
ICANN75 | AGM – APAC Space
Tuesday, September 20, 2022 – 16:30 to 18:00 KUL

MELODY AU: Welcome to the session, APAC Space. My name is Melody 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. Interpretation for this session will include Chinese. On-site participants may pick up a receiver and use their own headphones to listen to the interpretation. Virtual participants may access the interpretation via the Zoom toolbar.

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During this session, questions or comments may also be submitted in chat. These questions or comments will only be read aloud if put in the proper form as noted in the chat. I will read them aloud during the time set by the facilitator of this session. With that, I will hand the floor over to our facilitator for today, Yien Chyn, to start us off. Yien Chyn, please.

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YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you, Melody. Hi, everyone. My name is Yien Chyn. I'm the Stakeholder Engagement Manager from the ICANN APAC Regional Office. And I'll be your moderator for this session. Welcome, everybody, to today's APAC space session here at ICANN 75. It's great to meet and see everyone again since our last face-to-face meeting three years ago, actually. So it's pretty long. It was in 2019 at ICANN 66, Montreal. Also, welcome to our virtual participants. We're hoping to be able to meet you soon physically in the near future. Next slide, please.

For today's agenda, we have two main segments. We have the APAC Regional Plan updates, then followed by the community updates and engagement. After that, we'll also have the ICANN Board members coming from the APAC region who will be joining us today. And finally, we'll take a group photo. We'll head outside for the photo so we can have a nice, mask-off photo. Without further ado, I will hand the time to Jia-Rong for his welcome remarks and he will dive right straight into the APAC regional updates after. Jia-Rong, please.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you. My name is Jia-Rong. I'm the managing director for the ICANN Asia Pacific Office. Again, it's so good to be able to meet everybody in person again. I'm so grateful that we are back

together with an ICANN meeting here in the region. So if I haven't had a chance to say hi to you or shake your hand, I hope that we can still do it over the next few days. Now, let's go to the next slide.

So we have a number of fresh faces here in the room and possibly remotely as well. So I'm just going to introduce APAC space to everybody again. This is literally a space for our community members to be together. The idea for this space is so that we can be in a very comfortable place.

As you know, for us Asia Pacific folks, we tend to be a bit shy and we don't really speak up very much. But if you want to participate in the multistakeholder model, one of the key tips everyone tells you is that you have to speak up.

So APAC Space is like a practice ground, like here on the first slide. It's literally a place for us to be together with people we know and that we can practice speaking up with one another, sharing our views. And with practice, when we speak at the global space in ICANN, in the working groups, we've already practiced what we wanted to say. Then you can contribute even more to other working group discussions within ICANN. So a key goal within this space is for us to know each other and to be comfortable with one another.

Tied to that, typically, at ICANN meetings, I would organize two sessions. One is APAC Space and another is APAC Social. Unfortunately, this ICANN meeting, we are not allowed to organize any social events. That's why you are missing that. So hopefully, we'll make up for it with some photo taking later. And with that, we are closer with one another. We can use that time for networking as well. So [everyone], the social. Hopefully, when we get together again with less restrictions, we'll be able to organize another one. And I look forward to that.

If you are not subscribed to APAC Space mailing list, at the bottom of this slide, you will see that you can write to subscribe@apacspace.asia to join the mailing list. After that, we can have all the discussions on discuss@apacsace.asia. So please write to the mailing list, if you haven't, to subscribe.

And if you're already subscribed, actually the mailing list has been quite quiet for some time. So we'd like to invite people. If you have any fresh idea to want to do something or you'd like to discuss something, feel free to just raise it on the mailing list. No one is going to judge you. Like I said, we are amongst friends here. So let's do that. And we try to have bimonthly sessions for us to get together. But if that's a fresh idea and we want to convene a session at any time, feel free to raise it and my team will try to support it.

Before I go to the next slide, just a quick shout-out because we're back together, face-to-face. If you have not met my team ... You've already met Yien Chyn. Save, please raise your hand so people know you. Save looks after the Oceania region. So if you are from the Oceania region, reach out to him. I have Liana, my head of coms. So you can reach out to her if you are interested in any communications topics. And I have Valerie. Valerie is not here? Okay. She helped to organize one session. But if you're a registry or registrar and you need any help, you can find Valerie. But we can look out for her later.

All right. Let's move to the next slide, please. So every year, I will talk about the APAC Regional Plan. Basically, the APAC Regional Plan is our regional version of implementing the ICANN Five-Year Strategic Plan. So every year, we work towards reporting to you as part of my own accountability to you with regard to implementing the work in the region.

It will take a bit of time. I hope you can bear with me as I go through it. I'll try to make it short and hopefully a little bit entertaining. But feel free to ask any questions or if you have any comments. And in between my presentation, we are very lucky to have Pam to facilitate a discussion and any questions. Next slide, please.

So the ICANN Strategic Plan has five objectives. The fifth one is on financial management, which the office does not have the capability to support. So basically, we will be contributing to four strategic objectives in the ICANN Strategic Plan. They are listed there so I won't read them. Otherwise, we'll take even more time. So I'll go to each of them and touch on the focus areas—what we've achieved in the past year and what are some possible highlights in the next financial year.

So just bear in mind, our financial year starts 1st July and ends on 30th June. So I'm reporting the last financial year, which is 2021, 1st July to 30 of June of 2022. Next slide, please.

The first goal we're working towards is to strengthen the security of the DNS and the root server system. One focus area is to partner with the APAC community to participate and raise awareness in technical projects. So that's on the left column.

In the middle column is some achievements. So I'll flag them just very briefly. In supporting the Domain Abuse Activity Reporting on DAAR, we have done a number of outreach efforts to ccTLDs like .kr, .hk, .jp, and also with the Council of Country Code Administrators, a number of other ccTLDs. And we've talked about it at regional events.

We've been actively raising awareness of this project and trying to get the ccTLDs to join. But the response has been a bit lacking.

Perhaps we can get some feedback as to why the ccTLDs or other parties might not be interested to participate. So we have tried some efforts but we're not getting much outcome at this point. So we could get more feedback and help to find more partners to join us.

