YESIM NAZLAR:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO monthly call taking place on Thursday, the 19th of September, 2019, at 0600 UTC. On our call today we have Satish Babu, Maureen Hilyard, Kaili Kan, Syuzan Marukhyan, Ali AlMeshal, Waleed Khaliqi, Amrita Choudhury, Tomohiro Fujisaki, Aisyah Shakirah Suhaidi, Raymond Li, Pavan Budhrani, Suhaidi Hassan, Amir Qayyum. Currently we don't have anyone on the Chinese channel.

We have received apologies from Bikam Shrestha, Hong Xue, Lianna Galstyan, Holly Raiche, Justine Chew, Gunela Astbrink, Mili Semlani, Ananya Singh, and Yasuichi Kitamura. From Staff side we have Silvia Vivanco, Gisella Gruber, Sarmad Hussain, Alperen Eken, and myself, Yesim Nazlar, and I will be doing call management for today's call. We will have Chinese interpretation and our interpreters are Ray and YiYi. Before we start, just a kind reminder to please state your name for speaking, not only for the transcription but also for the interpretation purposes, as well, please. And now, I would like to leave floor back to you, Satish. Thank you very much.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you very much, Yesim. This is Satish for the record. Welcome, and good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everybody here who is on the call. This is the APRALO monthly call for September. As usual, this is a busy time, and we will get started right away because we have a bunch of items on the schedule. The first agenda item is the membership pipeline. We have just certified 1 ALS and 3 individual

members that you can see on the screen. We have a pending ALAC vote for 1 applicant in the ALS, the Internet Society Rural Development SIG.

So I would like to once again welcome the new members, the Internet Governance Institute from Nepal, and the individual members, Namrata Khetrapal, Azadur Rahman Sarker, and Sahid Ali. I'm not sure if they are on this call, but we hope to hear from them in future calls. I would like to request Silvia to make introduction of a new staff member who will be working with us. Over to you, Silvia.

SILVIA VIVANCO: Hello Satish, this is Silvia Vivanco. Welcome APRALO members. I would like to introduce my colleague, Alperen Eken, he is from Turkey, based in the US. He is our newest Staff member and he is joining the At-Large Staff as Policy Advice Engagement Coordinator, and he will be assisting us part time, particularly with the ALS engagement. I would like to give you the floor, Alp, if you would like to say a few words, please. Thank you.

ALPEREN EKEN: Thank you for the introduction Silvia, and thank you Satish for the opportunity. It is Alp from Turkey, but I am based in DC now. I have civil society experience for a couple years, and also I was a Fellow of ICANN twice. I am really looking forward to working with you. Thank you so much, I hope to talk to you soon.

SATISH BABU:	Thank you very much, Silvia and Alp. Welcome to the APRALO community. We now go on to the next item. This is the invited presentation. As you are aware, At-Large has taken on the task of spreading the message of Universal Acceptance from the last ICANN meeting and today we have two of the leaders of the Universal Acceptance group, Sarmad Hussain and Harish Chowdhary. So, we have some time to listen to them and also ask questions that we might have. So, it's over to Sarmad for his presentation.
SARMAD HUSSAIN:	Thank you Satish and hello everybody, this is Sarmad Hussain for the transcript. I am here to just give you a very overview of universal acceptance of domain names and email addresses, what we are currently planning to do, what the problem is and how we are intending to staff it. As far as the vision of Universal Acceptance Initiative is concerned, obviously the goal is that all domain names and email addresses should work in all software applications. That is probably considered as something which is already expected, but when we actually go into detail, as I will show on the next screen, there are some issues with this acceptance. Of course, the main motivation behind it is that we want to make sure that we promote consumer choice, improve competition, and provide broader access to end users through universal acceptance of domain names. Next slide, please.

Just to tell you what are some of the challenges of universal acceptance, these can actually be divided into four distinct categories. The first is in some of the websites when you are typing in a domain name, they |

actually have a predefined list of top level domains against which they test your domain.

