

# APRALO Newsletter October 2023

A brief update for the period of Sep– Oct 2023, from the APRALO perspective



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Curated by: Amrita Choudhury, Bibek Silwal & Pavel Farhan with support of APRALO Members

## Message

**From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury**

Dear APRALO community

Greetings!

It has been two very busy months. In September, we had the the APRALO General Assembly in Istanbul, Türkiye on 12 & 13 September 2023, this was followed with inSIG2023 from 28 September -1 October 2023, where 7 Indian ALSes participated; followed by IGF2023 from 8 -12 October 2023 and finally ICANN78 Annual General Meeting in Hamburg from 21-26 October 2023.

At the end of the AGM, Ali Almeshal took on the position of APRALO Vice Chair, Shah Zahidur Rahman and Justine Chew took on the positions of ALAC members from APRALO and Maureen Hilyard appointed as the NomCom delegate from APRALO.

Here, I must thank Gunela Astbrink - our outgoing Vice Chair - for all her contributions and I have full faith she will continue to contribute in future too.

We will share more updates on each of these events in this newsletter.

Warm Regards,

Amrita



## Messages

**From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio**



Hello and good day to all!

I hope that everyone had a great time in the recently concluded ICANN78 held at the very pristine Hamburg, Germany last October 21-26, 2023. I may not have been present physically but I was able to see all of you and your engagements virtually. This also signifies the welcoming of the new APRALO leaders. Thank you to the outgoing leaders for your selfless contributions to our cause.

Series of ICANN78 readouts are currently being scheduled, so make sure that you attend any one of those. Engage in upcoming activities where APRALO will be part and do your share in bringing the ICANN objectives to your respective organizations, institutions and even within the society.

If you have your own local or national event that also covers ICANN related topics, feel free to message us and we will be more than happy to include this in our calendar and upcoming events list.

If you have any concerns, questions, or even want to just say hello to us, message in our WhatsApp group anytime.

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,

Aris

## Message

**From APRALO Vice Chair Ali AIMeshal**

Greetings everyone,

I am absolutely thrilled to be back home and continue our work together with even greater determination and zeal. Our region has made significant progress, and I am confident that we can achieve even more through greater collaboration and coordination with all relevant groups.

Over the past two years, I have been fully dedicated to the Nominating Committee (NomCom) and have had the privilege of selecting new leaders for various groups and board members. My experience with NomCom has been incredibly valuable, providing me with many insights into each Constituency within ICANN.

We have experienced several significant events lately, such as our GA in Istanbul, the Global IGF conference, the ICANN 78 AGM meeting, the appointment of new leaders, and numerous regional and local events. Each event has yielded its own unique outcomes and achievements.

Please mark your calendars for our scheduled meetings and join me in working with greater diligence and commitment to deliver even greater achievements.

Best regards.

Ali AIMeshal



## ICANN 78 Highlights

- [ICANN78 Annual General Meeting](#) was organized as a hybrid meeting in Hamburg Germany from 21st-26th October
- ICANN78 was also celebrated as [ICANN 25th Anniversary](#) and 7th Year of IANA transition.
- Prior to meeting [ICANN78 Policy Outlook Report](#) were released.
- Meeting was attended by 1684 on-site participants and 663 virtual participants representing 175 countries and territories
- ICANN78 convened with a central focus on key global issues. The conference's spotlight was on preparing for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) review in 2025. Additionally, attendees discussed plans for the second Universal Acceptance Day in 2024, highlighting substantial progress since its inaugural success.
- Furthermore, combating Domain Name System (DNS) abuse remained a pivotal concern, with an appeal to ICANN-accredited registrars and domain registry operators to vote on proposed contract amendments, representing a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to counter DNS abuse.



## AtLarge Activities @ ICANN 78

At ICANN78, the At-Large community organized a 10 sessions under At-Large work streams of: Policy, Outreach and Engagement, and Operations:

1. **At-Large Leadership Welcome to ICANN78**
2. **At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB)**
3. **At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG)**
4. **At-Large RALO Coordination Meeting**
5. **At-Large Outreach and Engagement Session**
6. **At-Large Plenary 1: ICANN and Technological Advancements**
7. **At-Large EURALO Plenary: Multistakeholder Governance for New Internet Infrastructures**
8. **At-Large Plenary 2: WSIS+20: Towards an engagement strategy**
9. **At-Large EURALO General Assembly**
10. **At-Large Leadership Wrap Up**

Discussions at ICANN 78 included topics such as Internationalized Domain Names, Transfer Policy, New gTLD Program, Registration Data Accuracy, , Registration Data Request Service, DNSSEC, leadership changes within the At-Large community, RALO coordination, outreach efforts, and related topics.



