

APRALO Newsletter March 2022

A brief update for the period of February-March 2022, from the APRALO perspective



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Curated by: Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of APRALO Members

Messages

From APRALO Chair Satish Babu



Dear APRALO community

Greetings! On behalf of the Leadership Team, I hope you are keeping fine.

We completed the ICANN73 Virtual Community Forum late last month. A total of 1578 community members participated in the meeting. Of these, our region stood second, with 22%

of these participants. Considering that the event was organized on Puerto Rico time--which made participation difficult for many in the APAC Region--this degree of participation is noteworthy. There is more information on ICANN73 in this edition of our newsletter..

There are some updates on the APRALO activities. Shah Rahman has taken over as APRALO's new Social Media Lead. The APRALO Leadership Team wishes him the best as he started his work from ICANN73. The APRALO Policy Forum is continuing its activities with a three-pronged approach: Identify selected policy priorities (such as IDNs & UA, Developments in the New gTLD program, and on DNS Abuse); find new ways to engage with the APRALO community; and continuing with existing projects including the Register of Skills and Interests, Regional Hot Topics Survey and the Mentoring Program. Community members are requested to participate in these programs.

APRALO is scheduled to organize its next General Assembly in 2023. As per the original decision, we had decided to co-locate it with APriGF. The LT will begin discussions with APriGF towards exploring the option of co-location. Also, we will be updating our contact details and activities of our ALSes shortly (please see the announcement from Aris Ignacio later in this issue).

With kind regards

Satish Babu

From ALAC Chair Maureen Hilyard



Dear APRALO members

No sooner did we complete ICANN73, but we are already started planning ICANN74. The plan is to hold a face-to-face meeting in The Hague from 13-16 June 2022, unless something drastic happens globally so that this cannot happen.

But we should be positive. There will be health and safety checks set by both the Netherlands government and ICANN and as a matter of course, masks, sanitising and social distancing will be the norm.

It is inevitable that there will be some members who will not be able to attend for a variety of reasons, so that the hybrid model is something that ICANN is very keen to support. We recently had a leadership session to discuss what a "hybrid" model might entail. At-Large sent some suggestions and queries relating to ICANN74, so that we can hopefully be well prepared for the event. And, it's not too far away.

Please come along to our planning meetings, not just with ideas of what we might do as face-to-face activities, but also how we can engage our remote participants within a hybrid environment to ensure that they feel included in both the conversations and any activities that take place. This will be our challenge. Looking forward to hearing from you at the planning sessions.

Maureen 😊

ICANN 73 Prep Week

- ICANN73 Prep Week was organised between 22–24 February
- There were 12 sessions that ranged from what to expect from ICANN73, meeting of the ICANN Board with Fellows and NextGen@ICANN, updates of different initiatives and groups (Internationalized Domain Names Program, Universal Acceptance, Contractual Compliance, Fiscal Year 2023 Planning, Nominating Committee Review Implementation Working Group, Generic Names Supporting Organization Policy, Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security (KINDNS) and a conversation with operators on 10th Anniversary of the New gTLD Program.
- Read the ICANN73 Policy Outlook report [here](#)

ICANN 73 Updates



- ➔ ICANN73 Policy Forum was organised online between 7-10 March.
- ➔ More than 1,570 attendees from 146 countries participated in 79 sessions.
- ➔ There were two plenary sessions: on The Global Public Interest Framework: Is it Useful? and Evolving the DNS Abuse Conversation.
- ➔ For more details read the [ICANN73 Outcome report](#).

Apart from bilateral meetings between different SOs/ACs different SOs and ACs had their own meetings.

