



APRALO Newsletter, February 2021



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

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APRALO Chair, Satish Babu

Dear APRALO Community -

Greetings!

Next month, we will be participating in [ICANN70](#), which is being held in the time zone of Cancún, Mexico. While the timing of sessions may be difficult for many of us in Asia-Pacific, I'm sure we can participate in some of the sessions of interest to each of us. All meetings will be recorded as well. If you have not already registered, please do so [via this registration link](#) when you can, and visit the [At-Large ICANN70 Workspace](#) for all details related to At-Large sessions.

APRALO intends to invite guest speakers to make brief interventions during our monthly meetings. Besides broadening our horizons, such presentations may also make our meetings more interactive. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please get in touch with any of the APRALO Leadership Team members.

APRALO is also launching its Mentoring Program shortly. In the last meeting, we had shared a preliminary plan for the Mentoring Program, which identifies new members of our community for leadership development with the help of members of the Leadership Team and other senior community members. If you are interested, please respond to the call which will be circulated over the next few weeks.

Once again, hope to see you at ICANN70.

ALAC Chair Update



Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

Hello APRALO community,

One event that I hope many of you were able to take advantage of at the end of February was the APRICOT meeting. This is the [Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies, held this year from 22 February to 4 March](#). Its programme each year includes a week of technical training and a week of conference. Its two organisers are APNOG and APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Operators Group and Asia Pacific Network Information Centre). APNIC is the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for the Asia Pacific region, responsible for the management and distribution of Internet Number

Resources (IP addresses and AS numbers). APRICOT is one of two meetings that APNIC formally participates in during the year. This year APRICOT was supposed to be held in the Philippines but, of course, like ICANN70, it went virtual. In 2020 I attended APRICOT in Melbourne, the first and only meeting of 2020 for many of us.

And of course, February was certainly a month of readying ourselves for the upcoming ICANN70 meeting at the end of March. Although it is a short meeting of only four days, there is quite a lot to engage us from At-Large. Of particular interest is that LACRALO is holding its General Assembly and I'd like to see some of our members supporting the activities of LACRALO during ICANN70. If you were at the ALAC meeting this month, you would have been able to trial the new interpretation tool that is being offered at the next ICANN meeting. At-Large was first to trial it, so that if there were glitches, we identified them and helped the technical team to sort them out before the ICANN meeting. I found myself without sound at one stage because I used a feature incorrectly. Lesson learned. The great thing is that we in At-Large have helped to make a difference. Like a dripping tap, we requested on several occasions an easy to use interpretation tool for use with zoom, for the large communities of people who don't have English as their first language. For most of ICANN these are French and Spanish speakers. For APRALO, they offer Chinese and although it is not used as much by At-Large, I am assuming it is used quite a bit in other areas of ICANN.

So, there is a lot happening, and we hope you are continuing to get involved where you can. I hope to see more of you in our At-Large working groups, as well as in the APRALO policy working groups that are being established. Take care.

ICANN Update

In February 2021, ICANN:

- Published the FY21 Q2 Unaudited Financial Results for [ICANN](#) and [PTI](#).
- Announced the [prep week schedule](#) for ICANN70. The prep week will be organised from 8-11 March and consist of ten sessions.
- [Register](#) for ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum to attend these sessions.

ALAC Update

At the ALAC monthly call on [23 February](#), [Christina Rodriguez](#), Sr. Director, Language Services, and [Sara Caplis](#), Manager, Meetings Technical Services from ICANN demonstrated and provided an overview of the Zoom Interpretation Features, a feature that was appreciated by most participants.

[John Crain](#), Chief Security, Stability & Resiliency Office, ICANN was the Guest Speaker of the month and provided an overview of the [Domain Abuse Activity Reporting \(DAAR\) 2.0.](#), the initiatives taken so far, the DAAR review process and also responded to questions from the audience.



In addition, updates were shared on the 2021 At-Large activities and initiative. Maureen provided information about the ICANN's FY23 Strategic Outlook Activities and how the At-Large Plus leadership would participate in an upcoming trends session; ALAC Liaison to GNSO Council Cheryl Langdon-Orr updated on developments from the GNSO Council.

An update was provided on the ALAC policy development activities. Additionally, ICANN Staff Gisella Gruber and Maureen provided an update on ICANN70 and At Large Plans and Lilian Ivete de Luque Bruges provided information on the Social Media plans for ICANN70.