## Celebrating 20 Years!

At large celebrated its 20 years of establishment during the ICANN78

A poem about ALAC was launched during the celebration: [Little Engine ALAC](#)

## APAC SPACE @ ICANN 78

- The APAC Space session held during ICANN78 covered several key topics and activities.

The key topics discussed in the APAC space were:

- APAC Regional Plan for FY23, presented by Jia Rong Low, VP, Stakeholder Engagement & Managing Director, ICANN APAC
- ICANN Update on the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) by Yuko Yokoyama and Diana Middleton from ICANN org.

The presentation was followed by Q&A session specially from the new community members and ended with a networking session.



## APRALO @ ICANN 78



APRALO was well represented by Maureen Hilyard, Cheryl Langdon Orr, Justine Chew, Ali Almeshal, Naveed Bin Rais, Satish Babu, Amrita Choudhury, Shah Zahidur Rahman, Gunela Astbrink, Bibek Silwal, Udeep Baral, Shreedeeep Raymajhi to name a few.



## Pacific Impact @ ICANN 78

**By Maureen Hilyard**

ICANN78 turned out to be a watershed event for the people of the Pacific. The normal number of Pacific participants at an ICANN event was trebled with the Pacific countries of the Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu being represented. The group included five new Fellows and there are positive indications for future involvements in At-Large, the GAC and the ccNSO. Many thanks to the teams from auDA, APNIC, Internet NZ and ICANN for their promise of continued support to encourage an on-going interest in ICANN's work in the Pacific region. This gathering on the last night of ICANN in Hamburg, Germany, backed up the contribution of support that these same regional organisations gave to the Pacific IGF alongside the joint Australian and Asia Pacific IGF event which was held in Brisbane in August 2023. Special thanks to Rosemary and the auDA Board



## APRALO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### APRALO GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

The [Asia-Pacific Regional At-Large Organization \(APRALO\) General Assembly](#), held on September 12th and 13th, 2023, at the Grand Hyatt in Istanbul, Turkey, was a significant gathering that brought together 68 participants, including 46 in-person attendees and 22 remote participants. This two-day event was dedicated to fostering collaboration, networking, and strategic discussions within the APRALO community.

Throughout the event, attendees engaged in discussions on topics ranging from policy advice development and outreach to effective engagement strategies. The presence of guest ICANN Board members, who shared insights into ICANN's strategic directions, added significant value to the assembly. The assembly's success hinged on the active participation of At-Large Structures (ALS) and individual members, underlining the importance of regional cooperation and planning for future initiatives.



## APRALO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### Day 1 @APRALO General Assembly

Recordings Available @[APRALO General Assembly 2023 Recordings](#)

During the first day of the APRALO General Assembly, several crucial topics were discussed to foster collaboration and policy development within the Asia-Pacific internet governance community. The day commenced with a welcome and an introduction to the assembly's objectives. The participants were oriented toward three fundamental At-Large Tracks, namely policy advice development, outreach and engagement, and operational issues. These tracks set the stage for productive discussions, sharing of insights, and shaping the future direction of internet governance.

The highlight of the day was a session which provided a unique opportunity for interaction with guest ICANN Board members. They offered valuable insights into ICANN's strategic directions and shared updates on the latest developments. The day also explored APRALO's vision, objectives, and the expectations of the At Large/APRALO end-user community. Another significant session focused on key policy and policy advice issues, emphasizing the importance of continued engagement with the ICANN Board.

Another session revolved around the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) APAC and Middle East Teams, offering insights into their work and potential collaboration opportunities with APRALO. Another session centered on the At-Large Loop and Campaign Book, addressing At-Large Structures, engagement, end-user interests, and the introduction of the APRALO Rules of Procedures.



