

A brief update for the month of April 2020, from the APRALO perspective



APRALO Newsletter, April 2020



The APRALO family during ICANN60 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Abu Dhabi, October 2017.

Message from the ALAC Chair



by Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

April has been a busy month for ICANN as preparations are being made for ICANN68 - originally going to be held in Kuala Lumpur and our first regional ICANN meeting for APRALO since ICANN60 in Abu Dhabi. However due to the coronavirus pandemic, this second ICANN meeting of the year will again be a virtual meeting. Therefore the Chairs of the Supporting Organisations (GNSO, ccNSO and ASO) and Advisory Committees (ALAC, GAC, SSAC and RSSAC) have been meeting regularly and participating in surveys to make decisions about what form the next meeting will take, and for us, how At-Large will be able to participate. There will be more to tell in the next newsletter.

On the other hand, there is a growing concern at the moment relating to the pressure that volunteers in At-Large and other constituencies are feeling as they try to keep up with their regular schedule of working group meetings. Volunteers should not feel that this is an obligation while, at the same time, trying to cope with caring for their families and adapting to work-at-home situations, or as we are finding for many, loss of employment and hardship. There will understandably be those who will have to reduce their participation temporarily. Depending on how long this situation continues, another reality is that it is inevitable that we will lose members who cannot sustain the cost of internet connection - especially those in developing countries where internet costs are high yet connectivity is low. These are the real experiences for the members of At-Large and ICANN at the moment, and although it is difficult to predict what will happen in the future, we can only hope that the covid situation will right itself eventually, and that people will be able to return to their former lives or some semblance of "normality", and that they are fit and well. ICANN is looking at how they may be able to support its active participants, but another reality is that any practical support that many of our volunteers need in their real lives may be beyond what ICANN can provide. It is important at this time to prioritise the wellbeing of yourself and your family first.

See: [At-Large Priority Activities 2020](#)

Message from the APRALO Chair



by Satish Babu, APRALO Chair

In these times when the whole world is grappling with the coronavirus outbreak, I hope and wish that our community members are safe wherever they are.

The Internet has become the lifeline for most of us, and we now use it for work,

education, entertainment, economic activities, business transactions, and information, not only for each of us, but for our family members as well. Never has the Internet been so central to the lives of people as it is now.

At the same time, as professionals and volunteers engaged with the governance processes of the Internet, we must be aware of the risks posed by the cyber-attacks, which has seen an unprecedented rise in the last few months. Much like the enhanced personal hygiene measures put in place during the COVID-19 crisis, these risks call for a new regime of "cyber hygiene", which would serve to protect us and our family through this crisis and beyond.

APRALO has launched its election process leadership positions. I request all eligible voters to exercise their voting rights, and thank all contestants for stepping up. This is a month of celebrations for the holy month of Ramadan for many of us in our region. On behalf of the entire APRALO Leadership team, Ramadan Mubarak!

See: [2020 APRALO Regional Selections Workspace](#)

At-Large/ALAC Policy Comments & Advice

All of APRALO and the At-Large community are invited to contribute to ICANN public comment proceedings. For more information, please visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact [At-Large Staff](#).

The ALAC is currently developing (4) responses to public comment proceedings:

Vote [Phase 1 Initial Report of the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process](#) 04 May 2020

Vote [Addendum to the Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process \(EPDP\) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team - Phase 2](#) 05 May 2020

Comment [ICANN Africa Regional Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025](#) 27 May 2020 **AFRALO Statement**

Drafting [Draft PTI FY21-24 Strategic Plan](#) 01 Jun 2020

Have your say! To contribute to ALAC public comment, please comment on the wiki space or volunteer as penholder, and join the weekly [At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#) meetings.

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) submitted (2) policy comments since the last APRALO Newsletter:

[Revised Community Travel Support Guidelines](#)

The ALAC noted that At-Large is unique within the ICANN community in that virtually all volunteers in At-Large activities, including those involving travel, do so as true volunteers. Without ICANN travel support, the number of active At-Large participants at ICANN meetings would be few in number. The ALAC specifically commented on wire transfer and foreign exchange fees/losses, visa reimbursement, travel insurance, ICANN arranged travel, room guarantees, forced overnight delays, early check-in and late check-out, as they pertain to the successful participation of the

community during ICANN meetings.

