

# APRALO Newsletter March-April 2024

A brief update for the period of Mar-Apr 2024, from the APRALO perspective



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## Message

**From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury**

Dear APRALO community,

Lets first warmly welcome the four new ALSes who officially joined us in April: Internet Society Kyrgyz Chapter, PathFinders Solution Limited, Tonga Women in ICT, Samoa Information Technology Association.

Further in early March we participated in ICANN79 and the highlights of the meeting have been shared in the newsletter.

This month our community participated and shared their opinion for shaping the APRALO Travel Policy. For more details visit this link.

A small team working on drafting the criterias and indicators for APRALO's continuous improvement in line with the discussions at the CIP-CCG WG

We look forward to your continued engagement and involvement in APRALO activities.  
Regards,

Amrita



## Messages

### From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio

Hello and good day to all!

We've had an exciting few weeks following the conclusion of ICANN79 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The ICANN79 Readout was a resounding success, and we recently concluded an exceptional Fireside Chat focused on Internet Fragmentation.

Let's extend a warm welcome to the new ALSes that have recently joined our community. We look forward to their active participation and valuable contributions to our cause. There are important policy-related discussions happening within At-Large. We invite each and every one of you to participate in these conversations. Keep an eye on the mailing list and invitations from ICANN Staff for meetings related to these concerns.

Our leadership elections are underway. If you're an ALS representative, don't forget to cast your vote for the candidate you believe is best suited for the available positions.

Thank you for your continued engagement in all our APRALO endeavors. Together, we can make a difference!

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,  
Aris



# ICANN 79 UPDATES

The [ICANN79 Community Forum](#) was held 02 - 07 March at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- Prior to the meeting the [ICANN79 Policy Outlook Report](#) was released.
- Meeting was attended by 1096 people in person and 526 registered virtually from 106 countries.
- This six-day meeting, had nearly 200 public sessions, focused on outreach, capacity building, and showcasing ICANN's work to a broader global audience.
- Information was shared on the [ICANN Grant Program](#), preparations related to [Universal Acceptance Day](#), contribute to the next [ICANN Strategic Plan](#), and the ongoing conversations around the future of Internet governance. There were plenaries, discussions on the next round of gTLD Auction, Application Support Handbook, Registration Data Request Service, DNS Abuse, etc.
- Manal Ismail was felicitated as the recipient of the [ICANN Community Excellence Award 2024](#).
- At the meeting GAC as always released the ICANN79 [GAC Communiqué](#).
- Prior to the meeting, the ICANN79 Prep Week was organised online between 20 - 22 February, which comprised 12 sessions. One session which was newly introduced was ICANN Board's Engagement with the ICANN Community.
- For more details visit [ICANN79 Policy Outcome Report](#) .



## APAC Space @ ICANN 79

Like every ICANN meeting the APAC Space organised a meeting for all fellow travellers at ICANN79 from Asia Pacific.

Jia- Rong welcomed everyone. This was followed by a round of introductions from participants on one of they key preoccupation at ICANN79 and how others can participate . Maureen shared on NomCom's search for new ICANN leaders and Shah moderated the Community Discussion. This was followed by networking over refreshments.





## AT LARGE @ICANN 79

At ICANN 79, At-Large hosted a diverse range of sessions aimed at addressing key policy issues, enhancing outreach and engagement, and discussing operational matters. These sessions Includes:

- At-Large Leadership: Strategic Priorities and Metrics Work Session
  - At-Large Policy Discussion
  - One Joint Session With GAC, SSAC and ICANN board
  - At-Large Leadership Working Session with NPOC Leadership and ICANN Grant Program
  - At-Large Regional Leaders Coordination session
  - Two At-Large Plenary Sessions
  - At-Large Wrap-Up Session.
- At ICANN 79, At-Large emphasized equitable allocation of travel slots and objective metrics, aiming for fair representation.
- Updates on the Applicant Support Program (ASP) underscored the need for clarity in terminology and advocated for qualitative evaluation methods to enhance inclusivity and support.
- Collaborative efforts with SSAC concentrated on educating end-users about security concerns, while discussions with NPOC aimed to clarify ASP criteria for effective implementation and outreach strategies.