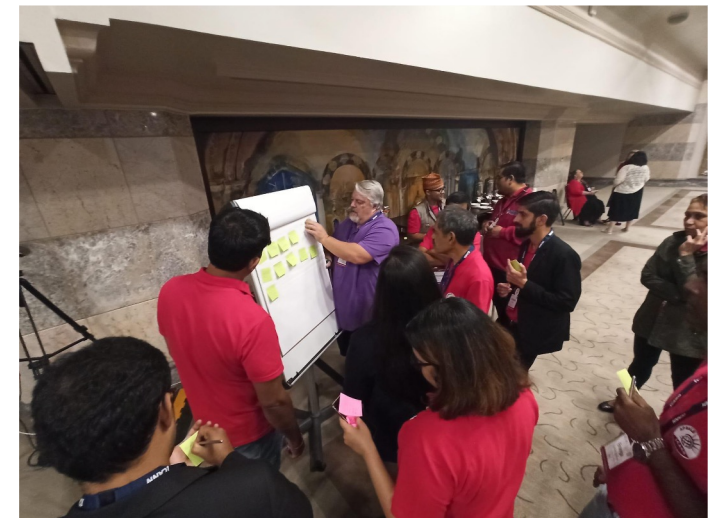
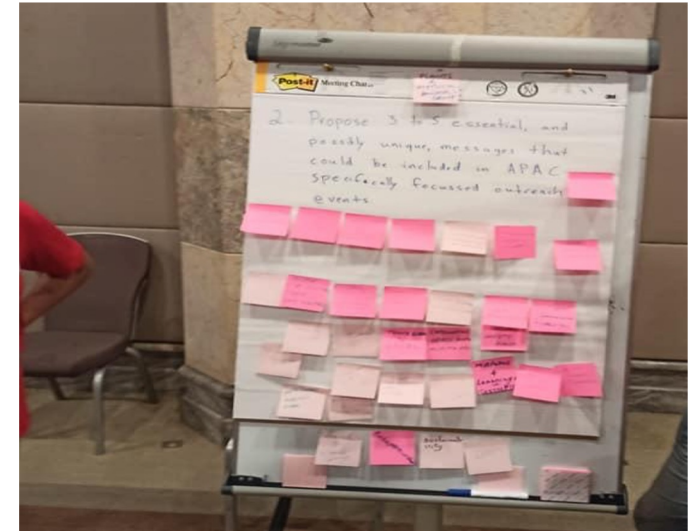
# APRALO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## Day 2 @APRALO General Assembly

Recordings Available @[APRALO General Assembly 2023 Recordings](#)

On the second day of the APRALO General Assembly, several vital sessions took place to address critical issues and shape the organization's future direction. These sessions covered a range of topics, including the revision of Rules of Procedure, APRALO General Assembly Plenary discussion about Next Round gTLD, and sessions on capacity building and outreach engagement and planning. The plenary session provided a forum for broader discussions about the General Assembly's role and the collective vision of APRALO.

Subsequent discussions revolved around strategic communication for the forthcoming new gTLD round, underscoring the importance of effective outreach and engagement strategies. Capacity building for campaign effectiveness was also on the agenda, focusing on the resources required for successful outreach and engagement initiatives. The event concluded with participants sharing their key takeaways and expressing gratitude to the APRALO Leadership and the ICANN team for the event's success. These sessions collectively reinforced the importance of collaboration, strategic planning, and adherence to best practices within the APRALO community and APAC space.



## ICANN Updates

### Announced

- Appointment of Krista Papac [as Interim Ombuds](#)
- [Amir Qayyum as the 2024 Nominating Committee \(NomCom\) Chair, and Paul Diaz as the 2024 NomCom Chair-elect.](#)
- Placing [.DESI](#) into the [Emergency Back-End Registry Operator \(EBERO\)](#) program.

### Published

- Updated [Domain Name Marketplace Indicators](#)
- [ICANN FY23 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements](#)
- [PTI FY23 Audited Financial Statements](#)

### ICANN Board

[Convened the second Internet Assigned Numbers Authority Naming Function Review \(IFR\).](#)

[Launched its Strategic Planning Process for the Next Five Years.](#)

### Events Organised

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

## ICANN Updates

### Opportunities

[Call for Nominations: ICANN Academy 2024 Leadership Program](#) by 15 November 2023

### Comments Invited

- On the proposed [Pilot Holistic Review Revised Draft Terms of Reference](#) by 27 November
- [Draft Report of the Root Zone DNSSEC Algorithm Rollover Study](#) by 4 December 2023.

### Submissions

Submitting [comments](#) in a Public Consultation on “Powers in Relation to U.K.-Related Domain Name Registries”

### Blog

- [ICANN Contracted Parties Set to Vote on Proposed DNS Abuse Amendments](#)
- [ICANN Reviews Program Update and Interim President and CEO Goal 11](#)
- Chair’s Blog: [September Board Workshop Recap](#)

### Webinars

- [Two webinars](#) to provide information on early access to the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) for ICANN-accredited registrars
- [FY26 – 30 Strategic Planning Brainstorming Session: Strategic Planning Environmental Scan](#)

## 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 Call

**APRALO Monthly call was held on 21 September 2023.**

In the [September Call](#):

