

# ICANN UPDATE

Volume 1, Issue 1, July 2004

## UPCOMING EVENTS!

19 – 23 July 2004  
**ICANN Meetings**  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
<http://www.icann.org>

23 – 30 July 2004  
**South Asian Network Operators Group (SANOG) 4**  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
<http://www.sanog.org>

28 - 30 July 2004  
**Ripe NCC Regional Meeting**  
Nairobi, Kenya  
<http://www.ripe.net>

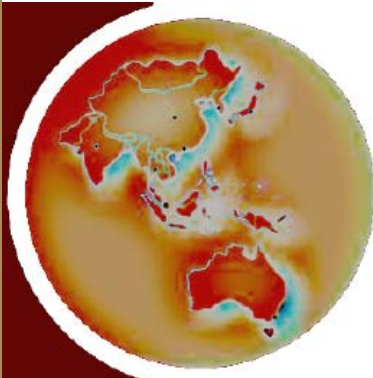
1 – 6 August 2004  
**Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) 60**  
San Diego, CA, USA  
<http://www.ietf.org>

31 Aug – 3 Sept 2004  
**Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) 18**  
Nadi, Fiji  
<http://www.apnic.net>



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## ICANN MEETS IN KL AS INTERNET USAGE IN ASIA REACHES RECORD LEVELS

ICANN, the global organisation responsible for managing and coordinating the Internet's Domain Name System is meeting in Kuala Lumpur 19-24 July, amidst reports that Internet usage in Asia is growing at an increasing pace, and that ICANN's model of public-private partnership is succeeding.

The current ICANN meeting follows closely upon the release of an OECD report concluding that "ICANN's reform of the market structure for the registration of generic Top Level Domain names has been very successful. The division between registry and registrar functions has created a competitive market that has lowered prices and encouraged innovation. The initial experience with competition at the registry level, in association with a successful process to introduce new gTLDs, has also shown positive results."

Internet usage across Asia has been bolstered by the continued uptake of broadband, including satellite broadband. By the beginning of 2004, the total number of broadband connections worldwide had

exceeded 100 million, with Asia accounting for 44 percent of this total. Satellite broadband provides increased access to the Internet even in those areas not accessible by traditional infrastructure. Should Internet usage across Asia continue to grow at its current rate, it is likely that the region will account for the majority of Internet users worldwide within the next few years. The impact on business growth and innovation across the region will be tremendous.

*"By the beginning of 2004, the total number of broadband connections worldwide has exceeded 100 million, with Asia accounting for 44% of this*

Today, over 63 million domain names have been registered worldwide with new registrations hitting an all-time-high during the first quarter of 2004, many using Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLD's). Uptake of ccTLD's accounts for 40 per cent of domain names currently registered worldwide. Growth of the gTLD market is also reaching new heights. Nowhere is this growth more apparent than in Asia. ICANN looks forward to holding its public meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, one of Asia's industry and technology leaders.

## CEO's Corner



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

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"IDN Workshop to be Held on 21 July 04 in Kuala Lumpur"

The full-day workshop will begin with a tutorial session, followed by presentations focusing on knowledge-sharing and studies from particular geographical regions.

"Draft Criteria for .net now under consideration"

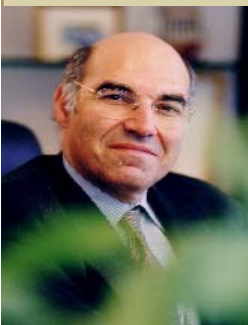
The draft .net re-assignment criteria have been posted on the ICANN website to provide an opportunity for public comment.

"ICANN Posts Proposed FY 2004-05 Budget"

The final budget is subject to additional Budget Advisory Group and Finance Committee reviews and to public comment.

"2004 Nominating Committee Begins Work with New Chair"

At its Board meeting in Rome, ICANN announced the appointment of Jean-Jacques Damlamian as Chair of the 2004 Nominating Committee. ICANN welcomes Jean-Jacques to his first meeting in Kuala Lumpur.



