
ICANN75 | AGM – At-Large APRALO Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 -13:15 to 14:30 KUL

YESIM SAGLAM:

Hello, and welcome to the At-Large APRALO Celebrating Diversity of an Inclusive Future. My name is Yesim Saglam, and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN expected standards of behavior.

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With that, I will hand the floor over to Satish Babu, APRALO Chair.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Yesim. And welcome, everybody. I'm Satish, and I'm the Chair of APRALO. And this is a special session which brings together different groups of ICANN community members from within the region and, in some cases, from outside.

For the purpose of interactions, largely, the initial part of this meeting of about half-an-hour is going to be some discussions about APRALO itself. We'll take a quick look at the history of APRALO as documented earlier. We'll look at regional priorities, and we may have a few minutes of discussions there. And we will also introduce the incoming leaders because this is the time when the leadership change or transition happens.

The second part brings together multiple communities. We have the Fellows of ICANN75. We have the NextGen members from ICANN75. And we also have a group of students from different universities in Malaysia who are here on our invitation to see ICANN in close action. And the program is called Discover ICANN at ICANN75.

So we also have Board members here. I see Leon is already here. Hi, Leon. Welcome. Akinori is likely to come, and he was supposed to share with us some of his thoughts on the vision for the Asia-Pacific region that we would have. We have then the GSE team.

We have Jia-Rong and his full team here, and I would like to welcome Jia-Rong to this meeting, and of course your team also.

Then we'll have some discussions. That's an opportunity for the participants, especially the students and the Fellows and the NextGen, to raise questions to any of us. And we'll be happy to answer them.

We'll also have a quick profile of the APRALO community, which is a bunch of slides on our members, which we will run through somewhere. It's just three minutes, so we will fit in somewhere.

So this is the rough plan for this meeting.

And with that, once again I'd like to welcome everybody who's here today. Of course, Siranush is here from the Fellowship side. Siranush, of course, is our own person in the sense that she was the APRALO Chair before me. And she always is part of our group here. So I'd like to welcome Siranush also to this meeting. And I'd also like to welcome everybody else who's here from different parts of the ICANN community and ICANN75 group here.

With that, we will move on to agenda item 1B, which is a quick review in about four minutes of so of APRALO's history. So on the screen you see there a document which is a kind of a flipbook or an e-book. Yesim, can you please flip through it so we can ... The document link is also available. It is linked into the agenda. You can take the agenda and click and download it. This is a 55-page

document that was created with as much of the history of APRALO that we could gather at the time, including all the past office bearers, many pictures from different meetings, several slide decks, timelines, and some of our leaders. So it is a useful compilation because it brings together the current state of what [we knew] at that time. And some of these leaders are of course with us. Others are not. But this is a good time to reflect on the fact that they've all contributed to building APRALO into what it is today.

So there is some information on the membership and the numbers and so on, some information on the structure of ICANN for people who are not from [inaudible] also the core community. So this document is available, linked to the agenda. Anyone who would like to look at it may please download and look at it.

So with that, we will move on to the next agenda item, which is a presentation by Justine on ... Justine is the Co-Chair of the APRALO Policy Forum, and she's going to talk to us about a recent survey that was conducted within the APAC region to identify policy priorities for the region. Over to you, Justine.

JUSTINE CHEW:

Thank you, Satish. Just give me 30 seconds to break into a bit of Malay. [inaudible], I should say, because you are so young. But, yeah, [inaudible].

Okay. So as Satish said, the APRALO Policy Forum, which I Co-Chair with Satish, did a hot topics survey just recently. We conducted it, and it is a tool that we have relied on as a RALO to gather inputs from the ALSes and the individual members within this region, the APRALO region. So it's a bottom-up mechanism which we've utilized in the past to gather inputs for a number of things. But in this instance, it's to try to formulate a path for our next 18- to 24-month timeline in terms of priorities. There are lots of things happening in ICANN, as you can probably gather by all these parallel sessions going on. So we've always tried to see if we can come to a particular focus and just concentrate on a few things within certain segments of what we do. So this is the attempt by which we're trying to lay down that path.

So I'm just going to introduce the results of the survey, and then it would be up to the incoming leadership team of APRALO to take this input and do with it what you will. So the survey focuses on four sections. So as you see on the screen, number one is At-Large priorities (or the At-Large and the At-Large Advisory Committee; that's what ALAC stands for)—the priorities at the global level, if you want to simplify it that way.

There are also specific policy-related priorities. And the reason why we put an emphasis on this is because, within ICANN itself, lots of things happen. But essentially ICANN is the space where policy is made for how our domain name system is managed, to

put it simply. So in terms of a key focus for any region, there's always going to be emphasis on policy. That's not to say policy is the only thing we look at. We also look at operations. We also look at outreach and engagement. But policy is always going to be [the mainstay] because that's why we're all here to begin with: to monitor and to participate in the policymaking process in ICANN. And I in particular am involved in the policy side of things. I don't engage so much in the other things because I have a day job, dah, dah, dah.

And then the third category is membership retention and engagement priorities. So that is more on the RALO, the regional scale.

And the last one has got to do with ICANN operating priorities. So ICANN as an organization does planning on a five-year cycle. So in the last planning session that they conducted, they came up with a series of 15 operating priorities for that rolling period of 2022-2026.

Next slide, please. So let's go and look at the results of what people said. Number of respondents: 24. And the breakdown you see there is not particularly interesting.

