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TOP STORY



AFP PHOTO_JONATHAN NACKSTRAND

Göran Marby named ICANN President and CEO

ICANN has named Göran Marby as its next President and Chief Executive Officer. Marby is Director-General of the Swedish Post and Telecom Authority and will assume his new position with ICANN in May 2016. He is a Swedish citizen based in Stockholm and will relocate with his family to Los Angeles. Marby will succeed President and CEO Fadi Chehadé, whose term ends on 15 March 2016. Akram Atallah, President of ICANN's Global Domains Division, will be acting CEO from 15 March until Marby arrives. Marby will have a chance to meet with ICANN55 attendees in Marrakech.

Read Marby's full bio and download his photos [here](#).



IANA Stewardship Transition and Enhancing ICANN Accountability Update

In January, the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN's Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) finalized three of its twelve recommendations. The group is currently completing a supplemental report that includes revised recommendations for the accountability mechanisms that must be in place or committed to prior to the IANA Stewardship Transition.

The CCWG-Accountability's goal is to reach consensus and distribute its supplemental report to its Chartering Organizations later this month. The Chartering Organizations will consider and, if all goes well, approve the recommendations before or during ICANN55.

Once approved, the CCWG-Accountability will submit the proposal to the ICANN Board for transmission to NTIA along with the ICG Final Proposal.

Read the full update [here](#).



ICANN55 Welcome Message

By Aziz Hilali, Chair of African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and VP of ISOC Morocco



Aziz Hilali, Chair of African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) and VP of ISOC Morocco

I am very pleased to welcome you to the 55th ICANN Public Meeting in Marrakech. We have done everything possible to make this meeting a great success, and to showcase Morocco and the African continent.

We are proud that this meeting will take place on African soil. I am sure that ICANN55 will have positive results for us Africans. Through collaboration with stakeholders from around the world on issues related to Internet policy development, African stakeholders can become leaders in Internet Governance. The meeting will also give decision-makers in our region, both public and private, a better understanding of ICANN.

I am sure you will enjoy your stay in this historic city, and I hope that you will extend your stay in Marrakech. You will be charmed by the hospitality of its people, its gourmet restaurants, its dream Ryads (traditional Moroccan courtyard houses), its luxury hotels and its beautiful, popular squares.

We look forward to welcoming you next month in Morocco!



Only 21 Days Away from ICANN55 in Marrakech

If you plan to attend ICANN55, do register and make visa arrangements as soon as possible. It is important to determine whether you need a visa and to obtain one to secure entry. Visit Morocco's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation [website](#) for a complete list of exempt countries. If you need a visa, click [here](#) to request formal invitation letters for the meeting. You'll also need to contact your nearest Moroccan diplomatic mission to apply for a visa. If Morocco does not have diplomatic representation in your country, please submit your application directly to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Consular and Social Affairs via email: m.barrada@maec.gov.ma or zaidi@maec.gov.ma with the following attached documents:



ICANN55

- Copy of valid passport (at least six month of validity)
- Copy of the invitation letter
- Flight details (if available)

And for safety and security information, please read the [latest blog](#) by ICANN's Nick Tomasso, Vice-President, Meetings.

Don't forget to register for ICANN55 [here](#) and see you in Marrakech!



ICANN's FY16 Q2 Quarterly Stakeholder Call

Interested in Learning about ICANN's Progress During FY16 Q2?

Did you miss ICANN's FY16 Q2 Stakeholder Call on 28 January? Not to worry! You can explore the presentation or listen to Stakeholder Call in Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish. Find all these materials and much more on [ICANN's Quarterly Stakeholder Calls webpage](#).



At-Large Teleconferences to Use Captioning Services

GAC Prepares for the High-Level Governmental Meeting

The At-Large Community will start using computer-assisted real-time translation technology to provide greater access for members with disabilities or limited bandwidth. Nine teleconferences will offer this service as a **pilot project**. Judith Hellerstein, North America Regional At-Large Organization Secretariat, will lead the implementation of this project.

Join GNSO Working Group on Subsequent New gTLD Rounds!

Building on the first round of the New gTLD Program, the GNSO Council seeks volunteers to join the recently launched Policy Development Process to develop recommendations for subsequent rounds of new gTLDs. Interested parties are invited to visit the **workspace** or email gnso-secs@icann.org for more information.

ccNSO Council Submits Statement on CCWG-Accountability Third Draft Proposal

The ccNSO Council provisionally supports the direction of the third draft proposal. However, the ccNSO Council strongly recommends that the CCWG-Accountability implement the changes requested by the CWG-Stewardship. The ccNSO Council also notes that, based on comments and input from ccTLDs and Regional Organizations, the third draft proposal needs more refinement to increase the likelihood of adoption of the final proposal. Read the full statement [here](#).

RIPE72 Call for Presentations Now Open

The RIPE Program Committee seeks content proposals from the RIPE community for plenary sessions, birds-of-a-feather sessions, panels, workshops, tutorials and lightning talks at RIPE72. The meeting will be held from 23-27 May in Copenhagen, Denmark. Proposals on topics

The GAC, ICANN and Morocco are working closely on the preparations and arrangements for the High-Level Governmental Meeting at ICANN55. The HGLM strives to raise awareness of ICANN and the GAC among government officials from around the world. Interpretation services will be provided for the open meeting. See the **agenda** for more information.

