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ICANN History Project  
Interview with Roberto Gaetano  
30 June 2016

STEVE CROCKER:

Roberto, it's good to see you. As always, we're trying to capture finally quite a bit of ICANN's history, and we plunged into this by inviting the people who have made some of that history, or a lot of that history, to come and chat. There's not much structure here, but I'm going to ask you two questions and then we'll build off of that.

First question is easy, and then I'll ask you the other question afterwards. The easy question is, describe how you got involved with ICANN, sort of what's your arc of activity, what time period, and your time in ICANN of course but also whatever led up to that.

ROBERTO GAETANO:

So, 1997, I was working for ETSI, European Telecommunications Standards Institute, and the institute had decided that they were going to get involved in the Internet because they recognized that operating in the telecom business, they needed to be present also in the Internet.

At that time, there was the IAHC, International Ad Hoc Committee or something like this, and the gTLD-MoU, all those unpronounceable acronyms - basically was an effort - that was before the existence of - before ICANN was created. Sort of an attempt to do an international agreement in order to separate the business of a registry from the business of a registrar, and to have registries operating in the public for

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the public good, and have the business run by registrars and have the competition run by registrars. At that time, there was the monopoly of Network Solutions who was at the same time a registry and a registrar, and the TLDs that we had at that time were .com or .net.

So, that effort went on and basically that's how I got involved, because I was representing ETSI in this. The funny part of the story is that in the beginning, ETSI was represented by somebody that was coming from the real, hardcore telco world, and the dialog was impossible between the Internet people and the telco people. There was no...

And so, the idea was to take somebody like me who's basically a software developer, instead of a telco operator, and in fact, that was the winning idea because for me, the Internet is just part of my world. It's not something that is in opposition to what I'm doing. That is basically how I started. Shall I...

STEVE CROCKER: Yes, keep going. So, did that come to an end? When I met you, you weren't at ETSI anymore.

ROBERTO GAETANO: No.

STEVE CROCKER: So, there were several transitions in there.

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ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes. I'll try to keep it short, because there were a couple of intense years. But what I've seen for my part in the process of formation of ICANN is this: the IAHC had a policy oversight committee. That was a committee that had to determine how this transition was going to take place.

Some people were thinking that this could have taken .com or .net away from Network Solutions, which of course was a crazy idea, because I remember in one meeting I said, "Guys, you don't realize. I come from Italy, and in Italy you can get killed for much less than the money that's involved in this."

So basically, there was this proposal. I was one of the elected representatives in the POC [Policy Oversight Committee]. The Chairman was David Maher.

STEVE CROCKER: Elected representatives of...

ROBERTO GAETANO: I was representing CORE, Council of Registrars.

STEVE CROCKER: And what body were you elected to?

ROBERTO GAETANO: To this Policy Oversight Committee.

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STEVE CROCKER: Oh, I see. So, it was all put together as if it's ready to go, but...

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes. So, I forgot one step. We were organized in a Council of Registrars that had about 100 members, most of which are actually currently registrars. I'm thinking of Tucows, thinking of Melbourne.

STEVE CROCKER: I'm a little confused, because I thought – maybe I'm wrong – that the idea of registrars came about after the formation of ICANN.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Actually, the idea was before. What the IAHC was proposing was to have the registries basically not earning money, just keeping the data for the public benefit, in the public interest. And then split between registry and registrar so that the business was done by the registrars. So, the registrars were the ones who were making money and competing, whereas the registries were just a public service, I would say.

That had to be done in an international way. We needed to develop a protocol that was allowing the separation between the registry and the registrar. That was not impossible to do, because there were already some ccTLDs that were operating the same way.

And in fact, I even co-wrote one internal draft about the separation between... That was in '97.

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STEVE CROCKER: Yes. What's confusing me is this, and it's just my lack of detailed knowledge. My picture is that one of the things that ICANN did after it was formed was institute a registrar versus registry model.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Exactly.

STEVE CROCKER: And that prior to that time, Network Solutions, which was acquired by Verisign was an integrated –

ROBERTO GAETANO: Exactly.

STEVE CROCKER: And so, there was a sole registrar, and the prices were high, and that – so, I'm confused about the timing, and I actually realize I know almost nothing about CORE although I've heard about it, so I'm very curious about how CORE came about and what the timing of that was.

