

# ICANN APAC NEWSLETTER

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## Editor's Foreword

Welcome to our first issue of the ICANN Asia Pacific Newsletter for the year 2015.

We're pleased to cover some of the key events that took place in January and February, starting with the 52<sup>nd</sup> ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore. We bring you some highlights in case you didn't join us then. As part of our Globalisation Plan, we announced some improvements to our operations in February and expect to share more soon. We also bring your attention to the Universal Acceptance Steering Group and invite your participation.

We hope you find the articles useful and informative. Do share your feedback on how we can further improve this or suggestions for articles to cover.

Happy reading!

Liana & APAC Hub Team

## Event Highlights

### ICANN 52 Singapore Highlights

#### APAC Space @ ICANN 52 Singapore: A Nurturing Ground for Robust Participation from Asia Pacific

*Edmon Chung, DotAsia CEO, shares his views with us on the convening of the inaugural APAC Space session – a community, bottom-up initiative that looks to be "a nurturing ground for robust contributions from Asia Pacific" at ICANN*



*Packed room at the inaugural APAC Space*

At ICANN 49 last year, a small group from Asia Pacific convened an ad-hoc birds-of-a-feather gathering to explore a suitable forum to share knowledge and discuss issues of common interest. With the constructive dialogue, and strong support from ICANN's APAC hub, an APAC Space initiative was put on the agenda at the recent ICANN 52 in Singapore and attended by about 50 participants.

During the session, colleagues from KNET, Alibaba, WebCC, GMO and DotAsia shared their experience in recent TLD launches and trends in the Asia marketplace. While it is still difficult to assess the commercial ripples brought on by new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), with over 300 new applicants originating from the Asia Pacific region, it is already making a positive impact for drawing increased participation at ICANN from Asia Pacific.



*Active participation from the APAC community @ APAC Space*

Kuek Yu-Chuang, ICANN APAC Vice President and Managing Director and the ICANN APAC team also shared their work and sought feedback for developments at ICANN. Going forward, we agreed to continue having an APAC Space at ICANN meetings, and the APAC team has established a platform to consolidate feedback from our community on the ICANN Community Wiki (visit this [link](#) to give your feedback). From your feedback, the consolidated list of issues will be discussed at the next APAC Space.

The success of our multistakeholder model at ICANN depends not only on diverse participation from stakeholder groups, but also from different geo-political regions globally. I believe APAC Space can become not only a forum of knowledge sharing, but also a nurturing ground for robust contributions from participants from Asia Pacific.

Hope to see you at APAC Space at the ICANN 53 meeting in Buenos Aires!



*Contributed by Edmon Chung , DotAsia CEO*

### **Who Will Control Your Internet? – A dialogue with Singapore University students**



*Fadi with NUS students at the sideline of ICANN 52 meeting*

In between the ICANN 52 meetings in Singapore, Fadi Chehadé, ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer, took a detour from shuttling between meeting rooms, and made his way to the National University of Singapore. Waiting in the university lecture room were 40 students and staff, eager to hear from Fadi about who will control their Internet in the future.

Over the next hour, Fadi also explained to them the role of ICANN in managing names and numbers; and in coordinating immense resources for a bottom up approach in policy making. He shared the challenges ICANN faces in managing such coordination, and a necessary guiding principle for anyone tasked with such a job – a rooting in global public interest.

The audience took the opportunity to quiz Fadi over new and disruptive digital technologies as well as ICANN's unique role in the Internet ecosystem, among others.

The APAC hub will continue to regularly engage with the next generation, as part of ICANN's public responsibility, to ensure that our work is accessible and relevant to their needs. After all, they will control the Internet in the future.

(Special thanks to Jeff, Janice and Nora from the Department of Public Responsibility and Development, ICANN)

## Celebrating Diversity at APRALO meeting and APRALO Showcase



*Sharing APRALO-ICANN APAC Hub Pilot Framework at the APRALO meeting*

Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organisation (APRALO) = diversity. And this was celebrated in a big way during the APRALO meetings at ICANN 52.

