APRALO Newsletter, April 2021

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

APRALO Chair Update

APRALO Chair, Satish Babu

Dear APRALO Community -

Greetings!

The global pandemic has severely impacted the work and lives in several countries in our region. I hope all of you and your families remain safe.

The recently-released ICANN70 By the Numbers Report reveals that 1599 unique Zoom users from 157 countries took part in the meeting. The seventy sessions of the meeting consumed 89 hours. The maximum number of participants in a single session was the Public Forum with 547 participants. Despite the adverse time zone for our region, the APAC region did reasonably well, with 22% of participants.

APRALO has launched the APRALO Mentorship Programme. If you are interested in ICANN's work for the long haul, it would be beneficial to participate in the program.

We have just embarked on a project to make our monthly meetings more engaging and meaningful. A small group has been set up for this purpose and they will be eliciting inputs from the APRALO community. In case you have any suggestions on this matter, kindly provide them when they give a call. Meanwhile, the APRALO Policy Forum has started working on the APRALO Register of Skills & Interests Project and a small team of RALO members are currently working to develop the project work scope.

Our Guest Speaker for the next month will be Roberto Gaetano, who will be speaking to us on the important topic of the recently-concluded work of the Unaffiliated Individual Member Working Party (see: Report), which is of great importance to us *vis-à-vis* our individual members.

With Kind Regards.

ALAC Chair Update

Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

Dear APRALO members -

At the time of writing, there are only 7 more weeks to ICANN71!! Another short meeting - 4 days - and At-

Large is already planning 10 sessions, including 3 policy sessions,3 EURALO sessions, AFRALO/AFRICANN meeting, ALAC-GAC joint meeting as well as the Welcome and Wrap up sessions that normally begin and end our ICANN meetings. As part of the ICANN71 Planning Committee activities, At-Large suggestions have been well received, so that there is already some real likelihood again of good representation by At-Large in the ICANN Plenaries as well as our own sessions. Of course the timing is ghastly for most of us in APRALO - if only the world was flat!

The APRALO Policy team that Justine is leading bodes well for more APRALO participation in future Policy discussions. I am sure that she would welcome more participants so that knowing their skills and interests would be very much appreciated. Even if interests are currently more towards governance and operational issues by way of the Operational Finance and Budget Working Group (OFBWG), this is an excellent jumping off point leading to the Technical work topics that are usually covered by the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG). There is nothing wrong with attending these sessions initially as an observer to learn more, but also, check out what courses and webinars are being offered by other constituencies so that you can also get a bigger picture of what's happening in ICANN.

But first of all, don't forget that during the last ICANN meeting we introduced our new At-Large ICANN Learn courses (and we did it again at the last ALAC meeting). There are two: "At-Large - Welcome to our world" and "ICANN Policy Development - A Guide for At-Large Participants". But, on the other side of the fence, the NCUC (the Non-commercial Users Constituency) is currently preparing a webinar which will be aired on Thursday May 6 @ 12:00utc about how civil society became involved in ICANN. This is an NCUC project but a joint venture that also includes At-Large, the NCSG (the Non-Commercial Steering Group) and NPOC (Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency). It will be a good opportunity to find out what the key differences are between the NCSG and its component groups and At-Large. But great to have been asked to participate. :)

But of course, our main focus is preparing for ICANN71. So if you have something to offer, please come along to the planning sessions and voice your opinions about the progress that is being made. We are looking forward to another successful virtual meeting. But finally, here's hoping that everyone is keeping well and taking extreme care wherever you are, until we can all meet up together again safely.

Best wishes.

ICANN Update

In April, ICANN:

- Supported in organising the seventh Middle East DNS Forum (MEDNSF) from 5-7 April.
- Published the Second-level Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) for the Arabic, Hebrew, Sinhala scripts and as well as the Hebrew language.
- Launched a new regional pilot event, the Africa Engagement Forum. This event will be part of the Africa Regional Plan, and held from 19- 20 May 2021.
- Launched   the Operational Design Phase (ODP) for the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure to Nonpublic Registration Data (SSAD) policy recommendations.
- Published a new paper, GE-007 "Country Focus Report Update: Russian Federation Internet-Related Laws and United Nations Deliberations"
- Invoked the De-Accredited Registrar Transition Procedure (DARTP) to enable the successful transition of domain names currently registered with Net 4 India Limited (IANA 1007) to an ICANN-accredited registrar that can appropriately serve registrants.
- Partnered with Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) to host a Universal Acceptance (UA) training series for the LAC community in the month of May.
- Submitted feedback on the proposed Digital Services Act (DSA) highlighting that the proposed DSA, in its current form, is not sufficiently specific with regard to the scope of applicability to DNS services.Organised a webinar on Planning Prioritization and Finance Update
- Announced application for NextGen@ICANN Application Round for ICANN72 till 24 May.

