REPORT TO THE CROPP COMMITTEE by APRALO LEADERS - Maureen Hilyard and Satish Babu

Event: APRICOT (APNIC & APAN) conference, 2-6 March 2015, in Fukuoka, Japan.

Sponsors: CROPP (Airfares and 2 nights' accommodation and per diem)
                    APNIC (conference and dinner fees)
                    SELF-FUNDING (4 nights' accommodation & expenses)

Many thanks to the CROPP committee for giving us this opportunity to network with a new group of people. We have made recommendations based on our experiences. Much appreciation to Paul Wilson and his APNIC team for making us feel welcome and involving us in their social activities. Also thanks to our new friends at APAN - an academic arm we hope to encourage among our APRALO working groups, adding potential value to the contributions APRALO ALSes could make to the work of the ALAC.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES: (as per CROPP application)	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Achieved
1. Raised awareness of APRALO and its regional activities			
2. Increased networking links for APRALO Leadership Team			
3. Meetings with ICANN/other ALS members			
4. Meetings with partner or other networking groups			
5. APRALO Survey – in conflict with APNIC survey			

NOTES:

1. Guidance, support and introductions by ICANN Board members Rinalia Abdul-Rahim and George Sadowsky added to our profile as ICANN associates. Rinalia also introduced us to the Cooperation SIG session as part of her panel presentation. Need to learn more about how APRALO could become more involved in this SIG.

2. Support for the Pacific within the AP region by the first keynote speaker, University of Hawaii President, David Lassner, added Pacific flavour to the workshop discussions we later attended

3. Paul Wilson ensured our introduction to key members of the APNIC management team (Duncan Macintosh-Development Manager, Kevin Meynell-Training Manager, Anne Lord-Researcher) for later interactions and discussions

4. Dr Dilawar Grewal of the University of the South Pacific – only other Pacific rep of the 1000 APRICOT participants – possibly look at coordination of training in conjunction with APNIC (suggested this to Anne Lord who was doing an APNIC survey about training in the region)

5. Discussions with coordinators of APAN (AP Advanced Network) could encourage the development CANN topics of interest by APRALO ALSes as research and education which could add to ALS knowledge and understanding of ICANN issues. Was introduced to APAN Chair, Dr Sureswaran Ramadass (Sri Lanka) and other key members - Dr Faridah Noor (University of Malaya, Co Chair, eCulture WG), Andrew Howard (Australian National University, Cyberperformance), Prof. Adinarayana (India, Agriculture WG) and Navaneethan Arjuman (Malaysia, IPv6 WG) with whom I discussed ICANN and the IANA Transition as well as how his local organisation could become an ALS. Yasiuchi Kitamura is a member of the APAN Board.

6. ISOC@APRICOT session enhanced our contact with ISOC-ALS members ; ISOC Japan – Chair Tomohiro Fujisaki and Yasiuchi Kitamura, Gihan Dias (Sri Lanka), Rajnesh Singh, Naveed Haq, Amelia Yeo (Singapore Bureau); also discussed joint Pacific Islands-Australia INET or alternatively joining up with NETHui (NZ) after discussion with InternetNZ's Jordan Carter.

7. Over dinner with the Indian government delegation, Jia-Rong, Satish and I discussed possible collaboration activities to support APAC objectives (We met Kuek earlier in the week). Also met NIXI (New Delhi) researchers Shiva Upadhyay and Rohan Wadhwa (currently based at Japan University)

8. The inevitable corridor meetings is where we met other ICANN-related participants; Edmon Chung, Yannis Lee (Dot Asia); Champika Wijayatunga (ICANN's Security, Stability & Resiliency Regional Engagement Manager) and spoke informally to other participants about their APRICOT involvements

1. During a taxi ride I spoke to Yurie Ito about the closure of PacCERT. George Sadowsky had introduced us – Yurie is the Director of JPCERT. I have sent an email to her to seek advice that I can pass on to our Pacific governments regarding the establishment of a National CERT. I foresee difficulties with small island nations trying to establish their own CERTs.

2. Women in Technology - A miscommunication meant that several of us did not get to the event until late – which conflicted with the start of another session. I had earlier spoken to Judith Duavit-Vazquaz (ex-ICANN Board member) who sponsored the WIT event, about her long involvement with APRICOT.

3. Unfortunately I wasn't able to make contact with anyone from APTLD. Their meetings were held at the end of the previous week of workshops which I was unable to attend.

4. We had prepared a survey in case we needed to have something on hand with which to approach participants about our APRALO or ALS hats at APRICOT. We did not do the survey for two reasons:
a. APNIC was already doing a survey in line with Asia Pacific training needs – our survey had a similar focus – it would not have been appropriate to undertake a survey at the same time.
b. We didn't need anything to make contact with others – our involvement in workshop discussions and other interactions made it quite easy to facilitate conversation with people – sometimes it was about us, and sometimes it was about them and what they did… giving us an idea of how we might merge the links.

Recommendations to APRALO
1. APRALO coordinates APRALO working groups focused on issues of concern to the region
2. ALSes can devise topics for work in groups - as research activities within a given timeframe. They could report findings back to the RALO and ALAC – and subsequently to the APAC Hub and the APAN community
3. Develop the skills and confidence of potential penholders and leaders for ALAC working groups
4. At APRALO meetings (face-to-face and online) create an "ALS Spotlight" time where ALSes have 30-60 seconds to say something about their ALS – a working group involvement, a community activity, etc
5. Cyber-performances- ALS could use mobiles to record a short clip about something specific (topic TBC) about APRALO ALSes and their ICANN work in their communities.

CROPP issues
1. Lovely hotel – bit far from conference venue – required taxi – per diems required when we are at the event.
2. Satish only had two days at the conference – his inward flight arrived in Fukuoka late on Monday night and he had to leave on Weds night. Maureen was given an hour to clear international customs and connect with a domestic flight on the inward journey – had to catch a later flight - fortunately there was one.