Pierre Dandjinou:
VP–Stakeholder Engagement - Africa

- A very warm welcome to the first edition of the AFRICANN newsletter. We intend to use this newsletter to inform you, our stakeholders and the Internet community as a whole on what we are doing in Africa and on the progress of the implementation of the ICANN Africa Strategy.
- As you all know, in August 2012 ICANN announced a new approach to Africa. http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-01aug12-en.htm
- The Africa Strategy document was developed by an African working group through a large consultation with the community http://www.africanncommunity.org
- Implementation of the strategy started a year ago, with the recruitment of the VP for Africa and with a few key priority projects. The Africa team has now grown with further recruitment of two more managers; The Africa team has now grown with further recruitment of two more staff; Yaovi Atohoun and Bob Ochieng. It is our hope that with your support, the roll out of key strategic projects will help transform the domain name landscape in Africa. Thank you!

FY14 Flagship Projects

1) Team Outreach Activities

The Africa staff has carried out a number of Outreach engagement missions recently. This is in line with the ICANN Africa strategy of deepening awareness around Internet Governance and reaching out to Africa's stakeholders to revive and improve their participation in ICANN activities as well as participation in the Internet Ecosystem. Countries visited so far include Togo, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Congo Senegal, Cape Verde, Namibia, Benin, Mauritius, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Burundi and Rwanda. These missions have been very successful with most countries welcoming the increased visibility and ICANN presence in Africa.

2) Workshop on Domain Names, Trademarks and Rights Protection in Africa: Cotonou, Benin, 5-7 May 2014.

This event seeks to address the trademark and rights protection issues that ccTLDs registry managers, registrars and registrants in Africa are facing by providing a platform for sharing ideas on the best practices from experienced panelists and experts IP law. Moreover, African ccTLD managers and registrars will be empowered to better and faster implement measures for their ccTLD security, management and promotion. *You are all welcome and we look forward to your participation!*

3) DNS Forum 2014

The Africa Domain Name System (DNS) Forum 2014 will be held as from 7 - 9 July 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria. This year's event will be hosted by the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA).

Organized by AfTLD, the Internet Society African Bureau and the 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.

For any inquiries, please contact the VP at
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4) DNSSEC Roadshows – Phase 2

Our inaugural DNSSEC roadshow project is now in its second year and continues to develop capacity and support African registrars in deploying secure registries. This will further improve stability and security of African domain registries. Already Tanzania, one of the initial beneficiaries of the project has fully signed their root-zone and more countries are undergoing tests. Our latest beneficiary is Rwanda with Senegal, Zambia and Burkina coming up in the next 2 months. The training focuses on:

a) *DNSSEC Introduction*
b) *Business case for DNSSEC*
c) *DNS Refresher*
d) *DNSSEC Technical overview*
e) *DNSSEC protocol detail and deployment*
f) *Implementation consideration and risk analysis*

Other Planned Activities include:

✓ Assessment of African ccTLDs
✓ Support to registrars
✓ Exchange programme for Africa registrars
✓ Deployment of Anycast root copies of L-Root servers

NEWS BITS:

- **ICANN 49**: Once again the ICANN and Internet community will assemble in Singapore between **23-27 March** at "the Raffles City Convention Centre" for ICANN 49 public meeting. The full schedule can be found here.
- **NTIA Announcement:** The leaders of the Internet technical organizations responsible for coordination of the Internet infrastructure (IETF, IAB, RIRs, ccTLD ROs, ICANN, ISOC, and W3C), welcome the US Government's announcement of the suggested changes related to the IANA functions contract
- **ICANN policy Update 2013.**
- **Boston Consulting Group Report** "Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy" takes a look at Internet access and use around the world, and the economic importance of an open single Internet