So now, since the ALS space has expanded and we have new top level domains, the checks for the new top level domains fail and so a perfectly valid domain name is not accepted. Similarly, some other web pages or applications actually have a check on how long the top level domain names are, so for the top level domain they normally put three to four letters and now the new top level domains are longer than that, and so those also sometimes fail in certain applications.

Internationalized domain names in other scripts or language continue to pose challenges for applications, and now as a fourth category, they can be email addresses using these domain names in different scripts, and many of the domain email servers will not accept such email addresses, and we've actually given an email check link here, where you can go and see whether your email server would accept somebody from internationalized email address to send you an email address, and whether you will be able to receive it. So you could probably go and check your own mail server. Next slide, please.

So, basically at the end of the day what we would want is that any application should be able to accept, validate, store, process, and display any of the domain names, and as we said, that is not always possible, and that's what we're striving to achieve. Next slide, please.

So basically, to address this, what we have done is the community has come together, they have identified the problem, and they have organized themselves into what is called the Universal Acceptance

Steering Group and that steering group is now helping to define the problem and develop tools and materials to help the community address this problem, and then also outreaching to the relevant stakeholders to address this problem. Next slide, please.

So, as we go forward, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group has identified that they want to work with multiple stakeholders which include people who are developing technology and standards, those organizations and individuals who are maintaining email software and to and to utilize these technologies to support universal acceptance and then also work with influencing individuals and organizations to spread the message and work with government entities to request them to add Universal Acceptance as a condition in the procurement policy, for example, for e-government services. Next slide, please.

The way Universal Acceptance is organizing its work is they actually have a few global working groups focus on technology, internationalized email, measuring where we area and communicating the messages. So these are global working groups, communities organized in these working groups under UASG. In addition to that, UASG is also wanting to create local impact, not just global impact. So, eventually whatever technology gaps are identified, they need to be translated and transmitted to local technology developers.   So they are also considering starting local initiatives in different countries so that we can really make progress on the ground. Next slide, please.

So, this summarizes how different working groups are going to be interacting with different stakeholders which have been identified to, in a way, influence change. Next slide, please.

So, basically I wanted to share some possible ways all of you can collaborate or contribute to this effort. Eventually this is to help all of us. As I said, we already have working groups established to focus on different aspects of Universal Acceptance. So one of the things you could do is directly sign up for one of those working groups and contribute directly. You can contribute to a local initiative in your country or even help organize it, so that we can reach out to the relevant stakeholders on the ground in the country where you live.

And then there are other things you could do, for example, you could test your email servers and make sure that you talk to your email administrators and ask them to be EAI compliant. You can even sign up, for example, a lot of, as in this part of the world have our own scripts and languages, so you can actually sign up for an IDN email and then use that to check different websites which you normally visit and see whether they accept your email address, and if not, report issued to our global support center, and we can follow up, or you can directly follow up.

Also, you can help raise awareness of what we are doing, for example, by connecting with local tech media or other mechanisms. Finally, you can reach out to influencing organizations or public sector locally, see whether e-government services are UA ready and help report any issues to the government sector, public sector as well, to request them to also support Universal Acceptance, in their procurement processes. Next slide, please.

So, those are some of the ways you can directly contribute and I'll end here. There are some pointers here, you can come join our discussion

list, which is a more general discussion list, or specifically you can join one of our working groups, these are all open, anybody can sign in at any time. Materials are available at our website, and if you need any more information, feel free to email us at info@uasg.tech. So, let me stop here, and back to you, Satish. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Sarmad, for the presentation. We will hold the questions until the next speaker is also finished. Our next speaker is UA Ambassador. Harish, are you on the call? Okay, so we hand it over to Harish. Please go ahead.

HARISH CHOWDHARY: Hi everybody. I think a lot of things are already covered by Sarmad, and thanks a lot Sarmad for making my task easy. I'm basically here to describe my experience organizing workshops including different stakeholders and most importantly the government of India, the Ministry of Electronics and IT. They have supported through organized workshops and with the help of the Internet Mobilization of India. So, we have conducted workshops in Raipur in Chhattisgarh on of the states, and Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, Lucknow and Punjab.