Jean-Jacques Damlamian

# WHOIS DEBATE CONTINUES . .

The ICANN community is grappling with issues of privacy and use of personal data as it struggles to reach a consensus among various stakeholders on how to change the rules governing the "WHOIS database." Ultimately, the outcome will affect people who register generic top level domain names, such as .org or .biz, throughout the world.

When you register a domain name, you provide a domain name registrar ("registrar" - the company providing the domain name registration) with your personal contact information, as well as administrative, technical and, in some cases, a billing contact. This contact information is accessible to anyone with Internet access through the online WHOIS search tool that is available on the web sites of all ICANN accredited registrars. ICANN requires all accredited registrars to include this contact information in the public, online WHOIS database.

The WHOIS database was launched about twenty years ago to assist with technical management of domain names. Today, the WHOIS database is a resource for Internet users, registrants (individuals and companies that register domain names), registrars, businesses, Internet service providers, intellectual property holders, governmental law enforcement, and consumer protection agencies. For example, WHOIS data is used by: registrars to validate requests to transfer a domain name to someone else; individuals and companies who use it to find out if a domain name they want is available; law enforcement agencies to investigate illegal activities on the Internet; and intellectual property rights holders to contact individuals or companies that may be violating their intellectual property rights (to name but a few uses of the WHOIS database).

Unfortunately, today the WHOIS database also is abused. WHOIS information is used to send unsolicited commercial emails (known as "spam"), is mined and sold to third parties for marketing purposes, and is accessed by individuals with unlawful or malicious intent, for purposes such as identity theft and hijacking domain names.

In an effort to update the rules governing the WHOIS database and strike the right balance between privacy of personal information and appropriate access and use of WHOIS data, a policy development process was launched in October 2003. ICANN's GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) formed three separate task forces comprised of representatives from a variety of stakeholders to address three critical issue areas:

- Restricting Access to WHOIS Data For Marketing Purposes (WHOIS Task Force 1);
- Review of Data Collected and Displayed (WHOIS Task Force 2); and
- Improving Accuracy of Collected Data (WHOIS Task Force 3).

On 28 May, the three GNSO WHOIS Task Forces posted preliminary reports on their findings, and asked for public comments. The reports are available at <http://gns0.icann.org/>. Public comments and policy recommendations will then be compiled into a final report, which is expected to be considered by ICANN's GNSO Council (the policy-making body of the GNSO) at the Kuala Lumpur meeting 19-23 July.

Restricting Access -- Task Force #1 is charged with building on a previous GNSO recommendation to prohibit the use  
(continued on next page)

## New sTLD's Evaluation Process Underway *a Special Report by Miriam Sapiro*

In December 2003, ICANN opened the beginning of an application period for new sponsored top level domains (sTLDs). The decision to begin this process was made with the goal of continuing the expansion of the domain name system, thereby introducing further choice and competition into top-level domain markets.

As a private-public partnership, ICANN is committed not only to preserving the operational stability of the Internet, but also to promoting competition in ways such as this. The first seven 'generic' TLD's, (gTLDs), were introduced in the 1980's -- .com, .edu, .gov, .int, .mil, .net and .org. Today, .com, .net and .org are among the most commonly used TLDs within Internet addresses worldwide. The success of these initial gTLDs has led to increased interest in further development of the top-level domain space.

In 2000, ICANN decided to introduce seven additional TLD's -- .biz, .info, .name, .pro, .aero, .coop and .museum. The last three are called "sponsored," because they devolve some of ICANN's policy making authority to sponsoring organizations representative of the communities that they

are intended to serve, in this case the aviation community, the cooperative community and the museum community. These were the first gTLDs introduced into the domain name system in over a decade.

Following their success, ICANN decided to initiate further expansion of the DNS, with new sponsored gTLDs. Ten organizations have applied to establish sponsoring organizations for the following nine TLD's; .asia, .cat, .jobs, .mail, .mobi, .post, .tel, .travel, .xxx. Parts of the applications are posted at <http://www.icann.org/tlds/stld-apps-19mar04/stld-public-comments.htm>.

