APRALO Newsletter June 2023

A brief update for the period of May – June 2023, from the APRALO perspective

From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury

Dear APRALO community

Greetings!

After the successful completion of ICANN 77 Policy Forum in Washington DC where among other things the next round of gTLD was much discussed. At Large/ APRALO along with our ALSes and UIMs can play a significant role in it in terms of outreach, engagement and being the sounding board from our communities.

The APRALO Policy Forum organised an APAC ICANN77 Readout on 6 July. We will provide more details on the same in our next newsletter.

We are now gearing up for APRALO General Assembly which will be organised in Hybrid mode in Istanbul Türkiye on 12 & 13 September 2023. Gunela is sharing more updates on the GA in her message.

I am happy to also announce that we have two new volunteers for the APRALO Monthly newsletter curating team - Pavel Farhan and Bibek Silwal. You can hope to see an updated version of the newsletter in sometime :)

Further as always we look forward to your active engagement and for easy communication we now have a WhatsApp group. Do ping any of us and we will add you in ☺

Warm Regards,

Amrita

APRALO General Assembly is coming up in September!

Hello everyone!

The APRALO General Assembly (GA) is a special event that only comes around every few years. It will be an excellent opportunity for selected representatives from At-Large Structures (ALSs) as well as selected individual members (UIMs) to meet face to face and participate actively in stimulating sessions. Online participation is also available. This aims to give everyone an incentive to then contribute to more ICANN activities on: Policy   advice development; Outreach and engagement; and Operational issues.

The GA will be held in Istanbul, Türkiye on 12 and 13 September. Members of the ICANN Board will be interacting with participants and welcoming questions. Jonathan Zuck, the Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) will discuss communications strategies with the end-user community and staff will outline outreach and engagement activities. Key ICANN policy topics will be workshopped with the over 50 participants at the GA. These are just some of the sessions - the full GA program is being finalised!

Participants should be ready for active involvement at the GA and to continue that involvement within their own communities and with ICANN in future. ICANN Learn is a great resource to update on ICANN policy, skills-building and technical courses. https://www.icann.org/news/multimedia/42

The Organising Committee looks forward to seeing many of you in Istanbul!

Warm wishes,
Gunela

From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio

Hello and good day to all!

ICANN77 in Washington, D.C. has been a monumental event especially in the advancement of our interests and engagements. I hope that everyone who attended either onsite or online continue your respective participation and engagement with respect to your personal and APRALO's endeavors.

Just a reminder that the APRALO General Assembly is going to be held in Istanbul, Türkiye on September 12 and 13. Preparations for the said event are currently underway. Appreciate those ALSes' representatives who recently filled up the survey form sent by ICANN staff. You will be receiving communication from ICANN Staff regarding travel support and reminders. The GA will be a hybrid event to also give an opportunity to representatives who will not be able to attend in person.

Looking forward to seeing you online or onsite. If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to message or post in our WhatsApp group.

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,
Aris

ICANN77 Highlights

ICANN77 Policy Forum was organized as a hybrid meeting in Washington D.C. from 12th-15th June.

- Prior to the meeting the ICANN77   ICANN77 Policy Outlook Report were released.

- Meeting was attended by 1100 people in person and 630 registered to attend virtually representing 108 countries.

- The community and Board worked on advancing four deliverables related to The New Generic Top-Level Domains Program Next Round - ICANN .These deliverables include finalizing the implementation plan for the Next Round, which is due to the Board in early August.

- ICANN org and the Contracted Parties House held an Outreach Session to discuss proposed contract amendments that aim to strengthen obligations in mitigating abuse in the Domain Name System.

- ICANN org provided an update on the progress made in implementing the Registration Data Request Service.

- For more details read the ICANN77 Policy Outcome Report.

79 Public Sessions

24 Fellows

1,102 On-Site participants

108 from Countries or Territories

1 Community Excellence Award Recipient

1st Public Meeting in Washington, D.C.