Another key project that we were working on is to support the Identifier Technologies Health Indicators, or ITHI. I'm very happy to report that the India Internet Foundation, or IIFON, led by Anupam ... I'm not sure whether he's in the room. Nope. They joined this project. Let's go to the next slide.

You will see we are supporting a lot of the CTO Office's projects. On the DNS Security Facilitation Technical Study Group, they've finished their report. And within the APAC region, we also reported on their final report.

Then, on the next row, we signed a couple of MoUs with the Computer network information center of Chinese Academy of Sciences as well as TsingHua University in China. And we are exploring technical projects, working with them going forward. Next slide, please.

Then we also hosted a number of technical events like partnering TWNIC on the Engagement Forum. And also, working with NASSCOM in India, we launched a DNS project competition, basically getting teams to do something cool with the DNS. So

this project has moved forward and we are in the final phases of looking at their final reports. The last one here is a partnership with the India Center for Development of Advanced Computing. We also conducted a DNS over HTTPS workshop. Next slide, please.

Other conferences. We found the opportunity to speak at the Beijing Cybersecurity Conference and spoke on root server operator activities. So this is to help to raise awareness about how the root server system works. Next slide.

So some more DNS security-related topics. Even albeit remote, we participated all over the region on various local regional events, network operators groups, and technical trainings. Next slide, please. Sorry. Just [on that] one slide. One highlight here I wanted to talk about is on the KINDNS program. You'll have seen there's a booth here on the other side, specifically a KINDNS booth. So if you haven't seen it, please go and check it out. This is something we will continue to help to raise awareness. Next slide, please.

We also worked on promoting DNSSEC. One highlight I have is on our DNSSEC adoption rate. The global rate is 60.52%. But amongst our APAC ccTLDs, we have 64.71, above global, which I feel is something worth highlighting. But there's a lot more work

to do. We still have 30-plus percent and we will try to continue to work with everybody to raise this figure. Next slide, please.

On installing ICANN-Managed Root Servers, also known as L-root, we've activated two instances in China. We're still working on three other instances and we'll continue to look for partners willing to host an ICANN Managed Root Server instance in your location. So do reach out to us if you're interested to host one.

And we also engaged with two instance hosts on server issues that we noticed. We realized that, in the past year, we do have to provide some support to some of the hosts, especially when they encounter incidents. So in our goal, currently, we only talk about installing more instances. But perhaps we can add to also support the instance hosts, especially with there are instances. So just putting one there and we could get some feedback, whether this is a worthwhile activity that we should be doing. Next slide, please.

So I've reached the end of the first goal. Really, a lot of activities there. So just really a quick overview so you get what we are doing. We'll just move to the second goal. And we're pausing between for some questions and discussion before I finish with the rest.

Second goal is to improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance. We set out to support the

APAC community, especially for ICANN readouts and APAC Space. And we're adding more activities, in fact. So it's not just readouts, APAC Space. We've launched China Space, which is a platform for industrial-related discussions. So far, we've already held five sessions. We also launched APAC DNS Forum. So all of these events are actually events by all the community to come together. So we're going to add more of these events as part of our engagement focus. Next slide, please.

We also support regional and local Internet governance fora. There's a whole list there. But basically, you would see us supporting your local IGF, regional IGF, schools of Internet governance. We've been supporting you. And if you feel that you launched something but you didn't get any support from us, feel free to come and speak to me and we will try to support you as much as we can.

Then again, a key highlight is the launching of the APAC DNS forum this year. We work towards expanding the DNS forum into a platform that can facilitate conversation within the community going forward. Next slide.

Another key highlight, in 2021, we held APIGA in a virtual format. In 2020, we had to cancel it because of COVID. But in 2021, we held it as a virtual format and it was equally as successful. We have a number of 2021 APIGA alumni sitting with us here as well so they

can tell you about their experience. And some of them have gone on to take on leadership positions. I'm not sure if Ameena is in the room but she went on to be ISOC vice-president for the Malaysia chapter. I'm so very proud for our APIGA alumni.

This year, in Seoul, 2022 we resumed the face-to-face program. We're now discussing with KISA and looking for other partners to expand APIGA even further. So that's going to be another focus area. Next slide, please.

Here, I want to highlight another achievement, which is highlighting on our community's participation, especially on leadership positions and in ICANN work like PDPs. Throughout COVID, even though we were so restricted, but I think our community continues to grow. And we've continued to strengthen our participation, amongst others, in the last financial year.

This year, Professor Wolfgang got the Tarek Kamel award. Last year, Satish Babu received the Tarek Kamel award. And we haven't gotten the chance to congratulate him together. I'm not sure whether Satish is in the room. No? Oh, dear. Okay. We'll try again later when he comes back.

Also, ICANN community leaders. We have 43 APAC community leaders, 18 of which are newly-appointed or reelected in FY22—in the last FY. So a big congratulations to our community for being

really willing to step up, and take on the leadership positions, and contribute more to global Internet governance. So thank you. Let's go to the next slide.

If I have to read 18 names—in fact, it's 40-something names—it's going to be too long. So just flashing all the names there of our leaders from the region. The ones in blue are the ones that were newly-appointed or reappointed. So it's a few slides. Yep. That's really a lot. And I'm very proud of our community. Let's keep going.

All right. Now, participation doesn't just mean being in the leadership position or being in the working groups. Participating in public comments is equally important as a form of participation. I'm very proud to report on your participation in public comments.

You can see 75% on the proposal of the Myanmar Script Root Zone Label Generation Rules. The recent published Root Zone Label Generation Rules, version five, 62% of all public comments came from our region and so on. We're really contributing to the IDN work. That's why I really made a shoutout, during the welcome ceremony, of our region's contribution to the work of IDNs. I think this is a big deal and really worth celebrating and congratulating all of you for really contributing to this work. Next slide, please.

So I'm done with the first two goals. Thanks, everyone for your attention and patience. We'll break a bit for Q&A or any discussions and I'll come back to the last two goals later. Over to you, Pam.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you very much, Jia-Rong. Hello, everyone. I'm Pam Little. I'm with Alibaba Registrar. I have been an APAC Space participant for many years. In fact, I think I probably have been involved in the inception of this space for us. And this has been replicated through the ICANN community, the APAC Space. I understand there's now a LAC space, Africa Space, and maybe some other space. And we just did a smaller subspace called China Space as well. So the model is obviously being very successful. And I can see such a strong, good turnout here. Thank you so much, again, for being here and those online.