The collaboration between ICANN, APRALO leadership and the At-Large Structures (ALSes) was also on full display as we shared some of the deliverables of the APRALO-ICANN APAC Hub Pilot Framework. These included proposals on community outreach improvements, and capacity building for ALSes, as well as updates on the Language Localisation program where ICANN outreach slides were translated into languages such as Hindi and Bangla.



*APRALO team decked in red, along with a wonderful Dikir Barat performance by Malaysian students*

The best was saved for last at the APRALO Showcase event, where work meets fun: we received updates of APRALO work and partners in the region; witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DotAsia to collaborate on training and research; watched performances of Dikir Barat by students from a Malaysian school; and had our names written by a Chinese calligraphy master.

Needless to say, the participants were treated to an evening of rich cultural and sensory experience, true to the theme of the night – Celebrating Diversity!

## APAC Registries Agreement Signing



*From the region: Alibaba and Starhub signing Registry Agreements with Akram Atallah*

### **Memorandum of Understanding Signing with Asia Pacific Top-Level Domain (APTLD)**



*Lim Choon Sai (left), Chairman of APTLD signing MoU to promote regional collaboration with ICANN (Fadi), witnessed by members of the APTLD Board and ICANN staff*

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### **Registrar Outreach in China**



*Howard Li conducting training with Chinese registrars*

Continuing from the registrar outreach in 2014, Howard Li from the Registrar Services team kicked off January 2015 with a visit to China. He visited multiple cities to provide training sessions on newly adopted ICANN policies as well as to generate and encourage more registrar participation in ICANN processes. Six new generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries also leveraged the events to present their gTLDs to the local registrars.

In total, four workshops were conducted in Beijing, Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Xiamen respectively. These were very well attended and participated. In particular, the Beijing workshop attracted almost 50 attendees and generated many lively discussions surrounding the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and Consensus Policy. Howard also conducted site visits to registrars in Shenzhen and Chengdu.



*Clockwise from top left: Howard with registrars in Chengdu, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Hangzhou*

Overall, the outreach was a success, with more than 50 accredited registrars engaged. The two-way exchange between ICANN and registrars was extremely useful, with registrars providing valuable and positive feedback and suggestions. They were also appreciative of the opportunity to meet other industry players and exchange ideas. Next stop: Japan.

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## **Broadening ICANN reach to Civil Society Organisations in the Pacific**



*The conference drew close to 200 participants*

In mid-February, Savé Vocea, Stakeholder Engagement VP for Oceania region, attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Pacific Regional Conference on Disability 2015 held in Nadi, Fiji. It was organised by the Pacific Disability Forum together with the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation, with financial assistance from the Australian Government. About 200 participants from almost 20 economies in the Oceania region attended the event themed “Partnership and action towards a disability inclusive Pacific”.

Savé met attendees from disability development partners, practitioners and service providers to introduce ICANN. He also shared why the ICANN community would welcome broader civil society participation in ICANN processes – especially around issues of accessibility, Whois and user interests (choice, competition and opportunities) in the region.

“I think we need to better understand the challenges in engaging people living with disability when it comes to participation. It is also important to forge partnership with development partners to address and advance development in the disability sector, especially to enhance their participation in our open and bottom-up policy processes,” commented Savé.

Savé has shared his observations and learnings internally to the relevant working groups, which are working to further enhance participation from such civil society organisations. Please feel free to share with us any thoughts or suggestions you may have on this topic.

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## Policy Team Outreach



*Mary Wong with Adrian Kwong (Vice President & Head of Legal (Asia), Electronic Arts), Daren Tang (Deputy Chief Executive, IPOS), Yeong Zee Kin (Senior State Counsel, Attorney-General's Chambers), and Lau Kok Keng (Partner & Head, IP, Sports & Gaming, Rajah & Tann)*

The APAC team works closely with ICANN's global policy development team – a group of over 24 professionals located in 10 countries/continents worldwide, including Europe, Latin America and Turkey.

