

**Muhammed Rudman (.ng)**  
*President NiRA*



**You recently took your seat as president of NiRA, the .ng ccTLD manager, but have been actively involved in this industry for many years. Could you tell us a bit more about your experience to date as president for .ng?**

“So much has been done towards the development of the registry and the .ng brand by my predecessors; my challenge is to see how we can improve the current trajectory in domain registration. I’m also learning that it is not easy to lead a community-based organization which involves addressing the need and interests of diverse stakeholders. The experience is quite humbling and rewarding.”

**In your view, what is the importance of the ccNSO for ccTLDs in general, and for the .ng ccTLD in particular?**

“ccNSO provides the platform for ccTLDs to collaborate, network, and interact with each other for the exchange of ideas and best practices in all spheres of registry operations. Through these interactions, so many smaller registries such as the .ng has benefited

immensely from the experiences of larger registries in areas of policy, business, and technical infrastructure management. The community is always at hand to give support; folks always cordially provide answers to all my questions, especially in the early days of the .ng registry operations. Additionally, due to our engagement in the ccNSO, the .ng has benefited in capacity building and sharing of ideas. We look forward to higher levels of engagement and are willing to contribute more to the work of the ccNSO.”

**What do you see as the major challenges and work items for the African ccTLD community the next months or perhaps even years ahead?**

“Africa is highly diversified, as such the need to harness this diversity is a significant challenge for African ccTLDs. Unlike other very well developed ccTLDs, African ccTLDs are mostly in the infancy stage and need to work together to assist each other in the path of growth. The AfTLD has been involved in the process of helping to bring together ccTLDs in Africa. However, these efforts need to be intensified, and the ccTLDs in Africa have to be ready to embrace these efforts. Most African ccTLDs have high rates of staff turnover due to poor remuneration, especially engineers moving frequently to private organizations after acquiring skills and knowledge from trainings offered by the various ccTLDs and the AfTLD. Hence, there is need for improved salaries and other benefits to retain talents. Another potential problem I see is that the next few years will have growth challenges for African ccTLDs, especially in the face of stronger competition from both old and new gTLDs who were more developed, organized, and better funded than Africa ccTLDs.”

**How can ccTLDs contribute to the work of the ccNSO?**

“I believe through more active volunteer work of the ccTLD community as well as providing the necessary financial support as agreed by members. “

**Anything else you prefer to mention?**

“As a technical person, I always look forward to TechDay and meeting the members of the ccTLD community during ICANN meetings.”