- An overview and feedback of the [APRALO General Assembly](#) was provided by Adarsh Umesh, Bibek Silwal and Sabarinath Pillai.
- An update was provided by Cheryl Langdon-Orr on the GNSO Guidance Process (GGP) on Applicant Support and especially the [GNSO Guidance Process Applicant Support Guidance Recommendation Initial Report](#)
- Justine Chew provided an update on the ICANN Board 10 Sep 2023 [resolution](#) adopting the [Scorecard: Subsequent Procedures dated 10 September 2023 \(CPWG resource\)](#) and on the [Webinar #1](#) of the APRALO Policy Forum (APF) Next Round of New gTLDs webinar series:



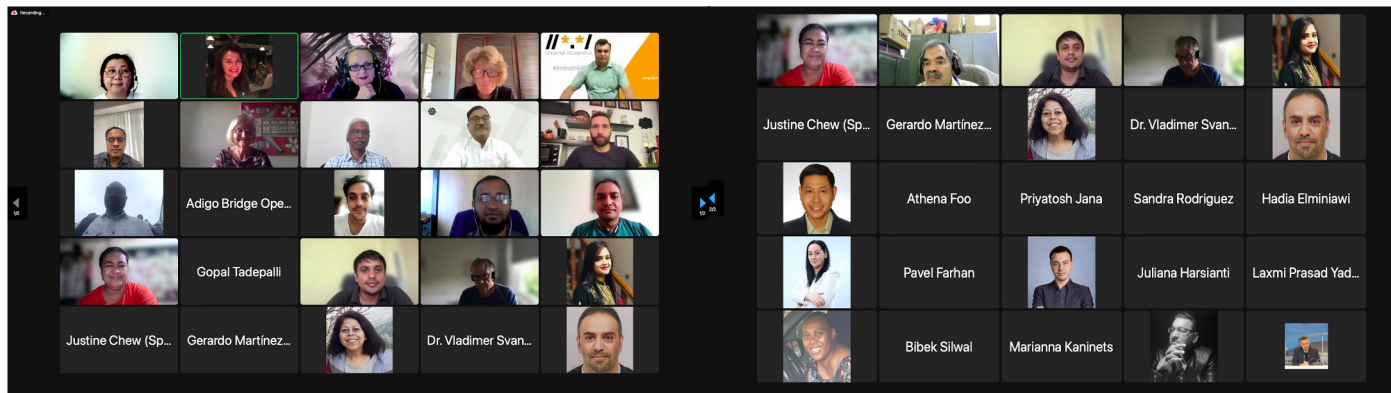
## APRALO Policy Forum Update

By Justine Chew

Given the major events in September-October 2023, being the APRALO General Assembly in Istanbul and ICANN78 in Hamburg, the APRALO Policy Forum (APF) conducted just one activity during that period, which was the pilot of the Next Round of New gTLDs webinar series.

### Webinar #1 on Next Round of New gTLDs: An Overview, 27 September 2023

In response to feedback received during the 2 [APF Town Hall Planning](#) sessions held in August 2023, an APF webinar series is being conducted to provide background information on the New generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program, particularly from the At-Large perspective. This webinar series is also intended to facilitate understanding of any remaining policy-related processes and implementation work to be undertaken up to the target launch date of Apr 2026.



## APRALO Policy Forum Updates contd..

The pilot Webinar #1 of this series attracted nearly 50 participants from not only APRALO but also from AFRALO, EURALO, and NARALO.

Participants got to engage with **Justine Chew**, the former At-Large Liaison for Subsequent Procedures, and now the ALAC Liaison to the GNSO and the ALAC-appointed member to the Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT) and **Cheryl Langdon-Orr**, the former Co-Chair of the GNSO Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group and now the ALAC-appointed alternate to the SubPro IRT, about general aspects of the Program and next round of applications for New gTLDs. The SubPro IRT guides ICANN's Global Domains & Strategy Department in implementing ICANN Board-approved SubPro policy recommendations for the next round of applications for New gTLDs. [A list of documents and resources are provided](#) while participants' queries on the topic were welcomed and addressed.

[See or comment on the event wiki](#), or [watch the webinar recording](#).

## Upcoming APRALO Policy Forum Announcements

What can you look forward to in November and December 2023?

- APRALO ICANN78 Readout ( which was held in first week of Nov)
- A follow-up discourse on the enforceability of Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs)
- A webinar/discourse on Internet Fragmentation (aka “Splinternet”)
- Webinar #2 on Next Round of New gTLDs: Applicant Support (Part 1)
- Webinar #3 on Next Round of New gTLDs: Community-Based Applications

Look out for announcements!

