

ME DNS Forum 2018 Program Committee

Call 1 – Tuesday 6 March 2018

The first call for the Middle East DNS Forum Program Committee kick-started their first call to prepare for the 2018 edition on Tuesday 6 March. On the call, we had from the PC Ahmed Bakhat Masood, Bashar Al-Abdulhadi, Nadira Alaraj, Rafik Dammak, Sezen Yesel, and Wafa Dahmani. And from ICANN staff, we had Fahd Batayneh. We had a noted apologize from Baher Esmat who was traveling at the time of the call.

The agenda for the first call was:

1. Summary of past forums;
2. Suggested session formats for this year's forum; and
3. Suggested hot topics based on hot topics discussed at ICANN

Fahd welcomed everyone to the call, and gave a summary of past forums. He explained the format of the sessions, and shared statistics on attendance. He shared the composition of the different sessions, and the breakout sessions that were offered over the years.

Nadira felt the forum was doing well. She liked the formats, and the topics discussed.

Bashar suggested parallel tracks, and some in-depth sessions on certain topics like security. Some on the call felt that diving deep into some topics might not be of interest to some. Fahd suggested that we need to keep in mind that this is a “DNS” forum, and that whatever comes on the agenda must be DNS-related. It must also be non-technical since there are other tracks such as business/marketing and legal. Ahmed echoed that the forum has other tracks like business and legal.

Bashar was clear that he would like to go beyond the registries and registrars of the industry, and seek new stakeholders like registrants and end users.

Rafik asked about the objective and scope of the forum, and about the stakeholder breakdown. Fahd answered that the objective of the forum is to mobilize the DNS industry in the Middle East, and at the same time raise awareness on ICANN and its mission in hopes that new faces join ICANN's PDP.

Fahd also spoke about the outreach done prior to each forum. Sezen spoke about their efforts in mobilizing the local community in Ankara to the forum. She also suggested that BTK will send out invitation letters to relevant stakeholders.

Fahd brainstormed the format of the sessions and whether we are happy with exploring the new format. Overall, the group was satisfied with the 3 formats; i.e. 1) Panel Discussions with a

moderator and 4 panelists maximum, 2) Breakout Sessions, and 3) A keynote, followed by 1 or 2 speakers to debate the presentation, and the opening up the floor.

Nadira asked about translation, and was answered by YES.

Wafa suggested to dive deep into some of the PDP work happening at ICANN such as work stream 5, the retirement of country codes... and the like. It was suggested to keep in mind to select topics that would be of interest to all and not to a specific audience. Rafik asked about having ICANN policy staff attend, or even community members leading relevant working groups. Fahd answered that this is possible, yet to keep in mind that such people must be booked in advance.

Ahmed suggested IDNs and UA to be part of the agenda. Fahd said that Universal Acceptance is a big topic at ICANN, and having it on the agenda is a good idea.

Nadira asked about timelines, and Fahd answered that we would like to have a almost final agenda with a list of speakers before the end of March.

Finally, Fahd suggested having the next call the week after ICANN61, and fix a date and time for a call once every two weeks.

The call was adjourned.