So let's go to the next slide, please. So I talked about ALAC and At-Large priorities. And—it's too small. I can't see anything. Sorry. The way the survey was designed is we asked a question.

Basically, Question 1: “Do you think this is a priority for our region?” And then the answer ranks from 1 to 5. So it is 1 as the highest priority (so you think it’s most important), and 5 as the least important. So you got to understand the context because, in this situation, the lowest score is the highest priority. So that’s one thing I wanted to put in context, which is why you see the graph being arranged from shortest to longest. So the lower the score, the higher the priority. Just remember that.

So in this respect, we’ve had quite a high number of people—in fact, almost 100% in the first top-four areas. And I would just focus on the top three because, once you get into the score of exceeding on ... So in this case, ICANN’s strategic planning scores a 2.04. So maybe that’s less as a priority—so number two, for example.

So the top three would be At-Large policy development or position development ... So again, like I said, one of the main reasons why everyone is here is because we want to participate in the policymaking process of ICANN. That’s why this is the top/number one.

ICANN governance is the second one. That’s got to do with how ICANN runs as an organization. So you have your Board, you have the ICANN organization, and then you have the community. But the community tends to have a say in everything that goes on or

would like to have a say in everything that goes on. So in this respect, that's where governance comes in. So the Board may provide a report, ICANN may provide a financial report or operating reports. But the community looks at it and gets a say in it, or they make comments.

And the third one is public interest. So there's always been a long debate about what public interest is. No one can really define public interest. So that's an ongoing thing. But we kind of know what is against public interest. So there's a sort of approach that we take.

Next slide, please. The next one has got to do with specific policy-related priorities. So I don't know whether you've had a chance to, but the ICANN community tends to revolve around topics in the limelight. For each meeting, there are always a couple topics that have very, very much attention but on them.

So one of the ones that the community is very active in trying to come up with solutions has got to do with DNS abuse mitigation. So that one scores top among our respondents.

The second one is policy on internationalized domain names. So we ran a session yesterday particularly on domain names. I hope that ... Well, I kind of expect all of you to have been there. But anyway, internationalized domain names are domain names that don't use Latin scripts. So imagine that, if you were an Arabic

speaker or Chinese speaker, you can use the Arabic script in your domain names or Han script in your domain names instead of Latin words. So that is what we're trying to achieve because we want the Internet to be multilingual and accessible to many people.

And the third one is promotion on universal acceptance. So universal acceptance is very closely tied to IDNs. IDNs (Internationalized Domain Names) is about introducing IDNs to the root, but there are technical and operational challenges to doing that. And part of it tries to be solved by the universal acceptance.

I'm sorry if I'm getting too detailed because I have a time limit here.

Next slide, please. The third one is membership retention and engagement. So as I said before, this is really a regional priority. We have a lot of ALSes, quite a few individual members within this region alone, that at least the leadership tries to keep in touch with. And I'm guessing that the new incoming leadership team would want to pay a little bit more attention to this area because we need to keep them engaged and keep them in the RALO.

But the top three that we are probably going to focus on is capacity building and development, making sure that you understand certain things—say, for example, how things work in

ICANN, some of the policy development processes that are going on in ICANN, as a few examples—and then the leadership development and mentorship, which is the second bar that you see there, and—the third one—participation, engagement, and metrics.

So we're trying to find ways to get more people involved because, at the end of the day, we are about protecting the interests of individual end users. So anyone who uses the Internet falls into our community. And the more people we have providing inputs into what we have to say, then the stronger the voice we have. So the more people we have engaged in the processes, engaged in the community, the better.

And the last slide, please. This one is about the ICANN operating priorities. It's a bit hard to explain in such a short amount of time, but I'm just going to clarify the top five.

Actually, why don't we go to the last slide? I think that's easier. Last slide, please. So this is a summary of what are the top three in the first three categories and the top five because we ask people what are the top five operating priorities that the RALOs should focus on.

So I don't think I need to read that. It's too long, anyway. So I'll leave it there and hand the floor back to Satish. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Justine. It's a very useful compilation, and we do have a few minutes for some responses or questions. The floor is now open if anyone would like to make a comment. If no one would like to make a comment right now, I have a comment but I'll defer it for some time.

Yes, Holly, please go ahead.

HOLLY RAICHE: I'm very glad to have this information because, particularly, as the Operation, Finance, and Budget Committee, we're looking specifically at these initiatives. We've asked a different group of people how they would rate these initiatives. And now we've got another set so that, when the Operating, Finance, and Budget Working Group has to comment on budgets, what we do is we tie the initiatives that have been identified as the top five or six to what we say in the budget. So this is a very useful piece of information for our working group. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Holly.

Anyone else?

I'm looking at the Zoom room. I don't have any—yes? Sorry. Yes, please go ahead.

HADIA ELMINIAWI: Thank you. My comment is sort of related to what Holly was just saying. In relation to the ICANN operational topics, how did you come up with a list? Is this coming from the original operating topics, related to ...

JUSTINE CHEW: Thanks for the question, Hadia. So we know that ICANN came up with the 15 operating priorities, so we basically asked the respondents, “Pick your top five out of that 15.”

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much.

So before I get into a comment and a question as well, I note that Akinori has joined us. Welcome, Akinori, and thanks very much for being with us today. And we would love to hear from you in a few minutes’ time.

The comment in the Zoom chat box is from Ashirwad Tripathy. He says, “I think the survey has given a fair view on what the community is working for.” Thanks for that comment, Ashirwad.

