

APRALO Newsletter August 2023

A brief update for the period of Jul – Aug 2023, from the APRALO perspective



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Message

From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury

Dear APRALO community

Greetings!

I know many of you have been busy in the last few days with AprIGF, Net Things and Youth IGF. Pavel will be sharing more details on these events in this newsletter.

We are all excited to meet our ALS representatives and UIM members participating in the APRALO General Assembly next week in Istanbul Türkiye on 12 & 13 September 2023.

Since its a hybrid meeting I encourage even those not travelling to join online and participate in these discussions.

This is a great opportunity to share your views, get new perspectives, network, provide feedback and collaborate together to strengthen the voice of end users in APAC.

Warm Regards,

Amrita



Message

From APRALO Vice Chair Gunela

Hello Everyone!

The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) was held in the last week of August in Brisbane, Australia. For me, no long-distance travel needed!

The overarching theme was “Emerging Technologies – Is Asia Pacific Ready for the Next Phase of the Internet?”. This was an excellent event hosted by .au Domain Administration (auDA). Unique to this year’s event, was the holding of NetThing, the Australian IGF and PacIGF (the Pacific IGF), the Asia Pacific Youth IGF alongside APrIGF.

Many APRALO members were actively involved as speakers and moderators.

An innovative outcome of each APrIGF is the Synthesis Document. This aims to document items of common interest relevant to Internet governance based on the APrIGF sessions and input to those sessions. Online comments can be added.

The APrIGF was an opportunity for me to personally reach out to potential new ALSs. Hoping this can lead to new participants in APRALO.

I’m very excited to soon be seeing many of you either face to face or online for the APRALO General Assembly!

Warm wishes,
Gunela



Messages

From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio



Hello and good day to all!

Get ready for the upcoming APRALO General Assembly on September 12-13 at the Grand Hyatt in Istanbul, Türkiye. If you're joining us in person and want to coordinate travel, please complete the Google Sheet with your flight details. This helps connect you with fellow attendees for shared rides.

For virtual participants, watch your inbox for the ICANN Staff's email containing the event link. Stay tuned!

Remember, it's crucial to finish your mandated ICANN Learn courses before the GA. This applies to both onsite and online attendees and was discussed in the pre-GA webinar last August 24.

Anticipate an enriching experience and fruitful networking. Let's strengthen collaboration among APRALO members as we shape the future of ICANN and the Internet.

See you at the event, whether online or in person! Got questions? Drop them in our WhatsApp group or message us anytime.

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,

Aris

ICANN Updates

Announced

- [NextGen@ICANN78 Participants](#)
- ICANN [appointed](#) DENIC Services GmbH & Co. KG (DENIC) as the sole ICANN-designated agent for Registrar Data Escrow (RDE) services.
- [2023 Nominating Committee Announces Leadership Selections](#)
- **ICANN Board of Directors:** Catherine Adeya, Africa; and Sarah Deutsch, North America
- **PTI Board of Directors:** Anupam Agrawal, APAC
- **ALAC:** Justine Chew, APAC; Claire Craig, LAC; and Bukola Oronti, Africa
- **CCNSO Council:** Wafa Dahmani Africa
- **GNSO Council:** Desiree Zeljka Miloshevic Evans, Europe and Paul McGrady, North America
- Their term will begin at the end of [ICANN78 Annual General Meeting](#) in October 2023.

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

[New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Plan](#)

Opportunities

The application round for [Community Childcare Grants Program](#) for ICANN78 is open till 15 September.

[Applications Now Open: Coalition for Digital Africa DNSSEC Roadshow Project](#)

Event Announced

- ICANN will organise a "[A Day of Domain Name System \(DNS\) Abuse Discussions](#)" on 4 September in Da Nang, Vietnam. This hybrid event is part of a series of technical workshops that includes the [ICANN DNS Symposium](#) (5 September) and [OARC 41](#) (6 – 7 September).

