement Specialist, discussed "Preserving the DNS as a Critical Component of a Secure and Reliable Internet".

A seminar on DNS attacks was organized in Amman, Jordan, with participants from Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Global and the Information and Communications Technology Association of Jordan (INTEAJ).

The final stop was Ankara, Turkey, where the ICANN org team met with the students of the Informatics Institute at the Middle East Technical University (METU), and then visited the National Cyber Incident Response Center (USOM), Turkish Computer Emergency Response Team (TR-CERT).

This trip helped ICANN org raise awareness on DNS security across different communities and build stronger relationships with stakeholders in Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.
ICANN org at the Africa School of Internet Governance and the Africa IGF
The Africa School of Internet Governance (AfriSIG) took place from 4-9 September in N'djamena, Chad. The school, organized by the Association for Progressive Communication and Africa Union, also had several sponsors including ICANN. Forty-five fellows from 23 countries attended the school.

ICANN org's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team members in Africa helped develop the agenda. In addition, they presented about the history of ICANN, the Internet, Internet institutions today, and their roles in the wider Internet governance ecosystem.

ICANN org's GSE team members in Africa also contributed to the 2019 Africa Internet Governance Forum, which took place in N'djamena, Chad, from 10-12 September. More than 500 people participated in the event, organized by the Africa Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), including 300 people who took part in the Youth Africa IGF on 10 September. ICANN org was a sponsor at the event, and GSE team members in Africa joined discussions on DNS policymaking and Universal Acceptance.

Francophone Stakeholders Meet in Burkina Faso for the Training of Trainers
The Training of Trainers on Internet Governance (FFGI) is a workshop delivered annually for the French-speaking community. In addition to Internet governance, sessions cover topics such as data privacy and blockchain technology. The latest workshop took place in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, with 30 participants from Benin, Comoros, Ivory Coast, Mali, Chad, Morocco, Togo, and Burkina Faso. Hadja Ouatara Sanon, Minister of Digital Economy and Postal Development in Burkina Faso, officially opened the workshop and noted that the regulatory body and her department are pleased to continue supporting this event. ICANN org was among the event sponsors and members acted as session facilitators.

ICANN org at the Benin DNS Forum
ICANN org's GSE team members in Africa participated in the 2019 Benin DNS Forum. The Forums have been regularly held around the World since ICANN47, and Benin was one of the first hosts. This year's event included several activities that took place not only in Benin's largest city of Cotonou but also in a rural town.
Parakou, the largest city in northern Benin.

GSE Africa team members led sessions on technical capacity building for the women who attended the Woman DNS Academy as part of the Forum. ICANN org was also involved in a multistakeholder forum on 19 September and a public forum on 21 September.

Visualizing ICANN's Multistakeholder Advice Development

A new animated video illustrates ICANN's multistakeholder advice development. The video identifies the key steps within each of the four Advisory Committees and provides a high-level explanation of what occurs at each stage, from identification of the issue to finalization of advice. Learn more and watch the video here.

New Workshop on Business Continuity for Small ccTLD Operators

At ICANN66, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Top-Level Domain Operations (TLD-OPS) Standing Committee will hold a workshop to test its draft disaster recovery and business continuity playbook. The document serves as a basic business continuity implementation guide for small country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators. The workshop will be held on Sunday, 3 November 2019, and is open to TLD-OPS community members. Participants are expected to actively contribute. Pre-registration is required and attendance is limited to a maximum of three persons per ccTLD. Contact the ccNSO Secretariat for further information.

ASO AC Opens Monthly Teleconferences to Observers

All Address Supporting Organization Address Council (ASO AC) teleconferences will now be open to observers in line with recommendation 15 from the 2017 ASO Organizational Review. ASO AC teleconferences take place at 12:00 UTC on the first Wednesday of every month. For more information, including the teleconference schedule, observer privileges, and remote participation details, read here.

RSSAC Workshop Focuses on Root Server System Metrics

The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) recently held a workshop in Reston, Virginia, USA. The primary purpose of the three-day workshop was to advance the work of Root Server System (RSS) Metrics Work Party charged with defining system-wide metrics and measurements to ensure the RSS is online and meeting a minimum level of performance. Both RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus members participated in person and remotely, discussing thresholds of availability, latency, correctness, and staleness for the RSS. The Work Party will soon present its report to the RSSAC. Learn more about RSSAC Caucus work parties here.

EPDP Update

In mid-September 2019, the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team met for three days at ICANN's
headquarters in Los Angeles. The EPDP Team made progress on the overall framework for a System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) to non-public gTLD registration data, the centerpiece of their Phase 2 work. The EPDP Team also met with ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby and the ICANN org staff that are in consultation with the European Data Protection Board. Learn more.

