



Special Seoul Edition

WHAT WAS IT?

ICANN's 36th international public meeting was the last of three held annually to conduct policy development and outreach. It was hosted by ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and KISA (Korea Internet & Security Agency), a public agency that plays a major role in developing and researching the Internet in Korea.

The meeting was opened by three local dignitaries: Mr. See Joong Choi, chairman of the Korea Communications Commission; Mr. Heung Kil Ko, Senator and Chairman of the Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Broadcasting and Communications Committee of the National Assembly; and Ms. Hee Jung Kim, president of KISA.

Mr. See Joong Choi spoke about how the Internet was 40 years old, and the impact it has had in that time. He talked about how important IP addresses were as assets for the future and that they become a common resource for all.

And he welcomed the introduction of IDNs as paving a "new way toward the future".

Mr. Heung Kil Ko spoke about how Korea was a leader in the knowledge and information society, with 77.6 percent of its citizens online. He spoke of the importance of an efficiently and stably managed IP address system, as well as dealing with security threats such as hacking and phishing. The conference would hopefully lead to close ties between ICANN and Korea, he added.

Ms. Hee Jung Kim also heralded the introduction of IDNs, and welcomed a recent change in the agreement that ICANN has with the United States government as strengthening the autonomy of the IP addressing system.

There were 1,207 attendees to the conference from 111 different countries. The participants engaged in a wide range of discussions about the Internet's domain name system and related issues.

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Many meetings, workshops, public forums and informal discussions were held over seven days by the different stakeholders of the ICANN model:

- Business interests
- Civil society – including the At-Large Summit of individual Internet user representatives
- Governments and government agencies
- Internet service providers
- Registrants
- Registrars
- Registries
- The technical community

Several key issues and themes evolved over the course of the meeting. They are summarized in this magazine.

Inside This Issue:

Overall Summary	1
IDNs	2
New gTLDs	2
Strategic Planning	3
Affirmation of Commitments	3
GNSO Improvements	3
Independent Reviews	4
Board Members and Councillors	4
Board Resolutions	4
Fellowship	4
Calendar	5

Further information about the meeting, including presentations and transcripts, is available at <http://sel.icann.org>.

ICANN's next international public meeting will take place in Nairobi, Kenya beginning on 7 March 2010.



Links

Policy update:

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/policy/>

Compliance newsletter:

<http://www.icann.org/en/compliance/newsletter/>

Monthly magazine:

<http://www.icann.org/en/magazine/>

Blog:

<http://blog.icann.org/>

Announcements:

<http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/>

Internationalized Domain Names (IDN's)

WHAT HAPPENED

The most significant progress at the Seoul meeting was the approval of the “fast track”, which will see a limited number of internationalized domain names introduced to the Internet’s root possibly before the end of the year. To celebrate the occasion, a special evening reception was held on the Monday.

The fast track was formally approved by the Board on Friday, and although there remain concerns about their introduction, the Chairman noted it as an historic achievement and the vote was met with a standing ovation by the audience. Dozens of press articles from across the world also recognized the event.

For the first time, Internet users that

speak something other than Western languages will be able to represent an entire Internet address in their own language.

NEXT STEPS

Applications to the fast track will open on 16 November.

MORE INFORMATION

Official announcement of the approval: <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-30oct09-en.htm>

Fast track webpage: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/fast-track/>

Check out the IDN video on our home page: <http://icann.org/>

New gTLDs

WHAT HAPPENED

The third version of the Applicant Guidebook, as well as a range of other papers and explanatory memoranda, were produced for discussion at the meeting. A main session on the program was held on the Monday.

In particular, additional work was done on the “overarching issues” that need to be addressed before the introduction of new top-level domains (see below for more specific information).

ICANN staff revised the deadline to the opening application date for new gTLDs. Instead of giving a date, or quarter, the launch date will be dependent on community efforts to find solutions to the overarching issues. This approach prompted some in the community to argue that ICANN needed to demonstrate its determination to the process.

