# APRALO Newsletter, July & August 2021

**The July & August editions of the newsletter have been clubbed together.**



*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!

We have begun planning for the next ICANN meeting, which is the ICANN72 Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 23-28 October 2021 in Seattle. This is not a particularly friendly time-zone for us in many parts of Asia-Pacific, but we need to be able to attend the sessions of interest to At-Large.

We have been busy with our internal activities. The work on FY22 Outreach & Engagement plan is proceeding and will be completed and published in August. We have asked for the revival of two of our internal working groups working on RoP review and enhancing APRALO meetings. After its work on the Statement on Subsequent Procedures, the APRALO Policy Forum planned a webinar on the new EPDP on IDNs--in which APRALO has provided several members and participants--that was well-attended. The APF is presently working on the Roster of Skills and Interests, after which we will attempt to convert it to a pool of experts that we can draw from.

The APRALO Mentoring Program is ready for launch and at the current time, it is expected to be launched on 1 Sep 2021 and will finish before the Oct 2022 ICANN Meeting. This program is an important step for leadership development for APRALO.

Since Amrita has joined the Leadership Team, we will be looking at the work allocation within the Leadership Team, so as to perform better at organizational priorities, even considering the current restrictions on travelling.

Wishing that our community remains safe in these difficult times.

With kind regards.

## ALAC Chair Update



**Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair**

Dear APRALO Members -

The big news for the ICANN community in July was that ICANN72 planned to be held in Seattle, is going to be virtual. The prognosis with regards to the pandemic does not make it safe enough for people to travel unfortunately. There would have to be more vaccinations across all the world, not just those who can afford it at the moment. The doubts about safety exist, and the Board has very correctly made a decision that ICANN72 will be virtual. Although everyone wants to get back to face to face meetings, the number of variants that are emerging is a concern. The lack of vaccinations in some parts of the world and the increasing numbers of new cases despite vaccinations in others, make the risks too great to endanger member lives.

Thank you to the APRALO members who supported the APRALO webinar on IDNs. It got good reviews from other At-Large members who attended. Many thanks to Satish, Lianna, Justine, Gopal (from APRALO), Hadia and Abdulkarim for their participation and support within the EPDP on IDNs.

It was recently decided by the Capacity Building Webinar Team that there will not be an At-Large webinar in August due to the northern hemisphere group being on summer holidays and many working groups during this time may be short of some members during the August-September period.

During the last Additional Budget Request cycle, At-Large received funds to organise an End-user survey to get a broader view (outside of ICANN) about what Internet end-users want to know about ICANN and what their main concerns are. There are some restrictions on how the survey can be conducted - one language and a few countries. No decisions have been made but discussions are being held to make a start on this.

There are three core areas of the work within At-Large - Policy, Operations and Outreach and Engagement. We are very fortunate to have active APRALO leaders playing a prominent role in these activities. It would be great to see more participation of APRALO members supporting Holly in the Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG), Lianna in the Outreach and Engagement Subcommittee (OE-SC) and Justine in the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG). Our newsletter already receives reports on ALAC Policy comments that the CPWG is working on, and we will soon start getting reports from our leaders in the OFB and OE groups so that you can keep in touch with what is happening and join the regular meetings.

Need I say it, but planning for ICANN72 will be starting up soon. ICANN72 will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and it is currently being proposed that it will run over three weeks - (1) Prep week which mainly will consist of ICANN updates (2) At-Large Week - where we can run our plenaries and meetings and (3) AGM/ICANN week - for Board, ICANN Org and cross-community plenary sessions. More on that over the coming weeks but do join our Planning Team to add your voices to what we should organise to showcase At-Large policy and outreach activities.

Please keep healthy and safe.

Best regards.