The applications include detailed information about the extent to which the proposed sTLD represents a defined community, as well as the applicant's business/financial plan and technical expertise. As an organization that encourages public input and participation, ICANN invited the public to comment on the applications. That period ran from 1st April 2004 to 14th May 2004. These comments may be seen at <http://www.icann.org/tlds/stld-apps-19mar04/stld-public-comments.htm>. The applications are now undergoing rigorous evaluation by a team of independent evaluators.

Further information about the results of the Evaluation will be posted on the ICANN website as soon as it becomes available.

The ICANN Nominating Committee invites Recommendations and Statements of Interest from the community as it seeks qualified candidates for the following positions:

- 3 members of the ICANN Board of Directors
- 1 member of the Council of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
- 3 members of the Council of the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
- 2 members of the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

Candidates should be women and men with a high level of qualifications and experience with an international outlook. Those individuals selected by the Nominating Committee will have unique opportunities to work with accomplished colleagues from around the globe; to address intriguing technical coordination problems and related policy development challenges with diverse functional, cultural, and geographic dimensions; to gain valuable insights and experience from working across these boundaries of knowledge, responsibility and perspective; and to gain the satisfaction of making a highly valuable public service contribution. Submissions will be handled confidentially and should be received by 6 August 2004 for full consideration. Selections will be made in October with service beginning in December 2004. For more information, see the NomCom's Formal Call for Candidates and Statements of Interest at <http://www.icann.org/committees/nom-comm/>.

# Global Partnerships

FOCUS IN THE REGIONS

ICANN's mission and mandate is global, which means it must be able to respond to individuals, organizations, and governments from ICANN's 5 regions, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, Africa and North America, and create an ability for all to participate. In fact, all those participating through ICANN's three Supporting Organizations, five Advisory Committees, and ICANN's Board must be geographically diverse, such is the unique nature of the ICANN Process.

Consequently, with a wide diversity of participation, and a wide diversity of needs the organization has to be able to respond to all within its area of responsibility. So it will come as no surprise that ICANN as a global organization must be globally present – that means, accessible and available within a time frame and language area reasonable to the respective regions.

As the organization matures, and works towards completing its Memorandum of Understanding with the US Department of Commerce, it is responding to community interest to establish minimal, but effective and efficient presence in the regions. The first of these initiatives is with the opening of the office in Brussels. A small office in size and staff, it's in the time zone reasonable to many. Examples of what the Brussels office sees on a daily basis include not only its support work for ICANN's Supporting Organizations (with the Vice-President for being present there), but also ccTLDs on delegation and redelegation issues, inquiries from registrars, ISPs, private sector organisations, governments, and civil society, on particular needs as well as general ICANN information. This is certainly welcomed by those eager to avoid the 4 am call to make an inquiry about a matter ably handled at a time zone convenient to them.

Given its location, the Brussels office is able to see and discuss Internet and ICANN related issues practically on a daily basis as Brussels is the buzzing capital of the European Union where almost all countries of the world have Embassies or Delegations and where many private sector players have representatives.

(Whois Debate continued from Page 2)

of bulk access to WHOIS data for marketing by directly addressing the issue of marketing uses of WHOIS data obtained through Port 43 and web-based access. Through the use of "data mining" processes, large numbers of WHOIS records are easily available for marketing purposes, generally on an anonymous basis (the holders of this information are unknown). The Task Force's preliminary report recommends steps to allow registrars and registries to protect domain name holder data from data mining for the purposes of marketing, including requiring the requestor of WHOIS information to identify itself to the WHOIS provider and state the reasons for which it seeks data.

Review of Data -- Task Force #2 is addressing domain name holders' concern about privacy, both in terms of data that is collected and held about them, and in terms of what data is made available to other parties. In its preliminary report, the Task Force attempts to balance the needs and rights of registrants to keep their personal information from wrongful access and misappropriation while enabling legitimate uses of the data elements and respecting the needs of those requesting access to the data. Its recommendations include changes to the WHOIS policy regarding notice to registrants on the possible use of WHOIS data and how the data will be shared.