- ccNSO: Organised sessions on Tech Day, ccNSO Members Meetings, and ccNSO Council sessions; elected new ccNSO Council leadership.
- GNSO: organised 24 sessions that includes sessions on the GNSO policy development process (PDP) (EPDP-TempSpec; Transfer Policy Review PDP; EPDP-IDNs; gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Scoping Team, etc.) working group; sessions of the different stakeholder group and constituency work, GNSO Council meetings, and joint sessions with other ICANN community groups.
- GAC: Had several discussions which is reflected in the [ICANN73 GAC Communiqué](#); bilateral sessions with ICANN Board, ALAC, GNSO Council, ccNSO.
- RSSAC: Held a joint session with the ICANN Board to discuss the evolution of Root Server System (RSS) governance; meetings including a session to raise awareness about recent RSSAC publications.
- SSAC: organised its Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and Security Workshop

At-Large@ICANN 73

- At-Large organised several sessions under three tracks: policy, outreach and engagement, and operations.
- There were sessions on At-Large priority, leadership sessions; joint Sessions with ICANN Board, GAC and GNSO Council; Policy sessions: CCT Review Revisited, Prioritisation Framework ALAC Prioritisation Assessment Tool (APAT) Review and Protecting the Rights of Registrants and End Users for a Secure and Stable DNS.
- NARALO has its Monthly Meeting on Blockchain, NFTs, and Decentralized Domains - What is the impact on end-users, Internet security and stability, and ICANN?
- There was a joint session of AFRALO-AfrICANN

Update from our Mentees on ICANN73 Session

Update on session:

Achieving Universal Acceptance: The Way Forward



By Priyatosh Jana

Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) play a significant role in making it possible for people around the globe to connect with their communities through Domain Names and email addresses in local languages and scripts, including Arabic, Hindi, Thai and many others. Implementation of Universal Acceptance and IDNs makes online systems not only more inclusive and multilingual, but also supports ICANN's mission to help ensure a stable, secure, and unified global Internet. UA and IDNs remained prominent topics on the agenda, with several questions dedicated to exchanging ideas and collaborating with GAC and ALAC in support of UA, as well as measuring the progress of UA adoption altogether. The emphasis on UA and IDN related topics reflects their importance as strategic initiatives in ICANN's Financial and Operating Plans.

Speakers included for this session were Dr. Data, UASG Chair, as well as moderator to the session theme, Christian Dawson, liaison to UASG from GNSO, Satish Babu, liaison to UASG from ALAC and Nigel Hickson, liaison to UASG from GAC. Satish has pointed out many important things like the benefits of closing UA gap, different UA related programmes has been done by ALAC so far and few has been planned to execute, contribution from ALAC to UA and IDNs programme and through ALAC team to EPDP on IDNs. Satish also mentioned that ALAC would always be keen to collaborate with GAC in the ongoing work of UA and IDNs during the ALAC and GAC meeting. Nigel Hickson, the GAC representative to UASG, has pointed out that governments have to do many more things to support UA to bridge the existing gaps.

Update from our Mentees on ICANN73 Session

Update on session:

The Global Public Interest Framework: Is it useful?



By Prateek Pathak

In 2019, the ICANN Board and community began developing a framework to incorporate the Global Public Interest (GPI) into the ICANN Board decision-making process.

The objective of this plenary session was to determine the utility of the GPI framework (GPIF) and to deliberate on its applicability.

My takeaways and some key updates from the session are as follows:

- **GPIF Scope:** In addition to existing pilot for SSAD, there is scope for wider use of GPIF. For decision making on certain topics like Closed Generics, the ICANN Board and community will find it helpful.
- **GPIF Design:** In addition to the deconstruction of public interest categories from existing ICANN documents, these categories can be elaborated and extrapolated to outline their desirable and undesirable conceptions of the future role of the Internet for the public. In design, GPIF can be principle based but its application should be considerate of local interests of stakeholder communities. It should address the mechanism of taking advice from certain constituencies like GAC who are considered as traditional guardians of public interest from their respective countries.
- **GPIF Application:** GPIF should be a critical part of community deliberations at initial stages of PDP (Policy Development Process) itself. There is a clear need to provide incentives to various groups to apply GPIF on cross community issues and advocate it beyond their own group interests. At later stages, these different, cross community GPIF perspectives can be synergized before they are presented to the ICANN Board.
- **GPIF Evaluation:** There is a clear need to determine process and data inputs to eventually assess a GPIF based decision. This will contribute to an overall impact evaluation of every ICANN Board decision wherein GPIF has been applied.