## Announced

[NexGen@ICANN80 participants](#)

## Published

[U.S. Tax Returns for Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2023](#)

## Government Engagement (GE) Initiative

ICANNs [Submission](#) to CSTD on the Questionnaire on WSIS+20 Review

[Submission on Saudi Arabia's draft Digital Infrastructure Policy](#)

## Opportunities

[ICANN80 Community Childcare Grants Program](#)  
by 3 May

[NextGen@ICANN81 Applications](#) till 17 May

## Webinars

Organised webinars on:

- [ICANN and ISPCP to organise DNS Training Sessions for Internet Service Providers](#) first session on 29 April
- Organised webinar on [ICANN and IANA FY25 Operating Plans and Budget](#)



## Comments Invited

Seeking Feedback on [Phase 2 Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names](#) by 21 May

## Comments closed for Inputs

- [Input on the Proposed Renewal of the .XXX Registry Agreement](#) by 29 April
- [Draft Registry Service Provider Handbook – New gTLD Program: Next Round](#) by 22 April
- [Request for proposal](#) to identify a supplier to manage the [ICANN Support Applicant Review Panel](#) by 8 April
- The [Phase 1 Final Recommendations](#) from the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) by 12 March
- [Proposed Top-Level Domain String for Private Use](#) by 21 March
- [Seeking input on Proposed Language for the Next Round Applicant Guidebook](#) by 19 March
- Seeking inputs of [String similarity guidelines](#) by 27 March
- Seeking [input](#) on Next Round [draft of the Applicant Support Program \(ASP\) Handbook](#) by 2 April
- [Review of the Registry System Testing 2.0 Test Specifications and API](#) by 6 May

## Blogs

- [Chair's Blog: Recap of the March Board Workshop and ICANN79](#)
- [Update From the ICANN Board's CEO Search Committee](#)
- [ICANN Launches a Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit](#)
- [Update on ICANN's Emergency Assistance Program for Continued Internet Access](#)
- [Update on the Next ICANN Strategic Plan](#)
- [ICANN's World Summit on the Information Society 20-Year Review Outreach Efforts](#)

## 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 \(OFB-WG\)](#)

### March Call

The [March monthly](#) call was held on 21 March. At the call ICANN79 Fellows shared their perspective on the meeting. The discussion was moderated by Aris the speakers were: Hafiz Farooq (Saudi Arabia), Russel Deka Harada (Papua New Guinea), Jahongir Jabborov (Tajikistan), Willie Meck (Papua New Guinea). Further Amrita presented the key takeaways from the APF's ICANN79 Readout and an update on the CIP-CCG WG face to face meeting @ICANN79

### April Call

The [April](#) monthly call was held on 18 April. At the call Amrita [presented](#) on the work done by the CIP-CCG WG and during the call a small team was formulated to work on the next phase of work to be done. The [APRALO Travel Policy poll results](#) were also shared and discussed. Cheryl shared that the APRALO Rules of Procedures (ROP) was now ready and would be shared with the community to initiate the process. Justine provided an update on the [APRALO Policy Forum](#) and Project RoSi. Staff provided and update on the APRALO elections.

# APRALO Policy Forum Update

By Justine Chew & Shah Zahidur Rahman

## APRALO Contribution to ALAC Public Comment Submission for the Draft Applicant Support Program Handbook, February - March 2024