Improving Accuracy – Task Force #3 is charged with developing mechanisms to improve the quality of contact data that must be collected at the time of registration. Its preliminary report includes an initial list of matters requiring further consideration and proposed best practices. For example, the Task Force recommends that ICANN should work with and assist registrars in developing, in consultation with other interested parties, "best practices" concerning the "reasonable efforts" which should be undertaken by registrars to investigate reported inaccuracies in contact data.

## INTERVIEW WITH ICANN BOARD LIAISON: Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi

**Q: What can delegates expect from the Malaysia meeting?**

**MST :** All the ICANN meetings have a significant impact on the Internet community, specifically those in the region where the meeting is held. Much of the discussion will relate to issues of interest in this region such as IPv6 and Internationalised Domain Names (IDN). These are issues of great interest for the region due to the rapid pace of development by leading Asia Pacific countries such as China, Japan and Korea.

**Q: What are the main aims of the GAC forum and plenary meetings?**

**MST :** The GAC forums are intended to be information sharing sessions attended by government representatives who wish to be enlightened on developments surrounding the Internet and domain name system, in particular. Often industry experts are asked to make short, simple presentations in an open session where people can present views and exchange ideas. I think we are all aware that Governments are increasingly called upon to play an active role alongside the private sector and civil society participants in a multi-stakeholder partnership on Internet issues.

**Q: Of the countries and organisations that belong to the GAC, how many will be participating in the GAC forum?**

**MST :** We currently have over 90 members comprising of governments, distinct economies as recognised in international fora and international governmental organisations. We continue to receive applications and I am confident more will be joining in Kuala Lumpur. Physical participation in meetings usually poses budgetary challenges for many, including governments. Not all 90 can attend physically but an increasing number of governments are choosing to expend resources to send representatives to GAC meetings. In addition to face to face meetings which are held in conjunction with the ICANN meetings, we meet regularly online for discussion and have global conference phone calls. We anticipate a large attendance in KL given the increasing interest shown by global governments' on matters relating to the Internet.

**Q: As a local resident, what is your favourite local attraction and why?**

**MST :** I would probably say the 'teh tarik stall' with a WiFi hotspot. There are many types of 'teh tarik' and many standards. Basically, 'teh tarik' literally translated is 'pulled tea'. Actually, it is tea mixed with condensed milk, put into two containers and then alternatively between the two containers, 'stretched through the air' until a bubbly froth is obtained. It's like a 'latte' but much more interesting. There are also the 'night markets' which can be busy, but lots of fun.

**Q: Malaysia is well known for its fine cuisine. What is your favourite local restaurant and why?**

**MST :** If you know Malaysians, you will know we like our food. We're blessed with a multicultural heritage and our food is also multicultural and sometimes even cross cultural. People talk about 'fusion food', well; we 'fused' a long time back. So, I honestly cannot say that I have a favourite local restaurant because I have so many; depending on the type of food it serves. We can have 'nasi lemak' (rice with some hot sauce with anchovies) for breakfast, 'hor fun' or noodles for lunch, 'satay' (barbecued meat over charcoal fire) for dinner, 'chapatti' or 'roti canai' (a form of flat bread) for supper. The real question to ask is "What do you want to eat?" and I will tell you where to go!



**Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi**

is currently the Senior Advisor in the Office of the Chairman, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), the regulator for the converged communications and multimedia industry in Malaysia.

Sharil was responsible for leading new development initiatives in the MCMC. Internationally, he is actively involved in various international speaking and training engagements with various international intergovernmental organisations.

He is the current Chairman of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) in ICANN and a member of ICANN's Board of Directors. GAC is currently comprised of 91 governments, distinct economies and intergovernmental organizations in the world interested in domain names and internet matters.