So basically they went on [inaudible] and now most important part is how we have done it and how the similar model can be used by other ambassadors and UA enthusiasts who really want to make the internet multilingual. So basically we have started with a very simple problem statement that during the hackathon in which participants were from different startups, m-tech and v-tech students, engineering students in

computer science, and the problem statement was to develop an application which can accept, store, process, and display all the important five parameters of UA and incorporate them into their applications.

Other part was that those who are not comfortable in developing, they could also test their applications based upon some test cases already present on uasg.tech website. But what we have suggested, you can use an email ID in local language, so I have a domain which is internet.barras and then [inaudible] script, and over email ID at internet.barras. Basically we tried to use these working email IDs in local languages and put them in different websites to register on the website. For example, somebody has tried to register on Facebook using mail@ internet.barras and Facebook said that it is an invalid email. So the next step, we have asked Facebook and similar organizations that I have a valid email ID which is mail@internet.barras and I am not able to register on your web pages.

So this is done by 300-400 students and participants, they have return mail to the different webmasters of the respective websites, and we are also getting feedback, and we are also getting replies from them that they would work on it and your ticket has been logged. So, this was one of the experiments on testing sites, but other was new development. So we have seen beautiful web applications which are actually accepting our emails in local languages and domains as well. And we have consolidated everything and created a [inaudible] of different solutions. You can find those data repositories and you can go to [inaudible] and it will give you the entire list of different data repositories and it will

give you a ready reference from where somebody could start on the development side.

We have also tried to put all the details with what kind of technologies they have used, as well as screenshots. So, that is how we were doing it, and most importantly startups in India are taking a real interest in it and they are actually, the most interesting part was that they are converting their existing web applications into the applications which are UA compliant. I am regularly getting the calls from the areas in India to conduct more and more workshops. So that is my experience and I have a lot of things to say and I'm feeling enthusiastic about it, but given the time, I would say that I have written a blog which is present on uasg.tech as well as ICANN newsletter, so you can see the blog on multilingual internet and you can email me. So, that's from me.

SATISH BABU: Thank you very much, Harish for that presentation. This is Satish for the record. We have time for maybe one question. Are there any questions on how you could use information to reach out to your local community? On chat we have Aisyah who is planning an intervention in Malaysia. So let's all wish her the best of luck with that. And it's really worth doing. Are there any questions? Harish and Sarmad, I have a question. If someone wants to localize a local level event workshop, do we have content that they can re-use, maybe translate into their own language to use?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Yes, certainly, we have a lot of content at uasg.tech website, we also have a standard presentation for all UASG and if you reach out to us, we can also help customize that work for you. So certainly I think a lot of material is available and we can also support in addition to that, thank you.

HARISH CHOWDHARY: I also want to add to it, so we have the data repository for our developers, they can use all these data repositories that we have developed in different workshops. And I also have on the testing part, I also have the screenshots and everything with me, which would suggest what to test, how to test, it is more of a black box, but I think it will be very helpful, how many applications are not UA ready, and what kind of feedback we are getting from different verticals, for example, social media, Facebook, what Facebook is saying, government organizations, it will help the entire community which is taking part in the UA.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Sarmad and Harish. I think that is very useful. I would request Silvia or Yesim to tell us on chat the email address of Sarmad and Harish so that anyone who wants to contact them, can contact them with questions or clarifications. So, not seeing any other questions, I'd like to once again thank Sarmad and Harish for coming to our meeting and providing us with a lot of information. I would again request our community to participate in any of these working groups. I am personally involved, a member of two working groups. So it is open to anyone and for our region this is a very important activity, we have so

many scripts and languages, so this is especially important for us, and please do consider participating in the Universal Acceptance Initiative.

