
HELSINKI – Welcome & Multistakeholder Ethos Award Presentation
Monday, June 27, 2016 – 08:30 to 09:00 EEST
ICANN56 | Helsinki, Finland

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Ladies and gentlemen, we'll be starting our event in just a few minutes. If you want to get your coffee now and move up towards the stage, we'll begin very shortly. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome David Olive, Senior Vice President Policy Development and Support.

DAVID OLIVE: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, fellow ICANN members of the community. Welcome to Helsinki. I am pleased to kick off ICANN 56 Policy Forum.

Thank you to our generous hosts and to you for making the considerable commitment of time and effort to attend this meeting. But this meeting is one of important firsts: our first ICANN meeting in Helsinki – thank you very much; the first meeting of our new President and CEO, Göran Marby; and the first meeting following the new community proposed format, a Policy Forum, an opportunity for innovation and change in our discussions.

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

As you know, ICANN holds three international public meetings per year around the globe that are free and open to all participants. Whether in person or remotely, they can be part of our sessions. But this ICANN meeting will be different, and what is changing today and for this week. The ICANN 56 Policy Forum will be a four-day meeting with sessions focused on policy and advisory development work and some outreach activities. The supporting organizations and advisory committees have taken the lead in organizing the program. This is the core work of ICANN: community-driven consensus policy and advice development for the top level of the Internet’s naming system and for facilitating other unique Internet identifiers.

Our morning sessions will be dedicated to individual and joint sessions of the supporting organizations and advisory committees. Afternoon sessions will focus on cross community sessions to explore topics of various ongoing policy or advice work. There’ll be no formal ceremony (we have this wonderful opening today like this), no public meeting of the ICANN Board, and no public forum. But we will have networking receptions each night and will allow you as participants to interact and engage outside of your busy work program.

We will see robust debate, discussions, disagreements, and some compromises. A global community of stakeholders and participants from many backgrounds are here with various

points of view to help coordinate and support policies that keep the Internet secure, stable, and interoperable.

The Internet functions for everyone because everyone is invited to help make it function. Consensus policies developed by our multistakeholder model give our results both effectiveness and the greatest legitimacy.

Today we also welcome 15 individuals from various universities in Europe who have been selected to participate with the ICANN community members in our Policy Forum. They have backgrounds in policy, business, security, law, and communications, and they also have some people who are part of our Next Generation program serving as ambassadors for them. So please welcome them to your sessions and make sure that they can be a part of our activities this week.

And I think a fitting beginning is this morning we will also announce the recipients of this year's Multistakeholder Ethos Award. This award was launched in 2014 to recognize ICANN participants who have deeply invested in the consensus building solutions, acknowledging the importance of ICANN's multistakeholder role, and contributed in substantive ways to the higher interests of the ICANN organization and its community.

Let me also ask you to download the mobile application to stay updated on all the activities and features of today's program and this week's sessions, and also provide feedback for the individual sessions. Your input will be important as we review and assess this new Policy Forum format.

Finally, no matter if you are an ICANN regular, an occasional participant, or a newcomer, I encourage you to actively participate in this meeting either directly or remotely and enjoy the Finnish hospitality. Thank you so much.

And now Göran Marby.

GORAN MARBY:

Good morning. This [with] speaking notes is very interesting. In my speaking notes it says I should say, 'Welcome,' 'Good morning,' and then it says, 'insert an anecdote or a comment about Helsinki.' So I had to figure something out.

I actually lived in Helsinki 20 years ago for a year when I was working for an operator. That was in the heydays where the European Telecom [inaudible] opened up, and it's one of the best years of my life. I absolutely love Helsinki [after] that time and I'm very happy to share Helsinki with you because I feel sort of, sort of, very much home here. I hope [Finley's] colleagues will not disagree with me.

This is, as you said, my first meeting. Last meeting when I met some of you in Marrakech I was a trainee. Since then I've been upgraded. I now worked as the CEO a little bit more over a month, and I think it's very timely for me to be really the first [time] here. Because this is a new type of meeting. It's a works meeting. It's about really making sure that policies are driven forward, the thing you do. And with the new Bylaws coming in, it also means that I have a new role compared to my predecessor in my organization. I just [inaudible] like to share with you – and I spoke to some of you about it – but I would like to share with you a little bit about what we say.