620 Registered virtual participants

9 NextGen@ICANN participating in person

- At Large held 9 sessions @ICANN77 under the three At-Large work streams of: policy, outreach and engagement, and operations. These include:
  - One policy sessions (Unfinished Business - The Challenges of Auctions):

  - One At-Large Perspective Session on The Next gTLD Application Window:

  - Two NARALO Sessions

  - One AFRALO-AfrICANN Sessions

  - One Joint Session With SSAC: Discussion on New gTLD Next round and alignment on .ZIP

  - One RALO sessions (RALO Coordination)

  - An At-Large Welcome Session

  - At-Large Wrap-Up Session.

  - At-Large expressed its commitment to expedite SubPro while considering end user interests. Updates given on ICANN77 workshop, SubPro positions, CEO search, delegating new strings and protecting individual Internet users.

  - Emphasis was given on reducing barriers and increasing participation in the next gTLD round, supporting IDNs and language scripts, with discussions on pro bono services, fee reductions, awareness and financial support.

  - At-Large RALO Coordination Session discussion around NomCom re-balancing took place. Success of UA Day was acknowledged, and plans for the implementation of the next round of gTLDs were discussed.

- The APAC Space session held during ICANN77 covered several key topics and activities.

- The key topics discussed in the APAC space were:

- Expedited policy development process for internationalized domain names (IDNs):

- Universal Acceptance

- Registration Data Request Service

- Q&A Session

- Networking and collaboration session

- Overall, the session provided updates on important developments in APAC and ICANN space, highlighted fostered collaboration among stakeholders in the APAC region.

APRALO @ICANN77

APRALO was well represented by Maureen Hilyard, Cheryl Langdon Orr, Justine Chew, Ali Almeshal, Naveed Bin Rais, Satish Babu Amrita Choudhury, Aris Ignacio, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Lianna, Bibek Silwal, Namra, Priyatosh Jana, Jahangir, Sivasumbramanian, Shreedeep Raymajhi to name a few

ICANN Updates

Announced

- Donna Austin as the [2023 ICANN Community Excellence Awardee](#)
- [Recipients of the ICANN78 Fellowship](#)
- [Commitment to continue to support Registrants impacted by Epik Inc.](#)

Issued

- [Request for proposal (RFP) to identify external vendors to provide services in support of the ICANN Grant Program](#) till 7 July.
- Request for Proposal [for a vendor to conduct a Middle East Domain Name Industry Study 2023](#) by 17 July

Published

- [ICANN77 Policy Outlook Report](#)
- [U.S. Tax Returns for Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2022](#)
- [ICANN FY23 Q3 Unaudited Financials](#) and the [PTI FY23 Q3 Unaudited Financials](#)
- [ICANN Systems Controls was validated by Annual IANA Functions Audit](#)

Board Resolution

- [FY24-28 Operating/Financial Plan, FY24 Operating Plan](#) Budget

- A [resolution](#) to [implement](#) the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) Global Amendments

ICANN Updates

Opportunities

- [Nominations](#) [invited](#) for the Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building till 4 August.

Events Announced

- ICANN LAC community to [organise](#) the [2023 Domain Names Week](#) from 10-13 July in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ICANN to host the [second Africa Engagement Forum](#) on 25-27 July 2023 at the Marriott Hotel in Accra, Ghana.
- [2023 ICANN DNS Symposium to Be Held in Da Nang, Vietnam](#) from 4-7 September.
- [ICANN80 Policy forum](#) will be held in Kigali, Uganda from 10–13 June 2024

Blog

- [ICANN Middle East DNS Forum Showcases Growth of Region's Internet Ecosystem](#)

Public Consultations

Closed

- [Proposed Amendments to the ISPCP Constituency Charter](#) by 26 June
- [Proposed PTI Bylaws Amendments](#) by 5 July.

Open

- [Amendments to the Base gTLD RA and RAA to Modify DNS Abuse Contract Obligations](#) by 13 July.

Upcoming Webinar

- [ICANN for Beginners: Universal Acceptance](#) (UA) webinar on 12 and 13 July

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)](#)

Highlights of APRALO Monthly Calls

There was no APRALO Monthly call in June owing to ICANN77

In the May Call,

- An update was provided on the upcoming APRALO General Assembly by Amrita & Staff
- There was a discussion on the NomCom rebalancing questions raised by Tripti to APRALO Chair by Cheryl followed by asking for comments from the participants
- Staff presented an update on the ICANN77 Preparations including the draft At-Large Schedule
- Ali provided the NomCom Updates
- Shah presented on the plans of the Social Media Working Group for ICANN77

The next APRALO Monthly call will be on 20 July 6 UTC

APRALO Policy Forum Update

The APRALO Policy Forum is having monthly meetings.

