ME DNS Forum Program Committee Teleconference Call Minutes of Meeting

Date: 2 October 2014
Time: 10.00 – 11.00 UTC
Attendance: Rafid Fatani, Tom Barrett, Wael Nasr, Bashar Al-Abdulhadi, and Fahd Batayneh
Apologizes: Mahmoud Lattouf, Ahmed Bakhat Masood

Fahd welcomed the attendees to the call. The purpose of the call was to brainstorm the agenda for the second ME DNS Forum to take place in Amman, Jordan scheduled for March 2015.

Fahd explained the dynamics of the first ME DNS Forum that took place in Dubai on February 3-4. Dubai was selected as the city to host the inaugural forum because it is the business hub of the region. It was hosted by the UAE *Telecommunication Regulatory Authority (TRA)*, co-organized by ICANN and ISOC, and had several sponsors. The forum had 150 registered attendees approximately 125 of which picked up their badges. 45% of the attendees were citizens of the host countries, while the remaining 55% were from overseas. 33% of the attendees hailed from the business sector. The agenda consisted of an opening ceremony, a wrap-up and closing ceremony, 5 main slots, and a break-out session towards the end of day II right before the closing ceremony. The outcomes of the forum far exceed what was expected of it in terms of the number of attendees, the number of remote participants, the quality of the panelists/speakers from within the region, and in terms of the interaction that took place.

The second forum is a 2-day forum, and the program committee members will have a reconvene right after the forum at the same venue. The expected number of attendees is 100. While an initial date has been set, there are chances that this might move a week or two further due to other events happening in the region around the same time frame.

There was a question on funding PC members to attend the forum. It was suggested that PC members and speakers secure other sources of funding to attend, but ICANN does have some budget to fund some PC members and speakers to attend the forum.

With 8 slots available over the span of 2 days (4 slots for each day), it was suggested to allocate these slots as follows:

1. **Slot 1; Opening ceremony** – It was suggested to use the same format of the previous forum with one keynote speaker being from ICANN, another from the co-organizer ISOC, a third from the local host (presumably the Chairman of *Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International (TAGI)*; Dr. *Talal Abu-Ghazaleh* himself), a PC member, and a speaker from each Platinum Sponsor.
2. **Slot 2** – Main session
3. **Slot 3** – Main session
4. **Slot 4** – Breakout session
5. **Slot 5** – Main session
6. **Slot 6** – Main session
7. **Slot 7** – Breakout session
8. **Slot 8** – Wrap-up and closing remarks

For the inaugural forum, day 1 was dedicated to topics on Registries, while day 2 was dedicated to topics on Registrars. For the second edition of the forum, the group was in consensus to mix the various topics. Also, it was suggested that the wrap-up session be an interactive session where the audience provide feedback on the forum and what they'd like to see moving forward. The inaugural forum also had the format that each session would have a moderator and a maximum of 5 speakers/panelists. The group was in agreement to maintain the same format.

As for the speakers/panelists, it was suggested that once the agenda is ready, we can suggest a number of potential speakers for each session and contact them accordingly. Since we expect apologize some from some, drawing a list of 5-10 speakers for each slot would be a good idea. The group was in agreement on this.

Suggestions for main sessions include the following:

1. The IANA Transition
2. The New gTLD Program and the Lack of Applications from the Region
3. Experiences from the Current New gTLDs
4. [Supporting the Domain Name Industry in Underserved Regions](#)
5. IDNs and the [IDN World Report 2014](#)
6. ccTLDs and their Role in the Domain Name ecosystem

There was a discussion on where to post the minutes of meetings and the recordings of the various teleconference meetings of the PC. One suggestion was on the ME DNS Forum [website](#), and another was the ICANN [Middle East regional wiki space](#). Fahd; in his capacity as the secretariat for the PC, leaned

towards the wiki space as he is more confident using it. The group was fine with this suggestion. It was suggested to maintain a link on the ME DNS Forum website pointing to the wiki space so that interested parties can access the minutes from both ends.

Finally, there was a question on having a networking activity. Fahd mentioned that during the inaugural ME DNS Forum, there was a 90 minute cocktail reception at the end of day 1, and this is planned for during the second forum in Amman, too.

Action Items

- Fahd to post the minutes of meeting and the recording of the call on the wiki space
- Fahd to draft an initial agenda based on the 6 suggestions for main sessions as shown above
- Fahd to work with the PC for a follow-up call after the ICANN LA meeting