AFRICANN NEWSLETTER: July 2014-Edition

The world cup is over, ICANN 50 –the largest ICANN meeting so far - is done and dusted and Africa has just come from another successful IGF in Abuja Nigeria, what a month to welcome our **4th edition** of the Africa Newsletter. As expected, 2014 is turning out to be a momentous year for the Internet. From the global level to regional, sub regional and national levels interesting debates have been witnessed around "IANA stewardship Transition & ICANN Accountability".

Indeed, the key highlights over the last two months can be summarized as:

➢ The first face-to-face meeting of the ICG (IANA Transition Coordination Group) held in London from on 17-18 July in London UK
➢ ICANN 51 (Los Angeles) fellowship participants selected

Closer home in Africa, a number of activities were held in furtherance of Internet Governance dialogue and ICANN Africa Strategic Plan:

➢ The 2ND Africa Domain Names Forum – Abuja Nigeria
➢ Africa IGF – Abuja Nigeria

In this newsletter, we will give you briefs and key discussions and outcomes from these fora as well as update you on key events coming soon in the Internet Ecosystem globally and in Africa. For us at ICANN, we have just started a new financial year (FY15) with key projects lined up in the implementation of the Africa Strategic plan. Worth noting is the planned DNS Entrepreneurship center in Egypt for Africa and Middle East, DNS incubation centers in Africa and more DNSSEC roadshows. We are also pleased to highlight and congratulate the latest addition to the list of ICANN accredited registrars in Africa – **Upperlink** from Nigeria – a clear demonstration of the existing business potential in the African Namespace. Last but not least, we appreciate and value your feedback. A warm welcome!

From the Africa Team; Merci, Welcome & Karibu!

ICANN was a key sponsor of both the 2nd Africa DNS Forum – 2014 and the Africa IGF 2014

2ND Africa DNS Forum - 2014: July 7-9, Abuja Nigeria

The 2014 DNS forum was hosted by Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA). This was the second forum in Africa after the inaugural DNS forum held in Durban during ICANN 47 and was jointly organized and sponsored by AfTLD, ISOC and ICANN with and other partners. The overall theme was "*monetization of the African Domain Names Space*"

The opening was presided over by the Director of E-government in the Ministry ICT - Federal Republic of Nigeria on behalf of the Minister, and moderated by NIRA president Mrs. Mary Uduma. Yaovi represented ICANN in the opening address, which was also addressed by the ICANN VP for Africa through video. Over 150 participants attended. **Some key topics discussed include:**

1. Key note address on "Monetizing Africa's top level Domains"
2. Registries Business: Growing the African Domain Name Reseller and
3. Increasing Reseller Domain Name Sales

The level of participation and attendance witnessed (including in social media) shows improved community awareness and the *DNS Forum* is another promising platform in the African Internet calendar to discuss and seek solutions to various issues affecting the DNS industry in a true multi-stakeholder model. The event programme can be found here.

Highlights from ICANN 50

As you know, ICANN 50 in London, was the largest meeting yet in terms of participation, we had over 3,000 people turn up, in addition to the 175 Ministers representing over 77 countries that came for the parallel High Level Panel meeting and representatives from about 160 At-Large Structures for the ATLAS II Summit, another parallel meeting that took place during the week. The meeting was themed around 3 core areas, which also represent ICANN's priority for the year ahead namely:

➢ IANA stewardship transition & ICANN accountability
➢ Globalization and the hardening of ICANN's organization and operations
➢ Evolution of the Global Domains Division

This meeting demonstrated that the multi-stakeholder model is legitimate, and is critical to maintain the open and free Internet

Inaugural Coordination Group (ICG) Meeting: London UK

On 6 June 2014, ICANN published a Process to Develop the Proposal and Next Steps that is the culmination of a series of community discussions and input into the process to develop a proposal to transition stewardship of the IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community. The document reflects the multitude of views expressed in different fora and calls for the establishment of Coordination Group, among other things.

The Coordination Group has since been created & comprised of 27 individuals representing 13 communities, and includes direct and indirect stakeholders. See here for a full list of the Coordination Group Representatives. The first face-to-face meeting of the Coordination Group was held in London from 17-18 July and **the resources and transcripts from the Coordination Group meeting can be found here**

For any inquiries, please contact the VP - Africa at pierre.dandjinou@icann.org, please also visit our new and bilingual Africa site at: www.africanncommunity.org

Africa IGF: July 10 – 12 Abuja Nigeria

The 3rd Africa IGF was held on **10-12 of July 2014** at the NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja- Nigeria. Jointly organized by the AUC and UNECA and sponsored by ICANN, ISOC, Google and. Africa amongst other, this years edition saw a record attendance of over 300 participants representing over 23 countries including Brazil and the US, a truly multi-stakeholder event.

The opening was presided over by the Hon. minister for ICT-Federal Government of Nigeria Mrs. Omobola Johnson who is also the current chairperson of CSTD. (She later chaired a panel on CSTD 10 review of the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes). The theme for 2014 was: **"Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multi stakeholder Internet Governance"** with sub themes as:

1. Policies enabling Access
2. Content Creation, Dissemination and Use
3. Internet as engine for growth & development
4. IGF & The Future of the Internet ecosystem and
5. Enhancing Digital Trust

Once again there was great focus on the IANA stewardship transition and Africa's participation and influence on IG. At the closing session, delegates stressed the need to restructure the current AfIGF secretariat to make it more open and inclusive and the urgent need for sustainable funding. Overall, this was another platform for promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue. Reports and presentations here http://www.uneca.org/afigf

News Bits

1) Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2014
The Ninth Annual IGF Meeting will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on **2-5 September 2014**. The overarching theme for the meeting is: **"Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance"** with the following subthemes.

2) ICANN Participates in Symposium TIC Afrique 2014 in Cameroon
On July 16-17, 2014 Sebastien Bachollet from the ICANN Board and Yaovi Atohoun presented various topics including the IANA stewardship transition, capacity building programs in ICANN and the ngTLD extensions.

3) Fifteen African Fellows to attend the ICANN 51 meeting in LA