In January, we were pleased to host a native Singaporean and fellow ICANN staffer Mary Wong, who is a Senior Policy Director with

the global policy development team.

During her visit, Mary worked with the APAC team on outreach initiatives and gave several talks to Singapore government officials, senior lawyers, entrepreneurs and in-house counsel from local and regional companies. These included a seminar on international copyright developments for the IP Academy of Singapore on 8 January 2015 and a talk on recent developments and current policy challenges at ICANN at the IP Office of Singapore (IPOS) on 9 January 2015.

Over 80 participants attended each talk, many of whom were not active ICANN community members. The proximity of these events to the ICANN 52 meeting meant that some attendees registered for ICANN 52 following their meeting and Q&A sessions with Mary.

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## Local Community Outreach Showcase – Indonesia



*"Internet Governance 101" conducted in Bahasa Indonesia*

Our partners from the **Indonesian Civil Society Organizations' Network for Internet Governance (ID-CONFIG)**, who had contributed to the Bahasa Indonesian version of our [Language Localisation Toolkit](#), organised an "Internet Governance 101" session covering the basics of Internet Governance – entirely in local language! The event was organised in partnership with members of the Indonesia Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, and the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII).

We applaud this multistakeholder, bottom-up approach to community outreach, and would like to share this with you.



*Lively engagement and broad participation from the audience*

Held in Jakarta from 27-28 February 2015, about 35 participants from Civil Society Organisations from different sectors, including youth, women's rights, rural/remote activists, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), community radio, online democracy, and ICT (Information Communication Technology) advocates, gathered to understand the basics of Internet Governance and its challenges. The multi-stakeholder approach was highlighted and select portions of the Language Localisation Toolkit were used. The organisers also dived into the Indonesia Internet Governance scene as a case study for the local stakeholder participants.

From the ICANN APAC Hub, we contributed a video on "How the Internet Works", which was subtitled into Bahasa Indonesia as well. You can watch the video [here](#).

We would like to congratulate our stakeholders from Indonesia on the successful event. We hope to showcase more of such local community outreach events, so please write to us if you are organising one!

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## Where else has ICANN APAC been?

Here is a list of other events the APAC team attended:

Dates	Events	Market
16-24 January	South Asia Network Operators Group (SANOG) Conference and Workshop	<i>Kandy, Sri Lanka</i>
3 February	National Law University Round Table on ICANN 52	<i>New Delhi, India</i>
5 February	INTERPOL Internet Investigations Training	<i>Singapore</i>
5 February	China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC) Global Partner Conference	<i>Beijing, China</i>
19-21 February	1st Cyber Security & Cyber Law Conference 2015	<i>Kathmandu, Nepal</i>
27 February	Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Communications and Digital Economy Committee meeting	<i>New Delhi, India</i>

## In the Spotlight

### ICANN Globalisation – Building Confidence in ICANN's Operations

You have heard us reiterate our commitment to our global, diverse and ever-expanding community. Our President and CEO Fadi Chehadé previewed our globalisation plans at the ICANN 50 London meeting in June last year.

The objective of globalising ICANN is to allow for broader, more inclusive participation and engagement by our community. Last month, we took a step forward with several operational improvements to the way we provide additional global services. These include: (1) additional global customer service capabilities, (2) new venues for arbitration in L-Root Hosting Agreements, and (3) options for payments in additional currencies.

Read Chief Operating Officer Susanna Wong Bennett's [blog](#) for more details on these improvements and look out for more to come on this topic.

## In Other Words...

### ICANN Strategic Plan 2016

Have you seen our Five Year Strategic Plan for 2016 - 2020? It was developed through an extensive, collaborative, bottom-up, multistakeholder and multilingual process. It enables our global community to coalesce around a new overarching **Vision**, our founding **Mission**, five **Strategic Objectives** and sixteen **Strategic Goals**, each with Key Success Factors and Strategic Risks. Read the full plan [here](#).



