## APTLD Position on Top Level Internationalised Domain Names
*June 21, 2007*

**Position**

APTLD Recognises the policy, administrative and remaining technical challenges in establishing IDNs at the top level of the Internet DNS.

However, we also recognise the Billions of people in the Asia Pacific region who are denied the basic information and voice provided by the Internet simply because of their lack of knowledge of a foreign character set.

So that ccTLDs in the region can better serve their indigenous peoples, APTLD urges ICANN to rapidly implement a limited introduction of top level IDNs by taking the following two, simple steps:

1. Allow each existing ccTLD to manage <u>one</u> additional country or territory specific ccTLD in a recognised non-ASCII script of their country or territory. The name will be determined by the ccTLD's local Internet community. *APTLD recognises that this will not meet the demand for a few ccTLDs with multiple non-ASCII scripts and we will actively pursue the policy development solution to meet their needs too.*

2. Manage a six-month comment period for the international community to lodge substantive objections to the names chosen as not being relevant for the ccTLD. *This will ensure that spurious names are not chosen.*

**Background**

APTLD is the regional organisational body for ccTLDs operating in the Asia Pacific Region. This region has nearly 4 Billion people, or 60% of the global population. Yet, we have just over 400,000,000 Internet users – less than 40% of the global users.

The region is also home to most of the world's non-Latin based written languages and also home to most of the world's population who are literate in non-Latin based languages.

The delay in empowering the people of the region is not acceptable and we couldn't imagine North America or Europe tolerating any delay should the roles be reversed.

Many ccTLD managers in the region have already implemented IDN's into their existing Latin based ccTLD. However, this does not fully address the need of our communities.