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## **Jordan Moves One Step Closer to Using Arabic for Entire Internet Address Names**

**Washington, DC... April 21, 2010...** The Kingdom of Jordan has successfully completed the second step in a three step ICANN process aimed at bringing non-Latin based language scripts to an entire Internet address name.

As part of ICANN's "Internationalized" Domain Name (IDN) program, Jordan has successfully completed the "String Evaluation" step on its way to having Arabic script used for the top level domain (TLD), which is the last portion of an address name – the part after the dot such as dot-com and dot-org.

"We are exceptionally pleased that Jordan has decided to be among the first countries to embrace our desire to internationalize the Internet with the IDN program," said ICANN Chief Executive Officer and President, Rod Beckstrom. "This takes us one step closer to seeing Arabic used in the entire Internet address name for entities throughout the Kingdom of Jordan, and we hope that translates to a dramatic increase in Internet users."

The IDN program is rolling out in stages. During an October meeting in Seoul, South Korea, the ICANN Board approved a "Fast Track" system for a limited number of IDNs. Initially, IDN TLDs will only be allowed on a limited basis where country codes are used at the end of an address name, such as dot-jo (for Jordan) or dot-ru (for Russia). Eventually, the use of IDNs will be vastly expanded to all types of Internet address names.

“ICANN has received a total of 21 requests for IDN ccTLDs (country code top-level domains) through the String Evaluation process, representing 11 languages,” said Tina Dam, Senior Director of the IDN program. “Jordan now joins 11 other countries in passing the String Evaluation phase and moving on to the final stage in the approval of their respective IDN submissions.”

The final step in approval of an IDN ccTLD is called “String Delegation.” This is when a given country or territory submits a formalized application asking that an IDN be brought into the Internet’s domain name system (DNS) root zone and where a final determination is made as to who will operate the domain.

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To read more about the IDN ccTLD Fast Track, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track>

To see a complete list of the countries/territories that have passed string evaluation, go here: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/string-evaluation-completion-en.htm>

#### **About ICANN:**

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet’s unique identifiers. ICANN doesn’t control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn’t deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet’s naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. **For more information please visit:** [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org).