ROBERTO GAETANO: CORE came about with the idea that CORE, the organization, was going to be the registry, and getting – we were talking about seven new domain names at that time. This magic number of seven comes back in time, and then...

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STEVE CROCKER: That was part of the dialogue of the idea that in addition to all of this, we're going to create new TLDs, new gTLDs?

ROBERTO GAETANO: Exactly.

STEVE CROCKER: I see.

ROBERTO GAETANO: So, the seven new gTLDs, because obviously, Network Solutions would not have given away their registry business for .com or .net. So, there were going to be new gTLDs, and this that we had the registry separated from the registrar. And in fact, what happened after the formation of ICANN is that ICANN used this scheme mandating a separation between registry and registrar for Network Solutions and having the registrars competing with Network Solutions, the registrar.

In fact, at that time – I'm skipping one step in-between, but I will come back to that later. So, what happened is that there were – a protocol was developed that was eventually the final version of the protocol, [it] was done by Network Solutions as a matter of fact. And then that protocol was given accessible to the to-be registrars. That was after the formation of ICANN, and I think it was around the end of '98, if not the beginning of '99, there were five so-called testbed registrars who were starting, registering as in test mode .com, .org and .net domain names to see whether this thing could work.

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The step that I have skipped in between is that this idea was wrecked by first the Green Paper and then the White Paper issued by the U.S. government, who stepped in and stated the principle that this thing was going to be under the control of the U.S. government in order to ensure the stability migrating from the old model to the new model, and that we needed to have an organization that was called New CORE that had to take over the responsibility on behalf of the U.S. government in order to ensure a smooth transition.

Once this transition was going to be complete, then the U.S. government would have stepped out again. And this was supposed to last a couple of years.

STEVE CROCKER: Yes, we've heard this story. And then that takes us to just at the creation of ICANN. You're still at ETSI at that point?

ROBERTO GAETANO: I was at ETSI during the creation of ICANN. I participated in the IFWP. I was actually in the Steering Committee of the IFWP.

STEVE CROCKER: What is IFWP?

ROBERTO GAETANO: International Forum for the White Paper

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STEVE CROCKER: I see. Was that a meeting [could have sounded like meaning]?

ROBERTO GAETANO: Well, the meaning was since the U.S. government has issued this white paper, the administration have given guidelines on how, what were the requirements for building ICANN; this organization needed to give birth to ICANN, making sure that all the conditions that were given by the U.S. that were in the white paper were reflected.

STEVE CROCKER: I was reacting to the word 'Forum.' Did that translate into a particular meeting at a particular time and place, or it was just a sequence of discussions?

ROBERTO GAETANO: That was the very beginning of the migration of the usual suspects from one continent to another for different meetings. The year was '98. We had three meetings. The first one in Reston, the second one in Geneva.

BETSY ANDREWS: I'm sorry; Reston, Virginia?

ROBERTO GAETANO: Reston, Virginia. Sorry. The second one in Geneva, and the third one was supposed to be in Singapore, but the Latin Americans were not happy with this situation and they insisted to have a meeting in Latin America.

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I remember I was a member of the Steering Committee at that time, and I remember we had to fight within the Steering Committee in order to have this meeting. Nobody wanted to have a longer process, so the meeting in Buenos Aires was squeezed in between the meeting in Geneva and the meeting in Singapore.

STEVE CROCKER: I see.

ROBERTO GAETANO: And that was one week, the week before the IETF in Chicago. This is important for the thing that I will say afterwards. But staying to these meetings, the meeting of Buenos Aires in my opinion had a special value, because it was the only meeting of this series of meetings that had interpretation in Spanish and Portuguese.

STEVE CROCKER: Portuguese.

ROBERTO GAETANO: So, that's where a lot of things started, and it was a pretty successful meeting, well attended.

Then why was the IETF meeting in Chicago important? Because that was the moment in which the IETF was discussing what shall we do. And in fact, Jon Postel, it was what I believe was one of his last meetings. Yes, indeed, because that was the summer of '98. He passed away in September '98.

STEVE CROCKER:                   October, actually.

ROBERTO GAETANO:               October. So, I remember that I went straight from Buenos Aires to Chicago, and since the IETF was starting on Monday, on Sunday I was just looking at the premises and I saw a man with sandals and a big beard who was walking in the hallway, and I said, "This must be Jon Postel."