May

During the May meeting of the APRALO Policy Forum, there was a discussion on NomCom Rebalancing led by Cheryl, followed by update on the EPDP on IDNs Phase 1 report by Satish, update on the GGP Process by Maureen and overview on the Policies open for Public Comment by Naveed

June

At the June call there was a presentation on the EPDP on IDNs Phase 1 report by Satish followed by interactive discussion. At Large staff presented an overview of policy updates and session of internet at ICANN77 along with the At Large agenda.

Click here to get more details on the APRALO Policy Forum's work.

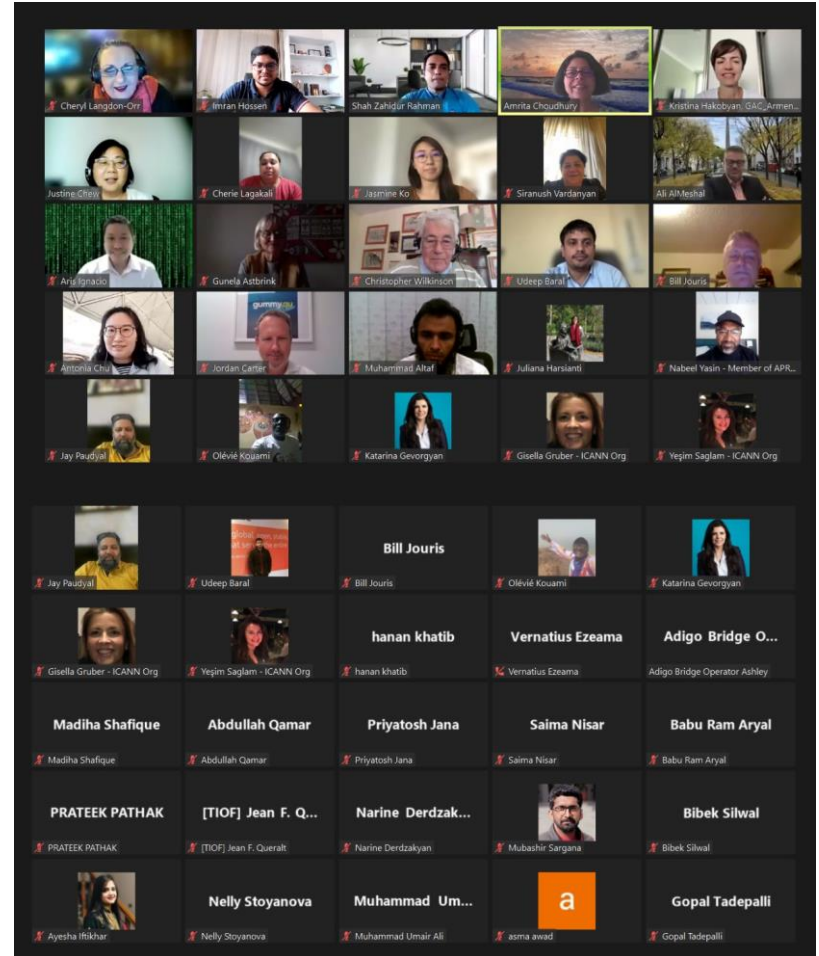Click here to get more details on the past APRALO Policy Forum's work.

On Thursday, 6 July 2023, at 06:00 UTC, the APRALO Policy Forum organized the ICANN77 read-out for 90 minutes, featuring At-Large, GAC, GNSO and ccNSO panellists from the APAC region.

The session was moderated by Cheryl Langdon-Orr, At-Large Leader, based in Australia and the panelists were:

- Amrita Choudhury, APRALO Chair, based in India
- Juliana Harsianti, ICANN77 Fellow, based in Indonesia
- Antonia Chu, GNSO Councillor, Registrar Stakeholder Group, based in China
- Kristina Hakobyan, representing GAC Armenia, based in Armenia
- Jordan Carter, ccNSO Vice Chair, based in Australia

The panelists discussed their respective key takeaways from ICANN77 and participants were welcomed to join in the conversation aimed at identifying where and how end-users may play a role in any next steps to each of those takeaways.

