

YEŞİM NAZLAR:

Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening to everyone. Welcome to the APRALO Monthly Call, taking place on Thursday, 21st of January, 2021 at 6:00 UTC. On our call today, we have Satish Babu, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Holly Raiche, Gopal Tadepalli, Lianna Galstyan, Ali AlMeshal, Priyatosh Jana, Herb Waye, Pavan Budhrani, Suhaidi Hassan, Justine Chew, Nadira Al-Araj and Amrita Choudhury. We currently don't have anyone on the Chinese channel. We haven't received any apologies for today's call.

And from staff side, we have Heidi Ullrich, Gisella Gruber, Jia Rong Low, Seher Sağıroğlu and myself, Yeşim Nazlar. And I'll also be doing call management for today's call. As you know, we have Chinese interpretation. And our interpreters are Ray and Sandy.

And before we get started, just a kind reminder to please state your names before speaking, not only for the transcription but also for the interpretation purposes as well, please, in case someone joins our Chinese channel. With this, I would like to leave the floor back over to you, Satish. Thanks so much.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Yeşim. Welcome to our first call of the year. The last year has been an extraordinary year and this has disrupted many of our plans. And the whole world, and especially our region, has still not recovered from the setback. We are maybe limping back to normal in some cases.

---

*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

---

At least one of us has had the vaccine, which is great news. Hopefully, many others also will be having it shortly—maybe over the next three to six months’ time—which opens up the possibility of some face-to-face meetings, maybe in the third or fourth quarter of the calendar year, which will be a welcome change. But of course, the tragedy is that until the whole world is safe, nobody is really safe. So that’s kind of the thing. And we are not sure how or for what length these vaccines will protect us.

On the whole, it’s been quite an extraordinary period, the last nine to 10 months. And the next few months are also going to be roughly the same, I suppose. I’d like to welcome everybody who’s joined this call. And I noticed that at least one of our participants has woken up in the middle of the night with an alarm. So welcome her for being here with us.

Today, we will be discussing, down the agenda, some of our plans for the current year—basically, the starting point for discussion. And then, we will refine these and get some of our leaders to work on these areas.

With that, I’d like to go to the next agenda item, which is membership. We have no pending membership requests as of now.

And therefore, we move to the agenda item number three, which is our regular policy update. It’s over to Holly and Justine. And I’d like to request staff to ping Maureen. Maureen has informed us that she will be participating but I don’t see her on the call. If we can ping her, that would be good.

---

HOLLY RAICHE: She's just joined.

SATISH BABU: Oh. Great.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Sorry I'm late.

HOLLY RAICHE: Okay. Why don't I start with the policy and then Justine can join in. The items are actually listed but I'll start with discussion, basically noting that we had the CPWG, Consolidated Policy Working Group earlier today. To start with, there was a bit of a discussion. The policy looked at the priority activities. What's been done is to carve up policy and reporting into five areas in this policy update.

The actual policy advice, Carlos has been ... I've forgotten Carlos's surname but he's been in charge of policy advice on operational, finance, and budget. I'm, so far, the acting chair so that's my area. The outreach, Daniel looks after. Capacity building, Joanna looks after. And operations, Maureen looks after. It was just one of those areas where Jonathan said we've got to refine how we develop policy as ALAC. So for people who are interested, that's the way that we split it up.

Now in terms of updates on where we're up to, two areas. One is the Expedited Policy Development Process. There's not much happening there. There are a couple of outstanding issues. This is the EPDP that's been going on for at least a couple of years. But one of the, I would say,

---

longstanding issues ... It's shortened as legal versus natural. The issue is whether the requirements for not releasing personal data, or at least releasing personal data very carefully and only in certain circumstances, applies to both natural persons and corporations or legal persons or not. So how that is handled is still one of those issues that's being discussed in the working group.

And related to that is email addresses for the registrant and whether they're public. And the related issue is whether the email address can be anonymous or pseudonymous, meaning you don't provide your real name but you provide a pseudonym. Those two issues are still being debated by the working group.