ALAC Update

ALAC monthly call was held on 27 April.

Rod Rasmussen, SSAC Chair and Julie Hammer, Vice-Chair were the Guest Speakers for April and they provided an overview on the topics of SAC115 and SAC116.

In addition updates were shared on:

- Action item from ICANN70
- ALAC policy development activities
- Review of current ALS and Individual Member applications

- Reports and discussion with At-Large Plus Leaders
- Discussion on the ICANN 71 draft schedule for At Large.

Further, the ALAC Chair provided an overview of the 2021 election schedule, and information on the two newly released At Large ICANN Learn courses. Please note that Nadira Al-Araj, Vice-Chair of APRALO, has resigned.

The recording is available in this link.

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 (1) statement of advice to the ICANN Board since the last APRALO Newsletter:

- ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures

The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (2) ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations:

- **Drafting** ALAC Advice on EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration 30 March 2021 **CPWG**
- **Vote** GNSO Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process Phase 1 Final Recommendations for ICANN Board Consideration 21 May 2021 **CPWG**

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 Policy Forum Update

APRALO ALAC Member, Justine Chew

A small team of 11 volunteers have just begun work on the Regional Register of Skills & Interests Project. Upon settling some foundational aspect of the project, the team will move onto discussing the project work scope. More updates will be shared in due course.

During the first half of May, the Policy Forum members will be consulted as to whether a recommendation should be made for a APRALO Statement in response to the GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration public comment proceedings which closes on 1 June 2021. This consultation stems from a suggestion by the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) Co-Chair Olivier Crepin-Leblond for RALOs to consider submitting regional statements which adopt the ALAC Advice on Subsequent Procedures that was submitted to the ICANN Board on 16 April 2021.

To view a clearer copy of this image, please click on this link.
Please continue to visit The APRALO Policy Forum for more details on periodic participation opportunities in this dedicated space for facilitating better informed, inclusive regional input on issues within ICANN's remit. Kindly contact At-Large staff if you wish to join the APRALO Policy Forum.

APRALO Update

The April APRALO Monthly call was held on 15 April and chaired by Satish Babu, APRALO Chair.

Maureen Hilyard provided a debrief of ICANN70 which includes an update on the APAC Space ICANN70 Readout; an update on the Two new At-Large ICANN Courses: (1) ICANN At-Large: Welcome to Our World; and (2) At Large Policy Development: A Guide for Participation ICANN Learn courses; and a short overview of the ICANN71 preparation process.

Satish Babu welcomed the ALS and two new individual members in the call and initiated a discussion on enhancing APRALO meetings. In that context a small working group was formed to deliberate on ways to enhance the meetings.

The ALAC policy update was provided by Holly Raiche and Justine Chew. This includes the current statements ratified by ALAC: EU Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS 2 Directive); IANA Naming Function Review: Recommendation for an IANA Naming Function Contract Amendment and Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2) Review Team Final Report; upcoming public proceedings: Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 5 (MSR-5) for Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR); Proposed Renewal of the .NAME Registry Agreement; public comments for decision: Initial Report on the Third ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP3): Retirement of ccTLDs and GNSO Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process Phase 1 Final Recommendations for ICANN Board Consideration; and current statements for ALAC advice comment or correspondence: ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures and EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration.

An update was provided on the APRALO Mentorship program.

Amrita Choudhury provided an update on the NomCom applications received so far, their demographic breakup and the next steps.

The recording of the call can be heard from this link.

APRALO Talk

The guest speaker in April was Edmon Chung, CEO DotAsia, who provided an update on the policy development process related to Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).

NomCom Update

by Amrita Choudhury, NomCom Delegate, Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Region

The Nominating Committee has started the evaluation process. In April the NomCom reviewed all the 116 completed applications received and narrowed down the list of applicants.

The next step would be performing a deep dive on the remaining list of candidates; holding a second assessment meeting based on this shortlist of applicants and conducting virtual interviews with shortlisted candidates.

APAC Space Update

ICANN70 Readout
An ICANN70 Readout was organised by the ICANN APAC Hub on 1 April and was well attended.. Jia-

Rong Low, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director, ICANN APAC provided and overview of ICANN70; Stakeholder Perspectives were provided by Pua Hunter, GAC Vice Chair for GAC; Ai-Chin Lu, ccNSO Council Member for ccNSO; Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair for ALAC; Pam Little, GNSO Council Vice Chair for GNSO; Hiro Hotta, RSSAC Member for RSSAC. The youth perspective was shared by Manju Chen from Youth4IG. The open discussion was coordinated by Edmon Chung. For more detail view the slide deck and session recording.