# We Need You...

## ICANN Community to Lead Universal Acceptance Initiative



*Christian Dawson, one of the members of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group is presenting to the audience*

Some applications and services that we use everyday may not fully understand domain names in non-ASCII scripts, such as Chinese, Korean or Neo-Brahmi, or new top-level domains, like .taobao, .世界 or .सगठन. This is problematic because the Internet is a global resource, as well as a cultural and economic driver.

Universal Acceptance is the vision for how the Internet of the future should function. It means that top-level domains, internationalised domain names and internationalised emails work seamlessly in all applications and services.

During ICANN 52 in Singapore, members of the community representing various constituencies rallied around the Universal Acceptance Initiative and formed a Universal Acceptance Steering Group to guide the identification of top line issues and development of outreach strategies, as well as propose solutions to improve the situation. Read [more](#) and get involved.

### **ICANN Multistakeholder Ethos Award – Nomination Period Extended**

The nomination period for the 2015 Multistakeholder Ethos Award Program has been extended and will close on 20 March 2015. Read [here](#) for details.

### **NextGen@ICANN at ICANN53**

If you're part of the next generation and currently living or studying in the Latin America/Caribbean region, read on. Applications are now open for NextGen@ICANN for the Buenos Aires ICANN 53 meeting. Read [here](#) on how to apply.

### **Rights Protection Mechanisms Review**

A draft [report](#) on the rights protection mechanisms (RPMs) established as safeguards in the new generic top level domain program has been posted for public comments. This paper provides an outline for an initial review of the effectiveness of the RPMs, in particular, the data and input collected in key areas like Trademark Clearinghouse, Uniform Rapid Suspension system, and Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedures. Closing date is 1 May 2015.

## What's new?

### **APAC Webinar**

We will kick-off the first APAC Webinar of the year with the topic of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs). This session will discuss what IDNs are, what it means, IDN work at ICANN, why you need to be involved and how you can play a part. Invitations will be sent out soon, do mark your calendars and join us then.

**Date:** Thursday, 9 April 2015

**Time:** 03:00 UTC / 11:00 SGT

**Webinar title:** APAC Webinar - What are IDNs and what does it mean to you?

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## Additions to the APAC Team



### Hyun-o Kwon – Head of Korea Office

Hyun-o (above left) joins ICANN as the Head of Korea Office reporting to Kuek Yu-Chuang. She is based in Seoul, Korea. Hyun-o takes over from Kelly Kang (Hye Young), who is assuming a new leadership position in Korea Internet & Security Agency's (KISA) newly created Internet Governance Division. Hyun-o will continue to lead engagement efforts with the local Korean stakeholders, generate awareness and strengthen participation and involvement in ICANN's work.

### Shawn Seah, Customer Service Analyst

Shawn (above, right) is a new member of the Customer Service Team. He will be responsible for responding to customer service inquiries, resolving complex customer problems and executing a broad array of tasks and processes. Shawn is based in the Singapore hub office and reports to Michaela Quinzy.

## Regional Engagement Calendar

Dates	Events	Market
24 February - 6 March	APRICOT (Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies)	<i>Fukuoka, Japan</i>
4 March	Talk at Indian Institute of Management Ahmadabad - Idea School of Telecom Excellence	<i>Ahmadabad, India</i>
9 March	Digital Pivot to Asia	<i>New Delhi, India</i>
9 March	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) Regional Meeting	<i>Bangkok, Thailand</i>
10-13 March	NTIA IANA Functions Stewardship Transition Update Sessions	<i>Tokyo, Japan Seoul, Korea Beijing, China</i>
24-25 March	RightsCon Southeast Asia	<i>Manila, Philippines</i>
9 April	APAC Webinar	<i>Singapore</i>
14 April	42nd Japan ICANN Readout Meeting	<i>Tokyo, Japan</i>
20-24 April	Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) Annual General Meeting	<i>Nukualofa, Tonga</i>

For details on events, please refer to [this calendar](#) our website.

## ICANN Asia and the Pacific Offices

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