



ICANN
30th International Public
ICANN MEETING
Los Angeles 2007 29 Oct - 2 Nov

Conference newsletter

Wednesday 31 October

SUMMARY Wednesday is supporting organisation and workshop day. The GAC spends all day drawing up the rough draft of its communiqué; the GNSO Council makes its decisions; the other supporting organisations get down to discussing what they had drawn up the day before; and the broader views of ICANN's work are discussed in public meetings. A run of three big meetings take place in the afternoon in the main room: a discussion of the IGF, review of new accountability framework, and translation.



TODAY'S MAIN MEETINGS

GNSO Council

Time: 8:30 – 12:00

Room: International Ballroom

Big decisions for the GNSO Council covering new gTLDs, domain tasting, IDNs, and more...

IGF Workshop

Time: 13:00

Room: International Ballroom

Discussion of next month's Internet Governance Forum in Rio

Translation workshop

Time: 14:00

Room: International Ballroom

A review of ICANN's multi-lingual efforts, and a look forward to future improvements and changes

Strategic Plan, and Accountability and Transparency Frameworks

Time: 15:30

Room: International Ballroom

Open review and discussion of the two most important documents on ICANN and how it operates as an organisation.

WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY

At Large meetings

Growing pains appeared at the ALAC meeting when representatives of the regional at large organisations (RALOs) accused the Committee of being poor value of money and operating badly. They then proceeded to list a number of ways in which they intended to keep the Committee members to account.

This soon gave way to some constructive dialogue however. Statements were produced on gTLDs and IDN questions, and a resolution passed in favour of an IDN fast-track. ALAC requested more resources from ICANN.

Board meeting with GAC

As ever, an interest and topic-filled meeting. GAC chair Janis Karklins strongly hinted that the GAC wants to be involved in all policy decisions regarding IDNs – including the so-called “fast track”.

A thoughtful paper on accountability of ICANN was produced by the vice-chair in his role as a Canadian representative. ICANN shouldn't be held to account to the same degree as government officials, it argued, but there need to be more independent checks on the organisation – including a stronger role for the Ombudsman and greater understanding of Board decisions. The US representative requested more staff support and legal research to be carried out by ICANN in order to improve understanding of Whois.

ccNSO meetings

Unsurprisingly, the main order of the day was Internationalized Domain Names. The ccNSO has put itself at the heart of the debate recently and it is still grappling with the issues, although there was a general feeling after the meeting that members had a much better and deeper understanding this time around. There was also a lot of discussion about DNSSEC. Country code managers appear to be broadly in favour, but some concerns remain, including complexity, fraudulent use and likely demand.

Registry constituency meeting

A wide-ranging meeting of the registries, saw a significant amount of time devoted to discussion of changes in the GNSO. But, of course, Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) were also a hot topic. There was also an interesting discussion about what the Internet world will look like and how it will function with a large expansion of top-level domains. The arrival of large numbers, potentially hundreds, of new registries in the next few years is going to have a huge impact on this constituency.

IP constituency meeting

The meeting highlight was lively debate over the merits of a proposed UDRP process specifically for international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). There was support for granting them special status, as per WIPO-2 recommendations. The IPC's suggested approach permits IGOs to challenge registrants whose domains are “identical or confusingly similar” to their names or abbreviations. There were mixed opinions about whether to approve the idea.

Sign up for ICANN newsletters: <http://icann.org/newsletter>