APRALO Newsletter, November 2020

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

ICANN Update

In November, ICANN issued calls for memberships for the following activities:

- [Chair of Phase 2A GNSO EPDP](#) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, by 23 November 2020
- [Chair of the Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) Work Track](#), by 30 November 2020
- call for membership of the WT, by 30 November
- [Community Representatives Group to Select Independent Review Process Standing Panel](#) by 4 December 2020
- [SOs/ACs to nominate Fellowship Program Mentors and Selection Committee Members](#), by 31 January 2021

The ICANN Office the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) published a paper titled, "[The DNS Core Census](#)".

The fifth Eastern European Domain Name System Forum ([EEDNSF](#)), organized by ICANN and [Caucasus Online](#), was held virtually between 18-19 November. The key topics for this year's program were:

- Regional focus on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and Universal Acceptance (UA)
- ICANN's [Identifier Technology Health Indicators (ITHI)](#) and Health of the DNS Ecosystem
- DNS Operations and Security and Business Continuity for Registries: A Regional Approach

The [2020 LAC Domain Names Week](#) was held virtually between 23-27 November. Themed "Understanding the Ecosystem and Learning New Opportunities", the event included a day for the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community, two policy, technical and business days, and two days dedicated to interactive exchanges.

ALAC Update

The [ALAC monthly meeting](#) took place on 24 Nov.

The ALAC welcomed the new ALAC members, including [Sarah Kiden](#) - AFRALO, [Pari Esfandiari](#) - EURALO, [Sindy Obed](#) - LACRALO, and [Greg Shatan](#) - NARALO.

In addition, updates were provided on the following activities:

- ALS and Individual member applications
- ALAC policy activities
- [At-Large 2021 work plan activities](#)
- [ALS Mobilization WP Final Report](#) and next steps, including ALAC ratification vote
- The FY22 Additional Budget Request Schedule and Next Steps
- Leon Sanchez, ICANN Board Vice Chair provided an overview of ICANN Board activities

There was also a presentation from Brian Gutterman, Program Manager, Strategic Initiatives, from the ICANN Registrant Rights Program on "[Issues and Challenges Impacting Domain Name Registrants Report](#)". The presentation was the first in a new series of guest speakers to be invited to speak to the ALAC during ALAC Monthly.

The [At-Large Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG)](#) is leading the process of prioritizing ICANN recommendations (including WS2, ATRT3, MSM, et al) from the Internet end user perspective.

Policy Update

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.

Have your say! To contribute to ALAC policy activity, please comment on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as penholder, and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

The APRALO Community can also participate in selected policy-related discussions being taken up from a regional perspective through the APRALO Policy Forum. For more information, please visit the [APRALO Policy Forum workspace](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) submitted (4) statements since the last APRALO Newsletter:

- [IANA Naming Function Review (IFR) Initial Report](#)**OFB-WG**
- [DRAFT PTI and IANA FY22 Operating Plan and Budgets](#)**OFB-WG**
- [Recommendations for Early Warning for Root Zone Scaling](#)**CPWG**
- [Proposed Amendment 1 to the .JOBS Registry Agreement](#) **CPWG**

The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (1) ICANN Public Comment proceedings:

Drafting [Recommendations for ICANN's Root Name Service Strategy and Implementation](#) 08 December 2020 **CPWG**

In addition, the ALAC is drafting [ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures and ALAC Minority Statement for SubPro PDP Final Report](#).

See: **[At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice](#)**
See: **[Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice](#)**
See: **[Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG)](#)**
See: **[At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG)](#)**

APRALO Update

The [APRALO monthly call](#) was held on 17 November.

During the call, APRALO ALAC Member Justine Chew provided an update on ALAC/At-Large policy activities. The ALAC Chair, Maureen Hilyard, provided an update on ALAC activities and ICANN69 action items, as well as [ICANN Public Meeting Strategy Survey](#) and a brief update on the proposed amendments to the .JOBS agreement.

There was a discussion on APRALO Mentorship program by Satish Babu, APRALO Chair and Ali Almeshal. Information on the APRALO Policy Platform was shared by Satish and Justine, followed by a brief discussion on ALS Mobilization WP Final Report and next steps.

ALAC Chair Update

Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

November was reasonably quiet after the hustle and bustle of three weeks of ICANN69 in October.