We now move on to the next item on the agenda. This is the usual policy update. We have Holly on leave with apology today because she is not well. I call upon Maureen to provide us with the update. Over to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Satish. This is Maureen for the record. Okay, just a very brief overview for tonight in my world. We are very, very fortunate that over the last month completed three policy statements which the summaries are actually in the agenda. I think it's really important that you familiarize yourselves with the summaries, because what you're actually seeing here are the actual views of the ALAC in relation to those particular topic areas. I know Marita put some into the newsletter, it's really important if we want to get a better understanding of some of the important issues within ICANN, just even reading these, they're simple reading, we try not to make them too technical when we're doing the statements, these summaries, so they're actually geared for you.

Now, moving on, we find ourselves with only two, usually we have a big, long list of current statements that we're involved in, and at the moment we're down to two. As you will note, if you can see the agenda, Holly is involved in both of these, and that's why she was a little bit disappointed she couldn't make it tonight, but she was definitely not well enough. One of the things that she has asked Staff is something

from APRALO in relation to public comment on the next steps to improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model.

In this particular statement, the public comment is based on the discussion paper which I will put the link to the discussion paper in the chat. But it would be really good if you could have a look at that discussion paper and look there are four key areas that we're looking at, and it's strengthening the process, stakeholder participation, openness, and transparency.

So these are the four areas that we're concentrating on with regard to At-Large. Because Holly is actually penholding, she has asked if APRALO could perhaps make a submission on some of the solutions. The paper actually offers some solutions, but she has asked if you might perhaps look at other options, if you have any ideas, and that somebody might volunteer and put their hand up to collect all those suggestion, but that would be really, really helpful.

The other public comment that we're involved in is an ongoing one, of course, and that is the Subsequent Procedures issue that has been discussed for years. But, at this particular point in time it is getting close to the possibility of holding another new rounds of new gTLDs. So there's a lot of work going into trying to finish of their report at the same time.

But I also wanted to raise the fact that if you do get to attend a CPWG meeting, but you will also hear about it in Montreal, At-Large is now deciding to focus on particular policy areas so that we can develop resources and material that we can get out to our communities to help

them understand, enhance their understanding of ICANN's policy issues. It's going to be one of the roles and responsibilities of the ATLAS ambassadors that are going to come out of the training program that's going to happen in Montreal. We're looking at the top ten issues and we will start looking at ways in which we can explain these issues in various ways.

I know that at the last meeting, Jonathan Zuck had prepared a video on explaining geo names, what they are, and why it's important and why we should care about geo names. And so you'll get an opportunity to see that video and others as we produce them. But then there will be webinars and podcasts, and there will be brochures, a whole lot of different ways in which we can actually put together as a toolkit so that when you're actually working in the community, that you will actually be able to take some of that equipment along and help to explain the important issues that we need to know about, so we can actually promote it within our community. If there are any questions, I'd be happy to answer them if I can.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Maureen. Are there any questions on the policy update?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Cheryl Langdon-Orr for the record. I do apologize for my delay in joining today's call. That said, regarding these two very important things that Maureen has taken you through today, I want to reinforce a couple things. First of all, far too few of us at all in At-Large community and really hardly anybody, myself and really only one or two others, are

being actively involved in these webinars and forums that Brian Cute is running.

So if you're not actively involved in that to date, please consider doing so in the future and please also consider popping comments in via the wiki. You don't have to be part of the CPWG, just follow the link off your agenda, go to that paper on Next Steps to Improve the Effectiveness of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model, and working off Maureen's introduction to you all again today, which I believe is also building on last month's call, as well, please put comments into the At-Large wiki space dedicated to this. That means that your input, your personal opinion, or even your organization opinion can still come in in a timely manner at a critical point.

That said, just to be clear, the Consolidated Policy Working Group the CPWG Subsequent Procedures SubPro update is an ongoing workspace which is not a formal PDP or Subsequent Procedure PDP activity, it is an activity of the CPWG which makes it a very important exercise and it's a good opportunity for more of you to become involved because this is almost an exercise in working out how the CPWG can also best collect information from the edge communities and deliver it into some form of meaningful opinion pieces or policy points and directions ALAC and At-Large to you.

