ICANN Consultation Process on Community Resources

gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group Response to Travel Support Questionnaire

1. What guidelines does your group have for supported travelers? How do these differ from the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines?

   The RySG currently receives 7 supported traveler slots per ICANN meeting. We offer first right of refusal to our GNSO Councilors (up to 3 slots), then our elected officers (up to four slots). If any supported travel slots remain – as they most often do – then the RySG asks for current members in good standing that need travel support to submit their names. If more members apply than slots available (also often the case), then the RySG Executive Committee makes the final selections based on:

   - *Is the applicant a leader of a PDP Working Group or other multi-stakeholder effort, and would that person not be able to travel unless supported?*
   - *Has the member shown interest in becoming more involved in the RySG and other ICANN community initiatives, suggesting that they could become future leaders?*
   - *Is the applicant from a geographic region OTHER than the one hosting the meeting (waived if enough slots)?*
   - *Did the applicant not receive support for the previous meeting (waived if enough slots)?*

   This is consistent with the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines.

2. What aspect of the current ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines work well for your group?

   The RySG is always mindful of giving priority to those members that will:

   1. *Advance the development of policy and other work*
   2. *Assisting those with financial hardship, especially in developing countries*
   3. *Reaching out to new members that are learning and want to participate more*

3. What specific area of the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines affect your group the most?

   For any remaining slots (not claimed by our GNSO Councilors or elected officers), trying to give priority to developing countries is difficult when we have so few (if any) members from those areas.

4. What area might be added to the ICANN Community Travel Support Guidelines to provide additional support to your group?

   Being aware of the growth of our group (and in the future) that there may be a need to expand the number of travel supported slots.

   There also seems to be an assumption that Contracted Parties have ready access to funds for travel to ICANN meetings and this is simply not the case. As such we would appreciate more equitable treatment when it comes to allocation of travel funding.

5. How does your group allocate its community travel support slots? How are members prioritized? How are newcomers to ICANN considered?

   See answer to Q1

6. What, if any, educational and informational activities does your group conduct to inform participants of ICANN community resources?

   The RySG has held outreach training sessions at ICANN 56 Helsinki, and at ICANN 58 Copenhagen and is actively engaging with our members in the Asia Pacific region to address challenges of inclusiveness, language and time zones.

   The RySG website has many links to ICANN's website for more information, as well as an archive for our public comments, correspondence, etc.

7. What are actionable and measurable expectations your group or leadership has for members who receive travel support? Are there follow-up reporting requirements for members who attend ICANN Public Meetings and/or receive Community Regional Outreach Program (CROP) funding?

   All members receiving travel funding are expected to attend all RySG sessions of interest. They also provide updates to the Executive Committee and full membership at our Constituency Day face-to-face or subsequent biweekly call (as appropriate).

8. Instead of reimbursement for travel-related expenses, would your members prefer to receive a stipend or per diem from the ICANN organization?

   The RySG does not receive reimbursement for travel-related expenses, but funding for air fare, hotel and an established per diem rate based on the meeting location for seven (7) members in good standing that meet the criteria as outlined in Q1. All arrangements for the travel support provided by ICANN must be arranged by ICANN Travel (versus the traveler). Therefore, it is critical for those being funded by ICANN have ample opportunity to provide recommended flight information to best meet their travel needs, and be provided with hotel accommodations as close to the meeting venue as possible. This is of critical importance, as very often private transportation to/from meeting venue is necessary given meeting schedules and long meeting days.

If a stipend (for air fare and hotel) along with a daily per diem is provided, it would depend on if the travelers would be able to receive the hotels and flights at the discounted rates that ICANN can get them by getting group rates. If the stipend doesn't cover the cost, some of the members may still be unable to attend. It is critical to keep in mind that any travelers funded by ICANN may reside in a geographic region that is significantly more expensive for flights (such as one coming from APAC versus NA, LAC or even Europe to ICANN 61 in Puerto Rico).

9. Are there categories of travel and events that you are not presently able to support?

   GDD Summit has not been supported for travel reimbursement. The RySG plans to request supported travel for the 2019 GDD Summit once the FY19 special funding requests are solicited in January 2018.

   Regarding the comment on Q4, we are aware that the members of the NCPH receive travel support to attend an inter-sessional meeting each year and while we do no dispute the validity of this support, we believe this reinforces the assumption that Contracted Parties have access to funds to attend ICANN related meetings and we respectfully reinforce our comment regarding equitable treatment.

10. How does your group plan for upcoming events? What is your planning cycle for deciding on whether ICANN community or organization resources might be used?

    The RySG begins planning for the next ICANN meeting immediately following the end of the current meeting. We keep in mind the type of meeting (Annual General Meeting, Community Forum, Policy Forum, or GDD Summit.) and who will be most needed at those meetings when decisions are made. The RySG ExCom votes on the final selection of candidates to receive travel support.