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 to ICANN Public Comment since the last APRALO Newsletter:

- [Draft FY22-26 Operating & Financial Plan and Draft FY22 Operating Plan & Budget](#) 15 February 2021

The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (5) ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations:

- [Comment Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency \(SSR2\) Review Team Final Report](#) 09 March 2021 **CPWG**
- [Drafting EU Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems \(NIS 2 Directive\)](#) 15 March 2021 **CPWG**
- [Drafting IANA Naming Function Review: Recommendation for an IANA Naming Function Contract Amendment](#) 22 March 2021 **OFB-WG**
- [Drafting EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration](#) 30 March 2021 **CPWG**
- [Comment ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures](#) TBD **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

Please continue to visit [The APRALO Policy Forum](#) for more details on how you can participate in this dedicated space for facilitating better informed, inclusive regional input on issues within ICANN's remit.

APRALO Update

The [APRALO monthly call](#) was held on 18 February and chaired by APRALO Chair Satish Babu. During the call the ALAC policy update was shared by Justine Chew. She shared an overview on the ALAC statement on Draft FY22-26 Operating & Financial Plan and Draft FY22 Operating Plan & Budget; spoke briefly on the ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures; Second Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR2) Review Team Final Report and EU Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS 2 Directive).

Maureen Hilyard provided an update on ICANN70 highlighting the policy sessions. She also shared the update of .PIR setting up the [DNS Abuse institute New Institute](#) to combat DNS Abuse.

For the first time there was a guest speaker who spoke on the implications of the changes in the privacy policy for end users. More details of the talk is shared in the next section.

Ali Almeshal elaborated on the [APRALO mentorship program proposal](#).

Elaborating on the NomCom leadership positions, Amrita Choudhury encouraged community members to apply and/or encourage people from APAC especially women to apply for the positions.

The recording of the call can be heard from [this link](#).

APRALO Talk

For the first time during the APRALO monthly, guest speaker [Nikhil Pahwa](#), Founder and editor of Medianama, spoke on the topic "End user implications on the privacy policy" from the changes in the

WhatsApp policy. In his talk he provided an overview on the announced changes by WhatsApp in its privacy policy, the reactions and concerns of various stakeholders and misinformation surrounding the change in privacy policy. He highlighted the differential approach in privacy policy of Facebook/WhatsApp between different nations such as between the EU and India. Nikhil highlighted the need for more notices before policies are implemented; more details on how data will be used by companies and further deliberation on scope of data minimization.

Members of APRALO shared their comments and views on the topic during the interactive part of the discussion, that include the pervasive nature of the new policy changes; highlighting the need to maintain trust in a relationship; providing an opportunity to end users to read the fine print of such significant change in policy etc.

The banner features a circular portrait of Nikhil Pahwa on the left. To the right, the text reads: 'GUEST SPEAKER' in blue, followed by the title 'End-user Implications on the Privacy Policy Changes of WhatsApp' in a larger blue font, with a WhatsApp logo to the right. Below the title, the date and time '18 February 2021 06 AM UTC' are displayed. At the bottom left, the name 'Nikhil Pahwa' is written in blue. At the bottom right, there are logos for APRALO and ICANN AT-LARGE.

NomCom Update





As you may be aware the **ICANN 2021 Nominating Committee is now inviting applications for the 9 leadership positions**. These include:

- Three members of the ICANN Board of Directors
- Three regional representatives to the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)(one each from Africa, Asia/Australia/Pacific Islands, and Latin America/Caribbean regions)
- Two members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council
- One member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council

The deadline to submit applications is 29 March 2021 at 23:59 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC). For more details [please visit this link](#). Applications will have to be submitted using the [online candidate portal](#).

Do spread the word and encourage interested candidates from the APAC region and especially women to apply. If you have any queries, please feel free to write to me. Please reference the [2021 NomCom description for ALAC here](#).

The 2021 Nominating Committee Will Fill Nine Open Leadership Positions

 <p>THREE OPEN POSITIONS THREE-YEAR TERM ICANN Board of Directors</p>	 <p>ONE OPEN POSITION THREE-YEAR TERM ccNSO Council</p>
 <p>THREE OPEN POSITIONS TWO-YEAR TERM At-Large Advisory Committee • (Africa) • (Asia/Australia/Pacific) • (Latin America/Caribbean Islands)</p>	 <p>TWO OPEN POSITIONS TWO-YEAR TERM GNSO Council • Voting Contracted Party House • Voting Non-Contracted Party House</p>

APRALO ALS Updates

Women in Technology Leadership Webinar By Shveta Kokash

ISOC India Mumbai Chapter organised its third Women in Technology Leadership (WITL) Webinar on the theme " Learning and Thriving in the Digital Age" on 16th January 2021. Women in Technology Leadership (WITL) series is an initiative by ISOC India Mumbai Chapter to promote and celebrate the women who have been creating a mark for themselves in the technology leadership space. The third WITL webinar saw two enterprising and successful co-founders of upcoming tech based start-ups, and their journey as women leaders-in-tech. You can read the report of the event [here](#).