With that, Jia-Rong just shared with us the two strategic goals. You can see a lot has been accomplished with the support of ICANN Org—excellent staff out here in the Asia Pacific region. Most importantly, the work done by the community. So I'll see whether we have any questions, comments, reactions to what Jia-Rong just reported to us or shared with us. I see Brajesh's hand is up. Brajesh, over to you.

BRAJESH JAIN: I am Brajesh from Internet Community of India. I just wanted to say that, in terms of the multistakeholder participants in the 2022 NomCom, the highest applications were from Asia Pacific Region. And I think there were some good leadership appointments, as well, that came because number of applications were more.

I would just like to say that, for example, NomCom, in 2023, we happen to have Pam is here. I can see Ali. And I don't know if others are there. But NomCom selects out of persons who apply. So you will have to, as Jia-Rong in the beginning said, please come forward. Step up. Put in your application. Only then, more participation will come. And we have Amrita, a past NomCom member. She can also help and guide. So please come forward and be willing to take up leadership positions. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: Thank you, Brajesh for the plug for NomCom. The gentleman, sorry. I don't have your name.

MUBASHIR SARGANA: Hello. This is Mubashir from Pakistan. I have a question to Jia-Rong. According to ICANN, like how you identify different countries that are part of different regions, Pakistan is part of MEAC but we are also part of APAC. So people like me coming to ICANN meetings get confused about this thing. How do you work and manage these things, like the people from Afghanistan,

Bangladesh, or from Pakistan coming to ICANN meetings and facing these confusions? And also, when they come to volunteer. Please, I would like to hear from you. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you, Mubashir. The APAC Region, by ICANN community definition, in fact, starts from Armenia all the way to the Pacific Islands. It's a very, very big region. My office, we do cover a subregion of the entire APAC Region because the APAC region is really very big.

In fact, the entire APAC Region, in terms of support and coverage by ICANN staff, consists of four different vice-presidents. I'm only one of them. So I cover Asia. The Oceania region is covered by Save. The Middle East region is covered by Baher. Some of you know him. And the Central Asia/Eastern Europe region is covered by Mikhail. So there's actually four vice-presidents covering the whole region.

We do acknowledge everyone from the APAC region to be together. So we do have community members from Armenia with us. Ali from Bahrain is also with us. So we are a big region. Now, we work very closely between the regional vice-presidents to support all of you. And for my office, we do only cover from India to the Pacific Islands. But that doesn't mean we have left you behind because you are supported by Baher and his team. But

there are some areas where, for example, you are involved in APRALO. We will be supporting you in the entire region as far as possible.

So don't be confused by your identity. In fact, I would say it's even better for you because you have more people supporting you. Let's say you are in the Southeast Asia region. Then you're just supported by my team. But if you are in Pakistan, you are supported both by Baher and his team, and where projects are concerned, we will support you as well. So we are all together.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Jia-Rong. We now will go to a participant online, remotely. Ananda, over to you.

ANANDA GAUTAM:

Thank you. Hello, everyone. I'm Ananda Gautam from Nepal. I represent Youth IGF Nepal and I am the coordinator of Youth IGF Nepal. My question is curiosity as well. I didn't actually see much of the works related to universal acceptance during this presentation. We are more interested in universal acceptance and internationalized domain names. What are the chances that youth [inaudible] like ours could contribute on [inaudible] for universal acceptance and IDNs. And also, we would love to know how ICANN could support the works that we have been doing. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: Sorry, Jia-Rong. I hope you got that. It's a bit faint. Over to you, Jia-Rong.

JIA-RONG LOW: I got it. Thank you for the question. The question is, so far, I have not presented on IDNs and UA. My answer for that is it's coming the next half. There's a lot on there. The second question was would ICANN support any activities related to IDNs and UA in Nepal or anywhere else? Short answer is yes. Just reach out to me and I'm happy to explore how to collaborate with you. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: Thank you, Jia-Rong. So without further delay, I think we'll get Jia-Rong to get on with the second part of his update, which will cover IDNs and universal acceptance. I do want to note we have two questions in the chat. We'll come to them after Jia-Rong's second part update. Thank you. Jia-Rong?

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. I'm also being reminded I'm overrunning. So I will make this shorter. This next part is on IDNs and UA. Within the region, now we have three UA local initiatives—in China, Thailand, and India. We're always hoping to do more and launch local initiatives in other countries. So if you're interested to do

that, reach out to me. I'll work with my team and we will look at how to support you. For the community member from Nepal, reach out to us. We're happy to work with you. I won't go into the details. It's there. So I'm just going to jump ahead. We will share the slides.

Also, in terms of promoting IDNs and UA, we've been in nine different events and also conducted a technical training. We partnered with APTLD, the ccTLD member association. Also, we launched a white paper on it. And a highlight for the next FY is we will focus on UA remediation. There are some examples of the work we have. But there is a public comment that's open now until 17 October. So if you're interested to look at it, just type in Google, "ICANN public comments." Then, when you go in, you will see the list of public comments. One of them will be on the UA roadmap. So just check it out.

Another point is we are working on the Global UA Day, which will be on 16 February every year going forward. And hoping to work with the community to have local events on that same day that we can promote universal acceptance everywhere in the world. So that will be another key highlight. Next slide, please.

I talked about this during the opening ceremony. The Root Zone Label Generation Rules Version Five is published. Of the 26 scripts that's done, 19 of them are from our APAC region. Our Root Zone

Label Generation Rules Version Five is a key component for the GNSO and ccNSO when they deliberate on IDNs.

So again, a big thank you to all of you. Many of chairs of the GPs, the generation panels, are sitting in this room, like Dr. Ajay Data here as well. Very, very proud and very grateful for our community for putting in this work. Next slide, please. Listing all the generation panel chairs and really appreciating their time and their work. Next slide, please.