STEVE CROCKER:                   Must be.

ROBERTO GAETANO:               That's how I met him, and I went to him and I said, "Hi, I'm such and such. I'm just coming back from the IFWP if you're interested in knowing what happened, and I can tell you." And much to my surprise, he was interested in what I had to tell. So, that was how I met him.

Anyway, the discussion that continued in the IETF and how was the involvement of the IETF, and then probably you know more than me about how this developed in the IETF.

STEVE CROCKER:                   I actually don't know very much, but I'm interested in your trajectory. So from there, did you stay involved in the early days of ICANN?

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ROBERTO GAETANO: I stayed involved. I participated also in the creation of the Supporting Organizations, specifically the GNSO.

STEVE CROCKER: Yes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: The DNSO, sorry.

STEVE CROCKER: The DNSO, yes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: At that time, and then the PSO, because coming from ETSI – ETSI was one of the members of the PSO. In particular, we needed to discuss what were the requirements for the members of the PSO. I actually managed to have the requirement in the way that ETSI was qualifying. Which was not an obvious thing, because – it's a long story, I don't know if it's important.

STEVE CROCKER: Well, I can tell you some things you may not know. Many years later, I looked at the situation we had where ETSI was one of three organizations sharing one seat, rotating every year.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER:

Which was a weak, kind of awkward, not terrible but not particularly productive arrangement. We looked at it in several different ways over a period of time and finally said, "We've got to – it's really time to phase this out." And at the same time, we were very sensitive about the relationships, because we did not want to just sever it and say we're not going to have any. We wouldn't want to do any damage.

I found myself reading the Bylaws, and it said that these three organizations, ETSI, W3C and ITU-T would share this seat on a rotating basis, would supply somebody on the NomCom, again on a rotating basis, and would supply two technical experts each. I said, "That's interesting, I didn't know that. I haven't seen anything," and so forth. So, it became clear that the right thing to do – clear to me, anyway – is to eliminate the first two, and to breathe life into that relationship and make use of it.

We had some internal discussion and we socialized, and everybody said, "Hey, that's great." So we did that. We made Bylaw changes and we took out the first [inaudible] but I said, "We ultimately do have to follow through and actually work with the experts. And I don't know what their thinking is, because we had no interactions."

So, I called each of the organizations. When I called ETSI, they said, "We've been appointing experts every year, and no, you never called on them, but we've been doing our part." And I thought, "Well, that's pretty damn embarrassing, actually." I was quite red-faced that we had this fundamental agreement going back years and years, ETSI is going through its proper cycle, and we'd been ignoring them. As I say, I was chagrined about that.

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So we did that, that's the Technical Liaison Group, and we then embedded that in a Technical Experts Group which is somewhat expanded. And we have regular meetings.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER: We didn't have one here, but –

ROBERTO GAETANO: That I attend, by the way.

STEVE CROCKER: All of that is related going all the way back to this relationship, and we said, "Well, we want to somehow maintain that relationship, and we want to do it in a way that's more useful and more productive than the sort of pro forma thing that we had."

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes. I was part of the discussions. I followed because – especially when I was chairing the Structural Improvement Committee, so that was ...

STEVE CROCKER: So, fill in the gap for me, because we worked together on the Board and you were – how did you come to the Board? Through...

ROBERTO GAETANO: First as ALAC, and then the question probably is how did I get onto ALAC. Well, from ETSI, the meeting in Berlin that was June '99 was my last meeting, what I thought was going to be my last ICANN meeting because I had resigned from ETSI and moved to Vienna to the International Atomic Energy Agency, going back to my old job of software developer.

So, I was not going to have any reason to come to ICANN meetings, except for the fact that I in the meantime got involved especially in user issues, the formation of the Non-Commercial User Constituency, the attempt to have an Individual User Constituency that then was never done.

So, I was very much involved in user issues, and the DNSO decided to have a general assembly that was going to be basically a mailing list but that was meeting regularly at every ICANN meeting, and they needed to volunteer somebody to chair the general assembly.

