ICANN UPDATE

ICANN in the WSIS Era

by Alejandro Pisanty
ICANN Board Member, México

Much attention is focused these days on the subject of Internet governance, largely due to the interest in it that has arisen in the many meetings surrounding the World Summit on the Information Society. Disagreement on the definition of "Internet Governance" led to the formation of the Working Group on Internet Governance by the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation, Mr. Kofi Annan.

There are basically two views of the agenda of Internet governance: one called "broad", which looks at the need and means for coordinating international, relevant, participatory action on such problems emerging in relation to the use of the Internet, such as spam, cyber-crime, and other issues which could benefit from global coordination.

The "narrow" agenda of Internet governance concentrates exclusively on need for central coordination of the assignment of Internet identifiers, i.e. domain names, numerical addresses, and a few other parameters that need to have mathematically unique values. This agenda has been characterised, particularly by its most public promoters, as leading to the transfer of the functions of ICANN to another international organisation, which in some cases has been explicitly identified as the ITU.

ICANN has been a harbinger of institutional innovation capacity that must often accompany innovations in the technology, use, and social and business applications of the Internet. It stems from a bottom-up, international participatory process, introduces effective ways for stakeholders to contribute to technical policy development, is based on the best procedural creations of the Internet community, and is structured in such a way as to have both an open capacity for evolution in the face of evolving needs and principles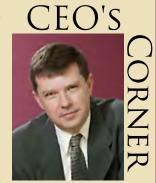, and to be subject to close scrutiny in its transparency and accountability to its direct stakeholders and to the broader Internet community. ICANN is determined to act with increasing effectiveness at the same time that it maintains focus on its restricted mission, and deepens its procedural clarity.

Another often ignored characteristic of ICANN is that from its inception it has been built with the strong contribution of people and organisations from both developed and developing countries, coming from government, business and academic and non-governmental fields. Many of the persons and institutions involved were already building ICANN and helping it evolve while companies and institutions in their countries were only starting to come to grips with the full breadth of the implications of the Internet for their societies. Participation in ICANN from developing countries has markedly

CEO's CORNER

by Dr. Paul Twomey

In preparing the CEO corner for this newsletter, I was reminded that it was only two years ago that the last ICANN meeting was held in Latin America. That meeting was also the first ICANN meeting I attended in my capacity as ICANN's President and CEO. I must say it is a pleasure to return to the region, and my fifth visit since the Rio meeting.

Reflecting on what's occurred not only in Latin America, but also with the organisation, I cannot help but be reminded on how far we have come in the past few years. In accepting the position as ICANN CEO & President, I expressed my intention to consult with all sectors of ICANN's communities, to learn how we can work together for the good of the Internet. My first year on the job was about doing exactly that – speaking and meeting with stakeholders around the world.

The results of these discussions have helped provide the basis and thinking behind ICANN's Strategic Plan. A strategic plan is important for any organisation and consistent with ICANN's model, it has undergone considerable public comment and input, which is very important, as

English

increased as the Internet saw greater use in developing countries and as developing country participants shared the benefit and importance of participating in the ICANN process for the respective country and regional Internet communities.

In the process, ICANN has come up for discussion frequently. One can fairly say by now that no other organisation related to Internet governance has been discussed as extensively or scrutinised as closely or criticised so widely and from so many angles.

I believe one can also fairly say that this close scrutiny has shown ICANN to be quite a robust organisation. Institutional innovation and space for innovation in technology, usage and services created by the global Internet community must go hand-in-hand with the stable operation of the Internet. Broad-based participation of a bewildering variety of voices, interests and principles must go hand-in-hand with effective operational practice. Due process must be given to all policy development yet a sense of "Internet time" must prevail. Focus on the very restricted mission of ICANN must be kept but means must be found, likely in distinct alternative venues, to deal with the level and breadth of subjects affected by the Internet that lie outside ICANN's purview.

