APRALO Newsletter, June 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 ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum was held between14 to 17 June 2021. A total of 1337 participants from 147 countries took part in the Policy Forum. There were 61 sessions at the event, totalling 78 hours of meetings. Asia-Pacific had 25% of the total participation, the third-highest amongst the five regions. Considering that several sessions were at difficult local times in Asia-Pacific, this represents a fair level of participation.

The Virtual Policy Forum examined several important topics, including a technology-driven approach to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) based on Verisign's patent for an automated service; Reputation Block Lists as a way to mitigate DNS Abuse; regional and national regulations that significantly change the current legal landscape and impacting ICANN's work; the impact of COVID-19 as well as other changes within the Internet Governance ecosystem that affect the working of ICANN's Multistakeholder Model; the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP)-TempSpec 2A report; the new EPDP on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs); and end-user participation in ICANN Policy Development Processes (PDPs) and the role of end-users in the ICANN ecosystem. Particularly important for the Asia-Pacific region, considering its linguistic and cultural diversity, is the EPDP on IDNs. It is therefore good to see that our region is well-represented within the members and participants selected by ALAC to the EPDP on IDNs.

The APRALO Policy Forum under the leadership of Justine Chew is continuing its work on Project RoSI (Roster of Skills and Interest). It is also organizing a special Webinar jointly with the ALAC Capacity Building WG (CBWG) on IDNs on Tuesday, 27 July 2021, during 08:00-09:30 UTC. The webinar aims at providing participants with an introductory understanding of IDNs from an end-user perspective, and covers topics such as the basic concepts; the work done on IDNs since its launch in 2011; the process of delegation of IDNs into the Root Zone; IDN Variants and their management; IDN-based aspects of SubPro; and the context of the EPDP on IDNs. Please consider joining the session.

The APRALO Policy Forum produced and submitted to ICANN its Statement on Subsequent Procedures, supplementing the ALAC positions. In the statement, we have pointed to three specific areas that are of special interest to our region: The need to facilitate increased adoption of Universal Acceptance & Internationalized Domain Names; the need to facilitate increased and equitable access by "Global South", community/niche TLD applicants through the Applicant Support Program (ASP) & Community Priority Evaluation (CPE) and a ban on private auctions; and the need for ALAC to have automatic standing to file Community Objections.

Hoping that all of us remain safe in these difficult times.

With Kind Regards.

ALAC Chair Update

Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair

Dear APRALO members -

Another Virtual ICANN meeting is behind us and we await the decision of the July meeting of the ICANN Board as to whether ICANN72 will be hybrid or fully virtual as the past five meetings have been. There has already been a lot of discussion about the pros and cons of a hybrid meeting among some of our APAC members. If you haven't had your say, please contact Cheryl Langdon Orr to provide your comment or support for their proposal.

We are aware that there are many in our region who are now fully vaccinated, and are well acquainted with social distancing and mask wearing expectations that may be imposed at a face to face meeting for many more months to come. Still this is a Board decision and we await the outcome of their meeting on this matter.

Thank you to those participants who engaged in Justine's policy Forum and for the resultant paper that developed from it and has been sent to the Board. It is a great way to learn about how policy works within At-Large and ICANN.

A capacity-building webinar is being prepared by APRALO but will hopefully be incorporated into the At-Large CBWG schedule because it is of global interest. The webinar is an Introduction to IDNs in conjunction with the GNSO Expedited PDP on International Domain Names (IDNs). It will take place on Tuesday 27 July at 8:00-9:30 utc and will have Chinese interpretation. We have several APRALO members on the EPDP on IDNs (namely Satish, Lianna, Justine and Gopal Tadepalli) and are very pleased to see so much interest in this area.

The Operations Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) invited the ICANN Planning Team in to explain ICANN's Operational Initiatives. In its next meeting in July, the OFB-WG will be discussing and prioritising the top 5 Operating Initiatives for At-Large within ICANN's 5 year plan. More At-Large participants will have an opportunity to complete the survey before the OFB group starts discussing the wider groups priorities at their next meeting. The discussions that will be held within the OFB, and at a workshop that is being proposed by the ICANN Planning group, will ensure that we are all aware of what is required of these initiatives that we may want to raise with ICANN Org during the next public comment period in December.

Also, do not forget if you have a good session proposal for ICANN72, please bring it along to the next ICANN72 planning meeting which will be starting soon.

Do not miss attending the APRALO introductory webinar on IDNs, in conjunction with the initiation of the GNSO Expedited PDP on IDNs.

Best regards. Keep healthy and take care.

ICANN71 Update

The ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum was held from 14-17 June and attended by 1,330 attendees from 147 countries out of which 23% were from Asia Pacific region. During the meeting, the 2021 ICANN Community Excellence Award was given posthumously to Maryln Cade and to Rafik Dammak.