Blog

- [A New Data Protection Mechanism for the Root Zone](#)
- [The Global Digital Compact: A Top-down Attempt to Minimize the Role of The Technical Community](#)
- [Quarterly Reporting on Work Stream 2 Implementation and Specific Reviews](#)
- [The Key to the Internet and Key Ceremonies: An Explainer](#)
- [ICANN Launches New Board Advice Community Wiki Pages](#)
- [ICANN Chair's Blog: Recap of ICANN77 and the June Board Workshop](#)
- [APAC DNS Forum 2023 Highlights Importance of DNS for Digital Economy](#)
- [ICANN Board Accepts Next Round Implementation Plan from ICANN Org](#)

Comments Invited

- [GNSO Guidance Process Applicant Support Guidance Recommendation Initial Report](#) by 11 September
- [Specific ccTLD Related Review Mechanism Policy Proposal](#) by 28 September
- [ccNSO PDP4 Initial Report on the \(de-\)selection of IDNccTLDs](#) by 27 September
- The [proposed implementation](#) of the Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) Phase 1 Policy Development Process (PDP) [recommendations](#) by 3 October

Webinars

ICANN organised [two webinars](#) on to provide information about the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS),

ICANN Learn

New [ICANN Learn Course About the Root Server System](#)

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

APRALO Monthly call was held in 20th of July and 17th of August 2023.

In the [June Call](#)

- An update was provided on the APRALO General Assembly preparation by Gunela & Staff
- An update was provided by Justine on APRALO Policy Forum about planning meetings, small group for ad-hoc project and Next Round of New gTLDs: Call for Input on Applicant Support Resources

In the [August Call](#)

- An update was provided on the upcoming APRALO General Assembly by Amrita & Staff
- An update was provided by Justine on ICANN77 Readout Takeaways, APF Town Hall Meeting Takeaways ,Refreshed APF aims, priorities & Calendar and Next Round of New gTLDs: Call for Input on Applicant Support Resources
- There was a discussion on the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest for Policy Transition Program on gTLD Registration Data by Amrita

APAC DNS Forum was organised in Hong Kong between 4 and 5 July 2023.

The Asia Pacific Domain Name System Forum (APAC DNS Forum) for the year 2023 convened from July 4th to 5th at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Hong Kong, bringing together experts in the regional DNS industry and a diverse community to delve into the latest advancements, prospects, and obstacles in the domain name market. Co-hosted by ICANN and the Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation (HKIRC), this event encompassed a wide array of topics, examining the DNS's role from various angles.

Beyond technical subjects such as cybersecurity and emerging technologies, the sessions explored industry trends and business prospects, including fostering online business expansion and safeguarding digital brands, as well as addressing broader issues such as the potential ramifications of regulatory, policy, and technological shifts on the DNS sector. Serving as a platform for networking, idea exchange, and collaborative exploration, the APAC DNS Forum 2023 adopted a hybrid format, allowing participants to engage either in person or remotely via online channels.



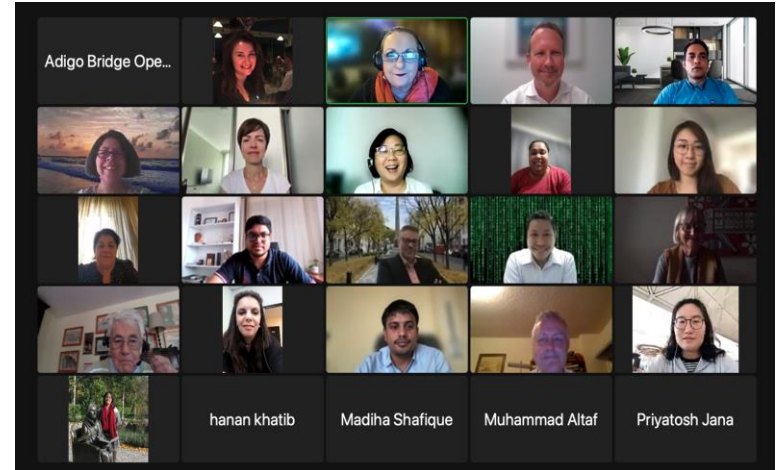
APRALO Policy Forum Update

The APRALO Policy Forum (APF) has post ICANN77 conducted a number of pilot initiatives in July and August 2023, under “new” leadership.

APRALO ICANN77 Readout, 6 July

This event drew over 50 multi-region participants who engaged with 5 panelists who shared their key takeaways from the ICANN77 Policy Forum that took place in Washington DC. Expertly moderated by **Cheryl Langdon-Orr**, the panelists spoke from the perspective of their respective APAC regional ‘constituencies’ of APRALO, Registrar Stakeholder Group, Country-Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and also an ICANN77 Fellow. This facilitated rich cross-community interaction which enabled us to identify where and how end-users may play a role in the ongoing work undertaken by each of those constituencies.

See the [event wiki](#) or [comment on the ICANN77 Readout Takeaways Report](#).