The banner features a woman on the left and a woman on the right, both holding laptops. The central text reads: "Internet Society India Mumbai", "WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR", "LEARNING AND THRIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE", "SPEAKERS:", "SWATI SHARMA CO-FOUNDER & COO", "CHARU NOHERIA CO-FOUNDER & COO", "thriWe Together we progress", "Practically", "DATE: 16TH JANUARY, SATURDAY", "TIME: 11 AM IST".

Accessibility Challenges: A conversation with ISOC Armenia By Lianna Galstyan

On 25 February 2021 the [Internet Society Armenia Chapter](#) and the [Internet Society Accessibility Special Interest Group](#) (Accessibility SIG) convened a meeting with the theme 'Accessibility Challenges: A conversation with ISOC Armenia'.

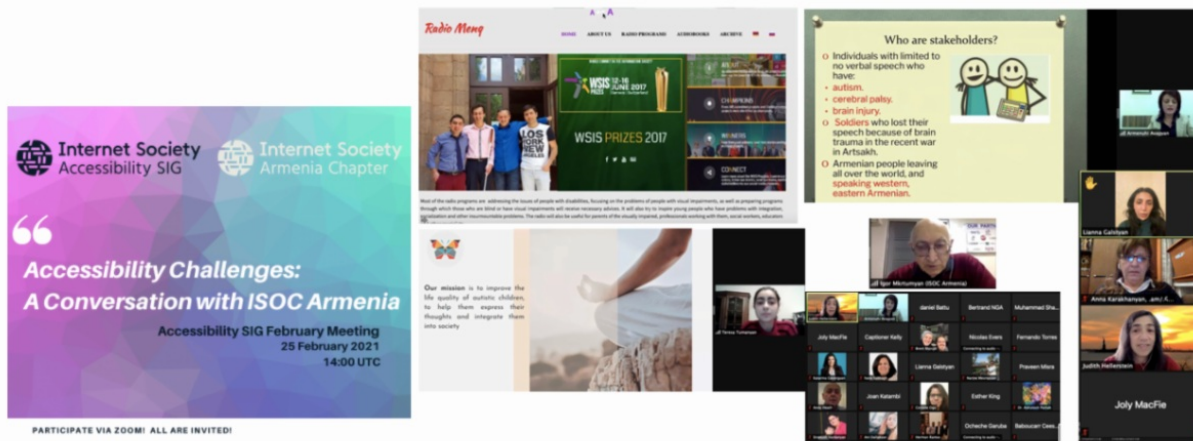
ISOC Armenia has been working on accessibility issues for many years and has won several grants and prizes for the work done with and for the people with disabilities.

The meeting gathered around 30 participants who learned about the projects implemented. In particular

about the Internet Availability Center of Blind and Visually Impaired People, the Internet Radio for People with Visual Impairments, a tool for Autistic Children and Children with social anxiety and an AAC App for Armenian non-verbal individuals.

One of the invited speakers was a school girl, who represented the App she created with her schoolmates to help autistic children interact with others. ISOC Armenia strongly encourages participation of youth and females into its activities and promotes diverse projects that help the local community to overcome challenges.

The meeting was very interactive with availability of real time text feature.



AP* Retreat on 28 February 2021

The last day of February was busy with AP* Retreat where around 30 representatives of various organizations within the AP region met virtually and provided updates of their activities for the last year.

Satish Babu, APRALO Chair, talked about the APSIG and the development it undertook in 2020.

Lianna Galstyan, APRALO Vice Chair, made a presentation about #APRALO activities in 2020 and gave a brief overview of the plans for 2021.



ICANN APAC Space Update

The ICANN APAC space organised a discussion on the Root Server System (RSS) Information Sharing.

Post the welcome address by Jia-Rong Low, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director, ICANN APAC; an introduction to the Root Server System (RSS) was provided by Anupam Agrawal; Hiro Hotta followed by an introduction to the governance of the RSS. This was followed by an open community discussion by Edmon Chung. Towards the end of the call Amrita spoke on the NomCom leadership positions, urging community members to apply.

Opportunities

Nominations for the [ICANN Community Excellence Award](#) are open until 29 March 2021.

Upcoming Events

- Join the APRALO March Monthly Meeting on 18 March 2021 at 06:00 UTC to hear our Guest Speaker [Graeme Bunton](#), Director of the DNS Abuse Institute speak about the newly setup DNS Abuse Institute by PIR.
- The ICANN70 Community Forum will take place from 20-25 March 2021. Stay tuned to the [At-Large ICANN70 Workspace](#) for the latest updates, including format of the meeting.
- 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