There were three plenary sessions during the conference: Impact of Regulatory Developments on ICANN Policy Topics, ICANN's Multistakeholder Model within the Internet Governance Ecosystem and Understanding Reputation Block Lists. There was a session discussing the post pandemic future of ICANN Public meetings. The At-Large Policy Session during ICANN71 include: At-Large Policy Session 1: End User Participation in ICANN PDPs and their Role within the ICANN ecosystem; At-Large Policy Session 2: ccTLD governance models - Testimonies from At-Large end users and At-Large Policy Session 3: GDPR as a technology - policy implications.

The GNSO Council had their meeting; the various stakeholders organised their own meetings; GNSO had session to provide updates to the community of the activities of the various policy initiatives such as the GNSO EPDP Phase 2A , GNSO - CPH DNS Abuse Work Group, Transfer Policy Review Working Group; GNSO has a meeting on the Registration Data Policy IRT and IDN EPDP community outreach to name a few.

GAC had meetings with GNSO and ALAC. There were sessions to discuss DNS Abuse Mitigation, subsequent rounds of GTLD auctions, RDS/ WHOIS and data protection. The GAC Communique of ICANN71 can be read using this link.

Apart from the ccNSO Council meeting, ccNSO organised a session of the Strategic & Operational Planning Standing Committee, a ccTLD-related Board Members Questions and Answer Session and Members Meeting Governance Session.

Additionally there were two DNSSEC and Security workshops, two Tech day sessions and an SSAC public meeting. RSSAC has a work session and there was a session organised by the Customer Standing Committee (CSC) - IANA Naming Function Session.

The At-Large sessions have been highlighted separately in the next section.

ALAC/At-Large @ ICANN71

At-Large was very active in ICANN71 and organised several policy sessions that were greatly appreciated by the community.

During the Prep Week (between 1-3 June), At Large organised three webinars: ICANN71 At-Large: What to expect; Flash Pitch Tour of ICANN and At Large (by EURALO) and At-Large Outreach and Engagement Session.

During ICANN71, the At-Large community held three policy sessions.

End User Participation in ICANN PDPs and their Role within the ICANN Ecosystem
This At-Large policy session explored the level of influence of Internet end users on ICANN policy development processes (PDPs). The session explored two questions:

● To what extent does the ICANN Board rely on the Internet end user community in making its decisions?
● How does the ICANN community gather opinions that are representative of Internet end users?

ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Göran Marby, ICANN Board Vice Chair León Sánchez, and ALAC Vice Chair for Policy Jonathan Zuck exchanged their views on end user participation in ICANN. León Sánchez noted that "the end user is at the center" of ICANN. The discussion also highlighted the important role the ALAC and At-Large community have in the public interest.

ccTLD Governance Models: Testimonies from At-Large End Users

In this policy session, Country Code Name Supporting Organization member Katrina Sataki introduced the four types of country code top-level domain (ccTLD) governance models consisting of academic, government, for profit, and not for profit. Nine At-Large members from around the world and across the various ccTLD governance models spoke about their experiences with the ccTLD operators in their country. Moderator Olivier Crépin-Leblond noted in his summary that all four models of ccTLD governance appear to be listening to end user inputs in how they serve their local community. Following ICANN71, the At-Large community will continue the discussion to increase end user input in their local ccTLD. The session organizers are considering a follow-up session during ICANN72 on ccTLDs and how end user input could be heard to a greater degree, including how to promote end user input in the governance of ccTLDs and which aspects of ccTLD operation have resonated well with end users.

GDPR as a Technology: Policy Implications
The At-Large community held a policy session on the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its technology and policy implications. The policy session explored the potential impact that advancing GDPR compliance with the use of technology will likely have on Internet end users, in particular the policy implications of a United States patent, "Systems and Methods for Preserving Privacy of a Registrant in a Domain Name System (DNS)," recently issued to Verisign and the level to which it might impact further work of the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification (EPDP-TempSpec) for Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Data. Program participants noted that national patents may impact ICANN policies and PDPs and may raise questions of enforcement. The At-Large community and other stakeholders will follow up on these evolving issues.

There was also an AFRALO and AfrICANN meeting along with the At-Large EURALO social event.

Read more about At-Large activity during ICANN71 in the ICANN71 Policy Outcomes Report.

ICANN Update

In June, ICANN:

- The GNSO Council invited Expression of Interest for the position of a chair of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) team related to Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).
- The GNSO Council invited community members to participate as participants or observers in the EPDP on IDNs
- Announced intent to add linguistic diversity of the search strings studied, into the Domain Name Security Threat Information Collection and Reporting (DNSTICR) project.
- Announced that the ninth Africa Domain Name System (DNS) Forum will be held virtually from 27 to 28 July 2021. This year the theme of the forum is "Evolving the DNS Ecosystem in Africa."
- Opened a Request for Information (RFI) to better understand what may be commercially available in the marketplace to deliver some or all of the System for Standardized Access/Disclosure to Non-Public Registration Data (SSAD), including existing methods for identity verification. Last date for submission is 19 July.
- Community members are invited to attend webinar on SSAD Operational Design Phase (ODP) Project Update on 13 July, 16:00 UTC. For registration use this link.

