

APRALO Newsletter May-June 2024

A brief update for the period of May- Jun 2024, from the APRALO perspective



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Message

From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury

Dear APRALO community,

ICANN 80 was a productive meeting which also announced the new CEO of ICANN. There would be more updates the meeting in this newsletter.



With your support we are now gearing up to adopt the APRALO 2024 Rules of Procedure. A mail on the same has been sent for our ALS and UIMs along with a notice on voting.

We hope you will go through the documents and revert back to us within scheduled time if you have any questions. Furthering there was an information session on the RoP in our July monthly call. If you have missed it please here the recording.

It is also time we plan for the Outreach and Engagement Plan for FY25. In that regard a mail has been sent to you. We hope to see each of our ALS members and UIMs contribute to conduct 1 activity in the ICANN FY 25 (July 24 - June 25)

We look forward to your inputs and continued engagement in APRALO.

Regards,

Amrita

From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio



Hello and good day to all!

ICANN80 held in Kigali, Rwanda was a giant step towards the future of ICANN. The announcement of the new CEO, continued discussions for the second round of gTLD, RoP and the presentation on the realization of FY 24 O&E plan, have all taken place during the event. This was truly evident as shown in the recently concluded ICANN80 readout held last June 27. It was truly a remarkable meeting that will not be possible without the participation and engagement of each one of you.

We are inviting all ALSes and UIMs to conduct or get engaged in any activity within your local economy which promotes or involves ICANN-related endeavors. With this, we would like to invite you to include that engagement to the FY 25 Outreach and Engagement Plan which was sent to you via email.

Finally, our APRALO monthly call is scheduled on July 18 at 0600 UTC. Kindly keep posted on the details in our respective emails. Looking forward to seeing you all in the call.

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

Yours truly,
Aris

From APRALO Vice Chair Ali AIMeshal



In Eye on AI Impact on DNS

Recently, there has been a lot of research and development activities related to how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be leveraged in DNS data privacy. As AI grows more sophisticated, greater worries about privacy have surfaced, along with a debate on the security of DNS data. This means that, in principle, AI could use its ability to spot patterns better than humans and analyze the data contained within DNS queries, which, if extended into current mindsets about privacy, plummets head-on straight with concerns of having such analysis conducted due to conceivably being able to extract potentially sensitive information involving individuals or worse, organizations via misuse of such power, further enabling a focused attack vector.

Further, AI-managed services vendors are also developing tools and systems to offer DNS security and identify cyber threats. Although these systems increase DNS security, they can also collect and process a huge amount of DNS data without privacy control. As DNS data connects to more AI-based management and security tools, it becomes crucial for guidelines on how this is used.

So, to recap, AI makes a lot of DNS easier and better (faster), but it also raises potential privacy issues. It is vital for stakeholders to collaborate and establish best practices prioritizing privacy protection while leveraging AI's potential in the DNS ecosystem.

All the best.

Ali AIMeshal

ICANN 80 Updates

The [ICANN80 Policy Forum](#) convened stakeholders from around the world, including representatives from governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and the technical community. The [ICANN80 Policy Forum](#) was held on 10-13 June 2024 at Kigali Convention Centre (KCC), Rwanda.

- Prior to the meeting the [ICANN 80 Policy Outlook](#) was released.
- There were [1,638 attendees](#), with 1,004 participating in person and 634 virtually.
- This four-day meeting, had 98 open sessions and 12 closed sessions, focused on policy discussion and ICANN's work to a broader global audience.
- ICANN presented the 2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study. The African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) hosted two roundtable discussions on challenges affecting Africa's Internet landscape.
- There were key topics of discussion at this meeting such as a plenary session exploring ICANN role at Global Internet Governance, [High-Level Government Meeting](#), etc..
- Prior to the meeting, the ICANN80 Prep Week was organised online between 28 - 30 May, which comprised 9 sessions.
- For more details visit [ICANN80 Policy Outcome Report](#).