So continuing, in terms of the APAC community's participation, we had the generation panel chairs. And also, in the GNSO IDNs EPDP, we have very strong participation from our community. Sorry I don't have time to go into them but it's on the first row of the slide. Then we are also actively participating in the ccPDP4. We've published annual IDN Progress Report. So really, a lot of action happening from our community's participation.

On the second row below, to partner the community, to raise awareness on new technologies. We've talked about new technologies, emerging technologies, at various events such as the APAC DNS Forum. Next slide, please. So that was the third goal on evolving unique identifiers.

Now, this is the last one. This one is one addressing geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission. Everyone knows that there is an increased trend for regulators to want to act—the need for

them to act to really safeguard their citizens. The instruction for ICANN Org is that we need to partner the community to detect and monitor legislative initiatives or regulations that could impact on ICANN.

And we've engaged with stakeholders on a few different directions or laws. One of them is China's personal information protection law. We've published a blog to highlight awareness for it. Another is on India's IT act. There was a new direction, essentially to work with CERT India. So this was also raised at ICANN 74 so that we can have it on everybody's radar.

And from my team, we contributed to ICANN Org's country-focused report. If you go to Google again, type "ICANN Country-Focused Report," the Government Engagement Team produces reports on various regulation in different countries. So we contributed to one on China. Next slide, please.

This is a list of various regulation or legislation with potential impact on ICANN. And there's eight here. It's a pretty long list. I think we might expect more to come. We do need to work with one another in case there's any impact on us together. Next slide.

This activity is to build further relationships within the industry, with regulators, policymakers. Basically, strengthen our network further and tell people about what ICANN does and how the Internet works. So we've been at 16 different events. I think we

need to continue to work with one another. Just our effort alone wouldn't work. We need everyone to help to raise awareness. I think this is the last one on the row below. We also had an article on India's Voice and Data Magazine, ICANN's role in safeguarding the global, united Internet. Next slide, please.

So those were some accomplishments and highlights. I do have two that are on hold and I do need to be accountable to you so I'm flagging them. One of them, I reported in the last year was I wanted to initiate a mentorship program. In fact, I spoke to a number of veterans from our community and asked them for advice.

But this year, I've been, unfortunately, really shorthanded. So you know our head of India, Samiran Gupta. He left. And I found a replacement who will join us soon but it has left me with a vacuum. Some of you also worked with Sabrina Lim who is also our engagement manager. But she had to leave ICANN for health reasons and I'm also left with a vacuum for now.

So I am a bit strapped manpower-wise and I am grateful for everybody's understanding. I'm not able to move these programs forward for now but I'll come back to it. We are exploring, perhaps, that a mentorship program could also be undertaken by another team. So I will report on this and make sure everybody know the progress for this project.

Another activity that we promised to have on our radar was to support the new gTLD round. But as all of you know, the discussions on SubPro are still continuing. So until we get directions from the top, from the region, we're not able to move forward on this front now. So it's on hold. But when the directions come, we will work actively with you to talk about the next round because, for us, it ties in very strongly with IDNs. So that's definitely going to be a focus area for us.

And I think, with that—next slide—I will close with that. Thank you so much.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Jia-Rong. Thank you very much. So Jia-Rong didn't get 100% bonuses because he didn't roll out two of the initiatives, mentorship program and SubPro. SubPro is out of his control. The mentorship program, we probably can do it all the time, like ongoing, rather than a program. We are all here and we can be a mentor and mentee in a different setting. So thank you.

Any questions in relation to those two initiatives or two goals? Okay. So I'll go to you, gentlemen. Can you come close to the microphone and identify yourself, please? And then we'll go to the two questions posted online. Thank you.

VIVEK GOYAL: Thank you, Pam. Quick question. Will the introduction of decentralized domains and blockchain domains be covered under the geopolitical issues or where do you think is the best space to discuss them?

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. I think the best place to discuss them would be at the APAC DNS Forum because it is not so much a geopolitical thing for now. It's more an emerging technology or emerging industry discussion. In fact, we had one session at this year's APAC DNS Forum that touched on this very briefly. But I think there's a lot more interest coming in now. So I look forward to working with you and any others interested. We can have a discussion on that in the next year. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: Thank you, Jia-Rong. Now we'll go to the questions that were posted before the second part of the update. Can I ask staff? Melody, please, can you read out those questions? We'll go to question one. Melody?

MELODY AU: Sure, Pam. The first question is from Sonny. He's from Malaysia ISOC. And his question is, "What are the main reasons that

stopped or delayed ccTLDs from signing the DNSSEC document?”

Thank you.

PAM LITTLE:

Jia-Rong?

JIA-RONG LOW:

The simple answer is not all the ccTLDs have the same level of capability. There are two issues here. One is from a business perspective. One is from a technical perspective. So from a technical perspective, not all ccTLDs have the same level of capability. And some of them do require training and support in terms of the roll-out. So even though they are willing to do it, the teams don't really have the support they need.

In fact, one of the things we want to focus on in the next year, working with Save and one of his targets, is we want to get more of the Pacific ccTLDs to be able to sign DNSSEC. A lot of it will involve training—not just training but really helping them on the deployment as well. So that's going to be one key focus area.

Another is on the business side of things. Not everyone is very convinced of the business case of DNSSEC. Some of them feel that it solves a very small problem and doesn't see a lot of return. So we are hoping to work with APRALO and the At-Large community

to strengthen the case where there is demand from the end users for DNSSEC because it enhances the entire ecosystem.

So these are two areas that are gaps, that we can perhaps work on. But I welcome any other feedback in terms of what are the gaps and what can we do to further strengthen the singing of DNSSEC. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Jia-Rong. Indeed, there's a cost associated with DNSSEC. And I think that might be one of the reasons. Melody, can you read out, please, the second question in the chat? Thanks.

MELODY AU:

Okay. The second question is from Ananda. "How could youth initiatives contribute on the agendas of universal acceptance and internationalized domain names in our local context?" He is the coordinator for Youth IGF from Nepal.

PAM LITTLE:

Jia-Rong, would you like to answer this one or the virtual Dr. Ajay Data?

