AFRICANN NEWSLETTER: April 2014-Edition

Ladies and gentlemen, fellows folks from Africa, it is that time again when we update you on the various developments and key activities going on in the Internet Ecosystem and specifically in regards to the implementation of the African Strategy. In this 2ND edition of our Newsletter, we want to highlight the following key developments over the last one-month;

- Key takeaways from ICANN 49
- . Africa Delegated and .ZM re-delegated
- Various Engagement missions conducted by our staff
- The coming Trademarks and User Rights Protection Workshop in Benin
- DNS Forum 2014

As always, it is our pleasure to hear your feedback, ideas and comments as we move together in **the journey** of implementing the African Strategy in a truly multi-stakeholder spirit. A warm welcome to all of you!

Pierre Dandjinou: VP–Stakeholder Engagement - Africa

1) Takeaways from ICANN 49

The Singapore meeting was dominated by discussions stemming from the recent announcement by the U.S. Government that it wants to transfer stewardship of some vital Internet technical functions to provide for global accountability.

"ICANN49 will be remembered as a meeting that, in many ways, ended the early phase of ICANN and brought the organization into a new phase of maturity and responsibility," said Fadi Chehadé. "It is exemplified by the recent decision of the United States Government to hand us the very ominous responsibility to facilitate and convene the world toward determining how ICANN will be providing assurances of accountability across the board."

More than 1,940 people registered from over 150 countries attended the Singapore meeting. Our role as Africa stakeholders is to ensure we are more informed on the process and to deepen African participation in the global debate by exposing African positions in working groups to be formed.

2) Staff Engagement Activities

We have continued with a number of Outreach engagement missions in various countries across the continent as we strive to ensure that no region in left behind. Our aim is to revive and improve the African participation in ICANN activities as well as participation in the Internet Ecosystem.

Last Month, Bob was in Maputo, Mozambique and later to the Kingdom of Swaziland while Yaovi travelled to Banjul, Gambia for The Innovation Africa Digital (IAD) Summit (ICANN was listed as sponsor on the website event). Meanwhile, Pierre was in Singapore for ICANN 49 and later represented ICANN as Keynote speaker at the Africa connected event organized by Google in Nairobi Kenya in April 1. An ICANN stakeholder's breakfast meeting in Nairobi to meet and brief the local community preceded this. Our missions continue to inspire more stakeholders to join and participate the IG debate in Africa.

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4) Trademarks and User Rights Protection Workshop

This event seeks to address the trademarks and rights protection issues that ccTLD registry managers, registrars and registrants in Africa are facing by providing a platform for experienced intellectual property practitioners to share their ideas. We believe it will empower African ccTLD managers and registrars to implement more quickly effective measures for their ccTLD security, management and promotion.

So let me invite you to join the Cotonou Workshop on May 5-6, 2014. More information is available at http://cot14.africanncommunity.org. See you there!

5) DNS Forum 2014

The 2014 Africa Domain Name System Forum will be held from 7th to 9th July 2014 at the Nicon Luxury Hotel in Abuja Nigeria. The Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA) will host this year's event.

Organized by AfTLD, the Internet Society and ICANN with the support of other partners, the event seeks to build a community of practice that will strengthen the Domain Name Industry on the African Continent.

According to the domain name industry brief there were 265 million domains registered globally in the third quarter of 2013. The base ccTLD registrations were 119.5 million. None of the African registries featured among the top ten.

The objective of the forum is to help the domain name industry in Africa grow at a competitive rate and ensure that the continent competes with the rest of the world

Other News…

- **NTIA Announcement:** Draft Proposal Based on Initial Community Feedback of the Principles, Mechanisms and the Process to Develop a Proposal to Transition NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions
- **ICANN Strategic Plan:** Forum Announcement: Comment Period Opens on Date: 9 April 2014 Categories/Tags: Planning Strategic Planning Strategy
- **IANA functions Explained:** New Info graphic