At Large had 12 sessions during ICANN 80 besides participating in other community led sessions. These include

- At-Large Leadership: Strategic Priorities and Metrics Work Session
- At-Large Policy Discussion. The policy topics session that discussed topics related to the Next Round Program, Transfer Policy Review, Registration Data Request Service (RDRS), and IDNs.
- The Joint Session With GAC discussed DNS abuse mitigation and Next Round topics, such as contention resolution and the Applicant Support Program.
- The joint session with SSAC discussed risk of data manipulation mentioned in the Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 Report, DNS abuse mitigation efforts, the Safer Cyber campaign, as well as general security and stability concerns that may impact end users.
- At-Large Leadership Working Session with NPOC Leadership and ICANN Grant Program
- At-Large Regional Leaders Coordination session
- Two At-Large Plenary Sessions with focus on Africa organised by AFRALO: Enhancing Internet Infrastructure in Africa for an Inclusive Internet; and Building a Multilingual Internet: Opportunities and Challenges.
- Engagement session aimed to engage with ICANN Fellows and NextGen participants
- Session to discuss how ISOC ALSes can contribute further.
- At-Large Wrap-Up Session.



APRALO LT @ICANN80



APRALO Community Members@ICANN80

Announced

[Recent Patterns Observed by ICANN's Domain Abuse Activity Reports Input Data](#)
[2024 ICANN DNS Symposium will be held in Santa Marta, Colombia](#) on 25 September
[ICANN83 Policy Forum will be held in Prague Czech Republic 9-12 June 2025](#)

Published

[2023 Africa Domain Name Industry Study Final report](#) of the Root Zone Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) Algorithm Rollover Study.
[Fiscal Year 2024 Third Quarter Management Financial Results](#);
ICANN Compliance has started to publish [reports on DNS Abuse](#).

Contributed

The Government engagement team made [contributions to the IGF Leadership Panel](#) and organized webinars on the revised Zero Draft of the GDC.

Finalised

The [Registry Service Provider \(RSP\) Evaluation Program Handbook](#) for the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program: Next Round.

Sought Volunteers

[The PPSAI Implementation Review Team](#).

Opportunities

Join the Government Engagement Teams initiative [WSIS+20 Outreach Network](#)

Public Comments

Closed for inputs

- [Review of the Registry System Testing 2.0 Test Specifications and API;](#)
- [Phase 2 Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names.](#)
- [Inputs on GNSO Policy Status Report](#)
- [ICANN NCAP Discussion Group Delivers Key Recommendations for the Next Round](#)
- [ICANN Operating and Financial Plan for FY25-29 and FY25 Plan and Budget Adopted](#)

Blogs of Interest

- [Board Discusses Auctions of Last Resort, Private Resolution of Contention Sets](#)
- [Chair's Blog: Previewing the June Board Workshop and ICANN80](#)
- [ICANN's Enforcement of DNS Abuse Requirements: A Look at the First Two Months](#)
- [Improving ICANN's Transparency](#)
- [ICANN Highlights From Six Months of RDRS Operations and Metrics](#)
- [Implementation of Work Stream 2 and ICANN Specific Reviews Recommendations](#)
- [ICANN Policy Development Accelerator Delivers Two Primers](#)
- [ICANN Registration Data Request Service Pilot Program Enhancements](#)
- [ICANN Board Defers ATRT4 by 12 months and Initiates Pilot Holistic Review](#)
- [Organizational Changes to Ensure ICANN's Financial Stability and Sustainability](#)

For more updates on ICANN read the [ICANN Blogs here](#).

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 \(OFB-WG\)](#)

May Call

We had a fairly packed agenda for our monthly call on 23 [May](#). Barkha Manral updated on the work being done by the APRALO CIP - CCG Small Team. There was a discussion on the [APRALO Outreach and Engagement Plan \(FY24 ending June 2024\)](#). Cheryl provided an update on the next steps for adopting the updated APRALO ROPs. Shah provided an update on the [APRALO Policy Forum](#), Gisella provided an update on what to expect at [ICANN80 Policy Forum](#). In the showcase section K. Mohan Raidu presented on the recent engagement initiatives of ISOC Hyderabad. Additionally our new ALS member Md. Shabbir Awan and Talant Sultanov and UIM Shita Lakshmi shared their work and motivation to join APRALO.

