BGRC - Asia Engagement Update

Highlights –

Getting the Singapore hub off the ground – The Singapore hub is now a reality, with a physical office in the city, as well as open communication channels for local stakeholders to access ICANN staff. Currently, the office has four staff - two in the regional GSE team (Kuek and Jiarong), an operations manager (Linda) and a facilitator (Philadel) for the entire region. We have a registry manager (Han Chuan) and the head of China (see below) joining in October. Together with Save in Brisbane and an Australia-based contractor, we have 8 confirmed headcount in the region and more in the pipeline. This represents a rapid expansion of engagement capability in the region within a short timeframe. Such moves underscore ICANN's commitment to the region.

Beijing Engagement Center is LIVE – The Beijing Engagement Center is now LIVE with a customer service phone-line and a dedicated email channel to take queries and feedback in Chinese language, within the local time-zone. This has brought about unprecedented channels of engagement for China. SONG Zheng, has been appointed as Head of China and will take on responsibilities from October 14. We will be profiling the engagement center more, when Song Zheng gives us a preliminary schedule of activities later in the trimester.

Roadshows at regional fora – The region had a full calendar of important events right after the Durban meetings. These include the South Asia Network Operators' Group (**SANOG**) meeting in Mumbai (August); **APTLD/APNIC/AP*** meetings in Xi'an (August); and the Asia Pacific Regional IGF meetings (**APrIGF**) meetings in Seoul (September); as well as the World Economic Forum "**Summer Davos**" in Dalian (September). These regional platforms were useful for the new Asia VP to introduce the team and ICANN's plans in the region and to listen to feedback from the region. Such engagement was conducted with other ICANN team-mates including Save and Mondini. Especially worth highlighting is Fadi's engagement at the APrIGF, which included the keynote speech, as well as a youth engagement session. In addition, Kuek shared a strategy framework for APAC engagement at the APrIGF. The framework is centered on three engagement pillars – "awareness", "participation" and "collaboration".

Engagement with regional governments, strategic partners and youth – There has been deep engagement with multiple parties including the GAC representatives of China, India, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Korea. To facilitate future collaboration, discussions are also ongoing with strategic partners such as APTLD and APNIC. There will be plans to further engage ISOC. Additionally, there has also been a focus on business engagement through the WEF as well as the Asia Internet Coalition. Youth are also on the radar with Fadi speaking at the Youth APrIGF and engagements with the National University of Singapore and the Philippines Youth Congress on Information Technology.

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