

ICANN UPDATE

Volume 1, Issue 3, December 2004

Upcoming Events

24-28 January 2005
RIPE 50
Amsterdam

6-13 February 2005
SANOG V
Dhaka, Bangladesh

16-25 February 2005
APRICOT 2005
APNIC 19
Kyoto, Japan

6-11 March 2005
IETF 62
Minneapolis, MN, USA

4-8 April 2005
ICANN MEETING
Mar del Plata, Argentina

11-15 July 2005
ICANN MEETING
Luxembourg City



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Meeting in Cape Town

AfriNIC, a Positive Development in Africa

by *Adiel A. Akplogan, CEO*
AfriNIC

AfriNIC, the new Internet Number registry for Africa, an initiative from African ISPs and Internet stakeholders aims to be the fifth regional number registry in the world (after RIPE NCC in Europe, ARIN in America, APNIC in Asia and Pacific and LACNIC in Latin America). This initiative is considered an important step for the continent in its walk to create an appropriate environment for Internet development in Africa.

In most cases when Internet development is mentioned, it is tied to infrastructure development. With a local number registry, one side of the infrastructure development is being addressed. Africans can manage these crucial resources important for the Internet infrastructure and get the related economic as well as Internet

pervasiveness. Managing these resources also means that the region is able to define its own related policies and to make the allocation process closer to our local realities. Most importantly, it is being able to give a proximity service such as training to ISPs and stakeholders on the continent.

AfriNIC has achieved great progress in its goal to set up a transparent bottom-up process for these resources' management in Africa. Today anybody can participate in the policy development process and express its view. Creating this open environment is opening the door, on our continent, for stakeholders to discuss and address some of their issues on Internet technical management.

We are very pleased that ICANN has noticed this strong commitment from our community to have a voice in the international number resources forum. By giving us its provisional recognition, it gives us the legitimacy that we need to move ahead in our transition plan with the

already established RIRs serving the African Region through the NRO (number resource organisation – www.nro.net) coordination.

The creation of AfriNIC and its latest provisional accreditation can also be considered as a step ahead in the internationalisation of the ICANN and IANA functions, especially in direction to certain parts of the world such as Africa where the lack of information and interlocutors is being filled. The fact also, that four countries (South Africa, Egypt, Ghana and Mauritius) in the region came together to help build this great regional resource is the sign that regional integration is working. It also shows that the region is taking its participation in ICANN as well as all other internet governance organisations very seriously, as a way of being part of the information society.

L'Académie Africaine des Langues

[African Language Academy]

by *Adama Samassekou, President of the Académie Africaine des Langues, Chair of the Prepcom for the Geneva phase of the WSIS*

The Académie Africaine des Langues [African Language Academy] (ACALAN), whose provisional presidency was established on September 8, 2001, is a specialised scientific institution of the African Union, currently under construction, whose creation was the brainchild of the Summit Meeting of the Heads of State and of the Government of the OUA ["Organisation de l'Unité Africaine," or "Organisation of African Unity"] held in Lusaka, (Zambia) in July 2001. Its headquarters are located in Bamako, in the Republic of Mali.

(ACALAN Continued on Page 2)



In this regular column, Dr. Paul Twomey, President and CEO of ICANN will offer his views on the latest issues impacting ICANN and the Internet's DNS.

(See Page 3)

ICANN Announces First Two Meetings in 2005

ICANN is pleased to announce that it has accepted proposals to host the first two ICANN meetings in 2005. The spring meeting will be hosted by the Argentine Chamber of Databases and Online Services (CABASE) from 4-8 April 2005 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The Media and Telecommunications Department of the Prime Minister of Luxembourg and the Restena Foundation will host the ICANN meeting from 11-15 July 2005 in Luxembourg. ICANN welcomes this opportunity to involve the local Internet Communities in both regions in its upcoming meetings.

Its goal is to enhance the appreciation of African languages, with a view toward encouraging their use, and to facilitate cultural and socio-economic exchanges among African nations, thereby contributing toward the fulfillment of the African Union.

On the continental level, ACALAN is the leading resource for inspiring ideas, translating linguistic policy decisions into implementable plans, and developing and implementing more coherent, harmonious, and consensual linguistic policies.