But the recent ALAC meeting demonstrated that there is still a huge lot of work happening in the policy working groups, ,the Consolidated Policy Working Group (the CPWG) and the Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG). As you will see in the Policy update these WGs have presented several statements on ICANN policy issues during the month. The OFB-WG has recently come under new Chairmanship, as Ricardo Holmquist has had to leave the Chair due to the commitments of a new job. Our own Holly Raiche will take over as the Interim Chair until we can encourage someone else to take on this role. The OFBWG will have an important role in the next month, helping RALOs develop their FY22 additional budget requests (ABRs) for projects that will enhance their work on behalf of ICANN. A subgroup of the OFBWG is the Finance and Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) which is a group of RALO representatives who will act as guides for RALOs as they prepare their ABRs for presentation to the initial consideration by the OFB-WG and then for a final decision by the FBSC as to whether it will be sent to ICANN's finance committee for their consideration. In order to prepare the FBSC for their guidance role in their RALOs, they will be receiving training from the At-Large staff and the Finance Committee on the criteria and requirements of a successful ABR application.

The ALAC recently appointed Oksana Prykhodko from the Ukraine to represent them on the Selection

panel for the NextGen appointees for the next three ICANN meetings. Of special interest to us in APRALO, the mentor from At-Large is Aris Ignacio, who has had a long connection with At-Large and the ICANN Fellowship programme. But it is his current connection with a tertiary institute and his ongoing support of the youth in IGF activities which made him an excellent choice by the ALAC Appointments Committee for the role of mentor for this graduate section of our Fellowship programme. Congratulations to Aris and we know he will do a great job.

Aris Ignacio

Another development for ICANN will be a review of the results of the ICANN meeting survey. We recently received the results of the survey for each of the constituencies as well as ICANN overall. Here is a summary of the At-Large results, compared against the results of ICANN overall. The results show that At-Large is very much aligned with the results from other parts of the ICANN community. The Chairs of the Supporting Organisations and Advisory Committees will meet together with the CEO and Board Chair and other key ICANN staff and Board members, on 3 December to discuss the future of ICANN meetings, mainly based on the outcomes of the survey. So, more on that in our next newsletter.

Finally, at the November ALAC meeting, the At-Large community was able to meet up with the new members of the ALAC - Sarah Kiden (AFRALO) who is already known to many of you as she is the current Fellowship mentor representing At-Large; Greg Shatan (NARALO) also someone who is well known to those who attend the CPWG members. Greg has been an ALS member for years, but as an Intellectual Property lawyer his membership of the IP section of the GNSO was well understood, but he has decided to commit himself to his role with his ALS as well as his connection with the Accessibility SIG; Pari Esfandiari (EURALO) is no stranger to the internet space but more in the world of business and Sindy Obed (LACRALO) comes with a strong educational background. There was no change to the group for APRALO as one of our key CPWG contributors, Holly Raiche was re-elected for another two-year term on the ALAC. You can see the photos and SOIs of the new At-Large Advisory Committee on the At-Large website.

APRALO Chair Update

APRALO Chair, Satish Babu

The month of November was another very active month for us, with the global IGF being conducted as a virtual edition. The IGF has seen several important modifications, with the IGF-Plus process as well as the voluntary commitments being two of the most important ways of improvements. The IGF posed time zone issues for some of us in our region, but the discussions were engaging.

For us in the APAC region, another important capacity building process was APSIG. The 2020 Virtual Edition of APSIG was successfully completed last week. APSIG brought together 55 Fellows from 24 countries in the region and outside. The initiative is important because it helps in enhancing the number

of Internet Governance practitioners from the region, feeding into different processing including ICANN and IGF.

APRALO is launching a mentoring program as part of our leadership development process. This initiative will be led by our former Vice Chair, Ali AlMeshal. The next steps in the program will be announced shortly on our mailing list.

We are reaching the end of a very eventful year. My best wishes to those of us who are celebrating the festive season!

APRALO Policy Forum Update

APRALO ALAC Member, Justine Chew

The APRALO Policy Forum was launched in late September 2020 as the space to facilitate informed, inclusive regional position development on issues within ICANN's remit. While it has attracted more than 15 members so far, we continue to invite not only more RALO members to sign-up but an increase in participation from those interested in contributing regional perspectives to ICANN policy development process discussions. In the last 2 months, the APRALO Policy Forum had 6 items on its agenda, including 3 call for public comment proceedings on the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Draft Final Report, Reference Label Generation Rulesets (LGRs) for the Second Level, and the Preliminary Issue Report on a Policy Development Process to Review the Transfer Policy.