The APRALO Policy Forum established a small team of regional community members to work on APRALO's contribution towards the ALAC's submission to ICANN Org's [Call for Input on Next Round Draft Applicant Support Program Handbook](#). The APRALO Leadership Team selected **Cherie Lagakali** (Cook Islands), **Mabda Haerunnisa Fajrilla Sidiq** (Indonesia), **Phyo Thiri Lwin** (Myanmar), **Faheem Soomro** (Pakistan), and **Samik Kharel** (Nepal) to ensure diversity of input and especially from underserved countries (in respect of the New gTLD Program). These 5 small team members reviewed the Draft Applicant Support Program Handbook in detail and also participated in the [ALAC Policy Discussion at ICANN79](#) and a number of follow up At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) calls where comments to that draft was discussed with the At-Large community. Led by APRALO Policy Forum Chair & ALAC Representative to the Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT) **Justine Chew**, this APRALO Small Team's contributions, along key input from **Cheryl Langdon-Orr** (ALAC Alternate to the SubPro IRT) and **Avri Doria** (CPWG Co-Chair), guided the At-Large discussions and ALAC's final submission ([AL-ALAC-ST-0224-02-01-EN .pdf \(161.11 KB\)](#)) to ICANN Org.

Given the success of the small team format, the APRALO Leadership Team is looking to establish other small teams to improve engagement opportunities with APRALO community members on ICANN-related work.

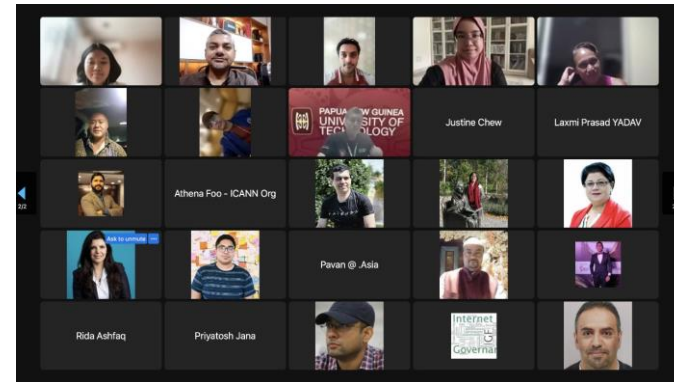
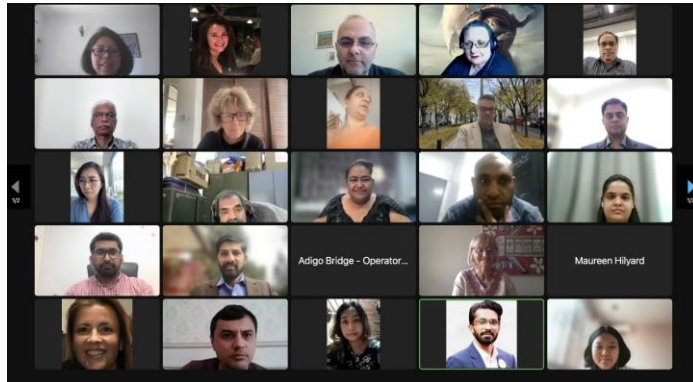


# APRALO Policy Forum Updates contd..

## APRALO ICANN79 Readout, 19 March 2024

Organised by the APRALO Policy Forum, the [APRALO ICANN79 Readout](#) saw moderator **Amrita Choudhury**, APRALO Chair joined by panellists **Aris Ignacio**, APRALO Vice Chair, based in Philippines; **Manju Chen**, GNSO Councilor representing NCSG, based in Taiwan; **Pranav Bhaskar Twari**, ICANN79 Fellow, based in India; **Dr Shamsuzzoha**, representing GAC Bangladesh and **Russell Deka T Harada**, representing ccNSO, based in Papua New Guinea.

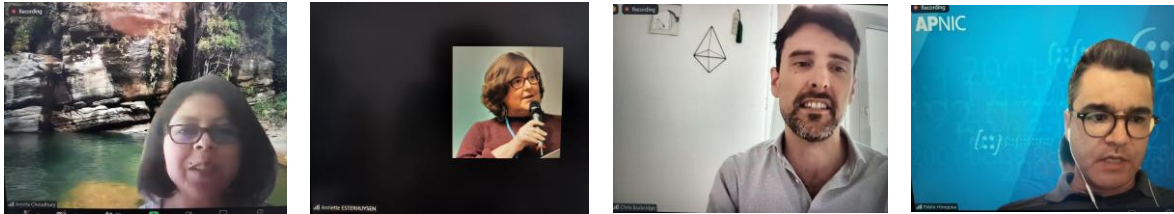
Panellists discussed their respective key takeaways from ICANN79 and briefly shared with participants their next steps to those takeaways towards ICANN80. Panellists also shared how they saw individual end-users playing a role in the ICANN mission. Forty-eight participants in attendance actively engaged with the panellists throughout the discussion. For an overview of the discussion, please visit [this link](#).



