

## **Fellowship Report – IETF 106, Singapore**

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**Trip:** IETF 106, Singapore

**Trip Dates:** November 15-23, 2019

**Report Date:** Dec 20, 2019

### **1. Describe the purpose(s) and outcome(s) of the trip.**

As the first time IETF meeting attendee, the main purpose was to firstly understand the ways of working of IETF. Secondly, to attend sessions which are of interest to broaden my knowledge. Thirdly, to see how things in IETF correlate to the work of RSSAC and for my major interest, RSSAC metrics work party.

Outcomes from my participation are of diverse nature. Mainly, I learned how things work in IETF. Secondly, with a record of participation and contribution in IEEE LAN/MAN standards Committee as a voting member of the IEEE 802.11 working group, I was able to see the differences in the working norms or to say, the procedures of getting things done in IETF versus IEEE. I think I have made good connections for the future as I have met a lot of IETFers along with a bunch of colleagues from IEEE 802.11 who get to participate in both IEEE and IETF. Organizations participating in both IEEE and IETF are more or less the same while Academicians in IETF are from more diverse backgrounds mainly because of varied sort of topics discussed in IETF meetings.

I did face some difficulties in understanding most of the things in sessions as it was my first meeting and I think one needs to be proficient in a lot of areas if one considers hopping to various sessions throughout the week, just to gain the momentum.

### **2. Describe the details of your attendance and activities, including sessions attended, presentations given, documents you may be working on, or other specific contributions (DNS and RSS related sessions in particular).**

I attended a bunch of sessions spanning mainly across the four of the six IETF technical areas, namely, Operations & Management (OPS), Transport (TSV), Routing (RTG) and Security (SEC). There were discussions linked to the topic of DNS, root servers in a lot of sessions from diverse dimensions. I am hopeful that understanding that I got will help me in contributing in a better and structured manner as this was my first ever and an eye opener experience. I really appreciate the fact that people in IETF community are really helpful and the connections I made with academicians and industry experts will be going to help me in the longer run. As I am myself an academician, my main focus was to link with representatives from academic sector and see if they are collaborating with each other in order to produce useful contributions.

One shortcoming that I see is the continual participation in IETF processes as funding is not long term. I believe things can be more rewarding if a selected grantee is assigned some tangible list of deliverables and given a chance of participation in a minimum of three meetings. I understand that my comment may be not in line with the current objective of this fellowship program and I truly respect the opportunity to attend even a single meeting, still was an eye opener for me.

**3. Explain specific plans for follow-up activities in the RSSAC Caucus to enhance and continue the impact of the trip.**

As a follow-up, I think we in Pakistan seriously lack the knowledge about how things work in organizations like IETF, IEEE, ITU, ICANN. In past, I have conducting various sessions on ICANN and invited some speaker as well from ICANN staff (ME region) and from NOMCOM in my University in Pakistan for capacity building sessions. In future, I plan to have a series of such sessions on IETF as well after this firsthand experience. I think it is a big plus as I may keep contributing to the work of IETF after getting this opportunity, BUT, this is foolish if I keep this knowledge to myself. Moreover, I will definitely look for ways to attend and contribute in upcoming IETF meetings as well.

At the end, I am thankful to ICANN for providing this opportunity and whatever I contribute in IETF in the years to come will be attributed to this opportunity.

Thank you!

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