SubPro, the Subsequent Procedures, I will let Justine talk to that. Suffice to say that we finalized an ALAC statement, which is a response to the actual working group. Where we're up to now with that is contemplating whether, and in what circumstance, and what we say—whether we have a statement to the Board as well on the issues that have been identified as concerning end users.

Now, in terms of outstanding, we have no real report on the proposed policy recommendations for the retirement of country code TLDs or the SSR2.

Public comments. Again, the first is whether we provide advice to the Board on Subsequent Procedures.

There was also a lot of discussion this morning on what's called the Operational Design Phase Concept Paper. This was a paper that was developed to work through ... Once a PDP, a policy development

---

process has been completed and its recommendations accepted by the Board, for some circumstances—particularly something like the EPDP—the implementation is going to be a very complex issue. And before the process of implementation is undertaken, the idea was that there should be a process to say, “We actually have to work through, now ... Now that we’ve accepted policy in principle, how do we implement this? What is it going to cost? What’s the best way to ensure that the outcomes are missed?” So there was a paper developed on that.

What has come out of the operational design phase, they took a recommendation and have come up with a paper that was supposed to reflect the idea of once there is a policy decision, that the issue go to a group of specialists with particular expertise to work through how implementation happens.

The paper that has been developed to reflect that general concept, apparently—and I’ve actually read the paper—does not reflect what was originally intended. So the comment that ALAC is considering would be that the actual paper that’s been developed puts too much emphasis on the role of the GNSO and GNSO liaison and not enough emphasis on the original intention of a process, which was to make sure that the process of working through how to implement a policy is done through a group of people with particular expertise and consulting with their own constituencies. That kind of group of experts and consulting with constituencies doesn’t seem to be reflected.

So what Alan has done, with Hadia, and then comments by Justine and myself, is to critique this Operational Design Phase Paper to say the original concept was fine. But in fact, the paper that’s been developed

---

doesn't reflect the original concept and it should be amended, such that the actual implementation ... This is not a process to develop policy. But the process to work through how you implement policy should, again, ensure consultation with all stakeholders and, indeed, should involve the expertise of various experts in the area.

So I commend that to you. We've got a couple of days to comment. And as I said, there were plenty of comments there and you're welcome to them.

Now, where we're up to in the Operating and Financial Planning Draft for the Financial Year 2022, we've been meeting. And perhaps, Cheryl would also like to say a word or two. One of the tasks has been to go through recommendations from various inquiries and prioritize them in terms of what recommendation's coming from the CCT Report, the ATRT2; which, in our views, are the most important and prioritize them; and then, add a couple of things like how important are they to us raise—how important, one, two, or three—or the ease of implementation.

So that's a very brief rundown. I'm happy to take questions. But first, I will invite Justine and Cheryl. If either of you want to add, Justine, about the SubPro and where we're up to or, Cheryl, where we're up to with the Operating and Financial Plan and Draft Financial Year 22.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Thanks, Holly. Just two very brief points to add to what Holly has said. In terms of Subsequent Procedures, we've gone through the motions with CPWG, which as ended up recommending a statement for the ALAC to

---

ratify—and that has been done—that addresses eight issues within the Subsequent Procedures realm, recommendations within eight topics within the Subsequent Procedures Final Report. I’m not going to go through what the eight are but they’ve been extensively discussed in CPWG. So there shouldn’t be any issues there. But in any case, the ALAC has ratified the statement and it has been submitted as an appendix to the final report of Subsequent Procedures.

I would like to also mention that we had a call with ... When I say “we,” I should specify that it’s a call between the leaderships of GAC and ALAC, as well as the topic leads for Subsequent Procedures. Basically, it was an opportunity for us to discuss with the GAC the issues that we have raised in our ALAC statement to the final report and also the plans for ALAC to draft and transmit and advice to the Board on Subsequent Procedures. There is no timeline fixed for that particular piece of advice to go to the Board. And therefore, the conversations with GAC will continue here on.