The Final Report adopted by the meeting of government experts organised by the Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity (now known as the African Union), as held on February 5, 6, and 7, 2002 in Addis-Ababa in Ethiopia, assigned to the Académie Africaine des Langues the following objectives, among others:

- Encouragement of African languages
- Encouragement of vehicular cross-border languages
- Support for linguistic cooperation among African nations

- Analysis of language policy in Africa
- Use of African languages as factors for integration, solidarity, respect for values, and mutual understanding, for progress and for the prevention of conflicts

The official launch of ACALAN by the African Union is scheduled for 2005, but the current team handling the administrative duties for the Academy is already at work on even grander projects, including the implementation of the African Linguistic Action Plan, which was adopted in 1986; the co-organisation (along with UNESCO, the AIF, ICANN, and other partners) of a theme conference within the context of the SMSI ["Sommet Mondial sur la Société de l'Information," or World Summit on the Information Society] conference on Cultural Diversity and Multilingualism in Cyberspace to be held in May 2005, and the African Languages Year in 2006, to name just a few.

Broader use of African languages in all areas of public life will also facilitate greater popular involvement in the development process, and will ensure the encouragement of scientific and democratic culture in Africa.

(www.acalan.org)

African Languages and the Information Society

*Maxime Z. Somé, Ph.D., Editor, Recherche sur les Langues, Littératures et Civilisations d'Afrique
[Research on the Languages, Literatures, and Civilizations of Africa]*

Africa is characterized by a number of peculiarities (IDH, the lack of infrastructures, a linguistic mosaic, etc.). While the question of languages receives major attention, clear thinking is required regarding their place in the information society now being formed. Languages are the product of cultures, and they are the preferred tools of those cultures. Therefore, respect for cultures demands respect for, and the encouragement of, their languages. Specifically, all possible steps should be taken to ensure the presence of African languages on the world scene. Before a language industry is implemented, a close analysis must be performed of the geography of the languages of Africa. With the exclusion of the introduced languages (Arabic and the European languages, including Afrikaans, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Malagasy), the languages fall into 4 superfamilies (phylums). According to the latest study by Bernd Heine and Derek Nurse, Africa contains approximately 2,035 languages – one-third of all of the languages in the world – distributed among the following four superfamilies:

- The NIGER-CONGO phylum: 1,436 languages, located in the West, the central area, the East, and the South. This superfamily includes 360 million speakers. In particular, it includes the following languages: Wolof, Peulh, Manding (Bambara, Jula, et al.), Mooré, Akan, Yoruba, Igbo, Sango, Bantu (Ganda, Gikuyu, Kongo, Lingala, Luba-Kasai, Luyia, Sotho, Rundi, Shona, Swahili, Xhosa, Zulu, and others).
- The NILO-SAHARAN phylum: 196 languages, located in the Sahara region and in the East (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, the RCA [Central African Republic], the RDC [Democratic Republic of the Congo], Sudan, and Chad). This superfamily contains 31.5 million speakers, centered primarily around the Songay, Maban, and Fur languages.
- The AFRO-ASIATIC phylum: 371 languages, located in the North, the West, and the East (Algeria, Burkina

ICANN 2004 Annual Meeting in Cape Town

The ICANN 2004 annual meeting will be held 1-5 December in Cape Town, South Africa. The meetings are free to attend, and open to any interested person. ICANN encourages broad participation in its bottom-up consensus-development process. You can take part in these meetings by attending in person, by taking part in the webcast and remote participation opportunities, and/or by joining one of the various ICANN-related mailing lists.

The meetings will be hosted by UniForum SA, which are providing a local website that will give information regarding the area, the meeting, and local hotels. The meetings will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Center.

For more information, please visit <http://www.icanncapetown.co.za/>.



Cape Town, South Africa

Faso, Djibouti, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Chad, et al.). The sources are not highly reliable; however, this superfamily has been estimated to contain approximately 72 million speakers of, among others, the following languages: Hausa, Bole, Bedawi, DZI, Berber (Tamazight, Kabyle, and Tamasheq), and Afar.

- The KHOISAN phylum: 35 languages, located in the southern and eastern parts of the continent (Angola, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa). These are the Hottentot languages.

Against the background of this linguistic mosaic, the languages have developed their own dynamics, which have created a multilingual context with two possible outcomes, namely, the existence of cross-border languages (including Bambara, Peulh, and Swahili), or a language that is imposed essentially country-wide (Sango in the RCA, Wolof in Senegal, Bambara in Mali, and Swahili in several southern African countries). The coming information society would do well to consider the vitality of the languages of Africa in order to ensure true cultural diversity.

CEO'S CORNER

by Dr. Paul Twomey, ICANN President and CEO

Over the past year, ICANN staff and I have traveled to the African region on numerous occasions, complemented by ICANN Board members. What has struck me on each visit is the extensive expertise on issues surrounding the domain name system, and the importance of unique identifiers that all Internet users rely on. It is clear that African public and private sector organisations, governments, civil society, businesses and technical experts, are emerging as major players in the Information Technology and Internet space.