Click [here to get more details](#) on the APRALO Policy Forum’s activities, or click [here to check and/or comment on the APF Planning Calendar for H2 of 2023](#)

## Updates From Our ALSes

### inSIG2023

The eighth edition of the India School of Internet Governance (inSIG2023) was held from 29 September to 1 October at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-Ghy). This year the school was co-hosted by IIT Guwahati. Over 54 fellows (including fellows from northeast India, youth and overseas) participated in the three day event.

inSIG2023 was organised by the seven ISOC India Chapters Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Trivandrum and was supported by MeitY, CCAOI and IIFON. This year the event was sponsored by NIXI, Meta, APNIC, ICANN and SSNet.

The event report would be circulated in a few days.



## Updates From Our ALSes

### Youth Internet Governance Forum India 2023 -Ihita Gangavarapu

The 6th Annual Forum of the Youth Internet Governance Forum India (YIGF) took place on September 28, 2023, at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati campus, under the central theme "Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Digital Future." This event marked a significant milestone in the YIGF India journey, which is recognized by the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and supported by the India School on Internet Governance (InSIG). Over the past six years, YIGF India has played a pivotal role in empowering more than 2,500 young individuals across the country, offering them a platform to engage with diverse internet governance issues and actively contribute to global technology policy discussions.

For this edition of the forum, YIGF received backing from prominent organizations like ICANN, APNIC, and Meta. The one-day national forum adopted a hybrid approach and hosted 150 young participants, including 12 YIGF India Fellowship program recipients for 2023. The event featured a variety of session formats, including workshops, collaborative sessions, panels, and keynote addresses. These sessions provided a platform for prominent leaders from the internet industry to engage in meaningful discussions covering crucial topics such as digital inclusion, cybersecurity, AI regulation, data governance, and the significant role of youth in shaping internet governance.



## Updates From Our ALSes

### ISOC Armenia: Armenia SIG and Global Encryption Day -Katarina Gevorgyan

ArmSIG 2023, an annual internet governance training program in Armenia, aimed to educate and empower a diverse audience on the safe and effective use of the internet. With a unique focus on rural areas, the two-day event attracted 30 participants from various stakeholder groups. The first day provided insights into internet governance forums, domain registries, and the role of organizations like the Internet Society, RIPE NCC, and ICANN. International representatives addressed the audience, emphasizing the importance of these organizations. The second day focused on practical aspects, covering topics such as online protection, internet literacy, and cyber hygiene. Participants shared their deep reliance on the internet for education, global connections, and personal development.

On October 6, 2023, ISOC Armenia Chapter organized a workshop for Global Encryption Day, addressing the significance of encryption in securing digital communication and privacy. The event featured discussions on encryption in business and cloud networks. Participants recommended keeping the global encryption map updated and mandating that government personnel responsible for encryption keys have certifications in cybersecurity and encryption. The workshop gathered 20 individuals and aimed to promote awareness of encryption's role in ensuring online security and privacy.



## Updates From Our ALSes

### ISOC Delhi Members organise Events on Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion in Cyberspace -Kapil Goyal

In September 2023, ISOC India Delhi Chapter's Young Digital Volunteers, in collaboration with the Minister of Education as part of the G20 University Connect Program, organized a series of events to celebrate Diversity and Inclusion in Cyberspace. These events featured discussions on safeguarding freedom of expression, addressing hate speech, and confronting challenges in the dark corners of the Internet through a multi-stakeholder approach. Lightning talks were given by NCC Cadets from DAV College Amritsar, India, and various UNESCO guidelines on digital platform governance were explored.

Key topics included the responsibilities of digital platforms in respecting human rights, the implications of digitization for intergovernmental organizations, and the roles of civil society, global media players, researchers, and the technical community in protecting human rights and promoting net neutrality. The program also featured a live streaming workshop on the Global Forum on Cyber Expert (GFCE) during Insig 2023. Additionally, Dav College Amritsar acted as a local hub for celebrating Global Encryption Day and hosted various side events, including poster making and quiz competitions, in collaboration with MyGov platform to engage and educate participants.



## 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

[Asia-Pacific School on Internet Governance \(APSIG\) 2023](#) which will be held 26-29 November in Manila, Philippines.



## Other Updates

### Other Opportunities

Comments are invited for [IGF2023 stocktaking](#) till 19 November.

The United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is inviting comments on the 20-year review of WSIS implementation by 31 January 2024. Link for submission: <https://forms.office.com/e/U9J073421u>

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

[amritachoudhury@ccaai.in](mailto:amritachoudhury@ccaai.in), [pavelpft@gmail.com](mailto:pavelpft@gmail.com), [bsilwal123@gmail.com](mailto:bsilwal123@gmail.com)