The result at the end of the week was a compromise solution, approved in a Board resolution, that asked staff to look into how to introduce a system for allowing “expressions of interest” to be shown in new gTLDs. That process may allow for likely demand to be gauged and provide useful data to move some discussions from theoretical to pragmatic.

The Applicant Guidebook is out to public comment until 22 November.

- Trademark Protection

The issue of how to protect trademarks in the event of a massive expansion in

the domain name space continued to be an issue of much debate. A special session was held on the Wednesday to discuss the issue.

Following public comment on a report produced for the previous meeting in Sydney (the IRT report), possible solutions to the issue were reduced from four to two in a staff paper released prior to the meeting. Those solutions are: the creation of an IP Clearinghouse, or database of validated trademarks; and a Uniform Rapid Suspension process for use in clear-cut cases of trademark infringement.

That paper has been put to the GNSO for review.

- Malicious Conduct

Two sessions on Monday afternoon addressed the concern that a large expansion of the domain name space will present new opportunities for abuse of the DNS, such as phishing, malware, the distribution of illegal content, and so on.

The broad concern is that with a large number of new companies entering the domain name market – both registries and registrars – that there will not be sufficient awareness of the problems of dealing with the criminal element online.

Summaries of the input received so far on this issue as well as a report by ICANN staff with proposed mitigation measures were posted for review prior to the meeting and a panel discussion dug further into both.

- Security and Stability

A session on Wednesday focused on a report that reviewed how the Internet’s current systems could scale to accommodate new Internet extensions, as well as other security related issues such as the introduction of a more secure form of the current system, called DNSSEC.

Broadly, there are some concerns that if a large number of extensions were introduced to the Internet at the same time, that the systems currently in place would not be able to cope.

There was some discussion about whether the report effectively recommended that new gTLDs would need to be delayed or spread out over time, although there was no agreement on that point and it remains for ICANN’s Advisory Committees in this area (RSSAC and SSAC) to review the report, public comments on the issue, and report back to the community.

The root scaling report is out for public comment until 29 November.

- Demand and Economic Analysis

Further economic analysis will be commissioned by ICANN in order to address outstanding concerns raised following review of the two previous economic studies.

NEXT STEPS

Feedback from the meeting, as well as comments sent to comment periods covering the third version of the

Applicant Guidebook and papers related to the overarching issues, will be used to produce a fourth version of the guidebook for the Nairobi meeting in March.

Staff will review the possibility of introducing a system where potential gTLD applicants are able to provide “expressions of interest” in new Internet extensions in order to help the work move forward more effectively.

MORE INFORMATION

The new gTLD program webpage contains the latest information as well as extensive background information on the whole process: <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtld-program.htm>

Root scaling study session: <http://sel.icann.org/node/7084>

Trademark Protection session: <http://sel.icann.org/node/7116>

Malicious Conduct and new gTLDs session: <http://sel.icann.org/node/7117>

Malicious Conduct and Consumer Protection: <http://sel.icann.org/node/7288>

Registry/registrar separation session: <http://sel.icann.org/node/7083>

New gTLD update session: <http://sel.icann.org/node/6739>

Strategic Planning

WHAT HAPPENED

ICANN held its first strategic planning session for 2010 on Wednesday morning.

The strategic plan is the process by which the organization's priorities are mapped out, feedback is received from the community, and all the input is pulled into an Operating Plan, from which the organization's budget is decided and allocated.

The session was more interactive than previous years with an online survey asking people to rank the importance of various areas of work e.g. implement new gTLDs, strengthen accountability, etc.

The plan recognized four main areas of focus for ICANN:

- Preserve DNS stability and security
- Promote competition, trust and consumer choice
- Excel in IANA and other core operations
- Maintain ICANN's long term role in the Internet eco-system.

Within these, no less than 18 projects were highlighted as being of strategic priorities over the next three years.