It might come as a surprise for you that I don't see myself as the President and the CEO of ICANN. The Board now looked at me with, "Oh?" Actually, we're together are ICANN – the Board, the community, and the organization I represent. It's a trinity. We're in this together. And that's a very important statement, because I see myself and my organization and my team as someone who is a support organization to the community and to the Board. I'm not the person who's going to involve myself in the policy making process. My job is to facilitate the possibility for the multistakeholder model and for you to do your work.

The new Bylaws, the new set-up, is making a clearer point between my responsibilities and yours. And I happen to think that's very positive. Because in an era where we're now coming –

actually now there has been some milestones in the transition process over the last couple of weeks and months – in that era when we’re now going forward we have a greater responsibility than we had before. And therefore I think it’s very important to make that [inaudible] clear.

This is not something that I dreamt up when I came in. This is something with the Board and myself together with my team which we worked a lot with. As you probably have seen, I also renamed my Executive Team from global leaders to Executive Team just to show also the fact that we are a support organization going forward.

We are here as a team to support you because you are the ones who are actually going to do the job. You’re the ones going to make the decisions, a very important thing to do. I’ve said many times over the last couple of weeks that we actually only wrote the first chapter in the book of Internet. Together with you, together with all our partners around the Internet, we’re going to now write the next book. So therefore, I won’t keep you any longer. Go back to work. Thank you very much.

DAVID OLIVE:

I’d like to ask Steve Crocker to come up and say a few words as well. Steve, please.

STEVE CROCKER:

Well, on behalf of the Board I welcome you. I want to cover two things. First of all, probably not uppermost in our mind, but this is a serendipitously a historic time and place for us to be. As David emphasized and as Göran emphasized, this is a policy-oriented meeting with the focus on getting work done, a limited amount of ceremony. About 40 years ago, this very hall was the site of the Helsinki Accords which also resulted in a significant step forward of cooperation across the world. Totally different subject matter, much less important than the weighty matters that we have here today, but I thought it's exciting to be here and to be getting down to work in the very place, this hall – I don't know whether it was this room – but this building that the Helsinki Accords were completed in 1975.

On behalf of the Board, I want to echo and emphasize what's been said. The Board's posture, particularly for this week, is to be completely supportive. We have no meetings – almost no meetings – of our own scheduled throughout the week. Our job is to be helpful, to be aware and involved in what you're doing, to stay out of the way as much as possible, and to be hopeful that everybody comes away from this meeting with a great success in actual work done and a very positive feeling.

It is, of course, as any first version of something is, a bit of an experiment and so we're all watching keenly to see what works, what doesn't work, looking for feedback, and we'll make adjustments and we noted that because we now have these three different kinds of meetings each year, that an adjustment to this meeting is a year off and so the response time and the ability to remember what happened a year earlier will be a bit challenging. But we're geared up for it.

And with that, let's proceed. Thank you.

DAVID OLIVE:

And now I would like to introduce Donna Austin, the Vice Chair of the Generic Names Supporting Organization Council and spokesperson for the community selection panel for the next part of our program. Donna, please.

DONNA AUSTIN:

Thank you, David. Before I kick off, I just want to acknowledge that there were 10 members of the panel that spent quite a considerable amount of time discussing the recipients for the Multistakeholder Ethos Award, and most of them are over to this side of the stage and they'll join me at the end of this for photos. So I'll get into it. Excuse my glasses.

I'm pleased to announce that the cross-community evaluation panel for the 2016 ICANN Multistakeholder Ethos Award has selected two long-time community members as this year's award recipients. The panel decided to recognize two recipients because we felt that both met the award criteria in such distinctive ways that both should be recognized for the examples they set for others as key players in the ICANN community with diverse backgrounds, geography, and community impacts.

The two recipients were selected from a list of 19 nominees as the two who best demonstrate the spirit of collaboration with other community members with the aim of consensus building while providing their dedication to ICANN's multistakeholder model through their active participation over many years. I don't know the total of the two recipients that we have but I think we're probably pushing into close to 40 or 50 years if we combine both recipients.

I am pleased to announce that our panel has selected Chuck Gomes – I don't need to say anything more, do I? So Chuck was the first Chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group and was instrumental in the development and operations throughout the years. He served as the GNSO Counselor, including terms as Vice Chair and Chair. Chuck has volunteered his time and services to innumerable working groups and drafting teams, and he's the

current Chair of the Next Generation Registration Data Services Working Group. I don't know. I've got the acronyms here, but I thought I'd try to spell it out but I can't remember the name.