Just in relation to the Operational Design Phase Concept Paper that Holly spoke of, I should point out that this is something that ICANN does at the initiation of the ICANN Board. So it’s something that ICANN undertakes to provide information to the ICANN Board in respect of implementation aspects of consensus policies that have been adopted.

It doesn’t impinge on the work of the Implementation Review Team. So every time a consensus policy is adopted, there is also another mechanism called the Implementation Review Team, which actually undertakes implementation of the policy. But what this Operational

---

Design Phase initiative that ICANN Org is spearheading is actually to, in concept, supplement what the IRT is supposed to do.

So it doesn't impinge. It doesn't preclude the IRT's work but supplement, in my opinion anyway, because many of the policy recommendations that come out from PDPs do not necessarily provide a lot of guidelines or implementation details. So they are meant to just have policy highlights at policy-level recommendations.

But it is absolutely vital that ALAC comments on this because the shift between the first version and the second version of this paper has clearly excluded the opportunity for communities and also stakeholders that is outside GNSO Council to monitor and to intercede on this plan, or this implementation initiative—the implementation design initiative. And that's something that we think that we should try to bring back onto the table. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Holly and Justine. Does Cheryl want to add anything? I see that you typed that you don't have anything.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

I think anything I wanted to pick up on ... Satish, anything that I thought might be worthy of picking up on, Justine's done an excellent job of. I think she clarified just a couple of points Holly made. So I think we're in good shape. Thanks.



SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Cheryl. Before I move to the next agenda item, I see that Jia Rong is on the call as well. I'd like to welcome Jia Rong. We have used his very significant input for the preparation of our Outreach and Engagement Plan for the year. So good to have you on the call, Jia Rong. We now move to the agenda item number four, which is the ALAC update and ICANN 70. Over to you, Maureen.

MAUREEN HILYARD:

I'm so sorry. I couldn't unmute myself. Thank you, everyone. I'm sorry I came in a little bit late. But I don't think I missed too much and I certainly enjoyed the update that's been given.

From the ALAC point of view, I think one of the really important things for us, as an introduction to the year, is remembering that the At-Large Work Plan, which Holly, Justine, and Cheryl have explained what's happening at the CPWG and in the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group. There are two core groups that look at a lot of the work that's happening within the ALAC. And there's some excellent things happening in those two groups. With regards to the Operations, Finance, and Budget Working Group, just as Holly mentioned, Cheryl's special small group that is looking at a prioritization process for Workstream 2.

There is also another working group called the Finance and Budget Subcommittee, which is looking at the additional budget requests that are coming. They should have come in by now. But they're the sort of requests that RALOs were allowed to make for additional funding for

---

activities that they might want to hold during the upcoming financial year, starting in July.

So we're going to be considering those over the next week and then the budget requests which the Finance and Budget Subcommittee decide on as acceptable to—fits all the criteria for ICANN, fits all the criteria for At-Large. And we will forward those to ICANN's Finance Committee. So that's a really busy time for us at the moment, in that particular area.

And of course, the other big thing that we're going to be working on over the next few weeks, of course, is the ICANN 70 meeting. This is really important because we've got LACRALO holding their GA, just as in the last meeting, we had EURALO being assigned some time to hold theirs. And they held some very interesting sessions relating to the area in which the meeting was to be held. And LACRALO is also proposing to hold some sessions, which I'm hoping that At-Large will support so that we can actually give LACRALO the support of the region and the activities that they're proposing to run.

And one of the things about the ICANN meeting, too, is that we've been through various versions of ICANN meetings over the last year. And for this year, for our first meeting, it's going to be a little bit different, in that there's going to be a prep week. I don't know too much about the prep week. And we're going to launch the ICANN 70 meeting [inaudible] there together.

But during the actual conference week, it's going to be four days. And I think each day is around about six hours long so it's not as onerous. And I think that the feedback that came back from the previous meetings

---

really has helped to ... It's given ICANN a better idea of how people have actually felt about the meetings and what would make a better meeting format. And this is what they've come up with, with regards to making that a more comfortable conference for us in a virtual setting.

