Dear friends,

Welcome to the first edition of our LAC Newsletter. This is an effort to keep the regional community informed about ICANN's activities, as well as highlight initiatives, events and activities regarding critical Internet resources in our region.

We intend to present information in the different languages of our region, as well as create and display contents in a way that will be relevant to the communities of interest in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to this bimonthly Newsletter, and as part of our Regional Communications Plan, we will be working on other initiatives and projects to enhance our engagement with all stakeholders in our region.

We understand that this may be the first approach to ICANN for many of you, so we recommend the following links as a first step:

What does ICANN do? (Video)
Domain Name System
IP Addresses

Your input is greatly appreciated and will help us improve. Please contact our Communications Manager (alexandra.dans@icann.org) for any comment or suggestion.

Rodrigo de la Parra
VP, Stakeholder Engagement - Latin America and the Caribbean

What's New at ICANN?

One of the most relevant ICANN milestones in the first months of the year was the announcement that the new generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) delegated into the Internet's root zone topped one hundred. "There are now almost five times more generic Top-Level Domains than there were only a few months ago and that translates to greater consumer choice," said Akram Atallah, President of ICANN's Global Domains Division. To read the full announcement, please click here. The new extensions list is available here.

In 2013, ICANN launched its Strategy Panels to provide input that will inform ICANN's New Overarching Vision and Five-Year Strategic Plan. The result of the panels' work will be posted and available for Public Comment through April 30, 2014, and will be debated by the community during ICANN 49 in Singapore next March. Please visit ICANN's website and stay tuned for announcements of report publications.

We would like to underscore the publication of a new report by Boston Consulting Group: Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy, which takes a look at Internet access and use around the world, and the economic importance of an open single Internet. For further information on this and several other topics, we recommend reading Theresa Swinehart's Update on ICANN's Strategic Initiatives, available here.

Stay tuned, as this year we will be delivering presentations in several countries in the region to explain the findings of the report, which presents great opportunities for economic development and growth.

Finally, we would like to invite you to subscribe to Policy Updates here and stay connected to the latest news on topics under discussion. Current topics open for Public Comment are listed here.

LAC Strategy Plan Update

We continue advancing the implementation of our Regional Strategic Plan. On this occasion, we want to focus on several ongoing activities within the framework of Project 2 - Communications Plan.

- Fatima Cambronero and Natalia Enciso are helping us with an inventory of ICANN materials on several topics focused on different stakeholders. The idea is to identify those materials that need to be translated into the languages of our region, as well as determine what materials need to be developed from the very beginning. Your help on this initiative will be greatly appreciated. Please, click here.

- Dev Anand Teelucksingh and Miguel Ignacio Estrada are helping us develop a website for our region. While Dev is focused on populating the different website sections with content, Miguel and his NIC.ar team are working on the website development and design. More about this on the next LAC Newsletter issue!

Additionally, we keep working in order to increase announcements, blog posts and content developed by ICANN in the languages of our region. We also endeavored to obtain relevant coverage in our regional media (see Regional Media Coverage Highlights below) and continued focusing on social media (our Twitter accounts in Spanish and Portuguese now have 1655 and 67 followers respectively).

Finally, this bimonthly Newsletter is another initiative to expand outreach to stakeholders in our region and keep the regional Internet community updated on our activities. Don't miss out on our latest news! Subscribe now!

We continue advancing the remaining projects in our Plan and will update you on our progress on the next issue of our Newsletter.

What is Going On in Our Region?

In 2013, work in our region concluded with the signing of a significant agreement in the Caribbean. In the context of the Caribbean ICT Week held in Jamaica, Fadi Chehadé, ICANN President and CEO, and Ms. Bernadette Lewis, Secretary General of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, signed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase cooperation and coordination among both organizations. To read more about this important milestone, please click here.

The first two months in 2014 were very intense in terms of activities in our region.

Also in connection with the Caribbean, we are pleased to hear that St. Lucia is planning to become the next Caribbean country to launch an Internet Exchange Point (IXP). At ICANN, we have initiated the process to deploy an L-root server copy in this new IXP.

Another highlight in the Caribbean is our participation in the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL), held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on February 10-13, 2014. Rodrigo de la Parra, our regional VP, joined a panel on Improving Engagement in Multistakeholder Models, together with the governments of Brazil, Mexico and the United States, Google and ISOC, addressing innovation of multistakeholder models, with a special focus on the Strategy Panel on ICANN Multistakeholder Innovation. The Panel's Report is available here.

On February 18 -19, LACTLD hosted a Marketing Workshop in La Antigua, Guatemala, where Rodrigo de la Parra spoke about ICANN's Communication and Engagement Strategy in our region. The workshop featured the interests of the ccTLD community in relation to marketing topics, and was very well attended by Registries from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Peru. The agenda included presentations by international Registries, and the experience of a ccTLD as a new gTLD applicant.

Finally, another important development in our region is the organization of the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance (NETmundial). Earlier this year, the event organizers launched the meeting website in the six official UN languages and Portuguese, the expression of interest form to attend the meeting, and the content contribution section to contribute content on the two topics of the meeting (the Set of Internet Governance Principles and the Roadmap for the Further Evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem). You can follow the meeting updates on Twitter (@netmundial2014; #netmundial2014) and Facebook.

Upcoming Events in the LAC Region

Please click on the links for more information on our upcoming events:

ICT Week
    Belize: March 24-28, 2014
World Economic Forum on Latin America
    Panamá: April 1-3, 2014
NETmundial
    Brasil: April 23-24, 2014
CaribNOG
    Dominica: April 28- May 2, 2014
South School on Internet Governance (SSIG 2014)
    Trinidad y Tobago: April 28- May 2, 2014
LACNIC 21
    México: May 5-9, 2014

Although the next ICANN Meeting will be held in Singapore on March 23-27, the event will feature a Latin American and Caribbean Space. For more information, please visit:
http://singapore49.icann.org/en/

Regional Media Coverage Highlights

"2014 will be Crucial to Internet Governance" - Interview to Rodrigo de la Parra on Agence France Presse (in Spanish): http://www.cromo.com.uy/2014/02/el-2014-sera-crucial-para-el-tema-del-gobierno-de-internet/

"CNN: A New Internet Governance Model" - Interview to Rodrigo de la Parra on CNN (in Spanish): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dcvmyrE3MPQ

"Domain Names: the New Online Business" - Interview to Rodrigo de la Parra on CNN (in Spanish): http://www.cnnexpansion.com/tecnologia/2014/02/12/mexico-controlara-el-menu-en-internet

"New Domains Arrive on the Internet" - Interview to Rodrigo de la Parra on Agencia Reforma (in Spanish): http://www.am.com.mx/sanmiguel/tecnologia/llegan-nuevos-dominios-de-internet-83558.html

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