Most recently, he has made timely and substantial contributions to the Cross-Community Working Group for the IANA Steward Transition, acting as liaison between the Cross Community Working Group and the Cross Community-Working Group for Accountability. His experience and genial manner have made him a natural facilitator of ICANN community debates and an effective ambassador for the multistakeholder model.

Obviously from your reaction there's not a person here who hasn't heard of or had the opportunity to work with Chuck in some capacity. Personally, I've known Chuck for a long time. But I've had the great fortune to benefit from his wisdom and collegiality during my time on the Registry Stakeholder Group over the last few years. Chuck has been a mentor to many in this community including myself, and he is certainly not restricted by any constituency or stakeholder group boundaries. He is passionate in his advocacy of the goodness of the multistakeholder model and exhibits on a day-to-day basis the characteristics of a facilitator, collaborator, and consensus builder.

I am very honored to be able to present this award to Chuck on behalf of the panel and the community. Chuck.

CHUCK GOMES:

Thank you, Donna. As I look out over this great audience and also look back over the last 18 years, I can't help but see hundreds of people who are deserving of this award. So I'm very humbled and honored to receive it. Any positive contributions that I have made are not of my own abilities but really come from the multistakeholder model itself. Because if it hadn't been for the help and contributions that all of you and all of those that are no longer here today have made to what I did, I wouldn't have had any success. It's really a tribute to the multistakeholder model and to the people who make that.

It'd be disingenuous on my part to take credit for any success that I may have had because without your help and contributions in the things I was working on, nothing I did would have been of any value. I'm not going to try to thank individual people because there are too many and I'm sure I would forget some. But I do want to, at least at a high level, say thanks to those who have contributed to the multistakeholder model and to any part that I played in that.

I want to first of all thank God for giving me the opportunity to be a part of this community. I pray every day that my limited

capacities would be blessed, and without that blessing anything I've done would have failed. I definitely want to thank my wife Susie, who may be watching on the Internet right now via video, because without her support and patience – and maybe another word, tolerance – for the long hours, the weekends and holidays and vacations, I would have left this a long time ago without her support. And I want to thank my kids and grandkids because they've had to put up with a lot, too.

And I want to thank the incredible people that I've worked with in a lot of organizations. I have to start with Verisign, because without Verisign's support for the multistakeholder model and for me personally in the policy work that I've been involved with, I could never have done this. It's been great, the way they have supported me over the years, and that goes back to Network Solutions in the late 1990s. I've worked with just amazing people at Verisign and had to rely on their expertise because in a lot of cases I didn't have it. And, of course, that means the current team that I'm working with in Verisign, [such] an incredible, incredible, team of people.

Secondly, I have to mention the Registry Stakeholder Group. Donna mentioned that I was the first Chair of that, but just before I became Chair, Network Solutions was the only member. Now, it was a lot simpler then. But I'll tell you what, I wouldn't exchange the collaboration that I've had with all the great

people involved in the Registry Stakeholder Group over the years for that simple situation we had back then.

And of course I have to talk about the GNSO. The Registry Stakeholder Group is, of course, a part of that and that's been where a lot of my focus has been. There have been a lot of people that have come and gone in the GNSO and a lot that are still involved today that have been for a long time. What a great group of people I've had the privilege of working with. And it's the teamwork in the GNSO – and I know the GNSO a lot of time is criticized for the way things happen – but without that teamwork we wouldn't be where we are today. So I thank all of those people in the GNSO.

Fortunately, my encounters in the multistakeholder model and ICANN haven't been limited to generic top level domains. There are all kinds of you out there that are part of the other SOs and ACs, and again, all of you have been such a help to me in the work that I've tried to contribute to.

And then I can't leave out ICANN staff and the ICANN Board. I've had the privilege over the years of getting to know a lot of them quite well and that's been a real joy. And anything that I've contributed to would have been so much harder, maybe impossible, probably impossible, without the help of ICANN staff and ICANN directors.

In closing, let me say thanks for the award, certainly, but even more importantly for those of you that made the award possible because you're a part of the multistakeholder model. I've been fortunate to work with hundreds of people that are a lot smarter and capable than I am. And their willingness to contribute to anything that I tried to do is what makes anything successful that I've been involved with. Sincere thanks to all of you.

DONNA AUSTIN:

Thanks, Chuck. One of the reasons I was selected to do this presentation is because I was the one person on the panel that know both of the recipients reasonably well. So I'm equally pleased to announce that our panel has selected Keith Davidson as a recipient of the 2016 Multistakeholder Ethos Award.