## APRALO Policy Forum Updates contd..

### APRALO Policy Forum 5th Fireside Chat, 25 April 2024

The APRALO Policy Forum hosted its [5th Fireside Chat: Let's Talk About Internet Fragmentation & Multistakeholder Internet Governance](#) where **Amrita Choudhury**, APRALO Chair, chatted with her guest speakers **Anriette Esterhuysen**, Senior Advisor on Global and Regional Internet Governance; **Chris Buckridge**, Independent Consultant on Internet Governance and Digital Policy, and ICANN Board Member; and **Pablo Hinojosa**, Senior Director of Engagement at APNIC.



The conversation began with the speakers providing their interpretation of *Internet Fragmentation* and discussing the spectrum of fragmentation across technical vs governance & coordination vs commercial levels. They alluded to global geopolitical tensions, misinformation, national legislations introduced to protect sovereign interests, new challenges ushered in by new digital technologies as some obvious causes of Internet Fragmentation and how these factors impact us as Internet end-users.

Engagement with the over 60 participants then proceeded onto the concept of Internet governance and explored the role the Multistakeholder Model and in particular, the At-Large Community, can play to avert global fragmentation of the interconnected Internet. Please visit [this link](#) to view some of the key takeaways of this Fireside Chat.

For more information about the APRALO Policy Forum's purpose, activities and membership, please visit the [APF Wiki Page](#).

## Upcoming APRALO Policy Forum Announcements

**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](#)

## OTHER UPDATES

### **ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach & Engagement – Aris Ignacio**

As we move forward into the next few weeks and months, we want to ensure that our calendar accurately reflects the activities planned by our respective ALSes. If your organization has any events, meetings, or initiatives scheduled, we encourage you to share them with us. By doing so, we can include them in the APRALO calendar and update our wiki page accordingly.

Please send the details of your upcoming activities to staff at [staff@atlarge.icann.org](mailto:staff@atlarge.icann.org). Your contributions will help us keep our community informed and engaged.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the success of APRALO's outreach and engagement efforts.

### **CIP-CCG Group - Amrita Choudhury**

The Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) members was tasked with educating their community with the work done so far by the WG and also gather feedback from the community if they agree to the five principles developed by the CIP-CCG (stemming from Article 4.4 of the ICANN Bylaws) to serve as a common base across all structures.

APRALO presented the work done by CIP/CCG with the APRALO community in its monthly call. All agreed in the call with the five principles. As a next step a small group has been formed to delve further on developing the criteria and indicators to measure the principles based on the continuous improvement activities listed. For more details, please refer to the [APRALO CIP-CCG page](#)

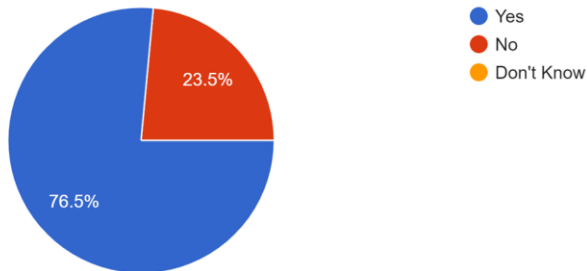


# APRALO Travel Policy Poll

## Sharing the outcome of the APRALO Travel Policy Poll.

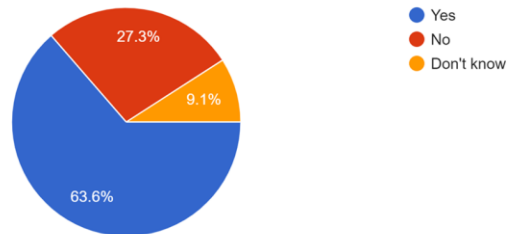
Do you agree with the position taken by the APRALO LT on the Pilot Project so far?