So we do want to become involved in the plenaries. We'll have our own plenaries, of course. Not too many. We're not going to go overboard, as we have done, and really put a lot of pressure on people. We're not going to do that, just those who feel that they've got something really valuable that they'd like to present. But of course, we'll be participating in the ICANN plenaries as well. I think we have a GAC meeting proposed. I think Justine might have mentioned that. But yeah. We're going to not make it too much pressure on people. And we'll just see how it goes.

Okay. So any questions? Please just let me know. Or come along to the ICANN 70 meeting. Thank you. Thank you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Maureen. Are there any questions or comments for Maureen?

NADIRA AL-ARAJ:

Yeah. Thank you, Maureen, for the update and for the way for virtual plan ICANN 70. And I notice that you mentioned that there is less sessions. I hope the sessions not the be redundant with other stakeholders. I remember at one of the virtual meetings, we are attending the DNS abuse from different stakeholders. If they were organized in one or two sessions together, having the different

---

perspectives, it would [work] this load on the participants. Thank you.  
That's my question or my—

MAUREEN HILYARD: - comment. Thank you very much for that, Nadira. I think that with the shorter meeting, those sorts of things will be considered in the overall plan of the meeting. But yeah. Good question.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Maureen. And thanks, Nadira, for the question. I don't see any other hands up. So we will now move on to agenda item number five, which is the update from APRALO. We have a slide on the Activity Plan that also includes the Policy Platform. So we're going to combine these two items into one. And we will discuss this Activity Plan.

Please note that this activity plan, although I probably, together with Justine, are going to present most of it, it's been prepared with input from all the leadership team members, especially Liana, and Nadira, and Pavan. So Yeşim, can we open the 2021 activity plan slides?

YEŞİM NAZLAR: Satish, I'm displaying it right now. Can you see it on your screen?

SATISH BABU: Yeah. Okay. I can see it now. Can we move to the next slide, please? So these are basically organizational and policy-related aspects. The Outreach and Engagement Plan is separate. We have already submitted

---

the Outreach and Engagement Plan. So, Justine, would you like to speak about the first two items?

JUSTINE CHEW:

Yeah. Sure. Sorry. You caught me by surprise. So the first two initiatives, which is the survey on the regional policy hot topics, as well as development of a register or inventory of skills and interest. Those two projects have been [muted] since last year. So we should really get a move on implementing them. They're currently part under the APRALO Policy Platform. That's something that we can certainly take on. And we would be looking to gather volunteers to help out with those two projects, among other things that you see in the action item list here.

Just in terms of the Policy Platform itself, I'm interested in looking for ways to have more active participation. Participation there is a little bit lower than, I think, we would like. So I'm planning to issue a little survey to see what are the things that we can further do to increase the interest and participation in the policy platform. Thanks, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Justine. Actually, item number three is also part of the Policy Platform. So we will mention that we have to start outreach activities on some of these important policy-related topics. And we will have to plan this also through the Policy Platform that Justine is leading. We have a number of participants that have signed up for supporting the Policy Platform. If anyone else wants to join, they're also welcome.

---

Number four is reviewing the RoP Review. The RoP review was put on hold because of the two working groups. One is ALS Mobilization Working Group and the other is the Working Party on Unaffiliated Individual Members. Now Alan's work is done but the other one is still continuing. So we might have to wait for a short period of time when they will both be available to us.

And they will be basically fitting into our review of our RoP. Now, this RoP's important because it has been pending for quite some time. We started it last year but we were unable to complete it. And I'd like to request anyone else ... There's a working group for that as well, within the APRALO. If someone wants to join the working group, they're most welcome.

Number five and six are basically to do with our mailing list, and the website and so on. The apac-discuss mailing list, which is a very big mailing list, has a lot of people who are not currently active for whatever reason. Some of them may not be participating but I know that they are reading the material that comes on this list.