Single Topic Consultation on Applicant Support, 20 July

The ALAC Liaison to the GNSO, **Justine Chew**, conducted a consultation with APRALO members during the APRALO Monthly Call on 20 July to ascertain the RALO’s input on how to address the ICANN Board’s dual concern over Subsequent Procedures PDP Recommendation 17.2 on Applicant Support for the Next Round of New gTLDs. Input was received and which was incorporated into an ALAC proposal development process run through the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG). This represents an important example of how RALO input is key to the At-Large’s consideration of policy issues, and is a practice subsequently endorsed by APRALO during the APF Town Hall Meeting of 10 August.

Read: [all the input received](#) and discussed at CPWG on [9 August](#) and [16 August](#) which led to the development of [ALAC’s Proposal on Recommendation 17.2 on the Applicant Support Program](#) which was submitted to the GNSO.

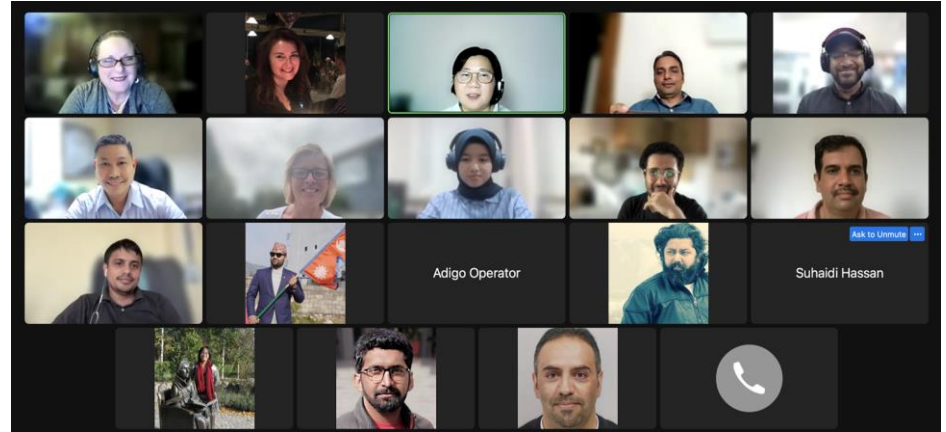
APRALO Policy Forum Update

APF Town Hall Planning Meeting (2 sessions), 10 August

The APF held its pilot town hall-style planning meeting over 2 sessions on 10 August which attracted around 44 participants from the APAC region. Through strategic discussions and polls conducted with participants, we were able to update the aims of the APF and how we would achieve those aims, and also to confirm APRALO's Priorities for 2023-2024, including the addition of 2 new topics of Internet Fragmentation (aka "Splinternet") and the Next Round of New gTLDs to the list of future APF discourses.

See the [event wiki](#) or [comment on the APF Planning Calendar for H2 of 2023](#).

Click [here to get more details](#) on the APRALO Policy Forum's work.



ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement

By Aris Ignacio

Plans for the ALAC Outreach and Engagement are currently underway with the proposed booth during the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to be held at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan from October 8-12. The booth will serve as follows:

Meetings of new potential community members and providing information about At-Large

- Cross RALOs coordination events
- Flash sessions for guests - about At-Large and the opportunity to join
- Taking pictures and posting on Social Media and encouraging guests do same

There will also be a number of events leading to ICANN78, which will be held in Hamburg, Germany this coming October 21-26. Keep posted on announcements related to this concern.

The APRALO Outreach and Engagement in coordination with the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) Team will be holding a planning session during the General Assembly this September 13. Online and onsite attendees are encouraged to attend the session.



Social Media Working Group

By Shah Zahidur Rahman

All SMWG regional liaison have done a meeting this month mid of August. This time SoMe will be led by EURALO as this time ICANN78 is going to be at Hamburg. An initial discussion happened, since ICANN78–Hamburg – 21-26 Oct to be held hybrid meetings, SoMe campaigns will have focused on restoring ties, mobilizing the community, drawing attention to the ICANN, At-Large members, as well as involving community members both in discussions and in the work of At-Large.

The goals of SMWG campaign plan to raise awareness of community members about the ICANN78 schedule and topics of discussions. Increase the number of attendees (offline and online) at At-Large sessions and to get Involve ICANN community members (existing and new) in participation and discussions, exchange information and opinions at At-Large sessions and cross-community sessions.

However, all OE events are accompanied by social media posts (responsible - Social Media WG members), guests are also invited to share information in SoMe using hashtags #ALAC78 #ICANNAtLarge78 #... Soon SMWG will have an organized call weekly to meet with members and liaison to develop three weeks SoMe work strategy and task distribution and implementation along with the community.



