

It is May again and we are glad and excited to share with you our 3<sup>RD</sup> edition of the Africa newsletter in this very special month. Did you know that May is a month of autumn in the Southern Hemisphere and spring in the Northern Hemisphere (Summer in Europe)? According to [Wikipedia](#). Therefore May in the Southern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent of November in the Northern Hemisphere and vice versa. No other month begins or ends on the same day of the week as May in any year. This month is the only month to have these two properties ☺

This has been true in ICANN as the month of May brought very exciting developments on the Internet ecosystem both globally and regionally. Key highlights at the global space include:

- The Publication of the [final report](#) of the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms
- ICANN successfully transitions to the new [ICANN.org](#) website

**But more importantly, ICANN Africa staff participated in a host of activities in the last one month in line with the implementation of the overarching ICANN Africa Strategy. These include:**

- The World Economic Forum on [Africa](#). Abuja Nigeria
- [Workshop](#) on DNS and Trademark issues held in Cotonou, Benin.
- Outreach activities in various countries

We also take this opportunity to update you on key events coming up in the Internet Ecosystem in Africa and as always, your feedback would be highly appreciated. A warm welcome and happy reading! .



ICANN Staff at the workshop on DNS and trademarks in Benin  
From Left: Yaovi Atohou, David Olive, Pierre Dandjinou and Bob Ochieng

## Workshop on Domain Names and Trademarks, Cotonou Benin

This premier event in Africa was successfully conducted in Cotonou Benin in May 5-6, 2014. Benin's Minister for ICT, Komi Koutche and David Olive, ICANN's VP for Policy Development Support and GM of our Istanbul hub opened the event. Akram Atallah, ICANN's President of the Global Domain Division also delivered a video message to the audience.

More than 70 participants from various professional backgrounds – ccTLD managers (more than 25 African ccTLDs/countries), government representatives, African registrars, African I\* groups such as AfriNIC, AFTLD, AFRALO, African ICT business sector, intellectual property and trademark experts from Africa attended the event. It was indeed a first in Africa and we thank all stakeholders who made this possible. Please read our blog post [here](#)

**The workshop focused on 8 thematic areas developed within 5 panels:** (More details are [here](#))

1. Strategies for protecting trademarks and domain names
2. Update on the new gTLD program, TMCH and Domain Name Dispute Resolution – a users view as well as WHOIS Policy and RDS
3. Intellectual Property Rights (Global & African Environments, country case studies)
4. Country Dispute Resolution mechanisms and
5. Dispute Resolution best practices

## World Economic Forum on Africa, Abuja Nigeria: 7 - 9 May 2014

The [World Economic Forum on Africa](#) was held in Abuja Nigeria under the patronage of President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria. The VP for Africa, Mr. Pierre Dandjinou represented ICANN in this event.

As the foremost gathering on the continent, the 24th World Economic Forum on Africa brought together regional and global leaders to discuss innovative structural reforms and investments that can sustain the continent's growth while creating jobs and prosperity for all its citizens.

“For Africa to remain relevant, we need to adequately educate our people, as it is through education that we can unlock the potential of our youth to enable Africa to compete globally, and create jobs in the new knowledge economy.” Said Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, President

## Outreach Missions by Staff

We also continued with our engagement missions in various countries, as this remains one of the core pillars on the Africa Strategy.

While Yaovi was dedicating his time on the preparations for the Cotonou Workshop, Bob managed to visit Seychelles while Pierre was in Abuja Nigeria. It remains our commitment to ensure that all Africa Countries / stakeholders are visited and briefed accordingly.

We also continued with our DNSSEC flagship project with the latest training taking place in **Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on May 19-21**. It is our hope that these efforts will go a long way in improving capacity and awareness in the DNS sector in Africa. Please read more [here](#)

**For any inquiries, please contact the VP - Africa at [pierre.dandjinou@icann.org](mailto:pierre.dandjinou@icann.org), please also visit our new and bilingual Africa site at: [www.africanncommunity.org](http://www.africanncommunity.org)**

## From ICANN Global

### 1) Final Report of the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms:

On May 20, 2014, the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms released the culmination of its work in a high level report that can be viewed [here](#).

Formed alongside the work of [ICANN's four strategy panels](#) as an independent panel exploring the global issue of Internet governance, and chaired by Estonia's President Toomas Ilves, and vice-chaired by Internet pioneer Vint Cerf, the Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms boasted an impressive [cohort of panelists](#), representing a broad array of stakeholders. In addition, a team of experts in Internet governance helped inform and energize discussions in support of the panelists. Please read a blog by Nora Abussita, ICANN's representative to the panel [here](#)

2) ICANN successfully Transitions to the new and better [icann.org](#). Should you have any general feedback or suggestions please use the **Feedback button** on the site and will be more than happy to hear from you.

3) **I\* Post NetMundial Statement:** Leaders of the organizations responsible for coordination of the Internet technical infrastructure (loosely referred to as "I\* leaders") met on 25 April in São Paulo, Brazil following the NETmundial meeting. During the 1-day I\* leaders meeting, the group considered a range of issues where dialogue among Internet technical organizations is useful. Please read more [here](#)

## From Africa: Upcoming Events

### 1) Africa Internet Summit: Djibouti

The second edition of [the Africa Internet Summit](#) – AIS, will be held in the vibrant city of Djibouti, in Djibouti from 25 May to 06 June 2014.

The theme for the AIS' 14 is "Beyond connection: Internetworking for African Development". The Summit is a platform where key Internet-related development issues faced by Africa are discussed.

### 2) DNS Forum and Africa IGF 2014 - Abuja Nigeria: July 7-12, 2014

This year's event will be hosted by NIRA. It is Jointly Organized by AfTLD, the ISOC African Bureau and ICANN with the support of other partners; the event seeks to build a community of practice that will strengthen the DNS industry on the African Continent. The event will be held back to back with the [Africa IGF](#)