So the two working groups will have some input on how to manage this list. Now, can we have people on this list who are not individual members, who are not members of any ALS but they're just friends of APRALO? Can we have such people also on the list? What are the criteria for being on the list and being off the list? This is something that needs to be clarified because that list is, perhaps, very large. And several people may no longer be interested in working with the APRALO. Similarly, we also have a number of ALSs which are inactive.

---

On the next slide, we will have the plan for our GA, General Assembly, which is next year.

So yeah. What I was basically referring to was that we have a number of ALSs which are inactive or which are no longer interested in the At-Large kind of work. Now, we have been hesitating to weed them out, basically because we didn't want to reduce the community further.

So although the outreach program mentioned that we are trying to establish new ALSs and get new individual members in areas which are not or underserved, we might also want to revamp our list of members and see. If someone's not interested, maybe we can think of removing them. But this will, of course, be subject to a consensus process because we don't want to simply weed out someone who may want to come in later because coming in is a fairly heavyweight process. So we have to have some kind of due diligence for taking people out as well.

Number six, we have the mentoring program, which Ali has volunteered to lead. That has yet to take off. And we are waiting for a plan from Ali for the next steps. Ali, do you want to add anything here?

ALI ALMESHAL:

Hi, Satish. Not that much but we need to action creating our wiki page and to discuss with yourself and the other member teams of the leadership to start getting the mentors. And then, we'll share the plan for the mentees before they join. We'll announce this very soon with you and the team.

---

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Ali. So the next one, number seven, is the other items on our Outreach and Engagement Plan, which is fairly significant. Assuming that typical travel may also open up by the end of this year, we might want to think of some outreach programs through CROP or other means. So there's a lot of uncertainty as of now. But we might be able to do some of them. And the rest of them, which is not dependent on travel, of course we will be continuing.

Now, we have MoUs with some of our regional partners, including DotAsia and APTLD. These are pretty dated now, although we are working to agree with both DotAsia and APTLD. We might want to revisit, especially because we have a GA coming up. So we might want to revisit and maybe get into a new agreement at the GA or before. So that's something that we have to discuss again.

And finally, number nine. We have scheduled a General Assembly in the last ... I forget when that meeting was—one of the last meetings where we had a discussion on the GA plan. And our turn was in 2022. And we had suggested that, or rather decided at that time, that we will co-locate it with the Asia Pacific Regional IGF. So we will have to resume discussions with the APRI GF. We have one of the vice-chairs, Amrita, who is with us. So we will have to revisit this decision and confirm that it is, indeed, a viable decision.

And then, we have to plan for ... This is, again, assuming it's a face-to-face meeting, not a virtual meeting. With a virtual meeting, I don't think that we can sustain the interest levels from ALSs, whereas if it's a face-to-face meeting, it will help us to revive, rejuvenate our relations with the ALSs.



---

Although we have no travel support, at present, for individual members, except maybe for the representative individual elected every year, this is yet to be something that we need to plan out. There is a considerable amount of detail that's involved, especially if you're going to have it together with APriGF because then we'll have to get their help in managing this meeting.

So I will stop here. And we have the floor open for any comments, discussions, about any of these or any other thing that we need to take up. The floor is open.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Satish, I just wanted to draw your attention to what I put in chat. Just to let you know that as of our meeting yesterday with the MSG and APriGF, the general feeling was it is most likely to be a virtual meeting. But we will confirm that on or about February 17th.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Cheryl. What is the date for this virtual event? Is it August, September?

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: It'll be around September and we will confirm that once we've decided what the format is. But September is the month. Yes.

---

SATISH BABU: Okay. Thanks for that. So yeah. I see a hand. Justine is pointing out that we are talking about 2022 for our GA. Is that correct? Hopefully, by then, things will normalize. Gopal, I see your hand up. Please go ahead, Dr. Gopal.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: Thank you to Dr. Satish. I have mentioned in the chat that there's a conference, IEEE SSIT Conference on Norbert Wiener in the 21st Century, being organized at College of Engineering, Guindy, Anna University—that's my university—22nd through 25th July, 2021. I happen to be the conference chair.

