Biyi Oladipo (.ng)

ccNSO Council Member
African Region

You took your seat as vice-chair on the ccNSO Council at the end of ICANN64 in Kobe. Could you tell us a bit more about your experience to date as member of the ccNSO Council, or as one of its vice-chairs?

"Though it is still very early days, as a new member of the council of the ccNSO and it has been a period of learning and getting in tune with the responsibility and the expectations of a council member. I believe there is so much to learn, and I am warming up to that challenge.

I guess I have had a dressed rehearsal as I was a liaison before taking up a council seat and as such, I believe I am well prepared. It is still the period of getting acquainted with the routine and I am coping well."

In your view, what is the importance of the ccNSO for ccTLDs?

"In my opinion, the ccNSO has 3 importance for ccTLDs, firstly, it is the platform within the ICANN Ecosystem where ccTLDs can meet and network and discuss issues and challenges faced by ccTLDs.

Secondly, the ccNSO is a ground for cross fertilization of ideas on best practices, both Technical and Commercial information. The Tech day program has helped, and it is still helping many ccTLDs set up and effectively manage their technical infrastructure and ensure they have a very effective registry. On the commercial part, the information sessions by various ccTLDs sharing successes and failures in marketing and such things that affect the viability of their name strings has been very invaluable to most ccTLDs.

Thirdly, the ccNSO is the voice of ccTLDs within the ICANN Ecosystem. It is the ccNSO that harmonizes and passes on the opinions of the cc Community in the larger space. Such things as Policy formulation for CCs in the larger community as well as participation in Cross Community work etc. As a body of Country Code TLDs, the ccNSO harmonizes the thoughts of the Community and passes on to the larger ICANN Community. Without the ccNSO, I believe the CC Community will be too fragmented to be effective in affecting events in the larger ecosystem."

What do you see as the major challenges and work items for the ccNSO council the next months or perhaps even years ahead?

"Just like all the other parts of ICANN, I think a major challenge in the coming months and years is for the ccNSO to start developing new sets of individuals who would carry on the work of the ccNSO. A few initiatives have started on this especially the ccNSO Mentoring Program, I think this needs to be intensified and sustained so as to pave the way for the next generation of "ccNSO-ers" that will expand the work of the ccNSO."

How can ccTLDs contribute to the work of the ccNSO?

"The work of the ccNSO requires quite a lot of inputs and contributions from members. As such, individual ccTLDs need to participate fully both by allowing their personnel and affiliates join the various working groups and committees as well as contribute to all the policies and activities of the ccNSO.

Also, ccTLDs could support the activities of the ccNSO by providing sponsorships as at when due. While this might vary depending on the financial strength of the ccTLD, I believe having a constant pool of financial support would go a long way to support the programs of the ccNSO especially the networking events."

Anything else you prefer to mention?

"A concentration on capacity building, peer reviews and sharing of ideas and best practices will go a very long way to building the strengths of ccTLDs assisted by the ccNSO. I am looking forward to contributing my little bit to further the course of the ccNSO and to increase my participation in cross community activities."