GNSO Council to Discuss Launch of New Working Group

Following the publication of the **Issue Report**, the GNSO Council will discuss whether to launch a Policy Development Process to review all Rights Protection Mechanisms in all generic top-level domains. If the GNSO Council approves this PDP, it will issue a call for volunteers. For more information, check the **workspace** or email gnso-secs@icann.org.

SSAC Comments on gTLD Marketplace Health Index Proposal

In its comments, the SSAC "encourage[s] ICANN to take a step back from what existing data is available and consider how best to inform the larger community, especially consumers, with respect to the security and stability of the DNS marketplace." The full statement, **SAC077**, offers further points for consideration.

Regional Number Resource Policy Discussions Continue

With less than 30 million IPv4 addresses remaining in the AFRINIC inventory, **Policy Development Working Group** discussions have focused on number resources transfer and out-of-region use policies. There is also ongoing community dialogue on how the last 16 million

covering networking engineering and operations must be submitted for full consideration no later than 13 March 2016. To submit a proposal, visit this [page!](#)

IPv4 address block shall be managed and distributed with a possible objective of modifying the current policy (IPv4 Soft Landing) to possibly further extend the lifetime of the regional IPv4 address inventory.



EMEA ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

ICANN Istanbul Hub to Host Open House

In March 2016, the Istanbul Hub will host its first Open House. The event will be an opportunity for the community to learn about ICANN and how to get involved. The Open House will also provide a networking venue for special guests from the Internet community and act as a forum to discuss the latest developments in the Domain Name System and Internet Governance. Details about the event will be announced in February. Stay tuned and hope to see you there!



EUROPE



Panel discussion at the Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection Conference

ICANN Human Rights Session at CPDP 2016 Generates Active Discussions

The ninth Computers, Privacy, and Data Protection Conference (CPDP) was held in Brussels from 27 to 29 January 2016. For the first time, ICANN hosted a session at CPDP, a panel discussion called "Internet Architecture and Human Rights". Experts in human rights and technology engaged in a lively discussion on subjects ranging from the specific to the general. Topics included the processes of the Cross-Community Working Group (CCWG) on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, privacy challenges in designing a global policy framework for WHOIS, and the multistakeholder model of governance and its

capacity to ensure equal representation of all interests. The panelists were: Sophie Kwasny (Council of Europe), Monika Zalnieriute (University of Melbourne), Corinne Cath (University of Oxford), Stefania Milan (University of Amsterdam), Stephanie Perrin (University of Toronto) and Niels ten Oever (Article 19).

CPDP is the leading policy and academic event in Europe. CPDP 2016 attracted over 600 participants including European commissioners and the European Data Protection Supervisor.



MIDDLE EAST

Success at the Second Turkey DNS Forum

From 18 to 19 January 2016, ICANN hosted the second **Turkey DNS Forum** (TRDNSF), which was attended by more than 100 participants. They discussed the current Internet landscape in Turkey and the potential for continued growth.

Fusun Nebil, Editor of Turk-Internet.com:

The second Turkey DNS Forum was a good opportunity to discuss regional and local market dynamics in parallel with global changes. The forum also gave us an overview of the issues in the DNS market and inspired the participants with new ideas and market opportunities. Participants looked at challenges and opportunities, as they considered Turkey's digital economy, policy and regulatory impacts, and the entrepreneurial environment.



Participants at the second Turkey DNS Forum

Over its 23-year existence, .TR ccTLD has registered over 375,000 domains, with the potential for further expansion. However, a lack of awareness of the DNS market in Turkey is the main obstacle to its growth. But there is good news. Two new gTLDs were announced in January - .ist and .istanbul. According to the Istanbul Municipality, the new gTLDs will bring innovations and boost Turkey's online presence.

In 2013, ICANN established its regional headquarters for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) in Istanbul, which will help bring ICANN closer to the Internet community in Turkey. And with activities like the DNS Forum, awareness of ICANN will only increase.

Turkey DNS Forum in the press:

- [Interview with Baher Esmat, ICANN VP of Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East](#)
- <http://www.internethaber.com/icann-ikinci-turkiye-alan-adi-sistemi-forumu-basliyor-1557040h.htm>
- [Interview with David Olive, ICANN Istanbul Hub General Manager and Senior VP of Policy Development](#)

 **READ MORE**



AFRICA

Afilias (Canada) And ATI (Tunisia) Host The Domain Name System (DNS) Exchange Program

One of the main projects in the African Strategic Plan is the Africa DNS Business and Mentorship Exchange Program with the DNS industry. The program promotes partnerships between global and local entrepreneurs in the DNS industry and aims to build capacity for African registrars and registries.

Following the successful launch of the [program](#) in January 2015, we partnered with Afiliac in Canada. From 6 to 17 December 2015, two interns from DiaMatrix and Ghana Dot Com traveled to Canada and worked with representatives from Afiliac and the Canadian Internet Registration Authority. The interns reported that Afiliac and CIRA gave them new insights into business marketing, technical infrastructures and the policy for registrar accreditation.