I tried to say, "But I'm no longer involved. I don't have any special hats," and Marilyn Cade said, "In that case, we have the perfect person." [Joint laughter]

ROBERTO GAETANO: So basically, we are at the time of the general assembly of the DNSO, and I chaired this for a little bit more than one year, let's say one year and a half.

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STEVE CROCKER: And this was while you – after you'd gone to the International Atomic Energy Agency, and it was okay with them? They were happy for you to do this?

ROBERTO GAETANO: They were happy for me to do this as long as I was taking personal time off. But it was just the three meetings and then the mailing list. In any case, the mail I could do from home.

STEVE CROCKER: Hardly notice it.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes. There were two or three things where slowly, the International Atomic Energy Agency started thinking about recognizing what I was doing, because for instance there was an issue within the U.N. because the UNESCO had been – the name had been hijacked, and so there was a discussion and nobody knew in the ...

STEVE CROCKER: Sometimes you just get lucky, right?

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes. There were a couple of things, but anyway, as long as...

STEVE CROCKER: It wasn't too big.

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ROBERTO GAETANO: Exactly. But then in any case, the general assembly lasted, yes, one year and a half. It was started in my first meeting - with the first meeting in Cairo, and my last meeting was in 2001 in Uruguay, Montevideo. So, then I felt I was going to disappear again for good, but then came the reform, the ICANN reform 2002, and the creation of the At-Large Advisory Committee.

There were some people who were nominated by the Board, but some people that were going through the Nominating Committee. And so, I put my name in the hat for the Nominating Committee, and I was nominated.

I took office in Montreal, the meeting in Montreal, and the ALAC had – according to the reform – had to appoint one liaison to the Board. Esther Dyson was one member of the ALAC, and I was sure that she was going to be the liaison to the Board. As former Chair of the Board, who had more experience than her? Much to my surprise, she indicated my name, and so I was elected as the liaison from the ALAC to the Board for the first term, and then reappointed.

STEVE CROCKER: And these were one-year terms?

ROBERTO GAETANO: No, the terms... In fact, the funny thing is that there was no limitation of term. I insisted to have a reelection, because I don't think that somebody can be appointed for life. But in fact, I went through a second term through the NomCom for ALAC because – okay.

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STEVE CROCKER: Yes, but that was to put you on the ALAC leadership, not the liaison to the Board.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Not the liaison, but I wanted to have confirmation and election.

STEVE CROCKER: Yes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: But then, because for instance the GAC has kept this thing that they don't have a reelection - is the Chairman, and it's only when the Chairman changes, then the Chairman is the liaison. So, I wanted to have a different situation by which we go through and do elections.

So, that was basically it, and then the rest of the story, you know. And when I went the third time through the NomCom, I put my name only for the Board, and I was selected for...

STEVE CROCKER: For a regular voting position.

ROBERTO GAETANO: A regular voting position.

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STEVE CROCKER: When did that term start?

ROBERTO GAETANO: 2006. I think it was the meeting in São Paulo.

STEVE CROCKER: And...

ROBERTO GAETANO: And the last meeting was 2009, Seoul.

STEVE CROCKER: So that was one term?

ROBERTO GAETANO: One term. Then in early 2009, I had my heart attack.

STEVE CROCKER: Changes your life.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Changes my life, and the doctor said, "Either you do ICANN or you do your day job."

STEVE CROCKER: One or the other.

ROBERTO GAETANO: One or the other. Also, because the arrangement with the International Atomic Energy Agency was still the same, that I had to go to ICANN meetings during my holidays, once every now and then they were giving me an extra week, but it was happening once...

STEVE CROCKER: My recollection is that you were Vice Chair of the Board.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER: But I don't recall whether that was true for all three of your years, or was it just one or two of those years?

ROBERTO GAETANO: It was true for the three years, because when I – yes, what changed is the Chair. The first year, I was Vice Chair and Vint was Chair, and then for two years, Peter was Chair.

STEVE CROCKER: I see. I'll have to go look at my records, but yes. And I was on the Board as liaison from SSAC.

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ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes, when I started, you were liaison.

STEVE CROCKER: And in fact, in my case I was both the Chair of SSAC and liaison, so another example of the way the GAC did it. And then eventually I took a regular position on the Board, and that opened up the liaison seat and that is now separate from the Chair. So, both models.