In the coming months, the APRALO Leadership Team will ask for feedback on how to ease and increase participation in this Policy Forum, along with volunteers to help drive 2 related projects, namely a Regional Inventory of Skills and Interests and a Regional Hot Topics Survey 2020-2021.

Please visit The APRALO Policy Forum for more details on how you can participate in the work that this Policy Forum undertakes.

APAC Hub ICANN69 Readout

The ICANN APAC Hub organised the ICANN69 Readout on 19 November where an overview of the meeting was provided by Jia-Rong Low followed by updates from the different SO/ACs and working groups by community leaders from APAC. Heather Forrest, RPM PDP WG provided and overview of the Review of Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPM) PDP; Cheryl Langdon-Orr, SubPro PDP Co-Chair shared an overview of Subsequent Procedures (SubPro) PDP Discussions; update on UA/IDN Discussions was presented by Dr Ajay Data, UASG Chair; update on RSSAC discussions by Hiro Hotta, RSSAC Member; updates from At-Large by ALAC Chair Maureen Hilyard; GNSO updates from Pam Little, GNSO Council Vice Chair; GAC Perspectives by Pua Hunter, GAC Vice Chair and the youth perspectives of the meeting by Manju Chen, Youth4IG. The open discussion was facilitated by Edmon Chung, APAC Space Community Facilitator.

IGF2020 Update

The fifteenth Internet Governance Forum - vIGF2020. was held online. The overarching theme this year was 'Internet for human resilience and solidarity" and the four main themes were: Data, Environment, Inclusion and Trust. For the first time this year there was a Youth Summit, Environment as a main theme, overarching policy questions to guide thematic tracks and a call for voluntary commitments from IGF participants to further the goals of the IGF.

The meeting this year was held in two phases: phase 1: 2-6 November and phase 2: 9-17 November. The 12 day event was attended by 6136 participants from 173 countries. There were 275 sessions. Phase 1 had pre events, Dynamic Coalitions (DC), open forums, NRI Collaborative sessions, Youth Summit and networking sessions. Phase 2 had high level leader's track, Parliamentary roundtable, main sessions, workshops, Best Practice Forum (BPF) sessions, networking sessions.

The leadership of At-Large and APRALO actively participated in the IGF as speakers, session organisers. Several of our ALSes organised sessions or spoke in sessions. See the At-Large 2020 IGF workspace for additional details.

For more details [IGF 2020 Summary](#), [IGF 2020 Messages](#), [Closing UN Press Release](#), [IGF Output documents](#) and the [session reports](#) and [final report](#) from Geneva Internet Platform and Diplo Foundation.

APRALO Community Engagements into the virtual IGF 2020

APRALO Vice Chair, Nadira Al-Araj

The end of the IGF2020 witnessed the end of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) term of APRALO Vice Chair Lianna Galstyan serving 3 years in that role. Luckily for the appointments by the UN Secretary-General for the MAG 2021, Amrita Choudhury was appointed into the MAG along with returning MAG member Gunela Astbrink, to ensure APRALO is well represented. The purpose of the MAG is to advise the UN Secretary-General on the programme and schedule of the Internet Governance Forum meetings. Also, the MAG is responsible for organizing the Main Sessions. As such, Lianna Galstyan was involved in organizing the Environment Main Session. 2020 was the first year that environmental issues have been given priority and had a Main Session and High-Level Leaders Session dedicated to the issue.

APRALO members participated and spoke in several sessions during IGF2020 Satish Babu, APRALO Chair was invited as a speaker for "The IGF and linguistic diversity: challenges and achievements and possible next steps" for his expertise in the area of the pre-IGF online discussions on various aspects of the IGF's mandate and evolution. Amrita Choudhury was a panelist in the session: WS #180 "Trust, Media Ethics & Governance During COVID-19 Crisis".