The success of this program resulted in a new initiative called the "Intra-Africa Exchange Program" between African ccTLD registries. The program was launched this year with five staff members from registries for .ci, .mg, .cm, .bf and .ga. In February, they travelled to Tunis, Tunisia for a week's internship program hosted by the accredited registrar ATI.

AFRINIC is a key ICANN partner in this program.

ICANN Hosts Civil Society Community in Nairobi

We welcomed the New Year by inviting the civil society community in Nairobi for a discussion with ICANN. The keynote speaker was Professor Bitange Ndemo, former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Communication of Kenya. ICANN's Adam Peake, Senior Manager of Civil Society Engagement and Bob Ochieng, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement from the Africa team in Nairobi convened the meeting. Over 45 participants attended the session.



Dr. Ndemo giving his keynote address at the meeting

The gathering allowed the ICANN team to share our work on a forthcoming strategic plan for civil society engagement, noting that civil society plays a vital role in holding government bodies accountable. The participation of civil society is also critical in shaping the evolution of Internet Governance and in ensuring high-quality proposals and legitimate processes.

Dr. Ndemo emphasized the need to understand stakeholders' different points of view and interests, particularly when they can find issues that bring them together on common ground. The event was a success, with stakeholders asking ICANN to provide regular updates on topics of concern.





Launch of the Georgia IDN ccTLD

ICANN attends the launch of .გე [GE] Georgian IDN ccTLD

Internet users in Georgia celebrated an important milestone on 20 January 2016 in Tbilisi. After many months of preparation, the domain representing Georgia in Georgian (Mkhedruli) script was announced at a special press conference by the TLD administrator, ITDC (Information Technology Development

Center). Vahtang Abashidze, Chairman of the Georgian National Communications Commission and Michael Yakushev, ICANN Vice-President for Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia also attended.

The launch of the Georgian IDN ccTLD is an excellent example of the multistakeholder model - from selecting the string for the national IDN, nominating the administrator, to delegating the domain name itself. Many governmental organizations and NGOs (both private business and civil society) participated in all stages of this project. With the introduction of the new domain name, Internet users in Georgia will have access to domain names in their language script.

The .გე IDN ccTLD project aligns with ICANN's globalization strategy.

The Sunrise Period and priority registration in the new Georgian IDN ccTLD will last around six months, then the IDN ccTLD will be open for registration to everyone.



GDD UPDATE

New gTLD Fast Facts Available to Download and Share

edu biz gov
mobi mil net
com
22 > 1000+
net info org

What is the New gTLD Program? If you've ever wondered about new gTLDs or tried to explain them to someone else without success, check out our New gTLD Fast Facts document.

The updated fact sheet provides an overview of the New gTLD Program and describes the benefits of new gTLDs in relation to competition, innovation, choice and security. It also provides information about how some entities, like governments and brands, are using their gTLDs.

New gTLD Fast Facts are available in seven different languages. It's intended for use as an educational resource, so feel free to share, print or redistribute it as desired.

[Download the New gTLD Fast Facts now.](#)

Emergency Registry Operator Transition Simulation Successful

On 29 January 2016, ICANN completed a test of the Emergency Back-End Registry Operator (EBERO) program. The test resulted in the successful transition of operations from an existing registry to Nominet, an EBERO service provider based in the U.K.

The procedures that have been implemented as part of the EBERO Program to protect against a potential registry service interruption worked as planned. This test supports ICANN's efforts to ensure the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet and the Domain Name System.

Learn more about the EBERO Program [here](#).



Mitigating DNS Abuse

Reviewing New gTLD Program Safeguards Against DNS Abuse

On 28 January 2016, ICANN held open discussions about abuse safeguards implemented as part of the New gTLD Program. The goals were to help formulate a definition of Domain Name

System abuse, brainstorm methods for measuring abuse and gather qualitative, experiential input on whether safeguards to mitigate DNS abuse in new gTLDs have been effective.

About 70 people joined the discussions. Their input was captured and will be reflected in a report on the topic that ICANN plans to publish in mid-February for public comment. A revised version of the report, reflecting public comment, will be delivered to the volunteer team seated in December 2015 that will review the New gTLD Program in terms of competition, consumer trust and consumer choice.

View the discussion recordings [here](#).



DELEGATED NEW GTLDS

Twenty-eight new gTLDs delegated in January 2016

deloitte	edeka
weatherchannel	skin
nikon	volkswagen
health	fresenius
lanxess	adac

For the full list of new gTLDs delegated in January 2016, click [here](#).



ONE MORE THING

Read Michael Yakushev's interview with Interfax-Ukraine during December's launch of .ua [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

IT Security Roadshow 2016, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

On 17 February 2016, ICANN will join the International Data Corporation (IDC) in the first regional event of the **IT Security Roadshow 2016**, in Kyiv, Ukraine. This year, ICANN Staff will partner with the IDC team on some of the more than 20 roadshow destinations in the CEE. Check the website for the nearest location!

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