Good, so that's the answer to the first question. And we've actually covered bits and pieces of my second question, which is this: in addition to who did what when, I think what's interesting or what's most useful is to get at the story behind the story, with the sequences of events that really made a difference so that we can connect the parts and so that people who listen or read this history - and particularly the people who follow us in our jobs as opposed to... - get an understanding of the context that they're living in and how that came to be.

Because some of it is mysterious. Why are we structured like this? Why do all these people react to us like this? How did we get into this particular arrangement? That's the kind of stuff that I think is useful.

So, the question is, think of things that come to mind that provide some of the structure, the history, and talk about that. Not just sort of what meeting took place, but the underlying, the cross-currents and undercurrents of what make the real story for the history of ICANN.

ROBERTO GAETANO: I'm not sure I understand the question. So, what were in my opinion the turning points?

STEVE CROCKER: Yes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: The key points.

STEVE CROCKER: Yes. Just pick one and go, and then we can follow it wherever it goes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Well, the meeting in Los Angeles in 2000 when the first seven gTLDs were delegated I think was a very important step. And then somehow, it created also expectations that another round would have followed, because actually in that meeting, the way it worked is that whoever wanted to apply for a TLD could. And of course, they needed to build a solid case, and therefore there were all these applications, but there was not a good definition of the process.

So, in fact, what happened is that the ICANN Board had to decide one by one, "This is taken, this is rejected, this is taken, this is rejected" which as a method could be extremely dangerous for the ICANN Board.

STEVE CROCKER: Sure.

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ROBERTO GAETANO: Because at that point... And in fact, for instance, .web, that was one that was expected to be delegated was in fact not delegated for the simple reason that it was difficult to decide which of the three applicants had the best application.

So in my opinion – I was not in the ICANN Board, I was chairing the general assembly of the DNSO at that time, but my impression is that had the Board chosen one of the three, ICANN would have been in serious problems. There would have been a serious challenge made by the other applicants.

So, it was a big event, but I think it taught us that we needed to have a process. Now, the development of the process took a little bit longer than was expected, [Steve: laughter] but then...

STEVE CROCKER: I think, as you said, this was very important. Let me flesh it out a little bit. In 2000, you say ICANN allocated seven new TLDs.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER: And I remember what they all were. .info, .museum –

ROBERTO GAETANO: .museum

STEVE CROCKER: .biz... the list is around somewhere. What led up to that? I know that as a top-level thing when ICANN was created, among the tasks or charges that were given to it was to promote competition.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER: And creating new top-level domains I think was part of that thought. What is the sequence of events that led to opening up the application process? And then what can you say about why seven were chosen as opposed to many more?

ROBERTO GAETANO: If I remember correctly, the applications were in the range of 20 to 25, something like this. Also, because this was thought in the beginning to be a process by which you would have a small number of TLDs and then we have another round in one or two years, and then we have another small number of TLDs. So, there was no rush to get there.

STEVE CROCKER: I see.

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ROBERTO GAETANO: In fact, we were all people who had something – just a different idea. For instance, one in the first round was also .tel, then .museum you mentioned. So, [there were] TLDs that were sort of dedicated to something.

STEVE CROCKER: This was .pro, .coop and...

ROBERTO GAETANO: No, that was later.

STEVE CROCKER: That was later?

ROBERTO GAETANO: I'm a bit confused. I'm getting old.

STEVE CROCKER: Me, too. It gets worse.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Anyway, regardless of what they are, it's not that seven was the magic number. It's just that the Board was deciding one by one, and so at the end those who were approved ended up being seven. One for instance that was not going to be approved that then was approved at the last minute was .aero.

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That was initially presented as .air and then for the Airline industry, and it was SITA who was being this. Then there was one objection from one Board member. I think it was a Korean gentleman who said, ".air, what does it mean air? It means air. It has nothing to do with airplanes. It should be something like .aero or...

STEVE CROCKER: Oh.

ROBERTO GAETANO: And very – the guys who were proposing that said, "Okay, we changed the name. No problem."

STEVE CROCKER: No problem. [Joint laughter]

BESTY ANDREWS: It was .biz, .info, .name, .pro, .aero, .coop and .museum.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Oh, so you're right. Coop was –

STEVE CROCKER: Accident.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Was one of the first.

STEVE CROCKER: Very good, you got that right away. I mean, you were able to find it.