We also had the Travel Policy Listening Session.

APRALO Policy Forum Update

By **Justine Chew & Shah Zahidur Rahman**

May and June 2024 were relatively quiet months for the APRALO Policy Forum, given that a number of community members have been involved in the work of the APRALO Continuous Improvement Program (CIP) Small Team and also participating in ICANN80 in Kigali, Rwanda. Nevertheless 2 key activities were undertaken.

Reactivating Project RoSI - APRALO Register of Skills & Interests

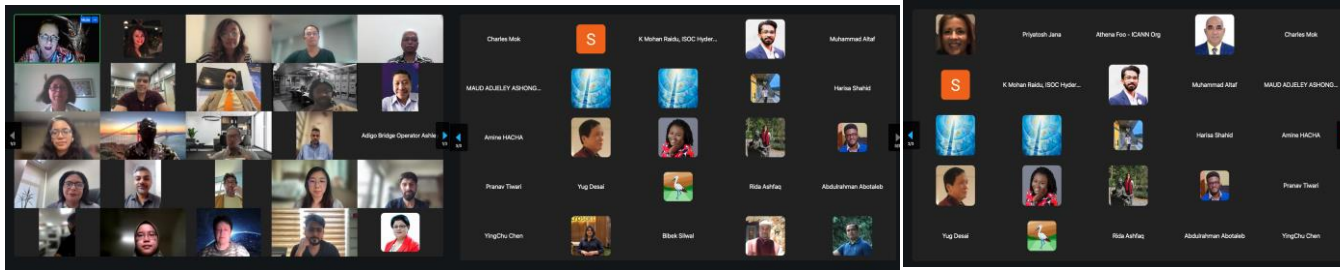
The [APRALO Register of Skills & Interests \(RoSI\)](#) is intended to be a dynamic register to which APRALO At-Large Structure Members and APRALO Unaffiliated Individual Members may wish to submit data on their skills and interests specifically in areas within ICANN's remit. Under the leadership of **Justine Chew**, this project has been reactivated after a lengthy intermission and will be proceeding as a pilot, implemented using a Google form. The pilot incorporates many of the project's 2021 goals, but instead of assessing candidates for entry into RoSI, the approach for the pilot will be to invite all interested respondents from the APRALO Community to not only indicate their expertise and/or knowledge in (some) identified topics and themes within ICANN's remit, but also to express an interest in learning about others.

This RoSI pilot implementation is expected to run over 2 cycles (Cycle1: Jul-Aug 2024, and Cycle 2: Sep-Nov 2024) to enable adjustments to be made in consideration of new input. After each cycle, the pilot will be reviewed for continuous improvement and durability (as needed). The 2-cycle approach is also meant to facilitate the participation of new respondents over time, and to enable past respondents to update their previously submitted data. Watch for an announcement!

APRALO Policy Forum Updates contd..

APRALO ICANN80 Readout, 27 June 2024

Organised by the APRALO Policy Forum, the [APRALO ICANN80 Readout](#) saw moderator **Cheryl Langdon-Orr** joined by panellists **Satish Babu**, APRALO ALAC Member based in India, **Fidya Shabrina**, ICANN80 Fellow based in Indonesia, **Tomslin Samme-Nlar**, GNSO Council Vice-Chair & GNSO Councillor, currently based in Australia, **Zakir Syed**, representing GAC, based in Pakistan, and **Ian Chiang**, representing ccNSO, based in Taiwan.



Panellists discussed their respective key takeaways from ICANN80 and briefly shared with participants their next steps to those takeaways towards ICANN81. Panellists also shared how they saw individual end-users playing a role in the ICANN mission. Sixty one participants in attendance actively engaged with the panellists throughout the discussion. An overview of the discussion along with a report on the takeaways for APRALO will be posted in due course at the event wiki page.