AJAY DATA:

I think UA and IDN is the most relevant for our region because language is a very important aspect here. Primary language is our

own native language. Hence, the IDNs and AU becomes very important to one. Those who do not know universal acceptance, the basic fundamental of universal acceptance is that all domain names and all e-mail addresses must be accepted equally in all software applications, which means if I have a Hindi domain name, it should be accepted well in Chrome, in WhatsApp, in Twitter, and the whole ecosystem of the world, including ICANN, so as the e-mail addresses on those IDNs.

Hence, for APAC Region, there is no doubt that it becomes of prime importance for universal acceptance and IDN to be very actively seen and remains a prime agenda in our discussions so that it gets accepted well, it gets proliferated well, and everybody is aware of all the positive consequences of the initiatives. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Dr. Ajay Data. I'm sorry to put you on the spot. I would suggest maybe you get in touch with Dr. Ajay Data, the UASG group. Thank you. So I think we'll go to Alban and then we'll come back to the online question. Alban, over to you?

ALBAN KWAN:

Just wanted to quickly comment that Jia-Rong and your team has really done a great job. Just look at the list of things that you

guys have achieved. It basically means that you and your team as been extremely busy throughout the year.

One question I have is that when we look into the other ICANN meetings, DNS abuse has always been a hot topic. And when you look into the stacks of the DAAR contribution that you mentioned, which is certainly lagging at the moment, I'm pretty sure that there will be some reason why we are unable to contribute at the moment. It might sensitive to talk openly. But, Jia-Rong, I would like to see if it is possible to facilitate more local conversation regarding this topic, especially on DNS abuse.

I just came from RrSG. I would think that there's also a lack of contribution there. This topic is going to impact a lot of the local registrars as far as they need to be state compliant as well. So some more local discussion would be really beneficial. That's my questions and comments. Thanks.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you, Alban. Definitely. Let's work towards having more discussions on DNS abuse. In fact, during the APAC DNS Forum, I invite Graeme Bunton from the DNS Abuse Institute. He's launched NetBeacon since. He also launched a first report. So I think we can do a lot more, not just with him. But working together, we can foster more conversations. So looking forward to that and working with you as well.

PAM LITTLE: Thank you, Jia-Rong. I've been told that we're very pressed for time so I'm just going to read out one comment in the chat from Ananda. Ananda said, "There are many draft legislations that could affect ICANN's work here in Nepal but it seems to have been unseen." So maybe Jia-Rong and staff could take note of that.

JIA-RONG LOW: Yeah. We'll take note of that. If you see anything, please share it along. I do try to monitor but it's a large region and I have a small team.

PAM LITTLE: Understood, the challenge. Thank you, Jia-Rong. Staff, can we squeeze in one more question? I have Kenny here. Kenny, over to you.

KENNY HUANG: Thank you. Kenny Huang, chair of ccPDP4 and also CEO of TWNIC. Not a question. Just quickly, a response for the previous question raised about DNS abuse. Basically, we have some different initiatives working on DNS abuse.

And just to raise another initiative because .tw also have a memorandum of understanding with DotAsia. I think that's a very

good collaboration with, we think, two different TLDs because we have due process. Once we discover any, for example, anti-phishing notice come to us, we will do the due process and provide all the evidence to DotAsia. And from the other side, DotAsia doing the similar due process for us as well. So I do encourage this kind of partner collaboration among different registries and registrars as it will help to reduce or to mitigate DNS abuse situations. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you for sharing that with us, Kenny. And the model seems to be maybe spread the word within the CC community, those who didn't respond to Jia-Rong's inquiry. Thank you very much. So with that, thank you, Jia-Rong, once again, for sharing those goals with us. So I will hand it back to staff to move to the next agenda. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you, Pam. That's for facilitating that discussion. And thanks, everyone, for your questions, comments. Thank you, Jia-Rong, as well for the updates on the regional plan. And we'll move on to community updates and engagement now. First off, we have Ian Sheldon from the Australia Government Advisory Committee—in short, GAC. He will be speaking on exploring regional collaborations. Ian, over to you, please.

IAN SHELDON:

Thank you. My name is Ian Sheldon. I am the director of Internet governance from Australia. I work in the Department of Infrastructure. The Australian GAC has had a long history at ICANN but myself and my team are reasonably new. I joined at ICANN 70. This is my second in-person ICANN meeting. One of the things that I've been struggling with as a new GAC member is really understanding the views and perspectives of all the other parts of the ICANN Community. And I thought what better place to start than in our neighborhood, here?

I'm not sure if you caught the ALAC session I had with Cheryl and the GAC earlier. But I spoke of having a franker personal understanding with all parts of the community. And I feel it's really important for me, as a GAC member, to have that personal connection and relationship with my neighbors here and all of you in this room. Really, I guess my message here today is a simple one. It's really a standing off to have open conversation with all of you. I'd love to learn about the challenges, experiences, and opportunities that you all see here in the region.

I think there's a really good opportunity to start building on a lot of the great work that's already been undertaken, that Jia-Rong went through earlier today. And Australia and the Australian GAC would love to be part of those connections and relationships with

all of you. So if you do see me wandering the halls, please grab me. Happy to go for a coffee or a beer. I'd just love to learn from all of you here today. And I hope we can start building those personal relationships that are so critical to the ICANN community. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you, Ian. I think as we start to recover from the pandemic and having more face-to-face meetings, we certainly hope that more networking will happen and regional collaborations as well. And if any of the collaborations require staff support, please reach out to us. The ICANN APAC Office is happy to support you.

Next, we have Samantha Demetriou. She's the chair of the Registries Stakeholder Group and she will provide some updates on policy topics and community discussions. Samantha, please.

SAM DEMETRIOU:

Thank you so much. Hello, everyone. My name is Samantha Demetriou, as you can see up there. I am the chair of the Registries Stakeholder Group. I want to thank you for inviting me to join you today. I very specifically want to talk about one item that is open right now and is of very keen and relevant interest to all gTLD registry operators and registrars who are in the region but also all gTLD registry operators and registrars within the ICANN space.

And that is that there is currently an amendment to both the base Registry Agreement and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement. That is currently open for public comment and will be requiring a vote by registry operators and registrars, just coming up in the next few months.