ROBERTO GAETANO: So anyway, it's just that it turned out to be seven. It could have been six or could have been eight.

STEVE CROCKER: No, but given where we are today with a large number of applications that came in and so forth, I'm a little surprised that there wasn't kind of a land rush. But people didn't know, I guess.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Well, it was something – it was very quick. If you think, ICANN was small and quick at that time. From the moment that ICANN was formed, that was somewhere in the second part of '98, two years later we had the seven gTLDs.

STEVE CROCKER: Yes, that was quick. That is quick.

ROBERTO GAETANO: But we had the elections, worldwide elections for the Board, for five members of the Board. That's one other thing that was done quickly. I mean with a rapid decision and so on, and but on which there were lots

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of lessons learned afterwards. What did work, what didn't work, and in fact, why this was not a viable solution.

So, in the early days, there were those things where ICANN was moving like a startup. So, very quickly, but sometimes not giving sufficient thought before going to action.

STEVE CROCKER: I have not heard the story about the elections. I've heard some bits and pieces. You were there.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER: Say something about the way that was set up and about the results, and where things went after that.

ROBERTO GAETANO: The way it was set up is that in principle, every citizen, Internet user, could vote. They needed to apply via e-mail or a website, or there were several mechanisms, and they were receiving something via the post. Just in order to avoid that you have a sort of robot that was...

STEVE CROCKER: Yes.

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ROBERTO GAETANO: So, it was done what was possible to ensure that there was a physical person that was going to vote. ICANN was overwhelmed by the number of voters, of people who applied to in order to get the credentials for the vote. Because we were thinking that just a few people, those who have been more or less aware.

STEVE CROCKER: Yes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: This was not the case. Also, because there were in a couple of countries, for instance, media campaign for the elections. And for instance, in Germany, there was a media campaign and the number of voters in Germany was more than the number of voters of the rest of Europe because there was an article on *Der Spiegel* and that raised something.

My opinion is that since there was no German in the – I mean, basically there was a discussion on the fact that Germany had to have a German director. We had Helmut Schink in the beginning the appointed Board, the early Board, but those had to step down and be replaced.

So, anyway, this happened in Germany and that happened also in Japan. So, we also realized that in fact an election done like this since you don't have any control of what, how the media and why the media will move in a certain direction or another, moving 5,000 people is meaning winning an election in this case.

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STEVE CROCKER: And you mentioned that there were five seats that were tried to be filled this way.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes.

STEVE CROCKER: And were they in fact filled?

ROBERTO GAETANO: Yes, they were filled. I think that one of the signs that something didn't work in that, or that that wasn't the best way to select people is the fact that years later, people can hardly even remember the names of the five elected directors because they have completely disappeared from the – with the possible exception of Karl Auerbach.

STEVE CROCKER: With the possible exception of Karl Auerbach, yes.

ROBERTO GAETANO: But the German guy was the president of the Chaos Computer Club. Even myself don't remember the name, so it brings people on the – because the idea was we need to have a German director so the media were pushing, and they just picked a person. And then the person was not necessarily somebody who was interested in Internet issues.

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STEVE CROCKER: Interesting.

ROBERTO GAETANO: My personal opinion. I take responsibility for –

STEVE CROCKER: Yes, well, that's why you're here. That's why - We'll close with this: what are the areas that you think we should make a point of bringing the pieces up to light and telling the story of parts of the history of ICANN? What areas are sort-of not well-known or need to be pieced together from different sources?

ROBERTO GAETANO: I think that it will be good to bring up some of the things that were running in the background, because the deliberations of the Board, the way certain reforms were done, I don't know, even the review of the different Supporting Organizations, they were also important in a certain way.

But everybody more or less knows these things. Where we have less knowledge – even... I have participated intensively I would say in the process of '97 to '99 and the formation and the early days of ICANN, but there are lots of things that I don't know because how – what was the plan?

I know what the plan was for CORE and the IAHC, and what did work and what did not work, but I'm sure that there were other groups that had

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plans, and I think that 20 years later, we could try to shed some light in order to understand what were the forces in...

STEVE CROCKER: It's a good idea, we should get you to chair the meeting.

ROBERTO GAETANO: Which meeting?

STEVE CROCKER: Of bringing all that together and looking at that.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**