

## ALAC IDN Liaison's Report, April 27, 2009

The following is an update on developments related to IDN:

### Governments' and Country Code Managers' Interest in the fast track process

Last year, ICANN sent letters to countries and territories informing them about the Fast Track process – where a limited number of internationalized domain names will be added to the Internet - and asked them to indicate their level of interest. This is an update on that process.

A total of 252 letters were sent to national governments, and copied to country code top-level domain managers. So far we have received 74 responses and a small number of respondents requested confidentiality.

Out of these (not counting confidential requests), 31 said they were interested in participating in the Fast Track process, representing a total of 15 different languages. The remaining expressed they were not interested in participating at this time or indicated that they would not be eligible to obtain an IDN ccTLD under the process

More details on the response from countries at page <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-10feb09-en.htm>

### Fast-track IDN ccTLD Activities

The [IDNC working group](#), whose formation was approved by the ICANN Board during the ICANN meeting in Los Angeles, finished their recommendations to create a fast track approach to introduce a limited number of IDN ccTLDs. The IDNC working group final report was approved by the ICANN Board during the ICANN Paris meeting, where the ICANN Board also directed ICANN staff to commence implementation of this process.

The fast-track process focuses on meeting a near-term demand and on gaining experience with the implementation of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs associated with the ISO 3166-1 two-letter codes (IDN ccTLDs). In developing their recommendations the IDNC working group paid special attention to:

- The overarching requirement to preserve the security and stability of the DNS;
- Compliance with the IDNA protocols;
- Input and advice from the technical community in respect to the implementation of IDNs;
- Current practices for the delegation of ccTLDs

With the approval of the IDNC Final Report by the ICANN Board of Directors, ICANN is now at a transition point, focusing on developing implementable solutions to the IDNC recommendations.

## Initiation of IDN ccPDP by ccNSO Council

At its meeting on 7 April 2009 the [ccNSO Council initiated the IDN country code Policy Development Process](#) [PDF, 45K] (IDN ccPDP). The purpose of the IDN ccPDP is to develop and recommend to the ICANN Board a policy for the selection and delegation of IDN ccTLDs and identify, and if any recommend such, changes needed to Article IX and annexes in connection with such policy. The IDN ccPDP Issue Report, including the PDP timeline is available [here](#)[PDF, 109K].

## Proposal for a new IDN gTLD constituency

ICANN has received a Petition and proposed Charter for a new Internationalized Domain Name Top Level Domain (IDNgTLD) Constituency (IDNgTLDC) within the Commercial Stakeholders Group (CSG). As the original Notice of Intent to Form the IDNTLD Constituency (NOIF) explains, this Constituency is to primarily represent the views and interests of those who have been and/or are engaged and/or intend to be involved in the advocacy, promotion, provision, implementation, popularization, research and development of IDN gTLDs on the Internet. The IDNgTLD Constituency is to provide a home for both commercial stakeholders (and non-commercial stakeholders who may wish to join) catering to the needs of about 4 billion people who will be served by IDNgTLDs, of the 2008 World Population of some 6.5 billion humans. And of the 1.58 billion Internet users in 2008, about 720 million users come from countries/communities that need to be more properly served by IDNgTLDs.

ICANN has opened this for public comments from 21 April 2009 through 20 May 2009. The formal Public Comment Forum Box is located here: <http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/public-comment-200905.html#idngtld> To submit comments: [idngtld-petition@icann.org](mailto:idngtld-petition@icann.org)

## The Arabic Script IDN Working Group in Jordan

A year ago, PIR, Afiliat Limited and UN-ESCWA had facilitated the first ASIWG meeting to coincide with the ICANN regional meeting in Dubai. This was the 4th meeting of ASIWG as a continuation to the efforts started earlier regarding the formulation of guidelines for the use of Arabic script in Internet addresses, namely Domain Names. Following this, two more meetings have happened and the fourth meeting 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Arabic Script IDN Working Group was held recently at Amman, Jordan. The “Arabic Script in Internationalized Domain Names - Working Group” (ASIWG) is an autonomous and self organized group formed by regional and global Internet key players interested in the integration of the Arabic script in Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). This working group gathers ICT experts from the Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Jawi communities as they all use the Arabic script in their languages, Internet registries and global organizations. The attendees from Jordan, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Syria, Iran, Lebanon, Somalia, and US reflected the diversity and richness of the Arabic script base languages (Farsi, Urdu, Sindhi, Jawi, Arabic etc) .

Some of the most engaged discussions and debates centered on defining guidelines for certain language characters. For example, there are characters that might cause visual confusion and hence lead to increased probability of phishing and customer confusion. The

bulk of the deliberations were on how to handle the challenge: Should these characters be disallowed? And if so - should it be done at the protocol level or at the registry level?

*Liaison's Note: The liaison seeks to be formally connected to all IDN related working groups within ICANN and to the various constituencies working on IDN with a view to effectively carry out his responsibilities.*

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