Amrita, you had a question?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Not a question, Satish. I think it's more of a comment. The response actually validate what we have been thinking about. It substantiates it with detail. I think what we actually need to do in in our engagement plan and whatever we're planning with the GSE also is to work on these areas, especially one on two on the membership. Obviously, we knew we had to work on it. Perhaps that's a bigger discussion that all the RALOs have to work on. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Amrita. I completely agree that it validates our assumptions, and so it's useful for us to convert our assumptions to something concrete that we can act on. And also it provides, for the incoming team and the leadership in general, a bunch of things to prioritize.

I see a hand from Ameena. Ameena, please go ahead.

PUTERI AMEENA HISHAMUDDIN: Thank you. I guess this question goes to the incoming Chair and her team. What will be the method of tracking or being up to date for the priorities that are mentioned? Or will this be in your next meeting? Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Amina.

Justine, would you care to respond to that? Or you want me to respond?

JUSTINE CHEW: Well, she asked for the incoming leadership chair. I'm not the incoming leadership chair.

SATISH BABU: All right. So this a task for the incoming leadership, really. Basically, during the COVID lockdown, we were weak on metrics. So this is a good point that you raised. So for the incoming team, it's about important to start tracking some of these and also the level of activity from our members so that we can take collective action as we go to the future.

Go ahead.

JUSTINE CHEW: Amina, this is pretty much hot off the press, so we only concluded the survey, as you know because you were one of the respondents, not too long ago, probably less than two weeks ago. So this is the first time that the public has seen the results of it. And the idea is to take these inputs, go and discuss them at the RALO meeting or have a whatever. Everyone should be working out how to deal with these inputs in the coming years. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks, Justine.

We have Holly and then Jia-Rong.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you, Satish. There was a question: where does this come from? If you look at the financial plan and budget document, the 15 operating initiatives are seen to support the strategic goals of ICANN itself. So actually these initiatives come from the budget documents, the five-year. As well, they're repeated in a single year. So there is a lot more commentary on each of these initiatives if you'd like to read the budget documents. Thanks.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Holly. Yes, we did look at this in the session that you had chaired. It was very useful. Thanks.

Jia-Rong, please.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. So from the ICANN Asia-Pacific office, we always have a very close partnership with APRALO. So with Amrita incoming and a new leadership team, we will continue to support and collaborate with APRALO.

So for the past two years, like Satish mentioned, because of the pandemic, some of the priorities are a little bit ... I think we still have the same priorities, but there are a lot of limitations in terms of implementation. But going forward, I think the goals here are very clear. And I think it's very clear they contribute to the ICANN strategic plan as well. From the office, we will continue to work with the APRALO leadership team and we will work out steps on how to implement them and get ourselves to the next level. So I'm looking forward to the collaboration.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Jia-Rong. Earlier this morning, we had a discussion on GSE and outreach and engagement and all that. So we found the document that we had co-created on the strategic plan is very useful. We had shared it here.

Amrita, over to you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY:

Thank you, Satish. Ameena, just to respond to you, you asked a very tricky question. We all don't have the answer. We can work towards it. And obviously, being ALSes out here, you know what is required, what kind of outreach is required. We need help from all the ALSes too to tell us what needs to be done. We would want to support you—even the GSE team wants to support you—but we need your cooperation also to tell us what you want to do so

that we can plan together and do it because, without your support, we can't do anything. But don't expect miracles.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Amrita.

So at this point, we are done with agenda item number one—

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: Satish, if I may.

SATISH BABU: Sorry, Cheryl. Go ahead, please. I didn't see you.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR: It's hard when you're upstream, I understand. It's difficult from the center of the table.

It just struck me while I was listening to the conversation and the questions here. Justine and her small team that put this together put an enormous amount of effort into making sure all those blue bits that you see on the screen when you saw the questions ... And those of you who did the survey, there was awful lot of links in there. And it linked to the source documentation. It linked to presentations made by ICANN or made by the OFB Working Group and things.

So it strikes me, Amrita, that it may have utility for the leadership team coming in to perhaps capture from our survey those useful bits and somehow present them as a resource that's got a little bit more longevity.

Thank you, Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Cheryl. So indeed the survey is only the starting point. There is much work to be done with what we've found already.

So I see a comment from Shreepdeep in chat. He says, "From ALSes, we want resources and facilitation for doing outreach and communication." Shreedeep, I think you can take this up with the incoming team to discuss the prioritization and the resources and so on.

So at this point, we are done with agenda item number one. Before going to number two, we have a blue link there which says, "Profile of the APRALO Community." This is a three-minute presentation that we will quickly run through. It lists our ... Can you make it full screen? Is it possible? Can you make it full screen? Okay, that's better. Please go ahead. Oh, you have a problem if you make it full screen. Can you [page down]? Does it work? Yeah, there you go. Yeah, keep going. Okay, at this point, can you pause for a second?

So these people that you just saw were people who were fairly regular in attending our meetings. We have many more members. Some of them we would like to encourage to participate in more meetings. And the members in waiting are actually those people who we would like to invite to attend more meetings.

Continue, please. Thanks very much, Yesim. That was done perfectly.

So we now move on to Part 2 of this meeting. And here we start with a quick presentation from—well, not necessarily slides and everything—from Akinori, who is going to talk to us about his vision for the APAC region vis-à-vis ICANN and Internet governance. Over to you, Akinori.