Update from our Mentee on ICANN73 Prep Session

Update on session:

KINDNS - An ICANN Initiative to Promote DNS Operational Best Practices



By Le Yang

DNS security has become one of the most important issues in network security, how to ensure DNS security is one of the key tasks of ICANN. DNS security involves many operators and requires DNS operational community collaboration and cooperation to ensure the security of the whole DNS system. In recent years, the operational community has accumulated a wealth of best practices in the face of growing cyber security threats. In ICANN73, ICANN proposed an initiative to promote best practices in DNS operations, called KINDNS - Knowledge-sharing and Instantiating Norms for DNS and Naming Security. The KINDNS aims to produce something simple that can help a wide variety of DNS operators, from small to large, to follow both the evolution of the DNS protocol and the best practices the industry identifies for better security and more effective DNS operations.

In the session of [KINDNS](#), Adiel Akplogan, VP For Technical Engagement of ICANN, and Steven Kim of ICANN jointly discussed in depth what KINDNS is, the current progress of KINDNS, and the promotion plan and arrangement of KINDNS. Steven introduced the key components of the KINDNS's current phase:

- Identifying and documenting the most critical security norms for DNS operation, with operational community.
- Developing communications, promotions, and an enrolment plan.
- Identifying indicator to help measure and assess the impact of the initiative.
- Mapping best practices to ICANN DNS policy functions.

They also presented the one-year plan to promote the initiative.

ICANN Updates

- ICANN CEO provided an [update on ICANN's Emergency Internet Infrastructure Support Initiative](#) of \$US 1 million to support Internet access and that the first distribution would be in Ukraine
- ICANN Board Chair shared [highlights from March ICANN Board Workshop](#)
- Conducted the [first key ceremony of 2022](#)
- Enacted [relief for registrants in Ukraine and surrounding region](#)
- Updated on the [UNR Registry Agreement Assignments Status](#)

Published

- The Draft Planning Prioritization Framework Version 1, available [here](#).
- A report [The Last Four years in Retrospect: A Brief Review of DNS Abuse Trends](#)
- The Chief Technical Officer (OCTO) published a paper "[Quantum Computing and the DNS](#)"

Announced

- [ICANN74 fellows](#)
- The seven individuals have been selected as the [members of the Independent Review Process](#) (IRP) Community Representatives Group. At Large has been represented by Cheryl Langdon-Orr

Released

Report of the 2021 Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions Customer Engagement Survey that [demonstrates](#) consistent [high performance](#).

ICANN Updates

Public Consultations

- Comments were invited 18 March on the [two draft work products](#) ([A Perspective Study of DNS Queries for Non-Existent Top-Level Domains](#) and [Case Study of Collision Strings](#)) that contribute to the Name Collision Analysis Project NCAP Study 2.
- Seeking inputs on: [Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy \(UDRP\)](#); [Root Zone Update Process Study](#); [Root Zone Label Generation Rules Version 5](#)

ALAC Policy Updates

Submissions

- [At-Large Workspace: ICANN Bylaws Amendments: ccNSO-Proposed Changes to Article 10 and Annex B](#)
- [ICANN Draft FY23-27 Operating and Financial Plan and Draft FY23 Operating Plan and Budget](#)
- [ICANN Bylaws Amendments: ccNSO-Proposed Changes to Article 10 and Annex B](#)

Work in Progress

None at the moment

Soon to Start Work on

Will be updated

Contribute to the ICANN & ALAC Policy Proceedings



Visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact At-Large Staff for more information.



To **contribute to ALAC policy activity**, on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as penholder and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.



APRALO Community can 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.