Of the ccTLDs that have joined ICANN's country code Names Supporting Organisation (ccNSO), ccTLDs from the African region number 11 and AfriNIC continues its path to full recognition by ICANN as the fifth Regional Internet Registry (RIR).

Numerous meetings relating to the Internet, contributing to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), and debating specific issues relating to the DNS, have been attended by ICANN staff over the past year. Activities and interest in the region have grown significantly and ICANN has recently called upon the region for input on its modes and location for a regional presence.

The meeting in Cape Town is ICANN's fourth meeting in the region – the first was held in Egypt (2000), Ghana (2002), Tunisia (2003), and now South Africa (2004).

I would like to express my thanks for the excellent articles and contributions from Adiel A. Akplogan, Adama Samassekou, and Maxime Z. Somé to this newsletter. It is my hope that the upcoming Cape Town meeting provides the opportunity for ICANN community to again share its knowledge, and for participants from the region to share with ICANN its expertise and knowledge.

I look forward to welcoming you.

ICANN BOARD MEMBER: Mouhamet Diop

Mouhamet Diop is the President of the Senegalese IT Association (SITSA), member of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), a global Alliance (<http://www.witsa.org>).

Mouhamet Diop is the CEO of NEXT SA, an innovative consulting company in Senegal (West Africa).

Prior to joining NEXT SA, he worked for SONATEL (the Senegalese National Telecom Company) from 1993 to 2001. He served as the Data Network Manager and built the biggest IP-Based network in West Africa.

Mouhamet Diop holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and Chemistry from University Cheikh Anta Diop, and a Ph. D. Certificate in Computer Science "Parallelism and distributed Systems" from University of Rennes (IFSIC).

He also holds an MBA in Finance from ESSEC (Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) at Cergy in France in 1993.

Mouhamet graduated from ENST de Bretagne in Telecommunications.

Engineering: "Computer Science and Networking" France, and holds a telecom engineering degree from ESMT Dakar obtained with highest honours in 1990.

Mouhamet Diop is the Permanent Secretary of ISOC Senegal Chapter.

He is also an ITU, UNIDO expert for the development of Telecommunications and ICTs in developing countries.

He is involved in the Afrinic process to set up a new emerging RIR and in the IDN committee.

ICANN BOARD MEMBER: Njeri Rionge

Highlights of Achievements:

- Instrumental in taking Internet concepts to wide range of corporate and individual user in my seven (7) year in industry and created a niche market for my previous employers.
- Achieved for Inter-Connect Ltd, growth sales in 2 years of 500% per annum or 23 times nearly 5 times the corporate target and the company's previous sales before leaving and establishing Wananchi Online Ltd, as co-founder.
- Instrumental in Broadening the Internet Market for affordable Internet Services to the Mwanachi by the reduction of prices from Kshs.72, 000 to Kshs.12, 000
- Spearheading an Internet educational series on KTN Television in line with our vision to see Internet services available to Kenyans with the fruition of e-commerce in the near future.
- My experience has both a local and international perspective having worked for International companies in US, North America and Europe.
- Promoted African Arts to the American Market in eleven states thru the Black Expo Conference.

I have been involved in presentations and participated in Conferences / Workshops for Venture Capital in Africa, ACT 2000 ICT in Emerging Markets, All African Business Women E-Commerce in Kenya, African Business Forum Service Industry in Africa An Internet Industry Perspective, Kenya Internet Society Digital Divide Africa, World Summit Digital Africa Focus on emerging markets a telecommunication perspective and entrepreneurship scheduled for early next year.

Countries of Work Experience: Kenya, Italy, Spain, Canada, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

Areas of passion, interest and training: Predictive Index (PI), a tool/method for Job Mapping Profiling with Competence simply put identifying the right job for the right profile/individual, Lead Auditor (ISO 9001:2000) business systems audits and Corporate Governance, these are the most effective and enabling management tools that any executive management individual can benefit.



ICANN Board Member,
Mouhamet Diop

Mouhamet Diop is the Representative of the African Private Sector in the Bamako Bureau for the preparation of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).

He is also the Private Sector Representative in the Senegalese "Task Force" for the WSIS.



ICANN Board Member,
Njeri Rionge

Njeri Rionge is Co-Founder, Chief Executive Officer of Wananchi Online LTD. (www.wananchi.com) a leading IP Communications Solutions Provider.
Memberships: Organisation of Women in International Trade (OWIT), All African Business Women (AABA), Kenya Woman Finance Trust (KWFT), Urukundo Investments co founder and ex-chairperson. Njeri is also a member of American Business Association (ABA).