34 responses



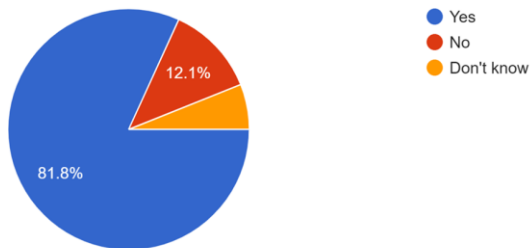
Should APRALO reject the current Pilot Project, like the other three RALOs, given that it was not extensively discussed?

33 responses



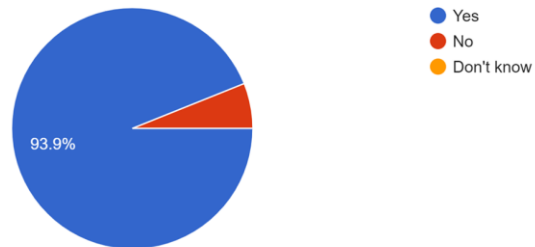
Should RALOs have the discretion to decide on metrics on how they want to use the two travel s assigned to them for each ICANN Public Meeting.

33 responses



Should APRALO be empowered to set APRALO specific metrics to evolve the travel policy whic fair and accountable and where required people for the meetings are predictable (who get to trav

33 responses



### Suggestions on the top 2 or 3 parameters for APRALO to adopt

- Engagement and Participation Equity
- Impact Assessment of Contribution (RALO, Community, IG)
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Incentive to engage
- Prioritize travel slots for RALO members who have proposed specific session topics, workshops, or initiatives that align with ICANN's strategic objectives and the interests of the At-Large community.

#### Next Steps:

There will be an open listening session in the **APRALO May Monthly Call**.

In the meanwhile you can share your suggestions on the parameters and criteria for drafting a travel policy.

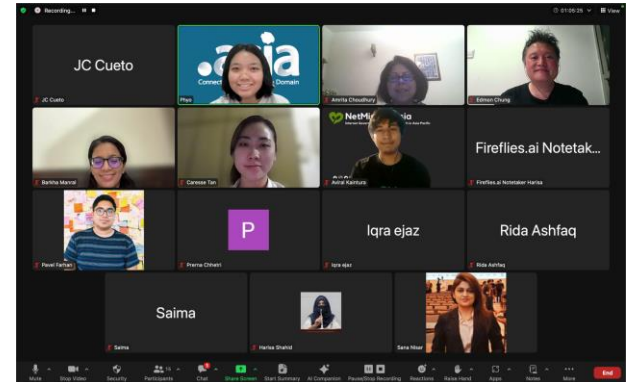
### APRALO and ALAC Participation in the 5th ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum, Taipei, Taiwan, 23-24 April 2024

Justine Chew, ALAC Vice Chair and APRALO ALAC Member, participated remotely as a panelist in the 5th ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum's session on Digital Rights/Privacy & Online Safety on April 23. The discussion, moderated by Edmon Chung, CEO DotAsia and ICANN Board Member, centered on registry and registrar practices to uphold Internet security and stability. Panelists, including industry figures Chiayo Kuo, Wilson Kao, Tom Hong-Fu Meng, and Ken-Ying Tseng, explored topics such as DNS Abuse amendments, Public Interest Commitments (PICs), and Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs). Justine stressed the vital role of education and awareness in combating cybersecurity threats, extending beyond vulnerable communities. She expressed support for recent DNS Abuse amendments, urging continuous evolution of definitions to address emerging threats. Furthermore, she highlighted challenges in DNS Abuse reporting and emphasized preventive measures like Know-Your-Customer practices and AI-driven tools. Justine proposed careful design of RVCs to ensure Internet security while respecting ICANN's non-regulatory stance on Internet content.