GNSO Council Update

- The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council responded to the Public Comment proceeding on Next Steps to Improve the Effectiveness of ICANN’s Multistakeholder Model.
- The GNSO Council provided an implementation status overview of an effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Policy Development Processes (PDPs), a project known as “PDP 3.0”. The GNSO Council determined which improvements are related to the issues identified in the report that was published for Public Comment. The GNSO Council is currently reviewing the final documents for the implementation of 8 out of 14 PDP 3.0 improvements.
- Besides managing GNSO PDPs, the GNSO Council has been working on projects, including:
  - Scoping policy work related to Internationalized Domain Name variant TLD management.
  - Reviewing Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review Team recommendations and Transfer Policy.
  - Providing input for the implementation of the updated Independent Review Process of ICANN’s accountability mechanisms.
- For all current GNSO Council Action Points, read more here.

ALAC Cooperation with the GAC

Ahead of ICANN66, the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) have discussed cooperation on policy issues as part of a larger goal to strengthen the relationship between them. During ICANN66, the two committees will talk about the production of a joint resource kit aimed at broadening newcomers’ knowledge about ICANN and how end users are affected by ICANN's policies. In addition, the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group will continue a more focused discussion with the GAC on issues related to Phase 2 of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, New gTLD Subsequent Procedures, and governance of ICANN’s multistakeholder model.

At-Large Election Process for ICANN Board Seat 15 Begins

The ALAC election process for ICANN Board Seat 15 has begun. The Board Candidate Evaluation Committee (BCEC) and Board Member Selection Process Committee (BMSPC) met to discuss procedures and timelines. The results of the election will be announced by early April 2020.
Updated Lookup Tool Now Available
ICANN recently launched an updated version of its lookup tool that makes use of Registration Data Access Protocol, known as RDAP, to query, parse, and display domain name registration data in a human-friendly format. The ability to look up publicly available contact and other information related to a domain name has been provided as a free public service by ICANN since 2013.

RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as an eventual replacement for the WHOIS protocol. ICANN-accredited registrars and registry operators are now required to provide registration data directory services through RDAP in addition to the WHOIS services.

More information on the new tool is available here.

Check Out the New UASG Resources
The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) has recently published two new reports related to global email acceptance and Email Address Internationalization (EAI):

Global Evaluation of Websites for Acceptance of E-mail Addresses in 2019 (UASG025)
This report evaluates the Universal Acceptance (UA) compliance of the top 1,000 websites in the world (according to Alexa) by sampling the practices and development approaches to the e-mail field in forms on the web and testing them.

EAI: Evaluation of Major Email Software and Services (UASG021B)
This report details the second phase of the UASG’s project to evaluate and measure the Email Address Internationalization (EAI) capabilities within the email software ecosystem.

Wonder what UA and EAI mean? UASG worked with TechTarget to include the definitions in their WhatIs glossary. Click here to view: Universal Acceptance; Email Address Internationalization.

Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews and the Evolution of the Multistakeholder Model
Specific Reviews are led by teams of community volunteers to assess the performance of the ICANN organization and make recommendations for improvement. All Specific Review team plenary meetings are open and available for observers to join. You may share your feedback and input any time to the team's public mailing list. Details of meeting schedules and mailing lists are available on the team wiki pages. Upcoming Specific Review team meetings include:

The third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3)
The second Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2) Review Team

- 20 - 22 October (face-to-face meeting, Singapore)
- 1 November (face-to-face meeting at ICANN66, Montréal)
- 3 November (community engagement session at ICANN66, Montréal)

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

- Take part in the NomCom Review Implementation Working Party (NomComRIWG) Outreach Session at ICANN66. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Final Report is now available. Click [here](#) to read it. Next, the ccNSO will draft its Feasibility Assessment in response to the recommendations issued in the Final Report.

Contribute to the Evolution of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model.

Join a [Prep Week webinar](#) for an update on the Evolution of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model on 16 October at 1600 UTC. At ICANN66, a plenary session on Thursday, 7 November will include a discussion about the input received in a recent Public Comment proceeding. Session leaders will also provide details on the next steps towards developing a work plan that address the issues the community has identified as hampering the effective and efficient functioning of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance.

IANA Naming Function Review Team Formed

A 13-member global team from Advisory Committees, stakeholder groups, and Supporting Organizations was formed to conduct the first IANA Naming Function Review. The IANA Naming Function Review Team (IFRT) will conduct the review in accordance with the scope identified in the ICANN Bylaws. Read the announcement to learn more about the role of the IFRT, details about the review, and see the member list [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join ICANN at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:

- 18 October, Academic Engagement at Bahcesehir University, Istanbul, Turkey
- 14-19, October, East African School of Internet Governance and East African IGF, Arusha, Tanzania
- 15-20 October, Benin Digital Week, Cotonou, Benin
- 22-24 October, Africa Geospatial Data and Internet Conference, Accra, Ghana
- 29-31 October, Italian IGF, Turin, Italy
- 31 October - 1 November, UbuntuNet Connect 2019, Antananarivo, Madagascar
- 15-17 November, Bread&Net 2019, Beirut, Lebanon
- 25-29 November, 2019 Global IGF Annual Meeting, Berlin, Germany

Learn more about ICANN participating in regional events near you.
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