

Africa strategy after Durban 47 : A Progress report

The Africa strategy was launched in January 2013 and implementation started with key priority projects. The overall goal of the strategy being a transformation of Africa into a contributor to the Internet and an emerging market for the domain name business and industry, most projects sought to deal with the Africa domain name ecosystem.

Hence, a first ever Domain name forum was organized in Durban on 11-12 July, which provided a platform for discussion of issues and engagement between African registries and registrars and the global DNS business leaders; also, the DNSSEC roadshow project started off in February and by July 2013, six of the initial 8 countries were covered. A report has been produced and a new phase of project has been launched in August 2013. An Africa domain name Award was organized in Durban with nominations of 10 African registrars and registries, and the granting of two major Awards to the two top runners: ZADNA/ZACR of South Africa; and KHEWEUL of Senegal.

Since ICANN 47 in Durban, the Africa team has been increased with two new hires: a manager, stakeholder engagement, West Africa, and a manager, stakeholders engagement, East Africa. The manager for West Africa came onboard on 26 August, while the one for East Africa took up his position on 1st October.

In keeping with its project on 'Support to African registrars', the VP, Africa has formed a working group of three African registrars which produced a note on the assurance requirements for registrars and possible avenues for lowering the barriers to African registrars. The note will be circulated within ICANN and the GNSO for further discussions, prior to any deemed formal consideration and solutions.

An action plan for FY14 has been proposed in Durban and thereafter reviewed. It includes the following projects: Assessment of African ccTLDs (A partnership between ICANN, AFTLD and ISOC); an incubator programme for African young entrepreneurs; Engagement missions to strategic countries in each of African regions; a deepened engagement with African participants to ICANN's SO/AC; a communication strategy for the Africa strategy.