We will have a detailed report on this discussion in our next newsletter.

Working Group Updates

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement

By Aris Ignacio

The APAC DNS Forum 2023 is being held on July 4 and 5 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, located in downtown Hong Kong. The event will be in hybrid mode, allowing attendees to participate either onsite or online. Interested parties are encouraged to visit https://apacdnsforum.asia/events/apac-dns-forum-2023/ for more details about the forum, program schedule, and registration.

Updates on the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP)

By Maureen Hilyard

Maureen Hilyard provided updates on the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) related to the Applicant Support Process. The GGP has been actively working on six tasks, including setting the SubPro Report that defines criteria for Applicant Support in the next round of new gTLDs. Task 6 focuses on the allocation of funds to qualified applicants, while the GGP also emphasized the importance of developing metrics to measure the success of the Applicant Support Program beyond financial assistance. Maureen questioned assumptions regarding the Board's potential rejection of funding requests for other costs and suggested exploring the possibility of additional funding options.

Maureen expressed concerns about the visibility of the GGP's contributions and the need for effective guidance and outreach activities. She emphasized the importance of gathering feedback from applicants and incorporating their perspectives in developing metrics for evaluating the program's impact. Maureen encouraged members of the APRALO Policy Forum to engage in reviewing the forthcoming public comment document on the Applicant Support process and to provide constructive feedback to shape and improve the process.

The 4th ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum

By Pavel Farhan

The 4th ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum, held in conjunction with the 39th TWNIC IP Open Policy Meeting, took place in Taipei from May 22nd to 24th, 2023. The event, organized by the Taiwan Network Information Center (TWNIC) and ICANN, aimed to foster an open platform for discussions on domain names, IP-related issues, and emerging trends in the Asia Pacific region, with a particular focus on Taiwan's perspective. The hybrid format of the event allowed for diverse viewpoints and fruitful exchanges between stakeholders from both the Asia Pacific region and Taiwan.

The parallel TWNIC IP Open Policy Meeting served as a valuable opportunity for participants to engage in discussions on network technology research and industry development. It provided a platform for ISPs in Taiwan to share their opinions, contribute to relevant IP policies, and establish effective management mechanisms. During the forum's final day, two talented APRALO individual members, Pavel Farhan and Jaewon Son, shared their insights on youth engagement and cross-generational collaboration in Internet governance in a session titled "Empowering the Next Gen: Fostering Youth Engagement and Cross-Generational Collaboration in Internet Governance."

APAC DNS Forum Session on Community Effort on DNS Abuse Reporting

By Satish Babu

In a pre-event panel organized by APRALO before the APAC DNS Forum, the theme of "Community Effort on DNS Abuse Reporting" was discussed. DNS Abuse poses significant threats to internet security, user trust, and online services. The session was moderated by Satish Babu and the panelists were:

- Rowena Schoo, DNS Abuse Institute;
- Edmon Chung, ICANN Board/DotAsia Registry;
- Maureen Hilyard, Member, ALAC; and
- Amrita Choudhury, Chair, APRALO.

The panel explored the need to empower end-users in reporting incidents, focusing on tools, capacity building, multilingual support, collaboration, regional challenges, and the role of APRALO. They emphasized the importance of a community-driven approach, cyber hygiene practices, information sharing, and personal strategies for defense. The session aimed to promote active participation and empower end-users to combat DNS abuse, ensuring the stability and security of the domain name system. The summary of this panel's discussions will be presented at the upcoming APAC DNS Forum in Hong Kong on July 4-5, 2023.