## ICANN Update

In July and August, ICANN:

- Released a pilot version of its Internationalized Domain Name (IDN)Table Review Tool.
- Announced that ICANN72 would be a virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM) while the Board affirmed intent to hold ICANN73 as a hybrid meeting.
- Released the fifth version of the Maximal Starting Repertoire (MSR-5).
- Nomination were open for the Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building till 2 August.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization (AICTO) to Collaborate on Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance in the Middle East
- Organised webinars on SSAD Operational Design Phase (ODP) Project Update on 13 July, on ICANN DNS Security Threat Mitigation Program Update and Community Discussion on 22 July, deliberations happening within the United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) on cybersecurity issues and to discuss planning for the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Operating Plan and Budget (OP&B) for delivering the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions
- Announced the successful candidates for ICANN72 Fellowship and ICANN72 NextGen
- Sought community inputs for the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) Operational Design Phase (ODP) Community Questionnaire till 22 July
- Invited comments for the proposed Renewal of the .AERO Registry Agreement and comments on the Proposal for Greek Root Zone Label Generation Rulesby 28 August.
- Launched an online 30 mins course inICANN Learn that focuses on Anti Harassment
- The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council is seekingExpressions of Interest (EOI) to chair the Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team by 9 September.

- Issued a request for proposal (RFP) to identify a public relations service provider to partner in the development and implementation of a unique awareness campaign, by 3 September.
- Issued the revised dates for ICANN72 Virtual Annual General Meeting. It will now be held from 25 to 28 October 2021 and the Prep Week is scheduled for 12-14 October.
- Announced the Results of the Audit on Registrars' Compliance with DNS Abuse Obligations The report summarizes the methodology and the results of the audit of 126 registrars who in aggregate manage over 90% of all registered generic second-level domain names.
- Invites the North American community to join a public webinar on 9 September 2021 at 14:00 UTC to learn more about its newcomer programs and opportunities for engagement. Register here.

## ALAC Update

The ALAC monthly call was held on 22 July and 24 August. During the July call, there was a review of the ICANN71 ALAC action items. The Guest Speaker León Sánchez, ICANN Board Vice Chair provided updates from issues raised on the Board/ALAC Meeting and Board Activities. Updates were provided on the ALAC advice to the ICANN Board on EPDP Phase 2 (SSAD), the ALAC policy development activities and current ALS and individual member application status. There was a discussion on the reports of the liaisons to the SO/ACs and initial discussion on At-Large Plans for ICANN72.

During the August call, guest speakers Jana Juginovic, Mike Takahashi, and Eli Khan from ICANN Org provided an update on the Information Transparency Initiative (ITI). Carlos Reyes, ICANN Org also provided a presentation on the upcoming 31 August update to the ICANN Public Comment submission process. An update on policy advice statement activities, including ALAC Advice to the ICANN Board on EPDP Phase 2 (SSAD), and ALS/Individual membership updates were provided. At-Large Liaisons provided their reports, and there was continued planning/discussion for At-Large sessions during ICANN72.

## 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 (3) policy advice statements since the last APRALO Newsletter:**

- ALAC Advice to ICANN Board on EPDP Phase 2
- Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team – PHASE 2A
- RrSG Draft White Paper: Registrant Protections in DNS Abuse Mitigation

**The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (1) ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations:**

**Drafting** ALAC Minority Statement on EPDP-TempSpec Phase 2A Final Report 10 Sept 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**

The APRALO Register of Skills & Interests (RoSI) Project small team had its first coordinating team call on 20 July 2021, during which members were invited to consider parallel activities within the At-Large Community as additional input to further shape the Project RoSI work scope. Work on the Project is ongoing, with progress and discussions updated periodically at the Project RoSI Work Space.

The APRALO Policy Forum also successfully conducted the *APRALO Webinar on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs): Advancing the IDN Agenda for a More Inclusive Internet* on 27 July 2021, attracting over 60 participants. Members of the APRALO Leadership Team hosted this 90-minute webinar aimed at supporting our regional At-Large participation in the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process on IDNs (EPDP on IDNs) which is slated to begin its work on 11 August 2021. Links to the recording of this webinar are posted at https://community.icann.org/x/x4n8CQ

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.

## Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) Update

**by Holly Raiche, OFB-WG Chair**

The OFB-WG has four tasks:

1. Draft statements relating to the ICANN budget process
2. Draft statements regarding ICANN's Operating Initiatives
3. Draft statements relating to the ICANN strategic and plan processes
4. Contribute to the coordination of annual additional budget requests from ALAC and RALOs

At its July meetings the OFB-WG completed a poll of its members to give their priority order to ICANN's Operating Initiatives. Operating Initiatives describe how ICANN Org will achieve the goals and objectives set out in its Strategic Plan WG Members will, in future meetings, present on each of the Operating Initiatives and how they relate to ALAC and RALO activities.

At-Large Priority Initiatives are:

- Strengthen MSM - facilitate diverse and inclusive participation
- Strengthen ICANN Community's Decision making processes
- Universal Acceptance (tied with 2)
- Planning at ICANN
- Monitor legislation, etc that may impact on ICANN's mission

Also in July, the ICANN Planning team gave its first of two presentations on ICANN's plans for the creation of a Planning and Prioritization Framework - to help ICANN Org inform and prioritize its work on both the annual and five year planning process.

In August meetings, the OFBWG will participate in the second of the presentations the the Planning and Prioritization process and start discussions on the Operating Initiatives.

## APRALO Update

The APRALO Monthly meeting was held on 15 July and 19 August. The July meeting  was chaired by Satish. There was an update on the membership status;  update on the  ALAC policies - including remarks on the ongoing policy discussions in the CPWG, ratified policies, upcoming public comments proceedings and public comments for decisions;  update from the Chair on the ALAC and upcoming ICANN72; nomcom update; update on the mentorship program; update on the initiatives of the APRALO policy forum including the then upcoming Policy webinar and discussion on the Regional Register of Skills & Interests (Project RoSI).

The August meeting was also chaired by Satish. There was an update on the ongoing policy development processes in CPWG including upcoming public comment proceedings ; there was an ALAC update by Maureen; an update on the APRALO Mentoring Program and the Next Steps.  Justine provided an update on the APRALO Policy Forum including an update on the APRALO Webinar on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) and the Regional Register of Skills & Interests (Project RoSI).

The guest speaker for the month , Jia-Rong Low, Managing Director, Asia Pacific, ICANN, provided an overview of the  "APAC Regional Plan". This includes highlighting the APAC regional plan for Fy 21-25, what has been done so far in terms of milestones and what is being planned to be done,  ways in which the GSE will collaborate with the APRALO engagement plan.

## NomCom Update

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

In July the Nominating Committee held the final round of interviews and deliberated to decide on the final list of candidates who would be suggested for the Board and SO/AC positions this month.

In the month of August the [Nominating Committee then in August announced the leadership selections](#)

The three ICANN Board of Directors selected are:
- Edmon Chung from Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands
- Danko Jevtović from Europe
- Tripti Sinha from North America

For At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC):
- Raymond Selorm Mamattah for Africa
- Laura Margolis for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Rao Naveed Bin Rais for Asia, Australia, Pacific Islands

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council:
- Tatiana Tropina from Europe