In the thorough dissections of ICANN that have been taking place since its inception, and in an intensified level during the WSIS/WGIG processes, many people who had only superficial or indirect contact are now more deeply informed and have been able to express satisfaction, and in some cases admiration, for ICANN's institutional design. Many are now asking the same questions about other organisations which can also benefit from true multistakeholderism, open

participation, structured, focused decision-making, and a design that is open to continuous evolution.

A number of ways in which the ICANN process can be improved have been identified, in the concomitant discussions of WSIS, WGIG, the ICANN community, and in particular in the consensus-building process around ICANN's strategic plan. Many of them are part of ICANN's natural evolution and will be much assisted by the renewed input which also is in concordance with the global discussion on the Information Society and, hopefully, with a renewed commitment by the governments which will fix the final documents of the Summit to promote an inclusive, forward-looking Information Society in each of their countries.

As a member of the WGIG I loyally can't presume what the outcome of the group's discussions will be. One sure thing is that for many of its members a deeper knowledge of ICANN will allow us to move to other subjects, for which the precedent of the organisational forms and experience of ICANN will be found useful.

ICANN BOARD MEMBER:
Alejandro Pisanty

Alejandro Pisanty is currently Director of Computing Academic Services at UNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, in Mexico City, Mexico. He also serves as member of the Board of CUDI, Corporación Universitaria para el Desarrollo de Internet, the Mexican Internet 2 Consortium, and as Chair of the Board of ISOC Mexico. He has served UNAM as Coordinator of the Distance Education Project (1995-1997), Technical Secretary of the Computing Advisory Council (1991-1997) and Head of the Graduate School in Chemistry (1993-1995). He is a Professor in the School of Chemistry. From UNAM he also leads the National Network for Videoconference in Education.

Mr. Pisanty received a Bachelor´s degree in Chemistry, and M. Sc and Ph. D. Degrees in Physical Chemistry from UNAM. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung in Stuttgart, Germany (1984-1986).

Alejandro was selected for the ICANN Board by the Domain Name Supporting Organization and seated at the 1999 annual meeting. He served until mid 2003 when he was again selected by the DNSO to a second term, which expired mid 2004. Alejandro was then elected to a third term by the GNSO to a new term which expires six months following the 2006 annual meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Currently, ICANN's Bo
Liaisons includes c
Brazil, Bulgaria, Ch
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Raimundo Beca, ICANN Board Member, Chile   *biography*

Raimundo Beca is currently a partner at Imaginacción, a Chilean consulting company, and is on the board of several companies, among which namely Puerto San Vicente Talcahuano and Telefónica Mundo 188.

Prior to joining Imaginacción in 2003, he was for 11 years CRO of Telefónica CTC Chile, the Chilean local incumbent telephone company. During his tenure at CTC, the company became also the leader in the long distance, mobile, data networks and ISP markets.

Prior to joining Telefónica CTC Chile in 1992, Raimundo was for two years a Regional Expert in information technologies at ECLAC, the UN's regional economic agency for Latin America and the Caribbean. At ECLAC, he drafted a Green Book on information technologies policies, including a Decalogue on telecommunications privatisation's best practices and an ambitious target of a 20% penetration of telephone premises in the region, by the year 2000.

Prior to joining ECLAC, he was for 13 years "Chargé de Mission" at the French Minister of Industry, in charge, among other issues, of the development of a national on line data industry. He was also largely involved, as a French delegate to the OCDE and the European Commission, on the early international debate on the information society, in the late 70's. To this extent, Raimundo was largely involved too on the enactment of the first rulings in the fields of data privacy, data security, access to public files and software's intellectual property rights.

Prior to joining the French Minister of Industry, Raimundo was, in a chronological order, researcher and professor of econometrics at the University of Chile, CEO of ECOM, the largest software house and data processing company in the early 70's in Chile and ingénieur en chef at SERTI, a top level French software house.

Raimundo is Chilean and was born in 1940. He holds a Civil Engineer degree at the Catholic University of Chile and a master degree in mathematical economics at the University of Paris VI, Pierre et Marie Curie.