Important Links to Visit

[At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice](#)
[Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice](#)
[Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)
[At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group \(OFB-WG\)](#)

Monthly Call Updates

ALAC Call

At the [March ALAC](#) call Guest Speakers [Philippe Fouquart](#), Chair of the GNSO Council spoke on the role of the GNSO Council Chair and expectations for the GNSO and of the value of At-Large.

[León Sánchez](#), ICANN Board Vice Chair and Director provided an update from the Board.

Further, the agenda also featured updates regarding At-Large policy activity including ALAC advice, membership updates, and reports from At-Large Liaisons and WG leaders, At Large activities in ICANN73 and a discussion on 2022 ALAC and RALO elections.

APRALO Call

During the March [APRALO monthly call](#), [Perspectives from ICANN73](#) was shared.

These include, update on the activities of the ICANN Board by Edmon Chung, ICANN Board Member; ALAC by Maureen Hilyard; [GNSO](#) by Justine Chew; [ccNSO](#) by Lianna Galstyan and [UASG](#) by Satish Babu.

Further, guest speaker Edmon Chung provided an update of DotAsia and how APRALO and DotAsia can work together.

Updates from the Region

APAC DNS Forum 2022

The [APAC DNS Forum 2022](#) themed “Beyond Technology: The Revolution of DNS”, was co-hosted by MYNIC and ICANN online from 29 March - 1 April. The event was inaugurated by the Honorable Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communication and Multimedia Malaysia, YB Datuk Zahidi Zainul Abidin.

Discussions at the forum ranged from the future of Domain Name System (DNS), Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Variants; protecting domain names from Cybersquatters and Counterfeiters; issues related to DNS Abuse including efforts to mitigate such abuse; thick or thin registry and data escrow, digital branding, emerging technology, privacy issues, best practices, etc.

APAC Space Update

APAC Space [organised](#) a community readout of ICANN73 on 24 March.

The introductory remarks and overview of ICANN73 were provided by Jia Rong Low, ICANN; the PDP highlights on Transfer Policy Review PDP by Antonia Chu; stakeholder perspectives on the ICANN Board by Edmon Chung, ICANN Board Member; GAC by Shi-Young Chang, GAC Vice Chair; ccNSO by Ai-Chin Lu, ccNSO Council Member; ALAC by Maureen Hilyard, ALAC Chair; GNSO by Tomslin Samme-Nlar, GNSO Council Vice Chair and RSSAC by Hiro Hotta, RSSAC Member.

The open community discussion was facilitated by Elliott Mann.

View the [Session Recording](#) and [Presentation Slides](#)

APRALO Policy Forum Update



Survey #2.2021 Report & Guide for 2022 Agenda

Survey Facts

- Designed to understand how well the APRALO Policy Forum (APF) has functioned in 2021* & guidance on 2022 agenda setting
- Ran for 7 weeks (2-12-2021 to 14-01-2022)
- Drew only 10 unique respondents
- Gained 1 new sign-up to APF mailing list

* Referred to:

- A. Regional Policy Positioning
- B. Capacity Building Webinars
- C. APRALO Mentoring Program
- D. Other projects – Project RoSI and Hot Topics Survey

NB. The earlier Survey #1.2021 had been designed identify key impediments to participating in the APF, and ideas for addressing them

Key Findings/Inputs

Awareness of APRALO Policy Forum

90% knew of the APF and RALO activities, mainly through the APRALO Monthly Calls (100%), APAC-Discuss mail list (80%), and APRALO Monthly Newsletter (50%)

Regional Policy Positioning

90% agreed that the 1 Jun 2021 APRALO Statement to the GSNO New gTLD SubPro Final Outputs for ICANN Board Consideration is the sort of policy intervention to undertake.

A majority of respondents believe APRALO should pay attention to increasing awareness and participation from stakeholders in the adoption of Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

Capacity Building Webinars

90% agreed that the 27 Jun 2021 APRALO Webinar on IDNs is the sort of webinar to run

Some suggestions on topics

- UA action items & projects
- Outcomes of the EPDP on IDNs
- Outreach on New gTLDs around IDNs, applicant support, community TLDs
- End-user action on DNS abuse
- Other issues being discussed in ICANN PDPs, in general

Overview

80% thought the 2021 initiatives* either have or will meet APF's dual purpose of (1) facilitating informed, inclusive regional position development on ICANN issues; and (2) support regional participation in the ALAC Policy Platform.