NEXT STEPS

A draft plan will be drawn up based on community feedback and provided to the Board for review. The plan will then be put out to public comment in early December, with the second set of feedback used to draw up a revised plan to be put before the Board for approval in February 2010.

MORE INFORMATION

Strategic plan session:
<http://sel.icann.org/node/7103>

Online survey:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Auve9xOKvI0YbWhg1NLKmA_3d_3d



HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Visit the Public Participation Site and let us know what you think about the current issues.

If you care about the Internet and how it evolves, your voice will only be heard if you get involved.

Affirmation of Commitments

WHAT HAPPENED

The Joint Project Agreement (JPA) that ICANN had with the US government concluded in September and was replaced by an Affirmation of Commitments.

Under that Affirmation, ICANN becomes accountable to the global Internet community and a series of

reviews are outlined that help ensure a high degree of public, global accountability.

A special session was held on the Wednesday afternoon where the Chairman and CEO took questions about the Affirmation and also outlined a path forward for carrying out the reviews.

The Affirmation was also given an hour-

long slot at the public forum on Thursday.

NEXT STEPS

The Affirmation outlines a number of reviews. An initial draft of how these might work will be produced following community feedback and presented at the next ICANN meeting in Nairobi.

MORE INFORMATION

The Affirmation of Commitments:
<http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-30sep09-en.htm#affirmation>

Affirmation session:
<http://sel.icann.org/node/7481>

GNSO Improvements

WHAT HAPPENED

After years of hard work, the new GNSO Council sat for the first time in Seoul. There are now two main stakeholder groups: Contracted (made

up of registries and registrars), and Non-Contracted (made up of commercial and non-commercial interests).

A new chair was chosen by both houses – Chuck Gomes – and he will work

alongside two new vice-chairs: Olga Cavalli (Non-Contracted) and Stephane van Gelder (Contracted).

MORE INFORMATION

The GNSO Improvements webpage:

<http://gns0.icann.org/en/improvements/>

The GNSO Council session:
<http://sel.icann.org/node/6708>

Independent Reviews

WHAT HAPPENED

A number of sessions that covered the review of specific parts of ICANN were held during the week.

Currently, two bodies are in the implementation phase: GNSO and ALAC. The GNSO process was largely finished with the sitting of the new Council; whereas the ALAC met the Board's Structural Improvements

Committee to discuss the implementation of its changes.

Meanwhile, going through the Working Group stage (i.e. just before implementation) there is: the Nominating Committee; Board; and SSAC.

Other reviews ongoing included: RSSAC (just at the start of the working group period); ccNSO (just about to head into the review process); and ASO (terms of

reference for its review being drawn up).

NEXT STEPS

The reviews will progress through the clearly defined processes in each case. More sessions will be held in Nairobi to discuss and review that progress.

MORE INFORMATION:

ALAC and Board SIC session:

<http://sel.icann.org/node/7183>

Nominating Committee review session:

<http://sel.icann.org/node/7094>

Board review session:

<http://sel.icann.org/node/7252>

SSAC review session:

<http://sel.icann.org/node/7098>

Board Members & Councillors

Since this was ICANN's annual general meeting, there was turnaround in Board and Council members.

In particular, Roberto Gaetano, Steve Goldstein, Wendy Seltzer and Thomas Roessler left the Board.

From ALAC: Jose Ovidio Salgueiro, Fatimata Seye Sylla, Vanda Scartezini, Nguyen Thu Hue, and Sivasubramanian Muthusamy all ended their terms.

From the GNSO: Tony Harris, Philip Sheppard, Greg Ruth, Tony Holmes, Ute

Decker, Cyril Chua, Carlos Affonso Pereira de Souza, Maggie Mansourkia, Jon Nevett, and Steve Metalitz all left the Council.

Special mention was given to leaving

GNSO chair Avri Doria and leaving NomCom chair Tricia Drakes.

Peter Dengate Thrush was re-elected as chair of the Board, and Dennis Jennings as vice-chair.

