Dear Friends,

A year full of challenges has started - requiring more and more of our commitment and participation. We are fortunate to be an active region and to have many opportunities to participate. LACTLD is pleased to be part of the council of ICANN’s Latin America and Caribbean Strategic Plan.

In the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community we have a busy agenda. There will be two ICANN meetings in our region, both in countries with members of our organization. We took advantage of this situation and decided to accompany them with two of our three workshops. One of our goals is to strengthen and facilitate the participation of our ccTLDs, particularly in the processes of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).

We will hold our Commercial Workshop alongside the ICANN meeting in Puerto Rico, and our Policy and Legal Workshop alongside the Panama meeting. We will also have our Technical Workshop in September, together with the meeting of the Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre (LACNIC).

In support of these efforts, ICANN has granted our organization three scholarships for the Panama meeting. These scholarships will allow three of our members to participate as Fellows, something for which we are grateful.

We have several projects underway this year together with ICANN. The Internship Program, enables our region’s ccTLDs that have fewer resources to be trained with the help of other ccTLDs that are in stages of greater maturity. Another important project that we will continue to support is the Domain Name System (DNS) Observatory, a project initiated by ICANN and NIC Chile.

From LACTLD we wish you a great year and we hope to find you actively participating in the activities that bring us together.

Miguel Ignacio Estrada
General Manager of LACTLD
Prepare for ICANN61!
San Juan, Puerto Rico, 10-15 March 2018

ICANN61 kicks off in just five days. The meeting website is now available in both English and Spanish, and features the final schedule, mobile phone app, and pre-meeting reports.

We hope to see you in San Juan!

Learn About Open Data at ICANN
Wednesday, 14 March, 10:30-12:00

Join us at the ICANN61 cross-community session, Open Data at ICANN: Developing Avenues Forward for Transparency. Team members from the Open Data Initiative (ODI) and the Information Transparency Initiative (ITI) will discuss the goals of their respective projects, answer questions, and solicit feedback from the community. Please check the schedule for updated meeting room information.
ICANN to Cohost IETF 101 in London
Along with Google, ICANN is hosting this year’s meeting of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), to take place in London from 18-23 March. Be sure to read the new blog by ICANN’s Adiel Akplogan, VP, Technical Engagement, where he describes ICANN’s important role supporting the standards that ensure an open and interoperable Internet.

LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Montevideo Regional Office Holds First All-Hands Meeting in Saint Lucia
Did you know that the Montevideo office is one of ICANN's regional offices? Ten members of the ICANN organization are attached to this office, working in Uruguay or remotely in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Saint Lucia. Their roles are diverse - they come from Global Stakeholder Engagement, Policy Development Support, Communications, and Language Services. This all-hands meeting was the first of its kind with the participation of all 10 people (attending in person and remotely). The meeting was held in Saint Lucia on 15-16 February 2018.

Launching the Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Center of the Caribbean (VDECC)
The new Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Center of the Caribbean was launched on 19 February 2018 in Trinidad and Tobago. VDECC is a capacity-building center for Caribbean Entrepreneurs in the digital space. VDECC's objective is to serve as a knowledge and networking resource on digital business opportunities tailored to the Caribbean region. ICANN is one of the partners that made VDDECC possible. For more information, visit the VDECC website.

2018 Lifetime Achievement Award: Nominations Period Open Until 12 March
The Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre (LACNIC) has opened the period for nominating candidates for the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. This award honors regional leaders who have made a continued contribution to the growth of an open, stable, and secure Internet for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Call for Nominations | Nomination Terms and Conditions

CEABAD Releases New Courses for 2018
CEABAD, the Regional Broadband Center, provides training to government officials of Central American...
countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama), the Dominican Republic, and Mexico, on regulatory and competition problems in the broadband arena. The courses train government officials in specific issues that foster investment and promote a sustainable level of competition. The center is a hub for regional dialogue on topics related to broadband Internet. The presentations and discussions include specific worldwide experiences and lessons learned.

Take a look at **CEABAD 2018 courses (Spanish only)**.

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**LAC STRATEGIC PLAN NEWS**

The first call with the members of the new **Implementation Committee of the LAC Strategy 2018 - 2020** took place on 2 February 2018. The group discussed the implementation plan and next steps to start forming the working groups. Learn more by clicking the links below.

Adobe Connect (Spanish) | Audio (English) | Audio (Portuguese)

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**GDD UPDATE**

**Call for Experts - Study the Application of Root Zone Label Generation Rules**

ICANN is forming a technical group to study how to apply the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) for Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and IDN generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The study group will be composed of technical subject matter experts from various groups, organizations and committees. See announcement for details.