And if you find Maureen's invitation to join the CPWG call, it's probably important, Maureen, to just let them also know that the call times rotate and because they rotate through some popular times, we have at least two of those calls at times which could suit those of us in the most western part of those of us in the eastern part of the APAC region. Not

so far east as Maureen, because she's a day before and the night before. But the rest of us shouldn't have too much problem. You should be able to make every few calls, if not all of them. Thanks very much for indulging me.

SATISH BABU: Thank you Cheryl. Are there any other questions or comments? Right, so not seeing any other comments, we will now move on to the next agenda item #5. APRALO Update. So the update that we have for this meeting is the kickoff call that we had for the APRALO Rules of Procedure Review Working group. You can see the review working group wiki page onscreen now. The fundamental issue that we are looking at, or the focus of this exercise is the Unaffiliated Individual Member community. So we have been admitting indigent members, but our bylaws were untested in some of these areas. So there are some edge cases, some issues that need clarity, so that was the main reason for commissioning or initiating this working group.

The working group is also going to look at code of conduct for all newcomers to APRALO. We realize that we have to do a better job of handholding early or new entrants, at least during the early period of their interaction in the community, so that's also being looked at by the working group. The working group is a fairly diverse group who have been involved in some exercises earlier, more than once. We have people who are brand new. So the process is also kind of a knowledge transfer within the group, which is also an interesting development. We will be having call rotation for this working group and in case any of you

want to provide us with input, you can come to the wiki and drop your comments on this.

The timeline is about 6 months, at least tentatively, and we realize that with the Rules of Procedure, there has to be a formal adoption after vetting by the ICANN Legal, the signing of an MOU with these new procedures with ICANN, so there are several procedural steps involved, as well. So this is a nontrivial exercise. But we have started it off, and we hope we will be able to complete it within this period of six months. So, are there any questions or comments on this? The wiki page is available on your screen, you can visit it at your leisure, and if anything interests you or any problem you want to highlight, in which case you can drop it as a comment.

Moving on to Agenda Item #6, the ATLAS III Update. Before I go into that, I have Leon on the call. Leon, are you in a hurry? If you want to leave early then I can move the ICANN Board announcement one agenda up so that you can talk to us about the new development?

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you, Satish, no, I can wait happily and continue participate in the call.

SATISH BABU: Good, thanks so much. So it's over to Maureen for the ATLAS III Update.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Thank you, Satish, Maureen for the record. Thank you, Leon, I know that you want to hear about ATLAS III, that's why. Thank you very much, Yesim, Yesim has just put up on the screen the new page that's being developed for Montreal. And I'm not going to spend too much time on it, because I'd really like you all to have a look at this at your leisure. We need to look at how ATLAS is going to fit into the Monday through Thursday slot. There is so much on during the week, but on those ATLAS days, there is planned to be a plenary session and a breakout session so you've actually got an introduction and then you have another session where you're going to be working in groups.

I've been involved in hearing about the program with David Kolb, who is providing a lot of expert advice, and he's actually taking a session. He and Olivier Crepin-Leblond and Eduardo Diaz have been working together and the program is sounding really exciting for those who are going to be in Montreal. But there is also, for example Saturday and Sunday of that week-long agenda is the days that we have At-Large meeting. At an ordinary meeting we normally have At-Large meetings scattered through week, but because we're actually committing a week of the conference to ATLAS, the At-Large and ALAC members and RALOs are having to spend the weekend, Saturday and Sunday, on their activities.

But I can assure you, for those who are going to be involved in ATLAS III, there's going to be a lot happening. I think the important thing is the last bullet point, the whole purpose of ATLAS III, it's a gathering of the future leaders of At-Large, we're going to be focusing on developing and nurturing thought leaders and change agents, and it's going to be linked to the At-Large Review Process and the continuous improvement that

we want to make moving forward, based on the work that has already been done, and continuing to be done. So, as long as people know that is what they are going to be going to, and it's going to be full on work, morning to night I'm afraid, but at the same time, I think it's going to be a lot of fun, as well. So, have a look at the agenda pages here. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in Montreal. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Maureen. Satish for the record. I think several people in the call are participating in ATLAS, so this has been a very useful update. The program is more and more complete and as Maureen said, it looks like a very exciting time ahead for us. Are there any questions on ATLAS III for Maureen?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Just an embellishment if I may, Satish?