## NetMission APRALO Study Group Activity

The NetMission APRALO Study Group convened with APRALO Chair, Amrita Choudhury, on March 25, 2024, to enrich their understanding of APRALO and its endeavors. This group acts as a platform for individuals to delve deeper into Internet governance, domain name systems, and related policies. Through various engagement initiatives, members refine their capabilities in advocating for a more inclusive and equitable Internet landscape. By fostering connections and collaborations within the ICANN and APRALO spheres, the group aims to empower young individuals to actively shape the Internet's future. Its objectives include empowering NetMission Alumni and youth engaged in APRALO activities, fostering their skills and knowledge, encouraging active involvement within the APRALO community, and producing quarterly reports to document their progress and contributions.



### ISOC Bangladesh Chapter - Shah Zahidur Rahman

20th April, 2024 Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter has celebrated a hybrid full day event on Universal Acceptance (UA) day celebration. This day-long program was divided into two parts, first two hours was on UA awareness building and the remaining four hours was on capacity building for the technical community on DNS and EAI. Participants were from different stakeholders groups but the majority was from young engineers, software developers and system administrators.

Opening session keynote was made by Sajid Rahman from ICANN Board remotely and Samiran Gupta, SVP ICANN gave his speech also remotely however ICANN community members promotional messages were shared by video playing. Whole day session was conducted by Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter Leader, ICANN community leader remotely and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) subject matter expert and Bangladesh Computer Council consultant subject matter expert.

Closing remark has been given by the BTRC Director general who is also a GAC representative of ICANN from Bangladesh. Ending of the event participants have received certificates on-site.



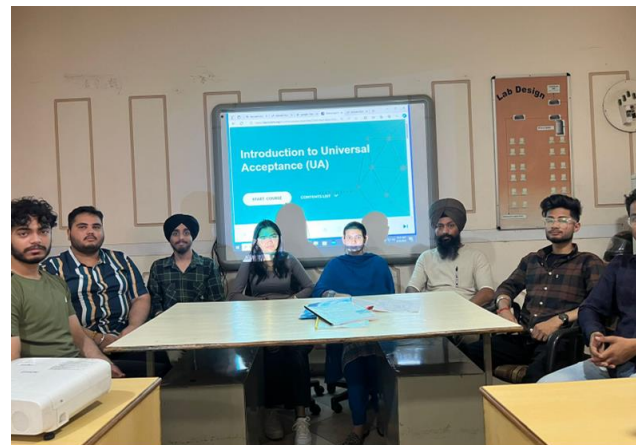


### DAV College Amritsar - Kapil Goyal

To celebrate Diversity and Inclusivity for 1.4 Billion citizens on Multilingual Internet Ecosystem, DAV College, Amritsar under the patronage of ISOC Delhi, India, and under the guidance and technical coordination of **The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)** and the **Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)** successfully organized the **Universal Acceptance (UA) Day on April 26, 2024.**

Moderated and curated by Prof. Kapil Goyal, Alumni Fellow, ICANN 75 and Dr. Preeti Kamra, Alumni Fellow, VSIG, stakeholders from academia, civil society, and the technical community participated in the Capacity-Building Training Workshop hosted on the **ICANN Learn platform.**

The primary goal of this workshop is to highlight key technical scenario for Internet enable Devices, applications and software's to support voices of next billion citizens , as an opportunity to educate, empower and provide mentorship among multi-stakeholder community on key metrics on **Email Address Internationalization (EAI)**, **International Domain Names (IDN)**, **Internationalized Email Authorization (IEA)**.



# Updates From Our ALSes

## ISOC Chennai

The ISOC India Chennai Chapter hosted a Cyber Security Awareness Marathon on March 10, 2024, in Coimbatore. This event aimed to raise awareness about cybersecurity through a running event. Additionally, the chapter organized a Universal Acceptance webinar on April 6th, which attracted over 40 participants. The webinar was part of the Universal Acceptance Day Celebration, focusing on promoting the acceptance of domain names and email addresses across various applications and systems. Both events demonstrate the chapter's commitment to promoting cybersecurity awareness and advancing the adoption of universal acceptance principles within the digital community.