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**Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) - Microsoft Announces New Expanded Support**

Universal Acceptance (UA) is a foundational requirement for a truly multilingual Internet. Email Address Internationalization (EAI), which allows email addresses to use local scripts, is an important part of this process and a core component of the UASG’s work. The UASG created resources, including the **Quick Guide to EAI**, to help companies with EAI efforts. Recently, UASG member company **Microsoft** made another step forward in EAI when it announced support for email addresses in 15 Indian languages across its email apps and services, including Office 365, Outlook 2016, Outlook.com, Exchange Online and Exchange Online Protection (EOP).

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**POLICY UPDATE**

**GNSO Council Decision Underscores Commitment to Empowered Community**

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council recently adopted modifications to the GNSO Operating
Procedures that add GNSO voting thresholds for certain Empowered Community-related decisions. The changes are effective immediately, and aim to ensure the GNSO can fulfill its roles and responsibilities as a Decisional Participant in the Empowered Community. In a related action, the GNSO Council proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws, which are currently under ICANN Board consideration. Read more...

GAC Highlights at ICANN61
The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) will start ICANN61 with a capacity-building workshop on Domain Name System (DNS) resiliency and recovery in the context of natural disasters.

During the meeting, the GAC will review topics such as:

- Two-character and country and territory codes at the second level
- Protections for international governmental organizations
- Independent Review Process Panel
- Policy development process and cross-community working groups
- General Data Protection Regulation
- New generic top-level domain subsequent procedures

The GAC will meet with the Generic Names Supporting Organization, At-Large Advisory Committee, Country Code Names Supporting Organization, and the ICANN Board.

At-Large News

Proposed Changes to ICANN Meetings
The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) ratified a policy advice statement on the Proposed Incremental Changes to the ICANN Meetings Strategy that recommends:

- Community Forum: no changes
- Policy Forum: at least five days for outreach
- Annual General Meeting: six days plus an additional day for wrap-up activities

At-Large Review
The leadership of the At-Large Review Working Party continues to prepare the response to the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee mapping exercise of the At-Large Review. Next steps will be determined at ICANN61.

NARALO at ICANN61
The North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) will celebrate its 10-year anniversary at ICANN61 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Immediately before the meeting, NARALO will hold the first North American School of Internet Governance (NASIG). Learn more about NASIG.

Reviews: How to Get Involved
Learn about the draft recommendations of the NomCom Review at ICANN61. Join the independent examiner at the ICANN61 session covering the draft recommendations of the Nominating Committee (NomCom) Review. There, you'll have the opportunity to engage directly with the independent examiner.

Give feedback on the RSSAC Review Assessment Report. The independent examiner has published its assessment report of the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) and invites your input by 23 March. Learn about their findings, ask questions, and share your input at the ICANN61 session.

Get the status of all active Specific and Organizational Reviews.
Mark William Datysgeld is a Brazilian researcher and consultant holding a BA and a master’s degree in international relations, focused on Internet governance and the impacts of technology on public and private policymaking. In ICANN, he is affiliated with the Business Constituency, supporting the participation of Latin American entrepreneurs.

He attended ICANN53 as a member of the NextGen@ICANN program, ICANN55 as an ICANN Fellow, ICANN56 as a NextGen Ambassador, ICANN58 as a second-time Fellow, ICANN59 as a private consultant, and ICANN60 as a Coach for the Fellowship program.

Ever since his first meeting, Datysgeld has been engaged in supporting the NextGen program and enhancing its excellent mission, developing solutions to improve youth participation in the institution. He’s also interested in ICANN’s role as a global education platform for Internet governance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>13-15 March</td>
<td>VII Regular Meeting of the Assembly of CITEL</td>
<td>Buenos Aires, Argentina</td>
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<td>30 April-4 May</td>
<td>LACNIC 29</td>
<td>Panama City, Panama</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 April-2 May</td>
<td>Cyber South School on Internet Governance (SSIG) 2018</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
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PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

**English**

ICANN Spearheading Launch of Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Center of the Caribbean - Circle ID

ICANN Spearheads Initiative to Build Internet Economy in the Caribbean - Caribbean 360

New Scheme to Teach Caribbean Business People How to Maximize Web Presence - The Kitts Nevis Observer

**Spanish**

ICANN61 Puerto Rico | Entrevista televisiva a Rodrigo de la Parra (ICANN) y Pablo Rodríguez (.PR) - Wapa TV

ICANN anuncia fecha para cambio de clave criptográfica que ayuda a proteger el Sistema de Nombres de Dominio - Mundo en Línea

ICANN anuncia fecha para cambio de clave criptográfica que ayuda a proteger el DNS - Revista Gerencia