SATISH BABU: Go ahead Cheryl.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Thank you, Cheryl Langdon-Orr for the record. Just in case, obviously those of you who are supported travelers to the ATLAS III event, in which case we would tend to refer to as the ATLAS III participants, obviously you can see from this that you're going to have a busy, exciting, and rewarding time.

But fear not ladies and gentlemen, if you are an existing leader within the ALAC and At-Large and you are attending the Montreal meeting, and I've got a list of you all, so I know who's there and who's not, you are being allocated roles within each and every one of those breakout sessions, so you will be deeply engaged, you will be playing important roles, you will be given additional tasks to do, to ensure the success of the particular exercises that David is designing along with Olivier, Eduardo, and their team.

It doesn't matter if you're a NomCom appointee and you're there on ICANN's dime, if you're the Chair or the Secretary of the RALO, or if you're a serving member of the ALAC, you've got a job to do, so enjoy, I'm going to.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Cheryl. Are there any other questions? Not seeing any hands, so thanks to Maureen and Cheryl for the update. We now move on to the last item on the agenda. I was actually planning to go through the Board announcement, but we do have Leon with us, so he's the best person to talk to us, so over to you, Leon.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you very much, Satish, thank you very much everyone for having me again. As always, it's a pleasure to be on this APRALO call. The Board held its 5th workshop of the year in Los Angeles and on September 8th we had a public meeting and some of the most relevant resolutions that were passed are related to the appointments of the NomCom Chair and Chair Elect, and also the approval of the

fundamental bylaws amendment related to the composition of the IANA Naming Functions Review.

The acknowledgement of the ITUT membership and the delegation of the .eu domain in Greek script. So, this is a huge achievement in terms of internationalized domain names and extension of .eu in Greek script. We also adopted GAC advice from its Marrakech communiqué and the RALO score card. And last, but not least, we held a long discussion and a long process of selecting the new leadership for the coming year, and I am pleased to announce and happy to share with you that the Board selected as its next Chair, Maarten Botterman and as it's next Vice Chair, myself, Leon Sanchez.

So, I would like to thank you all for your continued support, for your continued guidance, and for being with me along this journey. I would not have been able to do this without you all and without support of the Asia Pacific region. Of course I am open to any questions and really, really pleased and happy to share with you this news. Thank you so much, Satish.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Leon. First of all, congratulations to Leon and Maarten for their new roles from all of us here in the Asia Pacific community, this is Satish for the record. I know that the whole community is congratulating both of you. So, thanks again, Leon, for joining us on this call, despite time. We now go on to the last time, this is Any Other Business. Are there any questions or comments that anybody would like to raise on any issue?

LEON SANCHEZ: Sorry, Satish, yes, this is Leon again. I just wanted to point that there were two webinars taken, one some hours earlier and the other day before yesterday, related to the global public interest toolkit that the Board is putting on the table as a starting point to continue building on the discussion of global public interest within ICANN's remit.

So I would definitely encourage those who were not able to attend these webinars to have a look or to listen to the recordings. I think it's a very useful discussion. I saw some of you from the APAC region in the webinars, so I would encourage you all to please listen to this recording. That will be it, Satish, thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Leon. So that's useful information. We also have the ICANN66 prep week coming up with several webinars and all of them are Asia Pacific friendly time, so I would highly recommend that before you attend the ICANN66 meeting. Any other questions or comments? I do not see any hands up. So, I would like to thank everybody for taking the time off to attend the APRALO September meeting. Have a great day ahead. And it's over to Yesim to close the call. Thank you very much.

YESIM NAZLAR: Thank you very much, Satish.   This is Yesim. Thank you all for joining today's call. This meeting is now ended. Have a lovely rest of the day. Bye bye.

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