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

By Maureen Hilyard – AP Delegate to the NomCom 2024

Six months after receiving an initial batch of nearly 200 applications for the seven positions that were to be filled by the NomCom 2024 team, their initial processes of reviewing, shortlisting, interviewing and the further shortlisting, left only the final interviews for the three Board positions to take place during the Kigali meeting. Before the end of ICANN80, the final list of 3 successful applicants for the ICANN Board, 2 for the ALAC (one for NARALO and one for EURALO) and a Council member each for the GNSO and the ccNSO, plus a set of backups for each position, was completed. It was a long and arduous process, still continuing during July with staff doing due diligence checks on each of those on the final candidate list. The successful candidates will be announced in August.

OTHER UPDATES

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach & Engagement – Aris Ignacio

We would like to congratulate all who initiated, organized or engaged in the outreach and engagement endeavors last FY 24. For details of all the activities and their results, feel free to see the FY 24 O&E document.

Requesting all ALSes and UIMs to update in suggestion mode the Outreach and Engagement Sheet of APRALO for FY 25 preferably on or before July 5, 2024 on the activities or you plan to do with APRALO/ICANNs concerns.

Kindly take note that ICANN FY 25 is from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

Here is the link for your reference:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18nqy0Jme8YshDvxlzbZZqowRzKopDdncOzDy4ZsDnpY/edit?usp=sharing>

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

CIP-CCG Group - Amrita Choudhury

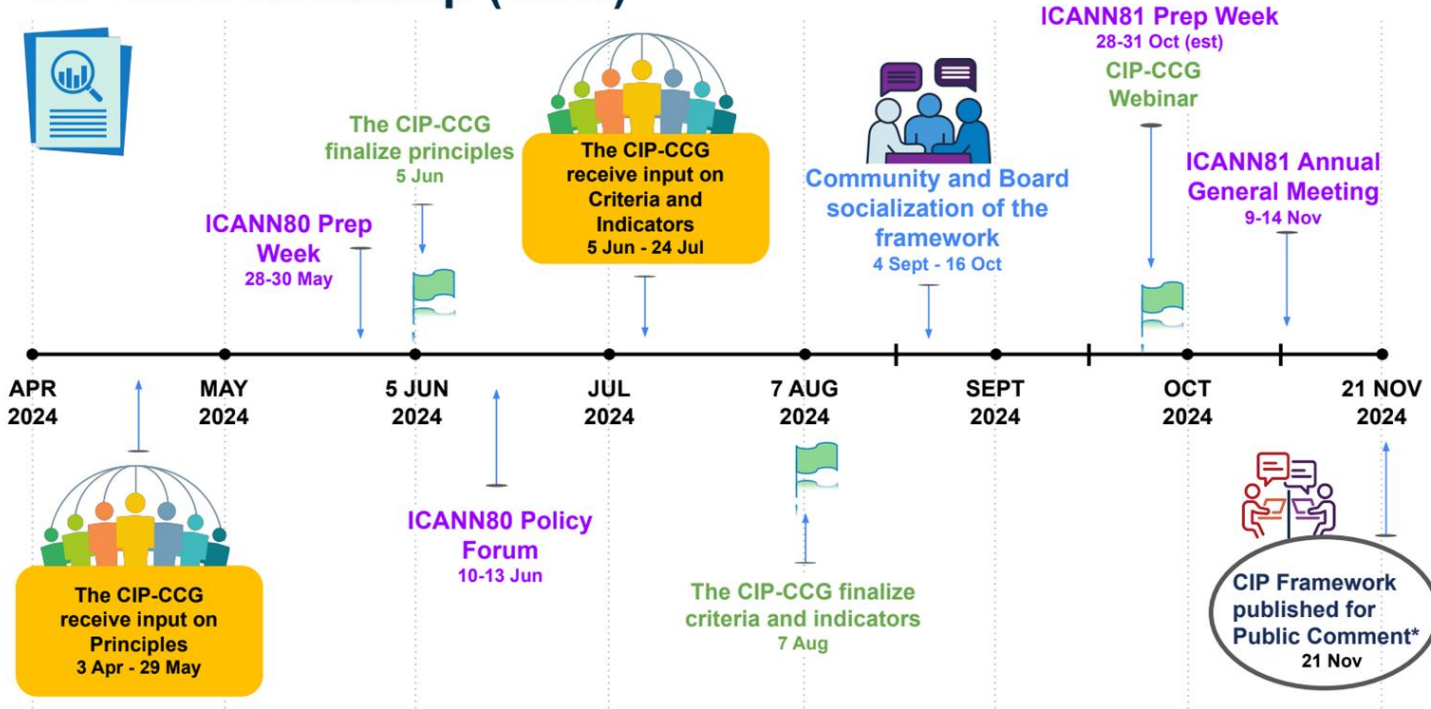
As had been shared earlier the Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) has been set up to evolve the ICANN Bylaw-mandated organisational review of ICANN component into a continuous improvement process.

