ICANN Middle East Strategy

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Middle East Strategy

+ A 3-year strategy covering the 22 Arab States, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

+ Working group consists of 21 members hailing from 11 different countries from the region

+ Work started in December 2012 and strategy was announced in June 2013

+ Implementation is underway

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Strategic Goals for ICANN's Engagement

+ Foster two-way engagement between ICANN and the broader Internet community in the region

+ Build strong and competitive domain name industry in the region

+ Promote multi-stakeholder Internet governance mechanisms in the region

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Strategic Areas of Work

+ Three strategic areas identified:

    1. DNS Security and Stability

    2. Domain Name Industry

    3. Internet Governance Ecosystem

+ More details:

    https://community.icann.org/display/MES/Middle+East+Working+Group

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What is the MESWG Up To?

+ Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)

+ Middle East DNS Forum

+ Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance

Task Force on Arabic IDNs (TF-AIDN)

+ Works on issues related to Arabic Script IDNs

+ The Arabic script includes languages such as Arabic, Urdu, Persian, Kurdish, Jawi… and others

+ Work underway on Arabic Email Support and Universal Acceptance of Arabic script IDNs

+ More details:

  https://community.icann.org/display/MES/Task+Force+on+Arabic+Script+IDNs

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Middle East DNS Forum

+ Inaugural edition took place in Dubai on February 3-4, 2014

    + More than 100 attendees from 36 different countries

    + The agenda covered topics related to New gTLDs, ccTLDs, IDNs,
      Registry Operations, Registrars and Accreditation, and others

+ Second edition of the forum to take place in Amman,
  Jordan on March 9-10, 2015

+ A program committee was formed in late August to develop
  the agenda for future forums, and confirm speakers and
  panelists for the various sessions

+ Forum's website: http://mednsf.org/en/

Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on IG

+ Inaugural edition took place on May 25-29, 2014 in Kuwait

  + 25 participants from 10 different countries

  + Delivered by 10 different lecturers 8 of which were from the region the strategy covers

  + Covered a range of topics such as Definition of IG, History of the Internet, Introduction to IG, CIR, Access, Privacy, Content, Multilingualism, Regional and Global IGFs, and many other topics

+ Work to start soon on the second edition of the school

+ More details:

  https://community.icann.org/display/MES/MEAC-SIG+WIki+Space

Engagement with Stakeholders

+ Attend events where ICANN can benefit in engaging with participants

+ Engage with all local stakeholders through country visits

+ An EMEA newsletter every 3 months

+ Engage via a dedicated mailing list (Arab ICANN) and Arabic Twitter feed (**@icann_ar**)

Key Projects

+ ## DNS Entrepreneurship Center

  + *Repository for DNS knowledge and expertise in Africa and the Middle East*

+ ## Lebanon Internet Center

  + *Multi-stakeholder body mandated with the management of (.lb) and the shaping of policies to further develop the Internet in Lebanon*

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Questions?