This amendment to the two types of contracts is setting requirements and service-level agreements for the Registration Data Access Protocol. And this is the protocol that is going to replace the WHOIS protocol for providing access to registration data directory services. So all ICANN Contracted Parties—that’s gTLD registries and registrars—are required to provide access to registration data, like lookup, basically. It’s previously been operating on an older protocol that is now being upgraded to a newer protocol that offers better features, is more technologically advanced, and really just is the future of this process.

It’s really key to remember that this is not going to change the type of data that’s accessed, the availability of that data. All Registration Data Directory Services will continue to be provided by Contracted Parties. But if you are a Contracted Party, if you are a registry or a registrar, you’re just going to have new technical requirements.

I'll also note that registries and registrars, at this point, are already required to operate the RDAP protocol. But this amendment is going to put those operational requirements—it's going to formalize them and create service-level expectations around the operation of those.

The amendment is going to include plenty of time to ramp up that service and then will also involve sunseting or gradually scaling back and then eliminating the requirements to operate the old WHOIS protocol. I know that's a lot of really dense technical information so I'm not going to go into further detail about that except to refer you to that we have a lot of experts here at ICANN 75, within the Registries Stakeholder Group and the Registrars Stakeholder Group, who can answer any questions that you may have about the ins and outs.

What I really wanted to drill down and focus on today is that this amendment is going to impact all of the parties who have a contract with ICANN. So if that is you, if you are one of those parties, we want to make ourselves available—the registries, the registrars, as well as ICANN staff—to answer any questions that you might have about the amendment process itself. We can go through the details of the amendments, the new requirements, what that's going to mean operationally, and also go through the process and what comes next.

The quick overview, at this point, is that the vote will take place sometime early in the new year. It will likely be January or February of 2023. In the meantime, between now and that point of time, ICANN Org is going to be doing a lot of communications and outreach to registry operators and ICANN-accredited registrars. It will be running webinars. It will do informational sessions about this.

But again, my key takeaway here is to make sure that you're aware that this is coming because when the time comes in either January or February to take the vote, we have to make sure that as many registries and registrars as possible are participating in the vote in order for the amendment to be approved. So that's just my very quick overview of a pretty dense topic. I totally understand that. If anyone has any questions about it now, I'm happy to take them.

PAM LITTLE:

Hi. Thank you, Ian, from the GAC, coming here to introduce yourself. And thank you, Sam, for sharing that Registry Agreement change and Registrar Agreement change that's slated to be voted by all the registries and registrars. I can see Alban has his hand up. Alban, is that an old hand? Okay. So we'll go to Holly then. Holly, over to you.

HOLLY RAICHE: Thanks, Pam. I realize you don't want to go through the ins and the outs but could I ask a really, really, really high-level, which is the data—and we're talking about registration data—the data still must be collected. But what I'm assuming is that there are new requirements in terms of the release of that data, the circumstances in which the data is released. In other words, I'm assuming that what you're talking about is the impact of the GDPR.

SAM DEMETRIOU: Thanks, Holly. It's a really good question. And the timing of all of these different initiatives is potentially making this very confusing, including for myself. The decisions about what data is collected and then what data is able to be released is being decided in the policy space through the EPDP Phase 1, the new Registration Data Policy that is also, confusingly, out for public comment. And then, the ability to make requests to access that data is being discussed within the GNSO Council in the context of a new WHOIS disclosure system. Those are decisions that still remain to be made.

The subject of this amendment is really just about the technical protocol that allows registries and registrars to respond to queries that are made technically. So this is a technology that will

facilitate the outcome of those policy discussions, if that makes sense.

The fact that this is all out for public comment at the exact same time is admittedly very confusing. That’s why I really want to emphasize that there are plenty of folks here who are more than happy to talk through the details, the ins and outs of all of this because even I, who this is my day job—I live and breathe this every day—have trouble keeping it straight sometimes. Thank you for the excellent question.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Sam. And it is really my fault. Apparently, we have one more speaker with us. So I jumped the queue a little bit. So can I ask Ian and Sam, please, to stay with us for a bit longer? We’ll now go to the speaker from the youth group. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you, Pam. So text, we have Puteri Ameena who’s remoting from Youth4IG. Ameena will speak about exploring support for you the participation. Ameena, you have the floor.

PUTERI AMEENA HISHAMUDDIN: Thank you, Yien Chyn. I would like to start by thanking Yien Chyn and team for giving us this space for our outreach. Next slide, please. So we are the youth of APAC. I’ll go to the

introduction slide. Can we go next? The three main points that I'll be talking is introducing, or rather reintroducing, Youth4IG. Second is our workplan. We have two technical subgroups that we are proposing and would like to allow and welcome comments from the community. And third is the Youth4IG call for interest. Next slide, please. Another one. Thank you.

So Youth4IG was founded in 2019. It is a youth community of IG-engaged folks in APAC, meaning that the members of the Youth4IG have participated in one of the many fellowships or Internet governance for youth IGF that is in the APAC region. So basically, they had the experience in Internet governance and they want to continue contributing as a community.

Our aim is to unite the Internet governance youth in APAC and supporting the youth initiatives within this space. This will be the first time that a member is proposing a subgroup. As Mili mentioned, our new mantra is, "Pitch your idea and gather your support." Her analogy of Youth4IG is that we are like a house and you can open your own rooms so you can conduct your experiments or discussions there.

We highlight youth as individuals. So if any of the youth in the hall or online that are interested in creating or collecting the youth voices on issues that are important to you, feel free to register and then pitch your ID in the group. Next slide, please.

So here are the two proposed subgroups. Next slide. The first is on technical policies. We would like to have the youth to collaboratively look into the technical policies that are being discussed or the hot topics that we can see in ICANN, APNIC, and IETF. These are the organizations that we have met and showed their support for this. This is because, as we all know, that technical policies are quite heavy for us to go into detail all by ourselves. So we're hoping to come together, as we are also multidisciplinary. We have people from law, technical. So we can come together and maybe put out or comment and contribute to the public comments, for example, at ICANN.