For the first phase, the CIP-CCG volunteers were tasked to consider and agree on a framework of 5 principles for continuous improvement, wherein the framework would apply to all the participating groups (SOAC, SGs, Cs and NomCom), as personalised to each group. Each group was then invited to customise relevant Criteria for each Principle, and SMART Indicators for each Criterion.

In the next phase which is underway each group representative is expected to gather feedback on the Criteria and SMART Indicators for their group and report on them to the CIP-CCG by 24 July. ICANN org support staff will then work on issuing a documented cross-community continuous improvement framework for public comment in November, facilitated by a survey of the CIP-CCG volunteers.

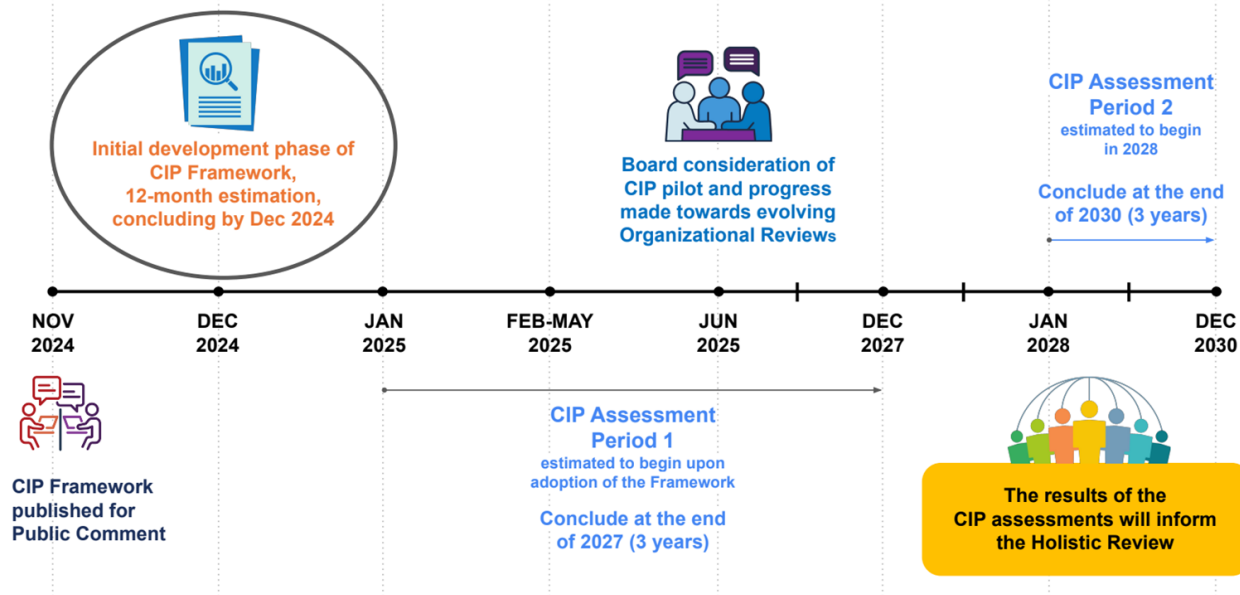
During all stages, the CIP-CCG volunteers are expected to be updating their community and gathering feedback from their groups.

