Welcome to the March 2016 issue of our regional newsletter.

In February, we delivered four webinars to the members of our Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) community. At the LAC strategy update webinar, I spoke about the communications efforts in the region - and how you can help!

We are creating a LAC Communications Working Group (WG). Your participation is crucial to reaching our objectives: increasing awareness of what ICANN is and does in our region, engaging more stakeholders from LAC in our ecosystem, and improving the perception of ICANN as a truly global organization.

We hope we can count on you to join this new LAC Communications WG. We are looking to reach new levels of participation and engagement in our communications efforts in the region.

Some weeks ago, we published the 2015 LAC Communications Highlights. You helped us achieve these milestones - thank you again for your hard work and valuable support!

Alexandra Dans
Senior Communications Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean
Culmination of a Two-Year Effort by the Global Internet Community

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Board Chair Dr. Stephen D. Crocker submitted to the U.S. Government a plan developed by the international Internet community that, if approved, will lead to global stewardship of some key technical Internet functions.

"This plan is a testament to the hard work of the global Internet community and the strength of the multistakeholder model," said Crocker, who transmitted the plan on behalf of the global community. "The plan has now been sent to the U.S. Government for its review, and assuming it meets the necessary criteria, we will have reached an historic moment in the history of the Internet."

The plan provides a comprehensive package to transition the U.S. Government's stewardship of these technical functions, called the IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority), which are critical to the Internet's smooth operation. It also proposes ways to enhance ICANN's accountability as a fully independent organization. The transition is the final step in the long-anticipated privatization of the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS), first outlined when ICANN was incorporated in 1998.

The ICANN Board received the package from the community during its 55th public meeting in Morocco, and transmitted it to the U.S. National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA).

[Click here to read more.]
ICANN's Luna Madi sat down with interim ICANN President & CEO Akram Atallah and ICANN Board Chair Steve Crocker to talk about ICANN's historic week. They discussed the community's extraordinary effort in developing the plan to Transition Stewardship of Key Internet Functions that was sent to the U.S. Government. They also discussed plans for the transition to the new CEO Göran Marby, the new gTLD program and IDNs.

Click the picture or visit ICANN's YouTube Channel to watch the interview.

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**LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS**

**New General Manager of LACTLD**

The Latin American and Caribbean Country Code Top-Level Domain Organization (LACTLD) has appointed Andrés Piazza as its new General Manager. Piazza will assume the position on 1 April 2016. In mid-March, he will join LACTLD and will begin the transition of responsibilities from current General Manager Carolina Aguerre, whose term ends on 31 March.

Read the announcement.

**Fadi Chehade: Farewell Interview by LACTLD**

In this interview, ICANN's outgoing CEO of ICANN shares his thoughts on ICANN's "secret sauce", his experience leading ICANN for the past three years, the role of ccTLDs and the IANA Stewardship Transition.


**ICANN Speaker at iBusiness in Brazil**

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**ICANN Speaker at iBusiness in Brazil**
ICANN was a participant in the iBusiness 2016 event that was held 3-4 March in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. Daniel Fink, ICANN’s Senior Manager for Stakeholder Engagement in Brazil, talked on a number of subjects: the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program, the report “Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy” by the Boston Consulting Group (commissioned by ICANN), and the importance of the L-Root in the DNS world.

Read about this event in Portuguese.

First Webinar for REGULATEL: An Introduction to the Domain Name System (DNS)
On 11 February, Gustavo Lozano, of ICANN’s Global Domain Division, hosted the first in a series of capacity building webinars for information and communications technology (ICT) regulators in the LAC Region who are members of REGULATEL, the Latin American forum of telecommunications regulators. With close to 90 participants from 15 different countries, the session was interactive - with the regulators asking many questions.

LAC STRATEGIC PLAN NEWS

LAC sponsored four webinars which drew more than 100 participants!

NextGen@ICANN, 5 February 2016
ICANN staff and NextGen alumni encouraged newcomers to join the NextGen program. Participants learned about the application process and listened as NextGen alumni shared their experiences.

Adobe Connect session | English audio (download) | Portuguese audio (download)

ICANN staff summarized the working group’s recommendations to the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRAO) Community.

Adobe Connect session | English audio | Portuguese audio

ICANN GAC for the LAC Region, 25 February 2016
Experts from the LAC region explained how governments can join the ICANN GAC. In preparation for ICANN55, presenters built a discussion platform of topics of interest to the LAC region.

Adobe Connect session | English audio (download)

ICANN LAC staff members briefed the regional community on projects in the LAC Strategic Plan.