And we are working with Mr. Samiran Gupta, ICANN India. And we are in the process of getting a technical sponsorship from ICANN. The logo of ICANN is scheduled to appear on the website very soon. We are also working on a special session on technical solutions for geopolitics. I'm using my own wording. But the special session [inaudible]. I come back to seek the support of all of you in making sure that the theme, being human in a global village, will happen all over the world. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Dr. Gopal.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: I must mention that Dr. Satish Babu was very much with the [inaudible] when we began these India events of Norbert Wiener—related to Norbert Wiener—way back in 2011–2012. And thanks so much.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Dr. Gopal. So the IEEE SSIT, for those of who are not aware of it, SSIT stands for the Society on Social Implications of Technology. It is one of the few technical societies which are not directly about technology. It is indirectly about technology, in the sense of the social impact and things like ethics, and sustainable development, and use of technology. These are some of the areas that come under the Society's purview. And yes. I've been also involved with the Society. So thanks for that update.

JUSTINE CHEW: Yeah. So Justine, in chat, is pointing out that we are talking about two different years. That is correct. Cheryl was mentioning the current year APriGF plans. But for the GA, we are talking about next year's APriGF. We have put it here as a planning process for the 2022 GA because it will involve a number of policies.

For example, who should we give travel support to? On the one hand, last time we had ATLAS, we had some travel budget restrictions. So maybe that is an issue with the budget for the GA as well. If so, then we have to prioritize and these things take time. So we might want to start the planning process in this current year, which is why we have mentioned the GA. It is a long planning process. So yes. We are talking about 2022. But we will have to start the dialog with APriGF this year, of course.

Nadira is asking are we going to form a committee to work on GA planning? Yes. Certainly, we'll have a planning committee, although it

---

may be a bit too early for it to start right now, in January. But as we discuss these points in more detail, we will have to have a planning committee, particularly to talk to APriGF leadership because I'm not sure, 2022, if we have an ICANN meeting in Asia Pacific. I don't remember the meeting plan.

And of course, Cheryl is mentioning that the recent virtual GAs have been very successful. That raises the bar for us because if you're going to have face-to-face travel, people are going to ask what is the benefit and how does it help At-Large.

Gisella says September 2022 in the Asia Pacific region. The last GA we had was together with the ICANN meeting in Abu Dhabi. I think it was 2017. Yeah. Jia Rong says the next APAC ICANN meeting will be in Kuala Lumpur. I hope it's in 2022.

So we had some restrictions on having it with an ICANN meeting. So ICANN suggested that why don't we try with a regional partner, rather than co-located with an ICANN meeting? That's how we had the discussions earlier and decided on the Asia Pacific Regional IGF. Now, if there's a reason to review that decision, we can do it with Maureen's help. But APriGF is a good community to co-locate our meeting with. Are there any comment on the GA or any other issue? Maureen or Cheryl, do you have to add anything here?

MAUREEN HILYARD: Nothing from me. Sorry, Satish.

---

SATISH BABU:

No problem. Okay. So 2022's in Kuala Lumpur. So that could be one possibility as well. Okay. So any of our community members who are interested in participating in these activities, when the time comes, we will put out a call for the planning committee, as well as a call for members for other committees. There will be, of course, the outreach aspect of this between social media and other ways of outreach. So we will have to then revive our own Social Media Working Group. I see Shreedeeep is on the call. So that needs to be done as well.

Okay. If there are no other comments, we will ... So Heidi is pointing out that September is maybe the time that we are looking at the GA. So that may be a possibility. Okay. So I don't see any other hands up.