Social Media Working Group

By Shah Zahidur Rahman

In regards to APRALO General Assembly Istanbul hybrid meeting, SoME have developed event flayer's to spread event information among community members both ALS and individual members.

Posts will be shared through different channels like facebook , twitter, linked..etc encourage all members to share and spread this. We didn't plan twitter competitions considering members to give more concentration to the meeting but encourage them to share post, photos of the event if they wish. considering the regional presence on internet two hashtag #APRALO and #APRALOGA23 can be followed when posting anything related to GA.

In addition a periodic post from APRALO Facebook page will be generated remembering to let the community know the updated agenda and reminder for registration , and also event countdown post.



The flyer features a dark blue background with a starry pattern. At the top center is the APRALO logo, which consists of a white circle containing a globe with rays emanating from it, and the word 'APRALO' above and 'ICANN' below. Below the logo, the text 'GENERAL ASSEMBLY' is written in large, white, bold letters, followed by 'Date: 12 - 13 Sep 2023' in a slightly smaller font. The venue information 'Venue: Grand Hyatt Istanbul, Türkiye (Hybrid)' is centered below the date. On the left side, there is a graphic of a yellow and red megaphone with colorful sound waves. Below the megaphone, the text 'Registration link:' is followed by the URL 'https://events.icann.org/apralo2023/registration'. At the bottom of the main content area, the hashtags '#APRALO #APRALOGA23' are displayed. A dark red horizontal bar at the very bottom contains the contact information 'For more information, contact: staff@atlarge.icann.org' in white text.

APRALO
ICANN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Date: 12 - 13 Sep 2023

Venue: Grand Hyatt
Istanbul, Türkiye (Hybrid)

Registration link:
<https://events.icann.org/apralo2023/registration>

#APRALO #APRALOGA23

For more information, contact:
staff@atlarge.icann.org

Asia-Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA)

By Bibek Silwal

The Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) 2023 was held in Seoul, South Korea from 24th to 28th of July . The event brought together participants from across the Asia Pacific region for a transformative experience. Co-hosted by ICANN and the Korea Internet & Security Agency (KISA), APIGA aimed to empower youths in understanding and engaging with Internet governance. APIGA provided a comprehensive learning to the participants about the Internet Governance Fora, ICANN and its works areas and APNIC. Expert mentors from Asia Pacific shared their expertise and contributed significantly in the learning process of the participants.

The event featured workshops, interactive and collaborative sessions, and a Model ICANN Conference .Participants delved into the roles of diverse stakeholders like the Government Advisory Committee (GAC), Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), and At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC). The immersive Model ICANN Conference allowed them to simulate real-world policy discussions, negotiation and interpretational skills and deepening their understanding of ICANN's policymaking complexities. Justine Chew from APRALO leadership was one of the expert mentor who shared her experience in her ICANN policy development process working in At-large community. Several participants developed interest in At-large and APRALO working areas. Bibek Silwal from APRALO Policy Forum also participated as a student.



Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) 2023

By Pavel Farhan

The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) 2023 successfully convened from August 29th to 31st in Brisbane, Australia, adopting a hybrid format and hosted by auDA. Focused on the theme "Emerging Technologies – Is Asia Pacific Ready for the Next Phase of the Internet?," the event explored the impact of cutting-edge technologies like AI, augmented reality, IoT, and 5G on the region's social, economic, and environmental landscape. The three main thematic tracks, "Access & Inclusion," "Sustainability," and "Trust," facilitated discussions on crucial internet governance issues, while the event also coincided with the Asia Pacific Youth Internet Governance Forum, the Pacific Internet Governance Forum, and NetThing 2023, fostering a multidisciplinary approach to policy discussions in the region.

Several APRALO members were also involved as organizers, speakers, and even moderators. You can find some of the sessions below:

- [Co-creating Digital Future for Children: An Intergenerational, Multistakeholder Dialogue on Children's Data Protection](#)
 - Speakers: Ananya Singh, Aris Ignacio, Namra Naseer and Pavel Farhan
- [What are the Challenges, Progress and Social Prosperity for Digital Economy in Asia?](#)
 - Moderators: Gunela Astbrink and Priyatosh Jana
 - Speakers: Amrita Choudhary, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Dr. Nirosha Wedasinghe, and Bikram Shrestha
- [Impacts of national digital transformation on small island developing states](#)
 - Moderator: Maureen Hilyard



Updates From Our ALSes

ISOC India: Mumbai Chapter

By Nandita Koshal

On Sunday, 9th July 2023, from 11am-12pm IST (05:30-06:30 UTC), the Internet Society India Mumbai Chapter (ISOC Mumbai) in collaboration with ISAC and CopConnect organised a webinar on “Cybersecurity: Safeguard Your Presence“. The speaker for the event, Mr. Sreeshankar G., Global Head of Cybersecurity at Siemens Healthineers discussed how one can become a CyberAware netizen. The webinar discussed the different types of cyber threats such as malware, man-in-the-middle attacks, DNS tunnelling, phishing, the areas and jobs that are in particular vulnerable to such attacks, the ways in which these cyber attacks are used and the remedial measures to protect oneself against them.