Prior to joining the ICANN Board, Raimundo has been a member of the Address Council, the NIC's Chile Steering Committee and the LACNIC's Board. Raimundo Beca was selected for the ICANN Board by the Addressing Support Organisation. His current term will end six months after the conclusion of ICANN's annual meeting in 2006.

The Information Society in Latin America:
Is there a common road to follow?

by Vanda Scartezini, ICANN Board Member, Brazil

Let us identify what is happening in the countries that are succeeding in closing the digital gap; it is easy for me to present the case of Brazil, even though other countries in Latin America could also serve as an example. Brazil started its e-government work in 1999 and in less than 2 years ranked 5th among the nations offering the most services to their populations over the Internet, some of which were mandatory. E commerce in Brazil accompanying this growth had a great advantage and offered a new wave of employment in the country. Other countries that have managed to succeed in one classification or another in our region seem to have followed a similar route.

Latinos, we know full well, are always willing to try new things, easing the way for the entry of new technologies. On the other hand, the majority of our population is comprised by persons with a low educational level, which makes them fearful of facing those same new technologies.

The only way to break that vicious circle is to start by offering a wide array of government services that are absolutely necessary or obligatory and, at the same time, start to develop a strong network of free Internet centers for the population, or at least low cost Internet centers, with staff persons who would be available to train users, encouraging them to access and use the technology.

Once people realize that they are obtaining the same services for which they used to wait in long lines, fear of the technology disappears.

Initiating a policy of government procurements over the Internet is the next step that should be taken. The countries of Latin America are very dependent on their governments, because an enormous quantity of business in these countries is channeled through the government. Without the Internet and the use of digital technologies, most government procurements are in the hands of a few large companies that succeed in paying for and taking over the entire process.

By using bidding competitions over the Internet for their procurements, governments can stimulate Small and Medium Enterprise (SMEs) to participate in the game.

Once the SMEs no longer need to invest in travel and payments in order to participate in governmental procurements over the Internet, the result encourages them to use the Internet in their own trade operations, stimulating investment in e-commerce.

The success of e-government creates a base of confidence in the use of these technological channels, while also doing away with the population's fear of these incomprehensible new technologies.

The demand for personnel is a simple consequence of the increased confidence in, and loss of fear towards information and communication technologies, generating a new wave of jobs to work in these fields.

This wave of job opportunities stimulates the population to seek digital inclusion on their own initiative.

To conclude, it would appear that in Latin America, a sure road does exist to transform our societies into the new Information Society.

This road consists of vigorous e-government development, which leads to the growth of e-commerce.

Both e-government and e-commerce lead us to a society that is better socially balanced and thus more just. Latin America, which is now a developing region, can become a developed region in a few years if we work together on this strategy. And the Internet is behind all this. We can feel proud.

(This is an extract from an article in the upcoming ICANN e-newsletter, contact newsletter@icann.org to subscribe.)

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Focus on Latin America

oard of Directors and
itizens of Australia,
ile, China, Germany,
alaysia, Mexico, New
he United Kingdom,
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ICANN BOARD MEMBER:
Vanda Scartezini

Vanda is a Brazilian citizen, who graduated in Electronic Engineering in 1970. Since then she has held many management positions in private technology companies and in public institutions. She is the co-founder of Polo Consultores, a Brazilian IT consulting company since 1985, settled in São Paulo, Brazil. She is the former Brazilian National Secretary of Industrial Technology as well as the former National Secretary of Information Technology. She served also as President of the Brazilian Patent Office. From 2000 until March 2004 she acted as the Brazilian representative at ICANN GAC. She served as GAC Vice Chair, term ended at March 2004 meeting.

She acted as Brazilian Government representative in many international missions around the world as well as an expert and consultant for institutions like WIPO, UNDP and UNCTAD. Until last year she taught Intellectual Property at the MBA level in one of the major business academic institutions in Brazil [FGV - Fundacao Getulio Vargas].

She holds a position in many professional IT entities in Brazil, is a member of the board of four R&D institutions as well as is Vice President of Softex, a Society responsible for the more than 2000 software start ups in the country. She was honoured with many of the major prizes in the Brazilian IT Industry.