# ICANN AT-LARGE

## SPECIAL

### THANKS!

**Gerard Ross,  
APNIC**

**Dr Abhisak Chulya**  
for volunteer  
translation assistance  
on behalf of the Thai  
Internet Community

## LOOKING AHEAD at Future ICANN Newsletter Topics:

*Registrar  
Round-up*

*Budget Update*

*Spotlight on  
Latin America*

*Preview of  
ICANN's December  
Meetings in  
Cape Town*

## ICANN Opportunities

ICANN has an  
immediate job opening  
for a  
**CHIEF REGISTRAR  
LIAISON**

For More Information,  
please visit:

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Or Send an Email to:

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ICANN Opportunities

“ICANN At-Large”, a new mechanism for individual Internet users’ participation in ICANN, was launched late last year to ensure the voices of individual end users from all geographies had their views taken into account during ICANN decision making. Their advice is sought by the ICANN Board and policy groups via an “At-Large Advisory Committee” (ALAC) that works with end-user groups throughout the world.

End-user groups have identified numerous matters currently under consideration by ICANN on which individual users’ voices need to be heard. These include privacy issues in relation to the WHOIS database, the use of non-ASCII characters to enable “local language” (“internationalized”) domain names, trademark and domain name dispute settlement, and the introduction of new top-level domains such as .info and .name.

Groups that involve individuals in Internet issues and meet the simple criteria will be certified as “At-Large Structures” and achieve:

- A recognised role in Internet policy making;
- 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.

At-Large Update: One of the fastest growing regions for At-Large participation is Asia/Australia/Pacific. Four groups in this region recently were certified as At-Large Structures: For more please visit [www.alac.icann.org](http://www.alac.icann.org).

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

- Società Internet (in Italy; Europe region)
  - Alfa-Redi (in Peru; Latin America/Caribbean Islands region)
  - FITUG (based in Germany; Europe region)
  - Internet Society Luxembourg A.S.B.L. (in Luxembourg; Europe region)
  - Internet Society Bulgaria (in Bulgaria; Europe region)
  - Moroccan Internet Society (in Morocco; Africa region)
  - Anais.AC (in Cameroon; Africa region)
  - Sudan Internet Society (in Sudan; Africa region)
  - Internet Society - Finland (in Finland; Europe region)
  - Catalan Chapter of the Internet Society - (in Spain; Europe region)
  - Asociación Costarricense de Derecho Informático (in Costa Rica; Latin America/Caribbean Islands region)
- At-Large Structures in each region are expected to work together in a Regional At-Large Organization (RALO). Five RALO’s, based in Africa, Asia/Australia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean, and North America, are expected

## CEO's Corner

It has been an interesting and challenging year since I took office as ICANN’s new President and CEO. As an organisation ICANN has seen substantial change, significant progress and increased global participation. I’m extremely pleased with the team we now have in place, who together with the Board and community are molding a vision and a plan for ICANN to move forward.

Specifically, the IANA function is being renewed. Automated tracking and process control tools are being developed and implemented in order to enhance service to our stakeholders and turnaround times continue to improve.

ICANN has continued to successfully complete all of its objectives to date under its Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Commerce. ICANN has so far completed seven tasks from the MoU on time, and is on or ahead of schedule to complete all of the remaining work items.

In addition, the ccNSO has been formed and (while ccNSO membership is in no way a prerequisite to a ccTLD formalising its relationship with ICANN) there is now a long sought after Supporting Organisation to provide a voice for ccTLDs within the ICANN structure.

ICANN has published a budget for the next fiscal year that will provide the resources to enable the provision of new and improved services.

As many of you well know, ICANN has been heavily involved in the recent debate surrounding the usage and contents of the WHOIS database – registrar and registry databases storing the details of every person who has registered an Internet Domain Name. ICANN’s Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) has formed three task force groups assigned to consider the three key issues surrounding this debate. Final reports have been submitted to the GNSO Council. The Council will present their conclusions to the board.

Looking forward, we anticipate receiving the application for recognition from AfriNIC as a fifth Regional Internet Registry, and the further deployment of IDN in the Domain Name System.

In conclusion, this new ICANN Update is an opportunity for members of the community to participate further in the ICANN process by sending in suggestions for future topics to be discussed and we will try to get appropriate answers and updates. Given that this is our first effort at producing such a newsletter, we are keen to take suggestions and feedback. Enjoy the meetings in KL, and for those who are attending in person I look forward to spending time with you.