AKINORI MAEMURA:

Thank you very much. My name is Akinori Maemura for the record. I am serving at the Board as one of the ASO appointees. I'm serving until this Thursday, and then I'm stepping down from there after a six-year term. I am really happy to serve there, and I appreciate all your support from the Asia-Pacific people. I reside in Tokyo in Japan, and I am always happy to talk to you about the Asia-Pacific region situation.

I spent one year [as a] Board member [residing] in the Asia-Pacific region, but now I'm getting more people there. One of the guys is most important person, and I'm sure you all recognize him. His

name is Edmon Chung, the CEO of DotAsia organization. And he's a NomCom appointee and resides in Hong Kong. And he's now [free] to do the IDN. I actually have passed him the Chair of the IDN Universal Acceptance Working Group of the ICANN Board. And he actually has been much, much better than I in that regard.

I'm really happy to share with you that welcomed two NomCom appointees from the Asia-Pacific region. One is the Chris Chapman from Australia, and he's quite, I'd say, vigilant of the industry. And he's a really great guy. He has rich experience in his professional and management area. He joined the Board activity last week and then he immediately the quite active intervention there. So I'm really impressed with that and admire his preparedness for ICANN Board business.

Another guy is Sajid Rahman. He resides in Indonesia, but he's from Bangladesh. He's quite an esteemed executive in the investment field. He also started an immediate kick-off of the ICANN Board operations for in the workshops.

So we have collectively three Board members from the Asia-Pacific region, except for me who is outgoing. So you have their faces this week and onward.

So I think that the Asia-Pacific region is quite important in ICANN's business. We have more than half of the Internet population, Internet users, in the Asia-Pacific region. We have

quite diverse culture and background, from the east, south, the Pacific Islands, and also [Australasia]. This diverse situation is quite a representation of its diversity itself. So we are maybe looked at from the other regions for the future of ICANN's business proceedings.

We have not only the diversity but we have diversity of the culture, the diversity of development [inaudible], and we have diversity on geopolitical situation. So everyone is not that easy, but sometimes it may be difficult. That's actually something we need to tackle for the future. But I'm quite sure that these Asia-Pacific people can capably deal with this. Of course, APRALO is the main place where people can discuss and find a way for how we can deal with that.

So I am really happy to see your faces. I'm now outgoing from ICANN, but I will stay regularly for the ICANN meetings. And I look forward to seeing you in this meeting and some other places of Internet operations and Internet governance. Thank you very much.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Akinori. You may be leaving ICANN, but ICANN is not going to leave you because we are going to come to Tokyo [inaudible] next year. So APRALO is most likely to end up with a colocation with IGF.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much. That's really a huge missing piece of my intervention. Thank you very much.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Akinori. I hope you can stay on a few more minutes in case there are any questions from our participants.

And I'd like to ask Leon if he would like to speak for a couple of minutes.

LEON SANCHEZ: Sure. Thank you very much, Satish. It's always a pleasure to be here with you guys. And I think that what makes me happiest of everything is that, finally, I have an APRALO meeting during my daytime. So it's absolutely good and a new experience for me.

As you know, I've always considered the Asia-Pacific region as my own, as I know that, for formal matters, Mexico is not considered as the AP region. But in other corners of the world, it's formally the AP region. So I kind of feel like I already belong to APRALO.

And I've also been following, as you know, closely the work that you do in the different corners of ICANN, from capacity building to policy development processes and the participation of Justine through many PDPs and Amrita. For fear of leaving anyone

outside, I won't continue with names, but I know that you are a vibrant region that devotes itself to furthering ICANN's mission. And I think forever that APRALO is one of the cornerstones of the At-Large community and of ICANN itself.

It would be unfair to ignore that the most populated region in the world contributes as it does to furthering ICANN's mission. And, again, I know that you work very hard, so I'd like to of course acknowledge and recognize all the volunteer work that you do and, of course the support that you get from Jia-Rong from the region and the work that staff does in support for all you do.

And I am very happy to see that you have established a working method—of course, not now; it comes from years—and that you have been following the prioritization effort that you have reviewed as we were going through the slides and the importance of trying to prioritize the many things we have to do in ICANN.

So as we go through this exercise of prioritizing, I would like to ask you, what is the most important thing for our Internet users in the Asia-Pacific region? Because that's where we should focus. That's where we should ask the organization to focus its efforts, again, in furthering ICANN's mission and trying to satisfy the needs of this region.

For example, I believe IDNs and universal acceptance is definitely one of the most important topics. Akinori spoke to it just a

moment ago. He's leaving this topic in the best hands—after his, of course—of Edmon, who has long followed this topic as well.

And as he was also saying, I think that it's very good news for the Board and also very good news for the Asia Pacific region that we have two incoming Board members from your region. So you will now have three formal representatives from the region and one informal adopted member in the Board from the Asia-Pacific region. And as Akinori said, I just want to echo that these two incoming members, of course in the same way that Edmon and Akinori have been outstanding and highly qualified, also come with very high qualifications and are well-versed in different topics. And they seem to be getting up to speed really, really quick. So I would expect that their contributions will soon be reflected for the benefit of the Internet users in the Asia-Pacific region.

So with that, Satish, I would like to thank you again for this space, for having me here. And I definitely look forward to being with you later in the APAC space so that we can share whatever you have prepared for us. And it's always good to be here again. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Leon. And I join everybody here in wishing you a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Leon.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you so much.

SATISH BABU: Thanks so much, Leon, for speaking to us.