IN2ITION 2023: 2nd Philippine Youth Internet Governance Forum

By Aris Ignacio

Last May 26, 2023, IN2ITION 2023: 2nd Philippine Youth Internet Governance Forum (PhYIGF), took place at the Luxembourg Hall of Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) in Las Piñas City, Philippines. This student-led event featured local speakers and facilitators from the private and public sectors related to technology and internet governance fields. Students and youth from across the country participated in a day full of learning and takeaways. This year's theme was "Emerging Technologies in the New Normal". The event also featured messages from Vint Cerf, Google's VP and Chief Internet Evangelist, Raj Singh, ISOC APAC Regional Vice President, and Amrita Choudhury, APRALO Chair. The event is in cooperation with ISOC Philippines Chapter, SISC College of Information Technology
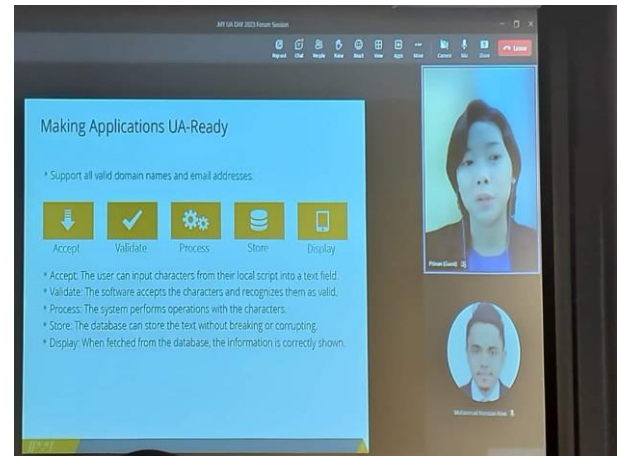
.MY UA Day 2023

By Justine Chew

In conjunction with the 2023 Universal Acceptance Day Campaign, Malaysia celebrated its Universal Acceptance Day (.MY UA Day 2023) on 10 May with an event organized by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) in collaboration with MYNIC Berhad (the registry operator for the .my ccTLD) and ICANN. The main purpose of the event was to promote increased awareness and registrations for Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) in Chinese and Tamil offered in Malaysia, as well as to better UA-readiness of applications for IDNs. Representing ICANN were Ms. Tan Yien-Chyn, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at ICANN APAC, and Ms. Pitinan Kooarmornpatana, IDN Programs Senior Manager, who both spoke at the panel session for the event.

ICANN LEARN Workshop conducted at Bibi Kaulan ji Degree College, Jandiala Guru, Amritsar, India

By Kapil Goyal

A large group of undergraduate and postgraduate students participated in training and awareness sessions on different ICANN LEARN platforms. In addition to that, an open house group discussion was organized where students and faculty talked about the fellowship program offered by ICANN. During the sessions, the students were shown how DNS works, and they also learned about Secure HTTP.

APRALO Member at International Conference on Digital Tourism in Cairo, Egypt

By Nabeel Yasin

In June 2023, Nabeel spoke at the International Conference on Digital Tourism in Cairo, Egypt. They emphasized the impact of digital technologies and social media on tourism and the importance of internet access in societal improvement. Nabeel addressed the digital divide, emphasizing the need for inclusion and diversity, particularly in the Arab world. They also discussed the challenges of digital literacy and highlighted the role of organizations like ICANN in empowering communities with digital skills for everyday life.

Events

Recently Concluded Events

- [APAC DNS Forum 2023](#) was organised in Hong Kong between 4 and 5 July 2023. We will share more updates on it in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events

APRALO July Monthly call will be on 20 July 6 UTC

- APIGA 2023 is scheduled for 5 days from 24-28 July 2023 (Monday-Friday) in Seoul, South Korea

- [AprIGF2023](#) will be hosted by auDA in Brisbane, Australia from 29 -31 August.

- APNIC56 Conference will take place from 7-14 September in Kyoto, Japan

- APRALO GA will be held 12-13 September in Istanbul.

- ICANN78 Annual General Meeting will be held in Hamburg, Germany from 21 –26 October 2023

Other Opportunities

The **8th edition of India School on Internet Governance (inSIG2023)** will be held from 29 Sept to 1 Oct at IIT Guwahati, Assam India. This includes Day 0 on 28 September having #GFCE workshop and #YouthIGFIndia. Fellowship applications is now open for inSIG2023 till 23rd July https://lnkd.in/dtN4n_6X .

   Any one from India or overseas can apply. This year special preference will be given to applicants from #northeastindia. For more details visit: https://lnkd.in/dpgmPD8V

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

amritachoudhury@ccaoi.in, pavelpft@gmail.com, bsilwal123@gmail.com