ICANN Fellowship Meetup & Interaction Program

By Shreedeeep Rayamajhi

On Thursday, 20th July 2023, our ALS Rayznews in association with Learn Internet Governance, successfully completed the ICANN Fellowship interaction and meetup program. We had a total of 35 registrations from Nigeria, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Solomon Island, PNG, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Vietnam, and Tanzania. We would like to express our special thanks to Jia Rong Low and Siranush Vardanyan for helping us.



[Video Link](#) | [Presentation LINK](#)

IDAV College Amritsar Local Hub APRiGF

By Kapil Goyal

In a collaborative effort with ISOC India Delhi Chapter, Punjab National Bank, IIC (Indian Innovation Council), and G20's University Connect Initiative, DAV College Amritsar's hosted APRiGF 2023 Local Hub successfully. The event featured a range of engaging activities, including debates on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), discussions on the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, and a panel discussion on disruptive technology. Faculty members attended the opening plenary session, and a town hall session was live-streamed. The event also saw 50 students actively participating in various activities, and certificates and mementos were distributed to winners of the Lightning Talk on 5G technologies.



Cook Islands Internet Action Group (CIAG) and the APRIGF 2023

By Maureen Hilyard

Along with several other members of APRALO, I attended the Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APRIGF) in Brisbane, Australia from 28-31 August. This prime event was hosted by AuDA, the administrator of Australia's .au top level domain. It was a large conference which combined several IGF organisations from the Asia Pacific region to create a fest for the delivery of a wide range of IG-related issues of region-wide interest. The organisations involved were the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICSOC), 2023 NetThing (Australia's IGF) and the Youth IGF coordinated by Net Mission, as well as the APRIGF itself which was coordinated by its own Multi Stakeholder Steering Group. As usual DotAsia provided much of the organisational support for the event which was pleasing for me and former APRALO Chair, Satish Babu, who are DotAsia Board members. I also moderated a session on the challenges faced by many small Pacific Island nations as they attempt digital transformation.

APRALO had some significant figures within the APRIGF organisation present at the event. These included Cheryl Langdon-Orr who is a member of several committees and Ashirwad Tripathy from Nepal who is currently an APRIGF Vice Chair. But the great news at the end of the event was the announcement that our APRALO Chair, Amrita Choudhury became the newly elected Chair of the APRIGF. Amrita has been a Vice Chair of the APRIGF as well as a MAG member and we are very proud of her achievements in the area of Internet Governance in our region. So big congratulations to Amrita! All in all the APRIGF was a great event for APRALO and we look forward to seeing APRALO ALS leaders who attended the APRIGF, at the General Assembly in Istanbul.



Events

Recently Concluded Events

- [The ICANN DNS Symposium](#) was held on 5th September 2023 in Da Nang, Vietnam. IDS 2023 was co-located with "A Day of DNS Abuse Discussions" (4 September), also hosted by ICANN, and OARC 41 (6-7 September), hosted by Domain Name System Operations, Analysis, and Research Center (DNS-OARC). We will share more updates on it in our next newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- APRALO Policy Forum webinar on the Next Round of New gTLDs: An Overview on Thursday, 07 September 2023
- APNIC56 Conference will take place from 7-14 September 2023 in Kyoto, Japan
- APRALO GA will be held 12-13 September 2023 in Istanbul.
- ICANN 25th Anniversary Round Table to be held virtually on 18 September 2023.
- inSIG 2023 (28 September to 1 October) in IIT Guwahati, India.
- SANOG 40 will be held 16-20 October 2023, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ICANN78 Annual General Meeting will be held from 21 –26 October 2023 in Hamburg, Germany.

Other Opportunities

NetMission Academy 2024, supported by DotAsia Organisation, is now recruiting a new class of fellows! 🚀 If you're a young changemaker from the Asia Pacific with a passion for learning about Internet governance and driving positive change for the Internet through our ongoing projects and expansive global network, then you may sign up now at [🔗 https://nma.asia/join-nma2024](https://nma.asia/join-nma2024)

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

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