Second is the research on the efficiency of PDPs. This would be a very big-scale research that will require all community members, the youth and basically everyone in the community, to help us identify the gaps and probably propose solutions. We could do it in form of hackathons or small prototypes that maybe, if you had the idea of wanting this tool or this system to be around, we can try and get it done in the community, and maybe test it, and have it part of PDPs in the future.

So these are just proposed subgroups. We really would appreciate the community to give your feedbacks and comments on how we can maybe improve. Or if any of the youth would like to propose another technical subgroup, just reach out to us. Next slide, please.

Last part is the call for interest. Next slide, please. Thank you. Oh, the fonts got a little smaller there. The first one is the community groups. We would appreciate support from community groups to support as mentors through this journey and connect us with the subject matter experts that you have with you. And we would also appreciate resources that we could learn from. Or if you have a community that we can meet and network together, that would be great.

The middle one, the blue one, is actually mentors—individuals who would like to come and mentor the youth subgroups that I mentioned previously.

And the third is the youth themselves. So come join us. We can learn together, work on it together, understand together, meet people together, so it won't be too heavy to do it alone. To highlight, the youth age at the moment is 18 to 30 years old. After that, we hope that Youth4IG can strengthen and give you the confidence to start thinking and putting forward your opinions, so that after that, you can start contributing to the Internet governance community as an individual or your own organization. Next slide, please.

This is my last slide. Especially, the youth, you can join us. Go to that website, youth4ig.asia. There's a form there. Fill it in and we will coordinate you into our WhatsApp group for further

discussions. For those in person, you can reach out to us. There is Pavel. Say hi. There is Asyraf. Hi. And if Manju is around, you can also reach out to her and myself for these subgroups. We are really excited to start this journey and looking for if there are any questions or comments. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you. Thank you, Ameena. We're definitely looking forward for more active youth participation. And I'll pass it back to you, Pam, for the community discussion. Pam, please.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Yien Chyn. Thanks, Ameena. So we'll resume the discussion. I think we have just a few minutes so please keep your questions and comments a bit brief if you can. Any on the floor, from the floor? Melody, can you check if there is any online? Okay. So there is one over there at the back. Gentleman, could you? Okay. Great. Give the mic to the gentleman there.

BIBEK SILWAL:

Hello, everyone. My name is Bibek Silwal and I'm the NextGen from Nepal. My question is a question regarding universal acceptance and IDNs. Most of the ccTLDs in developing countries or smaller countries are hosted by in-country registry. But if you look at the gTLDs, it is mostly hosted by a registry outside of the

country. Do you see this model as a challenge in proliferating universal acceptance? If so, how can it be addressed? Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: I'm not sure who would like to take that question. Ajay, can you help us out?

AJAY DATA: I actually missed the question. Can you please repeat?

PAM LITTLE: I think it's a universal acceptance.

AJAY DATA: That's fine. So what is the question?

BIBEK SILWAL: Mostly, ccTLDs are hosted in-country but gTLDs are hosted outside the country by the registry. So do you see this model as a challenge in proliferating universal acceptance? If so, how can it be addressed?

AJAY DATA: I don't know the case where it's a UA issue because universal acceptance is about accepting all domain names, all e-mail

addresses, to be accepted equally in all software applications. So it really doesn't matter where it gets registered, whether it is a geographically [inaudible] registrar, it doesn't matter. If it is registered with a registry through a registrar, it becomes a valid domain name and [inaudible] hence. And that should be accepted everywhere.

Now, you might also have a question, if I may guess, about registry being UA-ready itself or not, registrars being UA-ready or not. That's a different discussion altogether. But I am sure that where do you host your gTLD as a registry, that UA concern is not there. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: Thank you, Dr. Ajay Data, for helping out. Oh, Sarmad. Okay. Sarmad, would you like to add anything to it?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Yes.

PAM LITTLE: Okay. And Edmon? Who would like to elaborate or add?

EDMON CHUNG: Sure. I think that's a very good question. In fact, a very similar question was raised at the GAC earlier. I do think it does impact. I

think if more registries and registrars are actually set up in regions where IDN is especially useful, I think that will help the universal acceptance cause.

That is why, actually, I think the ICANN community is working very hard to the next round of new gTLDs. We really hope that new IDN gTLDs can be established, more of them can be established in the countries where IDNs will make a difference. So yes. I think that is a very good observation. This is tied in with the IDN and universal acceptance work and also the new gTLD processes as well.

PAM LITTLE:

Thank you, Edmon. Yes. In fact, a lot of work has been done under the leadership of Dr. Ajay Data and a lot more can be done and to be done. I just realized we have a lot of subject experts in this room on universal acceptance so keep up the good work. With that, I'm sorry. We're going to have to wrap up the discussion because we are pressed for time. We'll move on to the next agenda item. Yien Chyn, can I hand it back to you? Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you, Pam. And thank you, everyone, for the discussion. Now we are very glad to have our Board members coming from the APAC Region with us in the room here today. Next slide, please. So I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to our incoming Board members, Sajid Rahman and Christopher Chapman. Also, I

would like to welcome Edmon Chung. Edmon actually joined the Board in October 2021 but we didn't have an earlier chance to officially welcome him as well. So I'd like to welcome all—Sajid, Chris, and Edmon. Thank you.

I will hand the floor over to each of them for the next few minutes to share a few words with us. Maybe, could we start with Sajid first? Sajid, please.

SAJID RAHMAN:

Thank you. It's a pleasure. Maybe a bit of my background. I'm from finance world, venture capital, not a very typical someone who has worked through different parts of ICANN. But really believe in the impact of Internet. And what really attracted me to join ICANN is the mission and the vision of ICANN to make Internet accessible. I think APAC is probably the region where the next billion users are going to come through. And all of you are playing a significant role in making that happen. So very, very happy to be part of the whole community. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you very much, Sajid. Welcome again. Next, let's go to Chris. Chris, please.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: Thank you for that. I only ever got introduced as Christopher when I was in deep trouble from my mother.

YIEN CHYN TAN: I'm sorry.

CHRIS CHAPMAN: But yes. I take my appointment on Thursday. I'm also delighted to be here. Drinking out of a firehose has taken on a whole new dimension. I'm delighted to see Pamela here. Pamela was one of those on NomCom. We used to live next door to each other about 25 years ago.