Middle East and Adjoining Countries (MEAC) Strategy 2021-2025

The AFRALO and APRALO joint statement was the first joint RALO statement within the At-Large Community, in response to the ICANN MEAC Strategy 2021-2025. The countries that fall under the MEAC Strategy within AFRALO and APRALO provided feedback on strategy topics as security, ICANN's governance, unique identifier systems, and geopolitics.

Note: Ratified by the AFRALO & APRALO Leadership Teams and the ALAC.

See: [At-Large Website Policy Comments & Advice](#)

See: [Executive Summaries: ALAC Policy Comments & Advice](#)

See: [Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)

ICANN Update

During the month of April, ICANN:

- [Withheld consent for a change of control of the Public Interest Registry \(PIR\)](#)
- Announced [successful candidates for ICANN68 Fellowship. Since ICANN68 will be a virtual meeting, all selected candidates for ICANN68 will be deferred to the ICANN70 Community Forum, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, on 20-25 March 2021.](#)
- [Announced request for Proposal for identifying eligible contractor for Root Zone Update Process Study.](#)
- The [ICANN systems controls were validated by annual IANA functions audit](#) conducted by accounting firm RSM US LLP.
- ICANN organized a [webinar to discuss new funding projections based on the economic impact of COVID-19.](#)

ALAC Update

ALAC held its monthly call on [28 April](#), and over 70 participants attended:

1. Updates on the ALAC policy development activities being undertaken by members of the CPWG including Justine Chew from APRALO who is the SubPro Liaison to the ALAC and currently presenting weekly updates on SubPro issues. This currently includes developments in the application process for another round of new gTLDs, if it ever goes ahead.
2. A review of the ALS and Individual memberships indicate that APRALO has 59 ALSes in 29 countries, and 27 individual members.
3. At-Large working group leaders then gave updates on current At-Large 2020 Workplan activities in the areas of Post-ATLAS III Reporting (an analysis of the ATLAS III Survey results); Policy involvement (policy resource development); Capacity Building (ICANN Learn course development); Outreach and Engagement (with a focus on the new O&E virtual strategic plan); and Communication (items under the control of the ALAC Chair)
4. Leon Sanchez, the At-Large appointed Board member and ICANN Board Vice Chair then updated the ALAC on current decisions made by the Board, and invited the ALAC to provide the Board with any ways that the Board might be able to support our volunteers during COVID-19.

5. There was then a discussion on the At-Large review implementation and next steps; an initial review and discussion of At-Large at ICANN68; and a brief discussion on the upcoming ALAC elections.

Elections Update

Upcoming ALAC and RALO elections

Nominations are currently being requested for the following positions in APRALO:

1. ALAC member
2. APRALO Chair
3. APRALO Vice Chair
4. ALAC Delegate to the NomCom
5. APRALO Secretariat (this position is a discretionary appointment by the APRALO leadership)*

The schedule for the election/selection process is as follows:

- 27 April 2020 - Announcement of call for nominations and Nominee's Statement.* (Except for NARALO that requires a 30 day call for nomination starting on 9 April 2020.)
- 27 April - 8 May 2020 - Nomination period (nominations accepted for 10 working days).
- 15 May 2020 - Deadline for nomination acceptances
- 18 May - 22 May 2020 - Calls with the candidates if desired by the RALOs.
- 22 May - 29 May 2020 - Elections (If required, elections will begin no later than one week after the deadline for nomination acceptances and end no later than two weeks after that deadline).
- 2020 AGM [ICANN69] - Newly elected ALAC Members and RALOs Leaders shall be seated at the end of the 2020 AGM following the close of the Board Meeting on 22 October 2020.

See: [2020 APRALO Regional Selections Workspace](#)

APRALO Update

APRALO organised their [monthly call on 16 April](#), which was chaired by Satish Babu. During the call, Alan Greenberg presented on the work of the ALS Mobilization Work Party and its impact on RALOs; Heidi Ullrich shared details on the upcoming APRALO elections; the ALAC policy update was shared by Holly Raiche and Justine Chew; Maureen Hilyard updated on the key developments of ALAC; Justin Chew updated on the APRALO Policy Platform 2020 and next steps, initiatives undertaken by Social Media WG were shared by Shreedeeep Rayamajhi; and the nomcom update was shared by Amrita Choudhury.

