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## ME DNS Forum Program Committee Teleconference Call Minutes of Meeting

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**Date:** 22 October 2014  
**Time:** 17.00 – 18.00 UTC  
**Attendance:** Tom Barrett, Bashar Al-Abdulhadi, Ahmed Bakhat Masood, and Fahd Batayneh  
**Apologizes:** Mahmoud Lattouf, Rafid Fatani, and Wael Nasr

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Fahd welcomed the attendees to the call. The purpose of the call was to discuss the draft agenda that was circulated after the first call of 2 October 2014.

There was a question on the expected number of attendees. Fahd mentioned that the Dubai forum attracted around 125 on-site attendees and a maximum of 30 remote participants, and that the Amman forum is expected to attract no more than 100 attendees. Fahd explained the nature of the DNS industry in Jordan and that not many businesses are into domain names. Expected local attendees would hail from ISPs, Telecom Operators, and small domain name resellers.

Returning back to the draft 0.0 agenda, the group did not comment on the flow of the sessions. Nevertheless, these were 2 new suggestions to be considered:

1. The Internet Industry in the ME region and the Untapped Business Opportunities Available
2. Include a joint ccTLD/gTLD session (this was feedback received by GM of the APTLD via email)

Some on the call still felt that the sessions on the “IANA Stewardship” and “Preparing for the Next Round of New gTLDs” could be replaced with more “pressing” topics for the region.

There were concerns that the forum would run until after 18.00 local time. Ahmed suggested that the forum conclude at 17.00 maximum. Bashar was in agreement on this. When asked on the Breakout Sessions, Tom explained that the purpose of these sessions was for attendees to Mix n’ Mentor, and so Fahd confirmed that a Cocktail Reception would take place at the end of day 1 where attendees can network. Thus, the group was in agreement to remove one of the 2 breakout sessions.

As the inaugural forum in Dubai had one break out session where three tracks were discussed; i.e. Policy, Technical, and Business, there was a question on whether we have to stick to these same tracks.



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Fahd mentioned that the PC can decide on this, and another alternative would be to wait until we receive feedback from the community <sup>1</sup>.

Tom suggested inviting university students to the forum. Those on the call were in agreement with this. The invited university students would hail from various majors such as law, business, computer science/engineering and IT, and Policy. Fahd explained that the PC will work on a list of potential invitees' right after the agenda and list of speakers/panelists are finalized.

Ahmed also suggested inviting the media and carrying out a solid media campaign. Fahd explained that ICANN has a Communications Director for the EMEA region and that we will work closely with her on this. Also, the local host has a good media department, and will also assist in spreading the message out.

Fahd reconfirmed that once the draft agenda is final, it will be circulated to the ME DNS Forum mailing list, ccTLDs in the region, New gTLD applicants in the region, RTLDs, and other relevant stakeholders for their feedback and comments. Once feedback is incorporated and another version of the agenda is out, the PC will start working on a list of potential speakers.

A follow-up call will be arranged for once the group discusses the outcomes of this call on the mailing list.

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### Action Items

1. Fahd to circulate an amended agenda based on the feedback from the call
2. Group to vote on the "IANA Stewardship" and "Preparing for the Next Round of New gTLDs" sessions
3. Group to vote on the two newly proposed sessions

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<sup>1</sup> As the PC agreed earlier, once the PC is in agreement on the draft agenda, it will be circulated for community feedback