So it's a small world, the way it always comes around. I'm not steeped in the technicalities of the Internet world. Having said that, I've been a managing director—or I'm a lapsed lawyer, to start with. I ended up being the managing director of the Seven Network in Australia for a short time, was the CEO of the Olympic Stadium in the years leading up to the Olympics, which was a whole different experience but one immersed in sport and stakeholder management.

I ran the Optus broadband business. Was the CFO of a funds management firm and then become the inaugural chairman of the Australian Converged Media Regulator, which regulated broadcasting, telecommunications, the spectrum, and “the

Internet.” And since then, I’ve been the president of the International Institute of Communications, which is a hosting platform/think tank for media and communication matters, which is based out of London. So I’m the first Australian to be the international president of the IOC and I’m very proud of that.

I am a grandfather. I’ve got three young grandchildren. And I am growing more anxious as I get older. I’m very interested and yet concerned about the world we’re living in. I see the Internet as— certainly whilst it’s given rise to some issues, it’s the great enabler and informer. I’m particularly positive about the outcomes that a really, truly functioning, sustainable, worldwide web/Internet will provide.

And I am obsessed with the multistakeholder model because I’m disappointed with the failure of traditional post-World War Two institutions and what they’re delivering. So I’m a great believer in what the multistakeholder model can deliver, should be delivering.

I’m captured by nobody and I think that’s very healthy. I’ll bring fresh eyes, fresh perspectives, business disciplines. I’d like to bring greater responsiveness within the model. I’m really looking forward to and I’m proud to be representing the APAC arena, with whom I have a number of close associations through both my regulatory life and my IOC life.

So thank you for the invitation today. Thank you for the opportunity to say what I just said, even though it's gone a bit longer than the two minutes. Delighted to be on board with Sajid and Edmon, who's already taken me under his wing already. And delighted to meet Akinori, who is the energizer of the Board, I think. So on that note, I'll leave it. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you. Thank you for joining us again and welcome. Edmon, the floor is yours, please.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you. Seeing that there is Chinese interpretation, which is working, I think—please pick up one of these—I will speak briefly in Chinese, just very briefly. Even though my Chinese is not very well, I would still like to say a few words in Chinese. At ICANN, you are able to use your language—for example, Chinese or other languages—to join in on the discussion. I know that in the APAC Region, there were quite a few people who told me that if they can participate in Chinese or use their own languages to participate, then it will be a lot easier for them to participate in the debate with the foreigners.

Thank you. I just wanted to highlight that there are different forums at ICANN where you can actually use different languages to engage in discussions, especially at the public forum that is

happening on Thursday. So please feel free to speak in those languages. You can see those booths and those are the languages that you can actually use when you include your interventions.

I'd like to add, in terms of APAC Space, thank you for inviting me. This is a very important space, I believe. In fact, this is something that I myself and a number of Asia Pacific participants at ICANN started many years ago. I don't remember which year but it was the second Singapore meeting.

When we started it, it was somewhat informal. I think when we started the session, we probably gave a quick background of APAC space. So it did come from a bottom-up development. That was the time when there were no LAC space or other spaces were not actually created yet. But I'm really excited to see this space continue to play its part in really getting not only newcomers but also old-timers to get together, to really test out some ideas.

Some of the presentations here earlier today, it's not intended to replace the policy development processes or other processes at ICANN. But actually, this is a space for people from the Asia Pacific region to test out some ideas. So feel free to ask questions and include interventions. I'm actually quite excited to see, this time around especially, many new faces and young faces joining the APAC space.

Also very honored to be serving on the board. So please come to me. The Board needs the input, and comments, and thoughts from the community. Please come to me and ask questions. In fact, if I didn't use too much time, if we still have a little bit of time, I'm happy to have a few more questions as well. But yeah. I think a main thing is please do come to us. All of the Board members, I believe, have their ears open to listen, especially the voices from Asia Pacific, and to bring those thoughts and ideas into the Board discussions. So with that, thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you very much, Edmon. Everyone, on the slide, you can see that we also have Akinori Maemura. Sadly, he'll be stepping down from the Board after this meeting. We've been very lucky to have Akinori on the Board for the past few years. And we'd love to hear from him here at the APAC space as the ICANN Board for the last time. Maemura-san, please.

AKINORI MAEMURA:

Thank you very much, Yien Chyn. Thank you very much, everyone. I remember my first APAC Space, just around my assumption to the ICANN Board, was the 2016 Hyderabad, another Asia Pacific Region ICANN Meeting. That six years flew, just quickly. It's really an honor to work in the ICANN Board, to have a lot of difficult problems to solve. We tried very hard to solve a lot of things.

In the six years, including my apprentice period, from my selection to the assumption, we had the IANA Transition completed, which was a really fantastic happening for the entire Internet space. Then another big thing, which we are still working on, is the Root Server Systems Governance Working Group, which is another historical restoration or evolution of our Internet operation, Internet coordination structure. That kind of thing is among the many things we need to work on.

Really impressive for me to have me feel—help Internet working. I think the sentiment and the feeling should be shared, more and more people and more and Asia Pacific People. Please join this endeavor. Please put your say to the process. Then, as I said in the APRALO meeting, Asia Pacific Region is the most number of Internet users there. Our say should be more influence to the global Internet operations.

I spent six years at the ICANN Board. Then that means you can do that. Please never hesitate to put up your name to any leadership position and help the Internet. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your support through my six-years term in the ICANN Board. Thank you.

YIEN CHYN TAN:

Thank you very much, Akinori. We will definitely miss you as ICANN Board member. But we also know that you will definitely

still be in our community so we'll see you around. And with that, we are at the end of our session.

But please don't leave as we have an important segment here, a group photo. So we will follow my colleague's lead, Liana. So please bring all your belongings because we are going outside so that we can have a masks-off photo. Before we move, I'd like to say thank you very much to all our speakers today, to Pam as our community discussion facilitator, and again, everyone for joining us today. Thank you.

MELODY AU:

Thank you. You may stop the recording now.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Okay. We are going down to the ground floor. So follow Liana. If you get lost, you can follow me. I will be at the tail end. But if you want to be quick and book a good slot, follow Liana.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]