Adobe Connect session | English audio (download) | Portuguese audio (download)
Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates
The Nominating Committee invites interested individuals to submit applications and/or to recommend candidates for key leadership positions: three members of the ICANN Board of Directors, two At-Large Advisory Committee representatives (one each from the European and North American regions), one member of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council, and one member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council. Apply for these positions by completing the online application or by emailing nomcom2016@icann.org. All applications are confidential and should be received by 20 March 2016 (23:59 UTC) for full consideration. Selections will be announced in August or September 2016.

Visit the New At-Large Website!
The new At-Large Community website is now live. Over the past year, the At-Large Community and ICANN staff have worked to create a more engaging website for both newcomers and experienced members. The new website features simple navigation, dynamic features and accessible content. You can search policy advice statements, follow news and events, find regional activities and participate in the At-Large Community. Start exploring now!

SSAC Publishes Two Advisories
The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) has published SAC079, "SSAC Advisory on the Changing Nature of IPv4 Address Semantics." In this advisory, the SSAC considers the changing role of IPv4 addresses caused by the increasing scarcity, and subsequent exhaustion, of IPv4 addresses. The SSAC also published SAC078, "SSAC Advisory on Uses of the Shared Global Domain Name Space." This advisory informs the ICANN Board and community that SSAC has formed a work party to study the security and stability issues associated with multiple uses of the domain name space.

Launch of Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP
Following the publication of the Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council unanimously voted to launch a Policy Development Process (PDP) to review all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all generic top-level domains (gTLDs). This PDP will be a two-phased effort: the first phase will review the RPMs for the new gTLD program, including the Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS), and the second phase will focus on a review of the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP). For more information, please visit the GNSO webpage or email gnso-secs@icann.org.

Join TLD-OPS, the ccTLD Incident Response Community!
The goal of the TLD-OPS community is to enable country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators worldwide to collaboratively strengthen their incident response capabilities. The TLD-OPS mailing list serves as a contact repository for ccTLDs. Subscribers regularly receive an automated email that contains an overview of all subscribed ccTLDs (170 of 293 ccTLDs have joined) and their incident response contact information. ccTLD operators also use the list to share security alerts with their peers and receive alerts from the Internet Assigned Names Authority (IANA) and the ICANN security team. TLD-OPS is open to every ccTLD - find out how to join.

Helping the LACNIC Community Develop Policies
As part of ongoing efforts to encourage members of the regional Internet community to participate in policy development, LACNIC has introduced a variety of new instruments to help the community develop
and modify policies implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean. The initiatives, which were launched last year, aim to achieve greater community participation. They include the Policy Shepherds program and the List of Policy Improvements. Read this blog post for more information.

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GDD UPDATE

Universal Acceptance Fact Sheet and Quick Guide
Have you heard the term “Universal Acceptance” recently, but aren't quite sure what it's all about? The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) has published a fact sheet that provides a high-level overview of Universal Acceptance, as well as a quick guide for developers that includes definitions of key terms and recommended steps for becoming Universal Acceptance-Ready. Learn the basics with these handy documents.

First Version Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone Released
On 2 March 2016, ICANN released the first version of Label Generation Rules (LGR-1) for the Root Zone, which has support for the Arabic script. This is a significant step to achieving a truly multilingual Internet. Find out how the community achieved this exciting milestone and what it means for current and future Arabic script Internet users.

DELEGATED NEW GTLDS

Twenty-seven new gTLDs and two ccTLDs delegated in February 2016

natura
coupon
song
store
chase

yahoo
flickr
gallup
pwc
jpmorgan

See the full list here https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/delegated-strings

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY
Fabricio Pessôa

Fabricio Pessôa is Community Engagement and Relationship Manager at AXUR - Cyber Inspection for a Safer Web. "I heard about the fellowship program from Daniel Fink and thought it would be a great way to learn about ICANN. My first meeting was ICANN54 in Buenos Aires, where I got a broad idea of how things work. I am now headed to ICANN55 in Marrakech, where I plan to deepen my knowledge and decide where to become involved.

I hope that more representatives of the LAC region will become decision-makers, especially in the areas of security and the fight against cybercrime. I'd also like to bring in non-technical people and teach them more about the Web so they can participate in debates on issues like big data and personal information. I feel that end users should be the ones making decisions in these areas, not technical communities, government or law enforcement. One of my goals at ICANN is to find more people who share my ideas."

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

SPANISH:

"El jefe de telecomunicaciones sueco llevará a la ICANN a su independencia"

"Líderes del ecosistema digital se reunirán en México para el Congreso Latinoamericano de Telecomunicaciones"

PORTUGUESE:

"ICANN nomeia novo CEO"

"Congresso Latinoamericano de Telecomunicacoes 2016 reunira no Mexico os lideres do ecossistema digital"

UPCOMING EVENTS

South School on Internet Governance (SSIG) 2016  29 March - 01 April 2016, Washington, D.C, USA

RightsCon,  30 March - 01 April 2016, San Francisco, California, USA
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