Board Resolutions

The full set of Board Resolutions at the public meeting on Friday can be found online at:
<http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/resolutions-30oct09-en.htm>.

A transcript of the meeting can be found at:
<http://sel.icann.org/meetings/seoul2009/transcript-board-meeting-30oct09-en.txt>

And video recordings of proceedings can be found in two parts at:
<http://icann.na3.acrobat.com/p77419459/> and
<http://icann.na3.acrobat.com/p19863704/>

We Want to Hear From You

If you have a comment about an article you've read, want to know more about a particular topic, are confused about an acronym, or if you would like to submit an Op-Ed article? We invite you to submit your thoughts, ideas, and feedback to us at: Michele.jourdan@icann.org

Fellowship Update

My name is Fahd A. Batayneh and I'm Jordanian – home to the Rose City of Petra, one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. I'm a systems engineer at Jordan's National Information Technology Center (NITC) – part of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MoICT).

My focus is IT consultancy and policy development and I am a key member of the team running the DNS mission of dot-jo. I am also an active member of

Jordan's IPv6 committee and ENUM committee. I also provide training to university interns. It is thanks to this network that I was asked by my government to represent Jordan within ICANN.

I have been involved with ICANN since the Paris meeting in June 2008 and now sit on no less than four working groups. I am also involved in the Asia Pacific Top-Level Domains (APTLTD) organization, the Arabic Domain Names

and Internet Governance Team (ADNIGT), and the Usage of Arabic Scripts in Domain Names Working Group (ASIWG).

So how did my involvement in the fellowship program start?

On a rainy winter day in February of 2008, I sat down at work and started going through that morning's emails when I was delighted to see one from ICANN congratulating me on being selected to attend the Paris meeting as

a fellow. I was speechless! To be honest, at first I thought it was a scam, but after a few phone calls I found out it was for real and I was extremely happy that it was! It was the beginning of my – hopefully – long lasting adventures with ICANN.

At the Paris meeting, I was totally lost since I barely knew anybody and

Continued on page 5...

Fellowship Cont...

hearing terms such as ccNSO, gNSO, GAC, ALAC, SSAC, RSSAC, and ASO - the ICANN language - was confusing and misleading at first. But with the help of ICANN's regional manager to the Middle East, Baher Esmat, I got to know some people and soon grew accustomed to the terminology.

A few months later, ICANN asked for volunteers to work on two working groups: the Strategic and Operational

Planning Interaction Committee, and the Community Wide Working Group on Geographical Regions. I applied to both, and with an excellent recommendation from my DNS advisor, I was accepted. Then, in September 2009, the ccNSO announced their need for extra volunteers to two ongoing working groups: the Incident Response Working Group, and the Joint ccNSO/gNSO IDN Working Group. I was accepted on board with the first working group a few days later, but it was not until the

Seoul meeting that I was informed of my involvement with the later one.

Working with these groups, or with any work group established for the cause of ICANN and the evolution of the Internet, is done on a volunteer basis and can be time consuming, especially during the first steps of producing a preliminary draft charter. But it is also very exciting as you have the opportunity to work with and learn from interesting people who operate

different organizations in various ways.

Back home, I am very keen to introduce my community to ICANN, and I encourage my colleagues to apply to the fellowship program so that, if successful, they could attend an ICANN meeting and get to know the community and how they operate. They can then reflect on what they learned and share their learnings with the local community.

December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <i>Australian IPv6 Summit 2009</i>	8 <i>Melbourne, Australia</i>	9 http://www.ipv6.org.au/summit/	10	11	12
	←		→			
			<i>ICANN Board Meeting</i>			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					<i>ICANN</i> →	
27	28	29	30	31		
<i>Closed For The Holidays</i> →						

Upcoming Meetings

- December 7-9: Australian IPv6 Summit 2009—Melbourne, Australia—event link <http://www.ipv6.org.au/summit/>
- December 9: ICANN Board Meeting
- December 25—31: Closed for the Holidays