Guide for 2022 Agenda

1. Maintain Selective Focus

- **Concentrate on UA and IDNs**, establish specific opportunities for participation and identify action items
- Monitor developments on New gTLD Program – SubPro ODP
- Monitor developments for end-user action against DNS abuse
- Limit to issues within ICANN remit impacting end-users

2. Vary Modus Operandi

- Find new ways to simplify engagement, allow for ease of understanding, increase discussion opportunities
- Support and avoid duplicating CPWG efforts
- Conduct periodic review on effectiveness of *modus operandi*

3. Continue with existing initiatives

- APRALO Mentorship Program
- APRALO Register of Skills & Interests (Project RoSI)
- APRALO Hot Topics Survey (HTS) 2022

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.

From
Justine Chew

[Click here to comment on this update.](#)

Mentorship Update



By Lianna Galstyan

APRALO Mentorship Program continues its progress. On 21 February, 2022, an informal meeting was organized with participation of Mentors (Amrita Choudhury, Lianna Galstyan, Ali Almeshal) and Mentees (K Mohan Raidu, Le Yang, Prateek Pathak, Priyatosh Jana). All participants briefly updated on the ICANN Learn courses they had taken as well as shared the topics of their interest for ICANN73 meeting.

The Mentors asked everyone to attend at least one session of which they would prepare a brief report.

After the ICANN73 meeting, the team organized another call to discuss the takeaways and update on the progress. It was noted that the unfavorable APAC time zone of the meeting was a great hindrance to mentees for attending most of the sessions. Anyway, the recording of sessions helped them in preparing the reports.

Working Group Updates

Social Media Working Group (SMWG)

Shah Zahidur Rahman



nominated as the APRALO lead to the Social Media Working Group.

He led the Social Media campaign for ICANN73 spreading the news about the various events and meetings.

To become a volunteer for SMWG and help promote At-Large activities, write to staff@atlarge.icann.org

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement

By Aris Ignacio



With the need to update the current information in each of the At-Large Structures in APRALO, it is requested that each of the ALSes both existing and new ones, submit important information for updating our records. The information needed will be as follows:

- Complete name of the ALS
- Logo of the ALS
- Contact person/s, positions in the ALS and email/s
- Short information or description about the ALS; and
- Current or upcoming activities or projects

Kindly submit the mentioned information to staff@atlarge.icann.org and please cc arisignacio@yahoo.com at the soonest possible time.

For full details of the Subcommittee, outputs, activities, and schedules, kindly visit this [link](#).

Meet Our Leader



Shah Zahidur Rahman
SMWG member from APRALO

Head of Business Strategy & Development
[EyHost Ltd.](#)
Bangladesh

Areas of interest:

Internet Governance, Community engagement and capacity development, strategic planning

Engagement in ICANN

APRALO and NCSG/NCUC

Personal Update

Dynamic and self-motivated professional with 15+ years of experience in the field of Internet technologies, and IT's application and services business.

Being a professional strategist, he likes to conduct strategic planning and design thinking and disruptive Innovation to Survive and Win.

Hobbies

Reading, traveling and networking

Other Updates

Upcoming Events

- Webinar on issues impacting the Internet that are being discussed at the United Nations (UN) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on 12 April at 20:00 UTC. To participate, register [here](#).
- Girls in ICT Day will be celebrated on 28 April under the theme “Access and Safety”. More info [here](#).
- [8th Middle East Domain Name System \(DNS\) Forum](#) will take place virtually from 16-18 May 2022.
- ICANN74 Policy Forum will be held in The Hague, Netherlands, between 13–16 June 2022.

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to: amritachoudhury@ccaai.in