So a couple of notes. One is that, while welcoming, I have missed out on one partner organization in Asia-Pacific. That is DotAsia and its related projects like NetMission. So I think Pavel is here from DotAsia. Who is here from DotAsia? Jen is here. So this is just to welcome you. So your turn will come after Jia-Rong finishes. You can come here, please.

So now we have an introduction by the APAC GSE team. And I'll hand over the floor to Jia-Rong. You have ten minutes, all these speakers.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you, Satish. This is Jia-Rong. I'm the Managing Director for the ICANN Asia-Pacific office. The office is based in Singapore, but we look after the whole region.

First of all, let's introduce ourselves from the team so everybody can put a face to a name. After that, Save and I will talk a bit more about some of our activities within the region. So I introduced myself already. If it helps you remember me better, I really like fried food.

SAVE VOCEA: Hello. My name is Save Vocea. I'm the Regional Vice-President for Stakeholder Engagement in the Oceania Region. It's a subregion within Asia-PAC. I'm based in Sydney, Australia. Just for information's sake, there's about 29 country-code top-level domains in Oceania.

YIEN CHYN TAN: Hi, everyone. I'm Yien Chyn Tan. I'm the Stakeholder Engagement Manager for APAC. I'm on Jia-Rong's team. So I cover the engagement work in Asia, and I support projects or events that are held by the ICANN APAC office. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. And I'm looking forward to getting to know each of you better.

MELODY AU: Hello and good afternoon, everyone. My name is Melody, and I'm the Stakeholder Engagement Analyst at the ICANN APAC office. So basically in my role, I support the work of the ICANN GSE office across the Asia-Pacific region. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. So feel free to come up to us and get to know us. We are very friendly people. And the face-to-face connection, personal connection, is much easier for us to work together.

Now, for the next part, Save and I will talk a bit about our activities within the region and how we can work with each other. So like I mentioned earlier, in terms of working with APRALO, every year we would first of all plan strategy working together. So APRALO every year would have a strategic plan for outreach and engagement. I think, going forward, working with Amrita, we will be able to further flesh it out. And I think we got very clear results from the survey that will help us identify some of the priorities.

And working with the leadership team is one portion of the work because ... One of the survey results talked about membership retention and engagement. I think we can really step up, partnering with the At-Large structures within the region. And for ALSes, you don't have to worry that ... You might feel, "Yeah, I'm just one ALS. What can I do?" But that's the whole point of the multistakeholder model, right? If you feel you need to do something to tell people about DNS abuse or IDNs or universal acceptance, feel free. And if you need any support, reach out to us and we will be happy to explore how we can work together. So that's one key area in terms of partnering and collaborating.

A few other activities within the region that we tend to be cohosting or supporting ... So one of them is APAC Space. We have a session this afternoon at 4:30. It is literally a space for us to all come together and get to know one another. And by building those face-to-face personal relationships, then we can

help one another as well. So, please, if you're available, join us at 4:30 for APAC Space.

And importantly, towards the end of APAC space, we will be taking a vote. So, again, the last time we took our community vote was in 2019, Kobe. So it's been a long time. Our faces have changed. Hopefully, we all look better now so we can take a photo together. So please join us then.

We actively support a lot of regional Internet governance fora, including the APriGF (Asia-Pacific regional IGF) that was just in Singapore last week. And that's where a lot of our community members are present as well. So I also know that a number of you organized local IGFs, local schools of Internet governance. And even Satish leads the APSIG (Asia-Pacific School of Internet Governance), and so on. So we actively support these activities. So if you're planning to do something and organize something and you need any help, again feel free to reach out to us. And we're happy to support. Particularly knowing that there are top priority topics in the region, I think we all share a common goal.

Just two other events. I know we have some students amongst us as well. Every year, we run a youth leaders capacity program. It's now quite well-known. It's called the Asia-Pacific Internet Governance Academy, also known as APIGA. Amongst us, we have a number of APIGA alumni who are taking on leadership positions

within ICANN and actually making waves all over the region, all over the world. I think you would know some of them. So we would welcome you to participate as well at APIGA. We run it every summer around the August/July period.

For the last one, I launched the Asia-Pacific DNS Forum earlier this year in March, together with [Manicua] in Malaysia. Going forward, we will make it a platform for the whole community to maintain discussions on current issues and explore how to collaborate with one another. So we will have a website that will host all of these activities. And every year will target to have one in-person meeting all around the region. Again, from the At-Large community, I think your participation is extremely important. And I'm just putting a bug in your ear so we know that we have this activity. And we'd like all of you to join us and to collaborate.

And with that, I'll hand it over to Save.

SAVE VOCEA:

Thank you, Jia-Rong. When we do our engagement, we would hope that there's representation from the regions, especially from the Pacific, at ICANN meetings. But since they all can't be here, one of the important things that we do is engage people or staff [of] the regions and engage the stakeholders—for instance, the technical community that I deal with there. I really try to support them, especially at the ccTLD level, in recognizing that

DNSSEC is one of the recommended standards that we push from ICANN. And in the region, not all ccTLDs are DNSSEC-signed. So one of the interest areas for us, as well as OCTO, is to help ccTLDs in the region to be DNSSEC-signed. And of course, with that, we also try to support the DNSSEC validation for the ISPs and the telecom operators in the region just to tie it all in.