APAC Hub Update

The ICANN APAC Hub organised a webinar on 28 April, where Jia-Rong Low, Vice

President Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director, ICANN APAC, discussed the [APAC Regional Plan](#) Strategic Objective 1 (Strengthen the security of the DNS and DNS root server system) and Strategic Objective 2 (Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder governance model).

While the discussion about Strategic Objective 1 focused on a more technical issue than an end-user issue, important outcomes of the strategy are that (1) the regional community is informed of the evolving root server system and how the DNS works, and (2) that stakeholders are informed, and thus gain awareness and knowledge about DNS safety and security, as well as global open Internet standards. In At-Large DNS Abuse is the key focus of At-Large policy for 2020 (and possibly beyond).

Strategic Objective 2 focuses on activities that are important to At-Large. Firstly, that the regional community must be informed about how the Internet works, as well as ICANN and its role in the ecosystem amongst the wider APAC community and secondly is what we would like to see more of in APRALO within At-Large - increased meaningful stakeholder participation,, either through being actively informed or by other demonstrable means such as participation in PDP working groups, taking on leadership positions or submitting public comments

This explanation by Jia-Rong was followed by a community discussion moderated by Edmon Chung.

NomCom Update

Amrita Choudhury, APRALO Delegate to the NomCom

Currently the nominating committee members are conducting a soft dive of the candidates to come up with a list of shortlisted candidates to conduct a deep dive. Since face to face meeting of the nominating committee members will not be possible for discussing and evaluating the candidates in the current circumstances, alternate viable options for online are being evaluated.

ALS Highlights

ISOC Islamabad organises digital debate on COVID-19 implications

ISOC Pakistan Islamabad Chapter organized a virtual debate on the role of digital technologies to combat the lockdown effects arising due to COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual event was attended by 41 members. Waqas Hassan, President, ISOC Islamabad Chapter delivered a presentation on the background, situation analysis, digital impact, trends overview and online safety measures in and then opened the floor for discussion among the members around various questions about impact on daily life, lessons learnt, role of ICTs, pros and cons of studying and working from home and national challenges.

Meeting participants shared interesting and insightful experiences related to online education experience and Internet usage patterns. There was a general consensus that online education and virtual work desks have been helpful in business continuity, however, the challenges associated with connectivity gap, quality of service, disinformation, cyber security risks and personal data protection have

become ever more evident. It is important that the Government, private sector and civil society immediately introduce fast-track, consultative and supportive measures in order to facilitate a safe and trustworthy online experience for new and existing Internet users. The community also stressed on the need to stay vigilant and follow advisories issued by Public health professionals.

ISOC Mumbai organised webinar "Work- life balance in a Pandemic: role of the Internet"

The Internet Society India Mumbai chapter organised a multi-stakeholder discussion on the "Work- life balance in a Pandemic: role of the Internet". The discussion saw 4 panelists from 4 different geographies and 4 different sectors sharing their views on how the pandemic has changed their lives and what role the Internet has played in it.

The discussion presented by the four panellists: Akshai M, a hardware engineer, Dr. Deepak Maun, an Assistant Professor in a private university, Divya Srivastava, a counsellor, Varsha Goyal, a home-maker from Netherlands and representing care economy, not only invited great interest and comments from the audience but it helped everyone realise the heartening role that the Internet is currently playing in bringing a semblance of normalcy to the world and our lives in this pandemic.

New all-women leadership team in ISOC Mumbai

The Internet Society India Mumbai Chapter conducted its election on 12 April in an online mode. Shveta Kokash was elected as the President, Sneha Tambe as Vice President and Nandita Koshal as Treasurer.