She is also chair of a non profit organization settled at Salvador, Bahia, that is the key point of a special design arrangement, designed by her, that organizes local professionals and companies in order to export mainframe software and services from the northeast part of the country.

Vanda Scartezini was selected by the 2004 Nominating Committee to join the ICANN board which term runs from the end of the 2004 annual meeting through the conclusion of the ICANN Annual Meeting in 2007.

Frank Fowlie: ICANN's inaugural Ombudsman.

ICANN's first Ombudsman is Frank Fowlie, a Canadian. Frank was appointed on November 1, 2004. Frank has a long background in government service and conflict resolution. Frank has worked for such organizations as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the United Nations. Frank holds a Masters of Arts in Conflict Analysis and Management.

The First Few Months

Since the Office of the Ombudsman became operational in late 2004 the Ombudsman has been kept busy with a number of activities. The most important of which has been to establish the various policies, frameworks, and systems for the ICANN community to be able to contact the Ombudsman with complaints, and then to make these all work in a way that promotes successful Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The first major event for the Ombudsman was the Cape Town conference, and this was an opportunity to talk to the ICANN community about the independence of the Office. I very much enjoyed meeting the community and getting your impressions about the new Office.

The Values of this Office are:

-Respect for Diversity;

-Excellence in Ombudsmanship;

-Professionalism;

-Confidentiality;

-Impartiality;

-and Independence.

The first major policy document was the Ombudsman Framework, which was posted on the Ombudsman website in late December. The Framework basically explains how the Office of the Ombudsman will receive and deal with complaints.

The second major policy document was the Results Based Management Accountability Framework, which describes the relationship between the Office of the Ombudsman and ICANN; and also talks about a long term evaluation plan for the Office.

The Ombudsman website is up and running.

(http://www.icann.org/ombudsman/) There is an interactive – online complaint form which allows members of the ICANN community to send a complaint to the Ombudsman directly over a secure server.

Since the Ombudsman opened the doors and began receiving complaints from the community, over 50 people or groups have come forward seeking the Ombudsman's assistance. Most of these complaints have ended in either referrals to appropriate officials or in successful resolutions. Some remain under the Ombudsman's consideration.

Outreach, and explaining the role of the Ombudsman is an important part of the Ombudsman's activity. I had the opportunity to meet with European and Middle East Registars in Brussels in February, and also met with government officials and Nominet staff in the United Kingdom.

CEO's CORNER BY DR. PAUL TWOMEY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

this document will help shape the direction of ICANN's future, of which all stakeholders are a part. These consultations will continue during our meeting in Argentina.

I thought it useful to outline some of the accomplishments the community has achieved over the past years –

- The final MoU between the US Department of Commerce and ICANN, with over half of the obligations completed and completion of the MoU due in September 2006.

- ASO MoU signed with the RIR's and NRO.

- Completion of the ccNSO with very high representation from the Latin America ccTLD community, with one Board member elected from the Latin America region to the ICANN Board.

- Active community participation in the WSIS process – sharing what the multi-stakeholder model is about with the international community.

- Recognition in progress of the fifth RIR, AfriNIC, which is expected to be completed at the ICANN meeting in Argentina.

- Many activities relating to TLDs, including the .net rebid and introduction of new sTLDs.

- Important discussions on new registry services within the ICANN process.

- Numerous outreach and participation activities in all parts of the world.

As an organisation, and with you as stakeholders & key participants in this process, there will always be much work to do. While the international community continues to discuss the importance of multi-stakeholder, public-private partnership models for issues surrounding broader matters relating to Internet governance, the ICANN community is actually implementing it. We should be proud of this, demonstrating its success by how it accomplishes its tasks and responsibilities, and recognising that by its design, ICANN itself, will always improve to reflect the needs of the international community, and the Internet stakeholders.

While the last two years have not been without their challenges, it's been a true pleasure to share them with you and I look forward to undertaking our continued tasks together.

Please send comments to: newsletter@icann.org