2nd ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum
This month, ICANN APAC Office partnered with Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC) to host the 2nd ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum on 15-16 April. This meeting followed the hybrid format. The key opening speakers for the forum were: Vint Cerf, Milton Mueller, Pablo Hinojosa, Yuh-Jye Lee (TWNIC Board Chair), and Akinori Maemura.

Some of the topics discussed include:

- The state of cybersecurity, its challenges (including impacts from legislations/regulations), as well as incident response and management
- Important technologies and their adoption, e.g. DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), IPv6, Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI), and DNS-over-HTTPS (DoH)
- Domain name abuse handling and prevention
- Universal Acceptance implementation
- Sharing on how to participate in ICANN's multistakeholder community

The forum also featured the 35th TWNIC Internet Protocol Open Policy Meeting (IP OPM) which was organised with the support of APNIC.
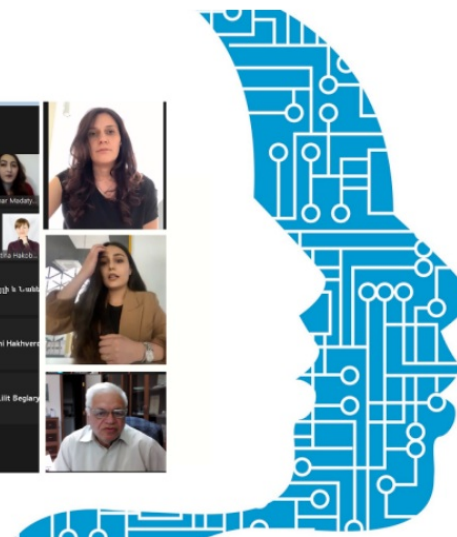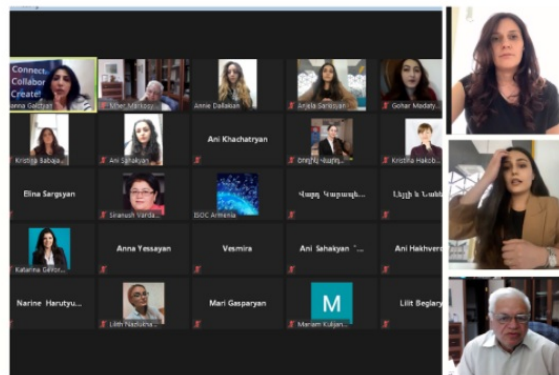
APRALO ALS Updates

Girls in ICT Day
Job opportunities for Women in ICT Market of Armenia

22 April 2021 was marked as the 10th anniversary of the International "Girls in ICT Day", an initiative launched by the International Telecommunication Union. It is a global movement to raise awareness about the exciting opportunities of the ICT sector and to encourage and empower girls and young women to consider ICT studies and careers.

This year, ISOC Armenia, with the leadership of Lianna Galstyan, organized an online meeting to talk about the "Job opportunities for Women in ICT Market of Armenia". Invited speakers, professionals of various specialties, analyzed and represented the current situation in the country in terms of the working environment for women in the ICT sector. They urged participants to take an active role and use the new technologies to build their careers. The discussion also touched the aspects of multiple online education opportunities and flexibility of remote work, especially in the time of pandemic.

All participants were also encouraged to raise their questions and share their stories as a part of online networking.

Opportunities

- The IGF2021 has announced the call for proposal. This year the IGF is following for the first time an "issue driven approach". There are two focus areas and four emerging and cross-cutting issue areas: The IGF 2021 main focus areas: (1) Economic and social inclusion and human rights (2) Universal access and meaningful connectivity. The IGF 2021 Emerging and cross-cutting issue areas are: Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation; Environmental sustainability and climate change; Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation and Trust, security, stability For more information please view this link: IGF 2021 Call for session proposals | Internet Governance Forum (intgovforum.org)
- AprIGF2021 has announced a call for proposal. Proposals are invited for the multidisciplinary sessions with fresh topics and emerging issues under the 3 thematic tracks: Inclusion, Sustainability & Trust from the community. For more details visit this page.
- AprIGF2021 Fellowship application is now open. For more details visit this page.

Upcoming Events

- Join the APRALO May monthly Meeting on 20 May, 2021 at 6:00 UTC. The Guest Speaker for this call would be Roberto Gaetano.
- ICANN71 will be held as a Virtual Policy Forum from 14-17 June.
- The IEEE conference No 4894 Being Human in Global Village will be organised in Chennai, India between 22-25 July 2021.

Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of ICANN Staff