CIP-CCG Roadmap (2024)



*The CIP-CCG will address input received and revise the CIP Framework, where relevant.

Continuous Improvement Program Roadmap



Pic: Roadmap for the CIP-CCG

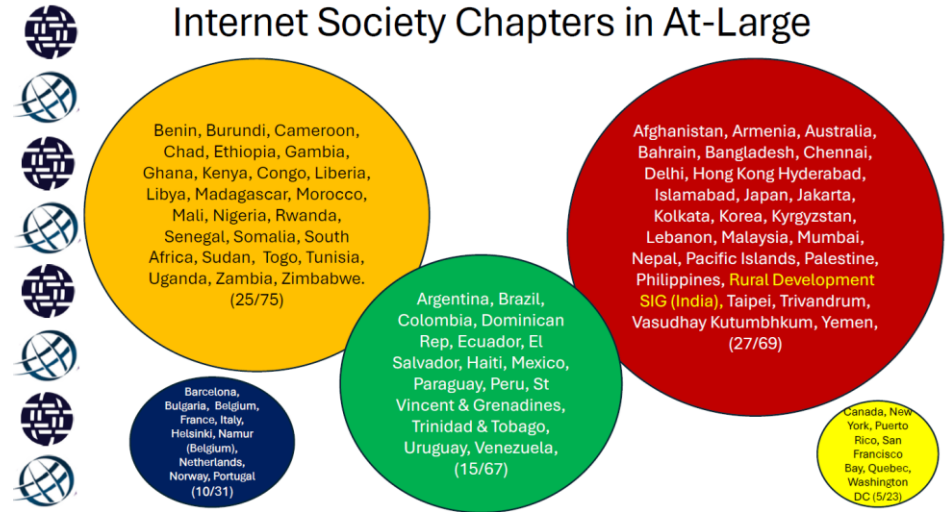
The APRALO CIP Small Team is currently working to finalise the criteria and indicators that are suitable for APRALO and also make a list of proposed indicators. The small team aims to share the first draft with the APRALO community for inputs before the July APRALO Monthly call on 18th and make a presentation during the Monthly Call to solicit input from the community. For more details, please refer to the [APRALO CIP-CCG page](#) and do join the July Monthly Call

ISOC Chapters @ ICANN – June 2024

Maureen Hilyard - newly seated Internet Society Board member

ISOC Chapter representatives from 28 Chapters attended the gathering of ISOC Chapters and other ALSes at a special session focusing on why ISOC Chapters were the most effective in getting ICANN messages out into their communities. In APRALO, this was borne out at the number of UA Day events that were coordinated by our ISOC Chapters.

Out of the 82 ISOC Chapters in At-Large, 27 of them are from **APRALO (33%)**. ISOC Chapters are seen to be efficient in their delivery of ICANN Messages to their community groups because this role is part of their work in communities on behalf of the Internet Society. In their dual role as At-Large Structures, ISOC Chapters are already acknowledged as a good fit because this role is specified and valued by the Internet Society. The only difference is that whereas for the Internet Society the message is about connectivity and accessibility, for ICANN, it is domain names.



ISOC Chapters @ ICANN – June 2024

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Therefore:

1. Chapters are central to the work of the Internet Society and ICANN
2. Members run programme and activities that are dedicated to making a difference in their local communities
3. Members inform policy
4. They educate the public about internet-related issues, via educational events, community programmes, public policy programmes and networking events.
5. They provide unique regional perspectives on emerging internet issues
6. They share an interest and believe in the ISOC and the ICANN missions
7. They are committed to furthering ISOC and ICANN goals and objectives in their own communities.

All ALSes can use these guidelines for more effective community outreach for ICANN.