ALAC Update

In June, the ALAC did not hold their monthly meeting due to ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum activities. Read more about At-Large activity during ICANN71 in the ICANN71 Policy Outcomes Report.

The ALAC met with the ICANN Board in July, and discussed 1) ALAC advice to the Board - best practice in format, approach, feedback and process; 2) ALAC advice to the ICANN Board on Subsequent Procedures; 3) Holistic review.

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:

- GNSO Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms in All gTLDs Policy Development Process Phase 1 Final Recommendations for ICANN Board Consideration

The ALAC is currently developing responses to the following (3) ICANN Public Comment proceedings, and other cross community and/or external consultations:

Comment Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team – PHASE 2A 19 July 2021 **CPWG**

Vote RrSG Draft White Paper: Registrant Protections in DNS Abuse Mitigation Deadline: Flexible, around ICANN71. Invitation for ALAC comment from RrSG Chair. **CPWG**

Drafting ALAC Advice on EPDP Phase 2 Policy Recommendations for Board Consideration 30 March 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 has in June continued to deliberate on its project work scope. Project progress and discussions are updated periodically at the Project RoSI Work Space.

In addition, the APRALO Policy Forum Co-Chairs, Satish and I, are spearheading the organization of an introductory APRALO Webinar on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). This capacity building webinar, scheduled for 27 July 2021, is specifically aimed at supporting our regional At-Large participants in the recently GNSO-initiated Expedited Policy Development Process on IDNs (EPDP on IDNs) which is expected to begin its work in late July. More details on this APRALO Webinar on IDNs will be released in due course.
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

Owing to the ICANN 71 Virtual Policy Forum, a monthly APRALO meeting was not called in June.

NomCom Update

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

This month the Nominating Committee concluded their second assessment meeting and shortlisted the candidates for the SO/ AC leadership and final round of virtual interviews for the Board positions. The shortlisted candidates for the final round for the SO/ AC leadership will be asked to share a short video on predetermined questions, while the interviews for the Board candidates will be held from mid July.

APAC Hub Update

The APAC Space organised an ICANN Readout on 29 June. Jia-Rong Low shared an overview on ICANN71, Antonia Chu provided and update on the transfer Policy Review PDP, Akinori Maemura updated on the Board activities, T. Santhosh updated on the GAC activities, Ai-Chin Lu updated on ccNSO activities; Maureen Hilyard on ALAC activities, Pam Little on the GNSO activities, while Donna Austin sought a feedback from APAC perspective on Hybrid72 Seattle meeting. The open community discussion was moderated by Amrita Choudhury.

APRALO ALS Update

Round Table Discussion on Promotion of the Armenian IDN ".huj" and the Universal

Acceptance
By Lianna Galstyan

On 10 June, 2021 within the framework of the 5th anniversary of ".հայ" Armenian IDN ccTLD, the ISOC Armenia organized a Round Table Discussion with representatives of all stakeholder groups featuring the Ministry of High-Tech Industry, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, the Office of the Diaspora Commission, the Language Committee, Wikimedia Armenia, "Young Programmers" NGO, as well as representatives of a number of Registrars.

In the introductory part there was a presentation about the IDNs in general and the progress update of the Armenian IDN by Anna Karakhanyan, AMNIC administrator, followed by a presentation of ICANN GAC perspectives on IDNs by Kristina Hakobyan, GAC adviser.

The topic of Universal Acceptance was widely discussed and the work of the regional UA group was presented to participants by Maria Kolesnikova, Chair of the Universal Acceptance Regional Coordination Group of CIS and Eastern Europe.

Lianna Galstyan, ISOC Armenia External Relations Manager and APRALO Vice Chair, moderated the Round Table discussion. As a result, new collaboration and a roadmap for continuous work were established among the participating organizations.

Opportunities

- Applications are now open for the 2021 Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia) Grants and Awards Program under three themes: Inclusion, Infrastructure and Knowledge. Last date to apply is 19 July.
- The Internet Identifier Innovation Center (IIIC) has launched a Domain Name System (DNS) Project Competition for college and university students in India. Last date to apply is 30 July. For more details visit: www.dnscompetition.in.

Upcoming Events

- The IEEE conference No 4894 Being Human in Global Village, will be organised in Chennai, India between 22-25 July 2021.
- Participate in the APRALO Webinar on Internationalized Domain Names on 27 July 08:00 UTC.

Curated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of ICANN Staff