One of the things that we also try to support are other RIRs are in is the IPv6 implementation. There's a very low uptake in some of the Pacific countries where my focus has been. So as ALSes or APRALO members from the region, one of the things we've discussed is how can they as well push from their organizations to support the work of ICANN, really maybe to have some advocacy within their own ALS structures to raise it with the operators, like the ccTLDs [inaudible] and ISPs that they also need to adopt and deploy DNSSEC and implement v6.

Now, in the region, there's a lot of new changes as well in leadership and governance coming in. There's [now] new GAC reps. One of the things as we as stakeholder engagement people try to work with is to see that the GAC list, the ccNSO list—all this—is maintained with current members. And with that, when they do come in as new members, there's also a need for capacity development and some areas that we're working with very well in the regions to support the capacity engagement of these stakeholders.

Just lastly, with the academic engagement as well, we have been approached to see how we can help some of the universities in the region to update their curricula. And some of their outdated curricula don't even have current Internet ecosystems, like ICANN or the RIRs in that. So we're working together. I think there is collaboration to be had. And all this work is ongoing for us. Thanks.

SATISH BABU:

Jia-Rong, would you like to close, or are you done?

Okay, thank you so much, Jia-Rong, Save, and team, for the sharing of your thoughts. We've been having a very close relation with the GSE in the Asia-Pacific, not just as APRALO but even as other organization, including, as Jia mentioned, APSIG, which was generously supported by ICANN this time. So we appreciate all the support. And we hope that this relation will continue, especially since we have some more challenges in the way APRALO engages our members. And to Save's point about DNSSEC, we have identified three pillars of our outreach and engagement strategy, and one of them is DNSSEC and any related protocols that we would like to popularize.

So before I go to DotAsia, I'd like to just state that Item 1B, which is the introduction to incoming leaders, I've deferred to just before the closing remarks so there'll be the maximal amount of

people in the room. And please also note that Item 3 we have already covered, so we will end with 2E.

So now we have DotAsia, which is an organization who is a kind of partner organization. We even have a MOU with DotAsia. And personally, Maureen, Liana, and me are on the Board. I'm still on the Board of DotAsia. So we share a very close relation. So we have Jenna here who will talk to us about DotAsia, and also Pavel who will talk to us about NetMission. Over to you.

JENNIFER CHUNG:

Thank you, Satish. My name is Jennifer Chung. I maybe know a lot of you in this room. Maybe some of you are seeing me for the first time. I think you might be more acquainted with Edmon Chung. He sends his apologies right now.

DotAsia is fully supportive of all the APRALO activities. As Satish mentioned, we do have an MOU to work together in this vibrant and diverse region of ours. First of all, DotAsia is the generic top-level domain, .asia, for this region, but we are also a non-profit organization. So all of our domain sales come back to projects and initiatives that support the growth of Internet adoption in our region, as well as other capacity building initiatives, which you'll hear a little bit later of from Pavel.

One of our key initiatives really is supporting a secretariat for the Asia-Pacific Regional IGF. Jia-Rong mentioned a little earlier that

this happened last week in Singapore in conjunction with APSIG, which Satish mentioned, as well as APNIC54. So we work very closely with regional partners to bring this to our home region and have our community discuss all kinds of Internet governance issues.

Another key initiative that we support fully is the Youth IGF. And that also happened, I think, a week-and-a-half ago in Singapore. So in fact, we had four meeting back-to-back at the same time in Singapore right before this Kuala Lumpur meeting. So I think all of us have had a wealth of time together after two-and-half years of the pandemic, being able to talk to each other about all the topics and issues that concern us to the most.

For the YIGF this year, I think there was quite a big innovation. I think Pavel will expand a little further on this. There was an APAC youth leaders discussion round table, and this brought together a lot of the youth initiatives around the region to be in-person and online to talk about the best practices and the lessons learned trying to start a YIGF or youth initiative in our region. So I'm very encouraged to hear a lot of interest from the youth in our region to be able to start talking about all these issues that concern us a lot.

I'd like to, first of all, pass the floor to Pavel to talk a little bit more about NetMission. NetMission is one of the ALSes under APRALO. And the floor is yours, Pavel.

PAVEL FARHAN:

Thank you, Jennifer. So I am also a NetMission ambassador from the 2019-2020 batch. And while the NetMission ambassadors program—you call it the NetMission Academy, NetMission DotAsia ... We bring together a network of dedicated and passionate young volunteers in the Asia-Pacific region who are promoted to its promoting and contributing towards a collective on a sustainable Internet as well as youth engagement in Internet governance.

NetMission has been around for quite a while now, since 2009, and has been completely supported by the DotAsian organization. And we choose students from tertiary institutions and universities. We recruit them every year and provide them with a series of trainings and workshops. The recruitment for the 2022 batch is currently open and will be open until the 6th of November as well. So I'll put the link for that in the chat in a short while.

The vision of NetMission, you might be wondering, is actually the empowerment and the informed perspectives and participation from the youth in the digital ecosystem. And we want to provide

them with a substantive and constructive enrichment to the multistakeholder governance discourse, both locally, regionally, and globally.

So as Jennifer mentioned, we, the NetMission ambassadors, are also involved in the Youth Internet Governance Forum. We either organize them or also are a big part in contributing to the courses or the preparation camp that are held for the YIGF members. The aim is to raise the awareness of youth on the Internet governance discourse and to encourage more younger generations to take part in the multistakeholder decision-making process. And this YIGF serves as a preparation camp for them to understand various Internet issues and challenges and open the door to the international policy discussion.