Keith has been recognized by the panel for his leadership and contribution to ICANN's multistakeholder model both within the ccNSO where he has served as Vice Chair of the ccNSO Council and co-Chair of the GNSO GAC Liaison Group, and more broadly across the entire multistakeholder Internet ecosystem. As Director and Chair of APTLD, the driving force behind the Pacific IGF, a trustee of the Internet Society, and the President of Internet NZ.

In his many leadership roles, including Chair of the Delegation of Redelegation Working Group and the Framework of

Interpretation Working Group, Keith has demonstrated a consensus building commitment to both ICANN and its multistakeholder processes that is both astonishing and inspiring.

I've known Keith for about 10 years and it's been a real privilege to get to know and work alongside Keith in the years since. Most recently, we worked together on the Meeting Strategy Working group. So if you love it, it was my idea. If you don't, it was Keith's idea. We come from the same part of the globe and for the most part speak the same language. Keith has been an integral part of the New Zealand Internet community that has advocated for an open Internet and multistakeholder model of governance since the early days of ICANN.

Keith has worn many hats that stretch beyond ICANN and the ccNSO and has worked tirelessly in various fora to educate and enlighten others about the benefits of the multistakeholder model, a model that Internet NZ lives by.

Keith is a steady and calming influence and he is more often than not the voice of reason. Keith was around at the start, and his successes and guidance are significant reasons why our model has gained acceptance in global Internet governance fora.

Keith has recently retired. I understand that he delayed that retirement for about 12 months so he could finish up on some of the work in the ccNSO. And I know that we will all miss his steady hand and his easygoing manner. Keith can't be with us today but I'm really happy that he has Debbie Monahan to deputize for him. So please welcome Debbie to the stage on Keith's behalf.

DEBBIE MONAHAN:

Excellent. Thank you. Well, I'm aware that Keith will be watching from home. For once, it's about 7:00 at night so it's not obscenely early or horrible. And Keith, I'd just like to say I'm privileged that you asked me to do this for you, the man who's mentored me so well since I joined this community.

So Keith has actually written a short statement, and for Keith it is actually quite short, relatively succinct, but I think when you hear it you'll know it truly represents him as well.

"I am truly honored and humbled to receive this recognition from the ICANN community as a recipient of the Multistakeholder Ethos Award. Unfortunately, I cannot be with you in Helsinki as I'm now mostly retired and no longer active within ICANN, but I'm grateful for Debbie Monahan stepping in to receive the award on my behalf. I do hope this new meeting structure will go well for everyone in Helsinki, and if it doesn't,

feel free to blame me as one of the members of the Meeting Strategy Working Group who came up with this new format.

“ICANN is part of the bold, global experiment in multistakeholderism. All the tenants and principles behind the concept are seeking to provide an alternative to multilateral treaties. And while it can appear that progress can be glacially slow, our work has been completed at lightning speed by comparison to the general global treaty processes, and always remembering that there are seldom one-size-fits-all solutions.

“So there is much at stake in this experiment, and if a successful Internet governance model is the outcome, the future of multistakeholderism will surely assist in finding solutions for other global issues. Massive benefits can accrue from the equal participation by governments, business, and civil society, in making consensus decisions.

“Within ICANN, the tasks are relatively narrowly focused on the management of the Internet’s unique identifiers. Our task should be confined to developing high-level principles to guide us in our policy development and to exhaustively go through iterations to ensure all stakeholders can subscribe to the output policies. This reiterative process is frustrating, cumbersome, and often exhausting, but the benefit of having everyone on the same page is the successful outcome being sought.

“I don’t think I have done anything more than subscribe to the process I have outlined, and believe that I have been most fortunate to work with a fantastically diverse number of people over the various SO and AC communities who are equally driven in ensuring the success of the model in these processes.

“The so many people who have put in the countless hours of volunteer time should all share this award with me, for I have done nothing more than seek to steer a path of consensus amongst them. I have been delighted to be able to make some progress towards ICANN’s goals and am truly humbled and delighted to receive this award. Please remember that if you stand for nothing, you’ll fall for anything. So please be principle-driven in your future multistakeholder Internet governance arena. Thank you.”

DONNA AUSTIN:

So if I could ask the other panel members to join us back on stage, and Chuck if you could come up, too, and we’ll take some photos. Thanks.

DAVID OLIVE:

Thank you. We’ll be joined by Steve Crocker and our President Göran Marby.

This concludes our opening session, and we now ask you to join your regular work sessions and other activities for today and the rest of the week. Thank you very much.

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