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council:
- Desiree Zeljka Miloshevic Evans from Europe for the Contracted Parties House
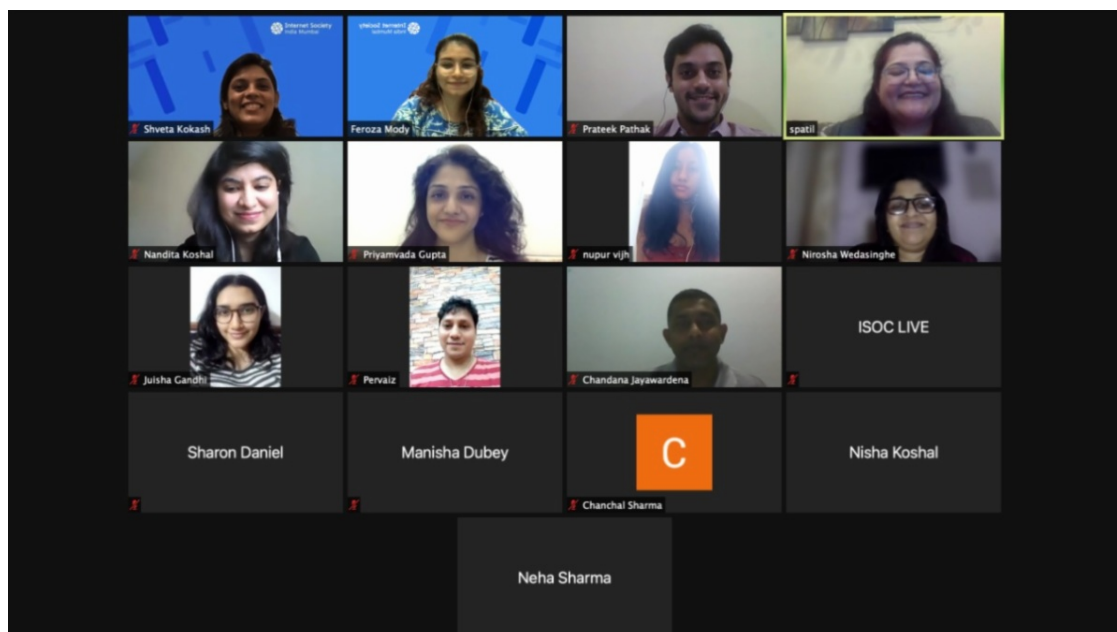- Paul McGrady from North America for the Non-Contracted Parties House

All the selected candidates will begin their terms after the ICANN72 Virtual Annual General Meeting.

## APRALO ALS Update

**Women in Technology Leadership Speaker Series IV Webinar on Managing Change in the Digital Age by ISOC INDIA MUMBAI**
*By Shveta Kokash*

ISOC India Mumbai Chapter organised it's 4th Women in Technology Speaker series, webinar on the theme Managing Organisational Change in the Digital Age on 10th July 2021. This fourth edition of the series saw Ms Sanjana Patil, a seasoned professional in HR technology and Analytics from Canadian Government talk about change management in the age of the Internet, how major organisations are dealing in maintaining a balance between person and machine, how governments ensure protection of sensitive personal data and how the organisations of the future would look like. The webinar saw great participation with participants from different fields like Academia, corporate, government, civil society and students joining from different parts of Indian sub-continent and North America.



*Picture: From the event*

**ISession held on Geopolitics & Internet Governance**
As part of the IEEE SSIT Virtual Conference on Norbert Wiener in the 21st Century  and part of the 225 years celebrations of the College of Engineering, Guindy Campus, Anna University a special ICANN Session on "Geopolitics & Internet Governance".  This was facilitated by APRALO Individual member Dr. T.V. Gopal.

The deliberations during this special session were based on: Scoping the term "Geopolitics";  Regulations and Legislations;  Multi Stakeholder Context;  Global Crisis Management and  Use and Abuse of Latest Technologies. The video recording is available [here](#).

## ICANN72 Resources

- Registration
- ICANN72 information and schedule
- Prep Week
- Pandemic Internet Access Reimbursement Program

## Opportunities

- The MAG 2022 nomination process has been launched. The deadline for the submission of names for consideration is 10 September 2021.

## Upcoming Events

- APrIGF2021 will be a hybrid conference held between 27-30 September.
- The APIGA 2021 program will mainly be conducted virtually between 1 October and 30 November
- India IGF (IIGF-2021) will be organized online between 20 -22 October.
- ICANN72 will be held from 25 to 28 October 2021 and Prep week between 12-14 Oct
- IGF2021 will be hosted by the Government of Poland at the International Congress Center in Katowice from 6-10 December.

## Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of ICANN Staff