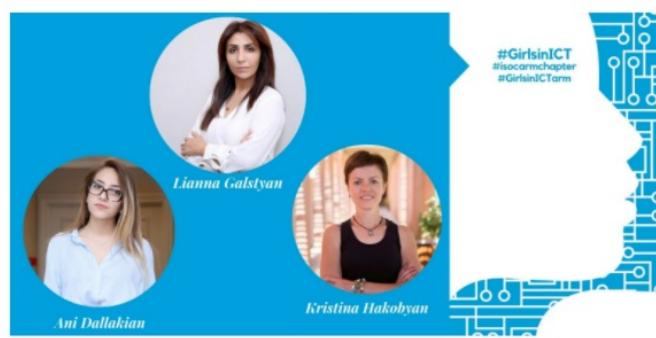
ISOC-TRV Webinar on Cyber Security

ISOC India Trivandrum Chapter organized a webinar on "Emerging Cybersecurity Concerns in the Post-COVID19 Scenario" on 22 April 2020. The resource person was Mr. Satish Babu, Chair, APRALO. Conducted over the Zoom platform, over 200 participants from different parts of India and outside participated in the webinar, which discussed the alarming rise in cyberattacks after the commencement of the COVID-19 outbreak. The webinar pointed towards the need for a new regime of cyber-hygiene, much like the enhanced personal hygiene regime that has become widespread during the current outbreak.

ISOC Armenia organized a webinar "Overcoming Digital Challenges" on "Girls in ICT" Day

On 23 April 2020, ISOC Armenia for the 3-rd year joined the "Girls in ICT" Day, initiated by the ITU, and organized an online webinar "Overcoming Digital Challenges" covering 2 topics: ICT tools in education and Digital Marketing. 60 participants of different ages joined the 2-hour webinar, followed by an hour networking. A special guest - ITU's Communication Development Bureau Director Doreen Bogdan-Martin attended the event and made a keynote speech encouraging women's involvement in ICT.

Lianna Galstyan, APRALO Vice Chair, hosted the event and announced the launch of a new Facebook group to support the network of women in tech in Armenia. Some of the ALS members also attended the event and made contributions in organizing it.



SITA Assisting Students with Online Learning during the COVID 19

Since the Government declared the State of Emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Samoa Information Technology Association (SITA) has been exploring possible windows of opportunity to assist the Samoan Government and people. SITA is a member of PICISOC.

To this end, SITA identified the education sector as one of the key areas that is being heavily affected by the lockdown. To assist the education sector, a team of SITA members developed an E-learning platform intended for Samoan children, to enable continued learning while staying at home.

SITA launched its E-learning platform with Avele College on 24th of April 2020. The Samoan Minister for the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture Honorable Loau Solomalemalo Keneti Sio presented the Keynote address while the Minister for Ministry of Communication and Information Technology Honorable Afamasaga Rico Tupai officially opened the E-learning platform.

PICISOC supports ICANN Learn studies for the Pacific

A small cohort of Pacific participants are being introduced to ICANN via the ICANN Learn courses which have been specifically developed to inform newcomers about ICANN and its responsibilities with regards to domain names and IP addresses. Thus ICANN is the Incorporation of Assigned Names and Numbers. While there have been several participants in the Pacific who have been ICANN Fellows in the past, and who are all doing great work in their home communities (for example, 5 of the 7 PICISOC Board members are former ICANN Fellows), At-Large is still lacking a strong group of Pacific participants in At-Large and ICANN wide activities. The students currently on this course come from two islands in the South Pacific - Fiji and Papua New Guinea - and are keen to learn more about ICANN and how they can participate in it.

Their first course "Registrant Basics" has been aimed at introducing these newcomers to the rights and responsibilities of registrants - the owners of a domain name and probably a website. From the At-Large perspective, registrants and ordinary end-users who may not yet be registrants, are our core interest group. Over the next month, they will be studying "DNS Fundamentals" which will introduce them to the Domain Name System, and then "Cybersecurity", which was an interest area

for many of the applicants for this programme.

The course is being supervised by Maureen Hilyard, PICISOC Board member, who takes a monthly zoom meeting to discuss course progress, and also to answer any questions that participants may have about ICANN and participating somewhere within the ICANN ecosystem. ICANN Learn courses are available for anyone and you can undertake these basic courses by applying @ <https://learn.icann.org/>

Upcoming Events and Other Announcements



The ICANN68 Policy Forum will be virtual, and held from 22-25 June 2020.

Remember to follow and [Tweet @ At-Large!](#)

Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of At-Large staff

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