I'm very proud to say that NetMission was, for me, a gateway into the world of Internet governance that got me to where I am here today, taking part in the ICANN conference as a fellow. So I'm really thankful and grateful to NetMission for that.

That's all from me. Back to you, Jennifer.

JENNIFER CHUNG:

Thank you, Pavel. I don't really have too much to conclude on because he really did highlight all the achievements from NetMission. I really want to emphasize that it really is initiative from the youth by the youth and for the youth.

I guess once last little plug, since we are at APRALO, is that we do have these little red or pink little mascots, which is really DotKids. But if you want one, come to me after this. Happy to talk to you about it. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks, Jen and Pavel. So it turns out that red is the color of APRALO. And this is my something red. So thanks for that.

So we might need a roving mic at this point. So we now open the floor for questions, especially from the students who are here with us today or the Fellows or the NextGen, not so much for the ALAC members, although I'm sure you can also raise questions. We have two of our Board members here. And if there are any questions relating to ICANN, any aspect of ICANN, please raise your hand. If you're not at the table, you can ask for a roving mic.

Please introduce yourself.

NABEEL YASIN AMIN:

Hi, everyone. This is Nabeel Yasin for the record. I'm an ICANN75 Fellow. I would like to ask the APRALO about how you deal with the external influence, especially in this region. We do have lots of geopolitical issues. So how do you deal with that? Thank you very much. That's my question.

SATISH BABU: Not really sure I got your question correctly. Are you asking about how APRALO deals with the geopolitical challenges in the region?

NABEEL YASIN AMIN: And the influences.

SATISH BABU: Influence. Okay, thanks.

So is there anybody from the leadership team who would like to answer this?

If not, I can—Akinori, would you like to address this? This is about APRALO, but this really a Board issue because we don't deal with geopolitics here. But the Board has to kind of contend with it.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Yes, I mentioned the Board geopolitics, but sometimes it happens, right? In Europe, they need to deal with—for example, RIPE NCC—conflict and the sanctions. They need to comply with the EU regulations. Then RIPE NCC needs to comply with the sanctions. I hear that there's rare cases where they need [onboard] the new members for a certain entity [inaudible] people. So that is how the Internet operation needs to be adjusted to the jurisdiction and vice-versa. The jurisdiction needs to be adjusted for the sake of the Internet operations. So that's

actually sometimes happening. So we in the Asia-Pacific region have some countries with quite unique policy for the Internet. It is really hard to explain/express.

That kind of situation may be happening in the near future in that case. So I am now imagining that, if something happens in the Asia-Pacific region, how we can deal with that. So it is maybe good for you and good for us all to think about what is happening in Europe and then what we would be thinking about such a situation in our region if something is happening there.

So that's my point. If someone has any great idea for the time being, then I'm really happy to hear.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Akinori.

I see Cheryl's hand is up, and three in the Zoom room. So Cheryl, please go ahead.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR:

Very briefly, in response to your question, I have no magic wand or great wisdom to give, but I can say how we dealt with issues when we formed our RALO all this many years ago because there was geopolitical tensions as there often is in the world. And what we decided we would do—and I believe it's a good way of working still—is we recognized we were here to work specifically within

ICANN's remit. And having made those boundaries, we also agreed we were working for the greater good in certain ways in terms of domain name numbering, getting policy more bottom-up, and all those sorts of things. That having been agreed upon—so you got your terms of engagement agreed upon—that helps diffuse other tensions.

The other thing is exactly what I did. When I introduced myself, I said where I am from. And so you can already work out if my country had a particular perspective. You can recognize that a flavor of that perspective may come in my interventions.

And the most important thing? Kindness, courtesy, respect.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Cheryl.

So I think this is a very hard question, and there are no easy answers. And if you look at what's playing out in Europe, you can understand that effective sanctions can be quite crippling and hard to contend with.

I'll now go to Bibek Silwal from [inaudible] Nepal. Please unmute your mic and speak, please.

BIBEK SILWAL:

Hello, and namaste, everyone. My name is Bibek Silwal for the record, and I'm a NextGen fellow here. So my question is regarding the diversity. Since the Asia-Pacific region is the most diverse region in terms of language, culture, and even the problem related to Internet policies, we could still see underrepresentation from different countries and industries. So what are the steps or attempts to [encourage] APRALO to ensure all the voices of the diverse communities are also taken in the process or in the consensus-building?

My next question is, can you please elaborate on the [inaudible] role between APAC and APRALO? Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much. So since we have only seven minutes left, I'm going to attempt to answer this question. You can meet me during the break if you have more follow-ups.

On diversity, we have about 53 territories in Asia-Pacific. If you were to get a man and a woman from each of these, you would require fellowships of more than 100. Now, obviously, that's not possible, so we have to draw a line somewhere whereby you say, "Okay, this is what we can do for this batch of Fellows." So that's what's going on.

I'm sure Siranush can answer it better than me. Would you like to make a very brief intervention there?

Okay. So that's what is happening.

So we'll go to the next question. The second question is what? What is your second question—oh, APAC and APRALO. Okay. So APAC is a region. It's geographic. Asia-Pacific. APRALO is an organization. If you ask the question, "What is At-Large and what is ALAC?" that's a slightly different thing. But APRALO is an organization very clearly, and it consists of individual members and organizations, many of them whom are here today. But APAC is purely geography.

We now move on to Gabriel Karsan. Please go ahead.