Internet Society  
India Chennai Chapter

UA DAY CELEBRATION 2024

**Webinar on  
Universal  
Acceptance**

06 April 2024  
6 PM to 7 PM

Speaker  
Dr.N.Sudha Bhuvanewari  
Chair, ISOC Chennai



Internet Society  
India Chennai Chapter

**Cyber Security Awareness Marathon**  
at Race Course, Coimbatore

**5K**

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 2024

Starts and Finishes at Race Course Zone - I  
Coimbatore  
Time: 6 am Onwards

**Categories:**  
Toddlers: 3 to 7 Yrs (only medal)  
Kids & Teens: 8 to 18 Yrs  
Adults: 18+ (both Men & Women)

Attractive Cash Prizes

Scan to Register



<https://krivin-international-playschool.business.site/>

Fee: Rs.99 per person includes medals, certificates, BIB and Refreshments

Call us for more info 8903525257/6381650617

## RayZnews

Rayznews participated in APTLD85 as a civil society representative, focusing on the current situation and practices of the local ccTLD dot np. The discussion addressed challenges in operation, management, and integration of dot np, exploring opportunities to support community growth and establish a framework for the local ccTLD. The event, held from February 19-22 in Goa, India, gathered APTLD partners and members. Additionally, Rayznews and Learn Internet Governance organized an interaction program on Universal Acceptance (UA) with Nabil Benemar for the African region. Amina Ramallan, ICANN Fellow/UA Ambassador, managed the Q&A session. The program highlighted the importance of UA in communities, particularly in developing economies with diverse languages, emphasizing the need to promote local languages and dialogue alongside English.



**Nabil Benemar**  
Vice Chair, UASG

### DID YOU KNOW?

**Universal Acceptance (UA)** is the key to a truly multilingual Internet

**Register and Join us** to learn more about **UA** and how to make your systems **UA** ready,

**Q/A** by **Amina Ramallan**  
ICANN Fellow | UA Ambassador



### ISOC Hyderabad

ISOC Hyderabad in association with ICANN organised a '[Knowledge Session on Universal Acceptance](#)' on 26 April to create an awareness about UA, Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), Email Address Internationalization (EAI) and how the participants can be involved in ongoing UA related activities. The speaker at the event was Champika Wijayatunga, Regional Technical Engagement Sr. Manager for Asia Pacific, ICANN and the session was moderated by K Mohan Raidu, President, ISOC Hyderabad

LIVESTREAM <https://livestream.com/internetsociety/isoc-hyderabad-universal-acceptance>

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LIVESTREAM <https://livestream.com/internetsociety/isoc-hyderabad-universal-acceptance>

### UA DAY MYANMAR-Phyo Thiri Lwin

Thi Pho Myanmar will host Universal Acceptance Day on May 18, 2024, via Zoom from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Myanmar Time).

The event will focus on ICANN, Universal Acceptance, and its importance for Burmese communities. Sessions, conducted in Burmese, will cover topics such as domain names, internet basics, and youth opportunities in internet governance. It's an opportunity to learn about internet functionality and participation avenues.

Register at <https://forms.gle/g8i2wSE7u3cZZEJa9> to join this informative event

**Registration  
is open now.**

**Universal  
Acceptance  
Day Event  
UA 102**  
**18.05.2024**

*Organized by*  *Coordinated with*  

# Thank You

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

[amritachoudhury@ccaoi.in](mailto:amritachoudhury@ccaoi.in), [pavelpft@gmail.com](mailto:pavelpft@gmail.com), [bsilwal123@gmail.com](mailto:bsilwal123@gmail.com),  
[phyothiri.lwin@netmission.asia](mailto:phyothiri.lwin@netmission.asia), [manapijp@gmail.com](mailto:manapijp@gmail.com)