Following a discussion about the roles of ISOC Chapters and other ALSes, the meeting decided that a future session to look at how all ALSes could become more effective ICANN messengers will be led by the NARALO Chair, Greg Shatan, at the Community meeting in Seattle 2025.

Internet Australia Update

By Cheryl Langdon Orr

Internet Australia is delighted to support and announce a major initiative we are annually involved with; the 2024 [Australian Internet Governance Forum \(auIGF\) 2024](#), previously known as NetThing, will take place in Melbourne on October 28-29 in a hybrid format.

The forum will as usual bring together a diverse and multidisciplinary community of stakeholders and provides a vital platform to discuss the key issues shaping the future of the Internet in Australia.

The forum will explore a range of topics such as digital rights and cybersecurity, emerging technologies and the evolving digital economy. [Submit your ideas for session themes](#) to help shape the auIGF program and have your say.

Registrations for the forum will be announced soon. Join us and engage with experts, policymakers and community leaders, and contribute to the conversations that will shape Australia's digital landscape.

IN2ITION 2024: 3rd PhYIGF - Empowering Filipino Youth in Internet

By Aris Ignacio

Attendees gained valuable insights on cybersecurity, emerging technology trends, online abuse, and navigating privacy concerns in the digital age.

Ms. Yien Chyn Tan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager at ICANN, provided a comprehensive overview of the Domain Name System (DNS) and ICANN's Multistakeholder Model. This model fosters collaboration between various stakeholders to ensure a secure, stable, and unified internet for all.

A Catalyst for Positive Change

The forum sparked engaging and thought-provoking discussions on pressing internet governance issues. It served as a springboard for promoting ethical technology use, responsible internet governance practices, and fostering awareness of ICANN's role in shaping the online world.

Looking Ahead: A Philippine NRI on the Horizon

The event's success paves the way for registering the very first National and Regional IGF initiative (NRI) from the Philippines. This initiative signifies the country's commitment to a more robust and secure internet infrastructure. IN2ITION 2024: 3rd PhYIGF has empowered Filipino youth to become active participants in shaping the future of the internet.

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IN2ITION 2024: 3rd PhYIGF - Empowering Filipino Youth in Internet By Aris Ignacio

The Internet Society Philippines Chapter and Southville International School and Colleges' College of Information Technology and Engineering hosted the successful IN2ITION 2024: The 3rd Philippine Youth Internet Governance Forum (PhYIGF). Held last May 30, 2024, at the Luxembourg Hall in Las Piñas City, Philippines, the forum attracted over 411 attendees, including students, faculty, youth, professionals, and internet enthusiasts from across the country. The theme for this year was “Tech Horizon: Bridging Digital Today to Tomorrow”.

The event enjoyed the support of key organizations like ICANN, the Philippine Network Operators Group (PhNOG), and student groups like the Junior Philippine Computer Society SISC Chapter and the Southville Computer Engineering Society. Beyond Technology Services Outreach Program and other community partners also played a crucial role.

Engaging Discussions on Tech Trends and Challenges

IN2ITION 2024: 3rd PhYIGF featured a lineup of expert speakers and facilitators who delved into critical topics shaping the digital landscape.