ICANN AT-LARGE *By Denise Michel, Executive Director*

To give the world's Internet users a stronger voice in how the Internet develops, a new mechanism was created last year for individual Internet users' participation in ICANN called "ICANN At-Large." Any group (either existing organisations or newly formed for this purpose) that enables informed participation by individual Internet users in issues addressed by ICANN can apply for "At-Large Structure" certification. Interested groups complete and submit to ICANN's At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) a short application form, and groups that meet the minimum requirements are certified for At-Large participation.

At-Large provides crucial contributions to ICANN's work on such matters as guidance on how internationalised domain names (use of non-ASCII characters to enable "local language" domain names) are implemented, and how additional new top-level domains (i.e. .info, .name, .museum, etc.) are introduced -- to name two issues of importance to end-users.

User groups in Africa are encouraged to get certified, and Africa's At-Large participation is growing. The Moroccan Internet Society (based in Morocco), Anais.AC (based in Cameroon), the Sudan Internet Society (based in Sudan) and the Internet Society Congo (DRC) have been certified as At-Large Structures. A variety of organisations in Africa and throughout the world have expressed interest in participating in ICANN as part of the At-Large community, including local networking groups, professional societies, consumer advocacy groups, and academic organisations. Certification is free, easy, and done via email. For more information and an ALS application form see <http://www.alac.icann.org/applications/>.

In the other four geographic regions, fourteen more groups have been certified as "At-Large Structures" to date:

- Società Internet (based in Italy; Europe region)
- Arab Knowledge Management Society (based in Jordan; Asia/Australia/Pacific region)
- Alfa-Redi (based in Peru; Latin America/Caribbean Islands region)
- FITUG (based in Germany; Europe region)
- Internet Society Luxembourg A.S.B.L. (based in Luxembourg; Europe region)
- Internet Society Bulgaria (based in Bulgaria; Europe region)
- Internet Society - Finland (based in Finland; Europe region)
- Catalan Chapter of the Internet Society - (based in Spain; Europe region)
- Asociación Costarricense de Derecho Informático (based in Costa Rica; Latin America/Caribbean Islands region)
- Internet Society Vasudhay Kutumbhikum (based in India; Asia/Australia/Pacific region);
- ISOC Taiwan Chapter (based in Taiwan; Asia/Australia/Pacific region);
- At Large@China (based in P.R. China; Asia/Australia/Pacific region); and

- National Information Infrastructure Enterprise Promotion Association (based in Taiwan; Asia/Australia/Pacific region)
- Internet Users Network (based in Japan; Asia/Australia/Pacific region).

Certified groups are wholly independent from ICANN. "At-Large Structure" certification simply recognizes that the groups meet ICANN's criteria for involving individual Internet users in ICANN activities and for promoting individuals' understanding of, and participation in, ICANN. Being certified as an "At-Large Structure" provides groups with:

- A recognized role in Internet policy making on issues that affect Internet end-users;
- Quick and easy access to first-hand information on ICANN events and debates;
- Opportunities to provide their members with ICANN's educational resources and developments;
- Interaction with other groups in the same region and/or with common interests;
- Representation within ICANN at the regional and international level;
- Opportunities for group members to serve on ICANN's regional and international decision-making bodies;
- A free web page and other Internet-based mechanisms to support their work; and
- Opportunities to receive grant funding to support selected group activities.

ICANN At-Large used grant funding to bring leaders of Africa's individual Internet user communities to the ICANN conference in Carthage in 2003. They attended workshops on the design, operation, coordination, and governance of the Internet, and met with technical, commercial, civil society, and governmental leaders and Internet experts, as well as other African Internet community leaders.

The ICANN meeting in Capetown in December 2004 will include an At-Large meeting with end-users from the Africa region, as well as policy discussions and workshops featuring issues of interest to the At-Large community, including a Workshop on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and a Workshop on Internationalised Domain Names. All of these events are free and open to the public and interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

To help with At-Large organising, and to work with At-Large Structures in advising ICANN on pending issues of interest to end-users, ICANN created the 15-member At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) last year. Current ALAC members from Africa are Pierre Dandjinou (based in Benin), Clement Dzidonu (based in Ghana), and Sunday Folayan (based in Nigeria). They can be reached by sending email to committee@alac.icann.org.

For more information on At-Large, visit the ICANN At-Large website at www.alac.icann.org. Questions or comments on At-Large should be emailed to committee@alac.icann.org.

Send comments or subscription requests to:
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