GABRIEL KARSAN:

Thank you very much. My name is Gabriel Karsan from Tanzania, an ICANN75 Fellow. And let me recognize—thank you very much to my colleagues from DotAsia. I'm really happy to see you, especially Jia, who was part of the [A]GM representing the youth, with my colleague, [Lilly].

Well, I was just wondering if we might have some goals for the global IGF in Ethiopia since DotAsia has a lot of initiatives that are empowering youth as part of being inclusive. And in my side as a Youth IGF coordinator from the region, I'm looking forward to if we have areas of collaboration because I do have a lot of sessions there and I would welcome all of the young people here to be participants, especially in creating that informal youthful lens in

participatory, consensus-driven multistakeholdersim. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much for your question

But can you answer it in about a minute?

[PAVEL FARHAN]: Yeah. Actually, I believe that, in your region, there is the Digital Grassroots Program. Have you heard of that? It works as a similar way that the NetMission Ambassadors Program works as well but in the African region. I've also been very fortunate to be part of that as a Digital Grassroots ambassador. And I would be more than happy to talk to you about this afterwards in terms of collaboration. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much.

We now move on to Holly. Please go ahead.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thank you, Satish. Probably not the answers you were looking for, but we're a very big region, so we have to solve problems, we can do it around this table with respect and listening. Most of the

issues that we deal with are within the ICANN community, which is bringing a user perspective to some of the very, I would say, difficult issues where there are genuine differences: the trademark issue, some of the issues of registries/registrars. And we sit around a table. Now, sometimes the comment is made that we've been sitting around the table such that it's going to grow into us, but never mind.

But we also have a demarcation. We are talking about the Internet, we're talking about domain names, and we're talking about numbers. But we're not talking about the rest. And one of many geopolitical issues are responses. Basically, what we are talking about is an interoperative, global, open community where we all listen to each other. And we don't bring national perspectives into trying to carve, in any way, the Internet up. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Holly, for that.

We have a last question from Kalpesh. Can you please go ahead.

KALPESH CHAUDHARI: Hello. I'm Kalpesh from India for the record, and I'm a NextGen fellow. I'd like to ask the Chair about what kind of challenges do you face while serving At-Large? Because we have lots of

population there, and lots of diversity is also there. So what kind of challenges do you face while chairing this organization?

SATISH BABU: You want to respond?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I just wanted to go back to the diversity question. If I understand correctly, we're paying attention to diversity. That was your key point. Just to give you a rough idea, diversity is one of the key criteria for selection for the Fellowship program. And we always pay attention to the gender issue, making sure we have a gender balance and we have a regional balance. And if you go to the Fellowship program page and find, in the important links, the program statistics, you will see we also put, besides the numbers of the region, there the gender balance. So we usually have more males than females selected for the Fellowship, but that's because, globally, not many females are engaged in IT. But we pay attention to diversity, and we give everyone equal opportunities for participation. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Siranush.

So we have a little time left, and I'd like to invite Amrita ... Is Aris here?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: She's here.

SATISH BABU: Amirta is here. I'd like to invite Amrita, Aris and Gunela to quickly, in about 30 seconds, introduce yourself.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Hi, all. Good to have you here. And please participate.

GUNELA ASTBRINK: I'm Gunela Astbrink, incoming Vice-Chair. And I value all the diversity that we have in this room. And we want to continue increasing that diversity. Thank you.

ARIS IGNACIO: Hi. This is Aris for the record, and I'm also an incoming APRALO Vice-Chair. And happy to be here and happy to see all of you. And I hope that we work together so that we will have a great time with regards to what we are going to do. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much, Amrita, Gunela, and Aris.

I will take a minute for closing, but before that, our NomCom Chair wanted to speak to us in a minute.

VANDA SCARTEZINI:

Hi, everyone. Nice to be here with you. I'm from the other RALO, but anyway, I'm now Chair of NomCom. I'd like to invite all of you to pay attention, talk with your friends, your colleagues, everyone in your region, your country, and your city to have an open space this time (2023) for the APRALO side of ALAC. So there is a place over there for someone to apply to be an ALAC member from that region. So please do that. Apply, talk with the others. And of course, there is open space for other positions, other leadership positions, Board members. And we have some opportunities this year ('22) to select two persons from your region for the Board. I'm very glad to have them here. And I believe that you still have an opportunity because there's a few people from that region. And the size of the region justifies more people for that.

So thank you very much. And the application will be open probably in November or December. It depends on the staff. But anyway, pay attention and start to talk. Thank you.

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much, Vanda, for that update.

We now come to the end of this meeting, and I'd like to take a minute to say that I've been the APRALO Chair for about six-and-a-half years. And this will be my last meeting as the Chair of APRALO. I am moving to the ALAC. And it's been a pleasure working through these years with APRALO as its Chair, through the pandemic years, sometimes getting depressed because of the fact that we were not able to mobilize the kind of support and participation that we would have liked to see.

But in the end, it is all worth it because here we are, in our region, having done one week of Internet programs in Singapore and then coming out of ICANN and, from ICANN, going and doing another week of programs back in India. It's been extremely rewarding, and I have managed personally to develop my network.

I'd like to thank all my colleagues, all the staff who are here, all my senior people, from Cheryl and Holly and Maureen onwards, and everybody has been working with me all these years. And I hope to continue this spirit of working together for the future as well. Thank you very much.

So this meeting is now adjourned. I'd like to thank the interpreters and staff.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]