Maureen Hilyard ALAC chair, as one of the coordinators to the Dynamic Coalition on Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy, invited Cherie Lagakali, the ALS PICISOC chair, to share the status of the Pacific Islands.
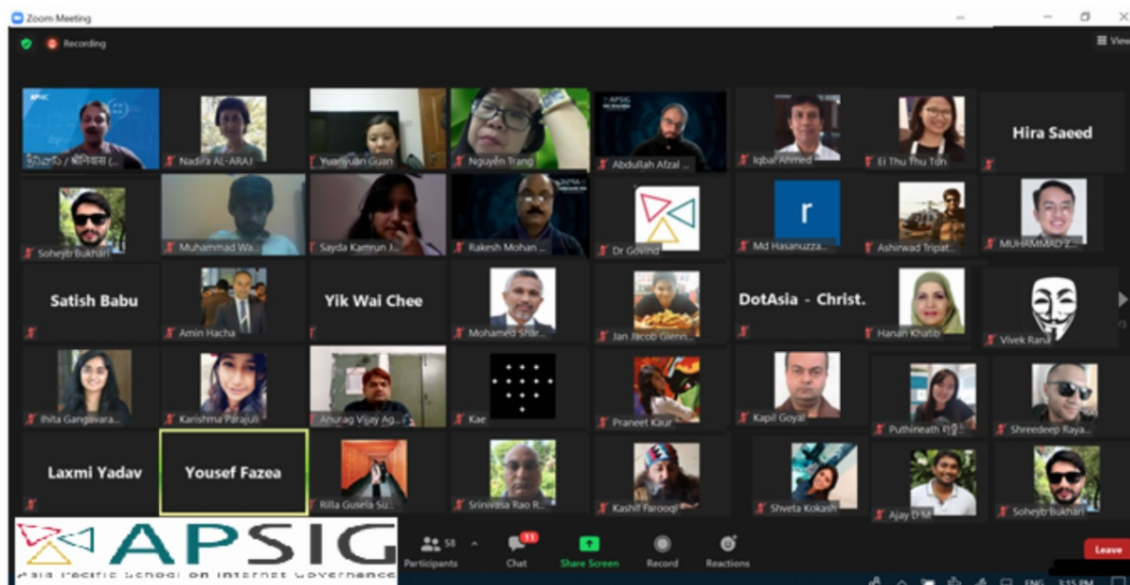
In collaboration among the different RALO, ALS leadership and at at-large community, Nadira AL Araj organized a session with Tijani Ben Jemaa WS# 204 "IGF 2020 WS #204 Internet Data Protection Under Different Jurisdictions". In addition, Narine khachatryan with Glenn McKnight organized WS #107 "Educational Opportunities & Challenges in Times of Crisis" and invited many of the at-large community to be speakers on these workshops.

APRALO ALS and its unaffiliated members do engage into the different activities Shreedeep Rayamajhi had a booth of the ALS Learn IG in the IGF village. APRALO unaffiliated member Jaewon Son organized the WS#273 "Enhancing sustainable computing, production & consumption" and was a speaker in WS #122&20 "Data to Inclusion: Building datasets in African Languages" and he was a mentor for IGF Youth Ambassadors.

Lastly, the APRALO Youth community participated in the Pre-events ('Day-0 sessions') and Youth IGF 2020 Summit Ihita Gangavarapu, Mohammad Atif Aleem and Shradha Pandey with different roles Organizer, moderator and Panelist/speaker.

I can't say this is comprehensive news about APRALO members participation because it is only based on who responded to the form that was circulated to the APRALO community list.

APRALO ALSes Update

Successful conclusion of APSIG2020

The Fifth School of Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance 2020 ([APSIG2020](#)) was held virtually over 4 days, Day Zero on Nov 21st and the actual program between Nov 26 to 28th. Fifty five Fellows from 24 different Asian and the pacific countries. The keynote speaker was Anriette Esterhuysen, MAG Chair, IGF, who shared some of the outcomes of the virtual IGF 2020.

APSIG currently is supported by APASA and its constituents (DotAsia, APNIC, ICANN, Internet Society), Article 19 and .ORG.

Spread out over a Day 0 and three main days, APSIG 2020 consisted of 12 sessions. These included most of the important emerging areas as well as the core technology and policy areas of Internet Governance. Speakers from many prominent institutions, including IGF, ITU, ICANN, APNIC, Internet Society, APC, Article 19, DotAsia, Software Freedom Law Centre, Tifa and ICRIER and Access Now interacted with the participants. The speakers also included community members and young practitioners.

Upcoming Events

- UUM InterNetWorks Research Laboratory and ISOC-Malaysia are organizing the 6th International Conference on Internet Applications, Protocols and Services (NETAPPS2020) to be held virtually on 2-3 December 2020. The event will be be broadcasted on [Facebook Live](#).

Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of ICANN Staff