So we will now move on to agenda item number six, which is the NomCom update. Over to you, Amrita.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you so much, Satish. Hope I'm audible to everyone. I will be sharing the NomCom update. This year, there are nine open leadership positions. There are three for the ICANN Board of Directors. For At-Large, there is one position for Africa, one position for Asia Pacific Region, and one for Latin America and Caribbean. There are two positions for the GNSO Council and one for the ccNSO Council.

The call for nominations will be open in a few days' time. We've been working on the form for this year's people who will be applying and also looking at the ways in which the outreach can be increased. And I would request all of you to keep on looking at the NomCom 2021 page. I would also be sharing more updates on this. But please spread it across the

---

community. We need people from Asia Pacific because if you look at the Board, there is currently only one person from APAC region. We are pretty much underrepresented.

And similarly, we need people at positions from APAC. We have capable positions. So please, do share it with your communities. Or also, let me know whom all I can reach in your respective countries or communities to share the word so that we have more participants applying for these positions.

That's all from me, Satish. Another request is please do send in the work you have been doing from the ALSs by, preferably, the 27th or 28th of the month, to me and ICANN Staff so that we can highlight it in the newsletter. It should not happen that you do some good work and the community doesn't come to know about it. Thank you so much, Satish. That's all from me.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Amrita. Are there any other comments on any aspect? One of the things that has been raised by the ALS that I am from is this whole controversy—it's not technical numbers and names, nor names and numbers—but this whole controversy of WhatsApp changing its user privacy settings. So there is an absolute lack of privacy, apparently, for many. Because at least in South Asia, WhatsApp is heavily used.

So I was wondering if we can get a speaker at one of our next meetings to explain the actual behind-the-scenes issues about this. I completely agree that it is not very central to our names and numbers policy-related aspects. But it is still maybe of use to our ALSs so that we can

---

think of enhancing participation in our meetings by having a discussion on this topic. I see two hands up, Jia Rong first and then Amrita.

JIA RONG LOW:

Thanks, Satish. A question for Amrita. Just wanted to check. Usually, ICANN Org Staff are not very ... We don't want to be seen as too involved for NomCom. But we can help you spread the word regarding the positions, if you like. So if you think it's okay, then we can get offline. Maybe if we have something from you, then we can share that with other communities—a suggestion.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Jia Rong. Yes. We would really love it because we were speaking to ICANN a few days ago from the Outreach Committee of NomCom, that if through the regional APAC bureaus also we can have some support, in terms of spreading the word, and also your help towards reaching capable people. I'll reach out to you on this thank you so much.

And Satish, to respond to your question, yes. I can help arrange this particular issue because currently, the WhatsApp issue, which is being discussed, is primarily in India. They shared this information, which the Indian government has also opposed, while Facebook mentioned that they have postponed it for a particular period of time but they are not rejecting it. So if there is an interest from the community, I can help get some possible speakers on this who are working on it.

---

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Amrita. I think we'll take up that offer. And we'll keep apart some 20 minutes—a short discussion on the pros and cons of what's really happening and how, as a community, our ALSs can respond to this. Jia Rong, is that a new hand?

JIA RONG LOW: Sorry. It's an old hand. I'll put it down. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Okay. So we still have about nine minutes left. Are there any other comments or questions from anyone on any topic? I would like to point out that those of us who want to attend APRICOT 2021, this time it is free for everybody. It's a virtual meeting of course. It is free for everybody. So there are some interesting tutorials and conference sessions available. So anyone who's interested can consider registering for the event, which is, I think, in February sometime.

All right. So the last agenda item, AOB, is our next call with is on 18th of February, as usual, on the third Thursday. So in the next call, we will have a special discussion on social media and the current issue of WhatsApp. So we will be sending out a notice to our ALSs that we'll have a special discussion for that here. We'll invite them to join.

So with that, the agenda is up and we have finished ahead of time. So I will give you back eight minutes of your life. So thank you very much and over to you, Yeşim, for closing the call.



---

YEŞİM NAZLAR:

Thanks so much, Satish. And thank you all for joining today's meeting. This meeting is now adjourned. And have a great rest of the day. Bye-bye.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]