NetMission APRALO Study Group Monthly Call Activities - Phyto Thiri Lwin

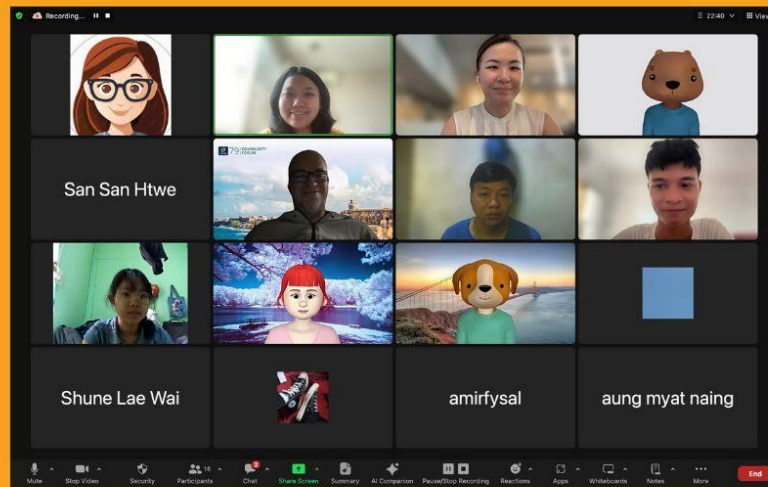
Edmon CHUNG (ICANN Board Member and CEO of DotAsia) shared about RALOs, At-Large and PDP of ICANN at NetMission APRALO Study Group. The study group buddies asked questions about The Asia Pacific (APAC) Domain Name System (DNS) Forum, DNS Abuse and DotKiDs and so on. This group serves as a platform for individuals to explore Internet governance, domain name systems, and related policies. Through diverse engagement initiatives, members enhance their skills in advocating for a more inclusive and equitable Internet. By fostering connections and collaborations within ICANN and APRALO, the group aims to empower young individuals to actively shape the Internet's future. Its objectives include empowering NetMission Alumni and youth involved in APRALO activities, fostering their skills and knowledge, encouraging active participation within the APRALO community, and producing quarterly reports to document their progress and contributions.



UA DAY MYANMAR - Phyo Thiri Lwin

The Universal Acceptance Day 102 was organized by Thi Pho Myanmar on 18 May, 2024. The agenda for the event encompassed a comprehensive exploration of internet governance, universal acceptance, and opportunities for engagement, specifically tailored to the Burmese context. It began with an introduction to ICANN and its functions by Athena FOO, followed by a discussion on Universal Acceptance (UA) and its importance, presented by a UA Ambassador. Yin May Oo shed light on the significance of UA Day for Burmese language users, emphasizing inclusion and accessibility online. Thet Wai Htun provided insights into the Domain Name System (DNS) in Burmese, while Kue Ku explored opportunities for young people in the internet governance ecosystem, aiming to inspire active participation. The event concluded with a summary of key insights and expressions of gratitude from the host, fostering a collaborative dialogue towards a more inclusive and accessible internet landscape in Burma.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!



Organized by



Coordinated with



ISOC India Mumbai Chapter, an ICANN ALS, organized an event in March on travel tech that amongst other things talked extensively on the role of gTLDs in the travel tech ecosystem.

The Internet Society India Mumbai Chapter, an ICANN-ALS, hosted an event in March themed 'Changing the Face of Travel: Role of the Internet.' Speakers Kalyanjit Hatibaruah, Chairman of Flugelsoft Group, and Namrata Kadam, a travel tech specialist, discussed the use of the gTLD ecosystem by travel sector organizations to advance consumer interests. The conversation highlighted that new domain extensions provide more flexibility and creativity for businesses to select domain names that are relevant, memorable, and indicative of their specific niche. Specialized gTLDs were noted for their increased visibility and recognizability to consumers, making them easier to brand, sell, and promote. In the current digital environment, features like HTTPS encryption serve as indicators of website security, building user trust in a company's online presence. Furthermore, utilizing country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) can support market targeting and localization, thereby improving user experience and solidifying brand authenticity. Companies that proactively adopt best practices in domain selection and security are better equipped to protect against cybercrimes, thus ensuring a secure and reliable digital experience for their customers.



CHANGING THE FACE OF TRAVEL: ROLE OF THE INTERNET

SATURDAY, 2ND MARCH 7 PM IST



APAC DNS Forum

The [APAC DNS Forum 2024](#) will be a hybrid event held at The Westin Resort Nusa Dua in Bali, Indonesia from 23–24 July 2024. For details visit [this link](#).

APrIGF 2024

AprIGF 2024 will be held in hybrid mode in Taipei between 21-23 August 2024.

Register now: <https://2024.aprigf.asia>.

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

amritachoudhury@ccaoi.in, phyothiri.lwin@netmission.asia,