
BARCELONA – APAC Space
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JIA-RONG LOW: This is our APAC Space. If you're from the Asia-Pacific community, this is the space for us to connect and get together. Perhaps, Edmon, if you are okay with it, we will invite those we have never seen before to introduce themselves. I think that's better. So, we start from the gentleman over there. Maybe you can introduce yourself first.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hello, everyone. My name is [inaudible] Japan.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hello. This is [Yannis] from [DotAsia]. Nice to meet you.

RUVENI WAQANITOGA: Hello. My name is Ruveni Waqanitoga. I am from Fiji. I am here as a fellow. Thank you.

[SHEREE]: Hello, my name is [Sheree]. I'm from Fiji. I'm here as a fellow.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hello, my name is [inaudible] from Myanmar and I am newcomer. But also I am new learner in ICANN. Thank you.

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UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hello, my name is [Natapon] from Thailand.

JIA-RONG LOW: So, we are good. This is our Asia-Pacific community and we are all very friendly. So, after we introduce ourselves, those who are newcomers, can we make sure we give them a warm welcome and we get to know them personally? [applause]

So, the idea is that we are a relatively small community and the whole idea is that we want to be more comfortable working with each other and to establish that relationship with each other. So, this APAC Space is really for that. I hope that we can really make sure, say hi to the newcomers and get to know each other and we can keep in touch.

Now, we have a very tight agenda, so we'll power through this a little bit. This is the agenda. Akinori will be late, so we will switch the order around. So, we would trouble Sophia to speak first. Then, after that, we can go back to Akinori.

Now, I'll talk a little about APAC Space. I mentioned APAC Space is basically our space for our community and it is a community led – every APAC Space we will discuss with the community what the agenda should be. We work very closely with community facilitators. Edmon has been our community facilitator for a long time and he is facilitating today's session as well.

We also have community members who have stepped up to take on these leadership roles, like Pam, like Michael Flemming. They have been participating and leading us as well. So, over time, we hope that we can work with more of our community leaders who can also facilitate APAC Space.

Now, APAC space, the third bullet point is really our practice ground to facilitate our community's participation in ICANN. We, as Asians, we tend to be a little bit shy in an open setting, and what we hope to do is in this more familiar setting, we could share our views and share our thoughts about various issues in ICANN.

So, don't be shy. Nothing you say is going to be taken against you in any way. You are in a safe setting. So, feel free to speak up. That's the whole goal of APAC space.

Now, if you're not subscribed to our mailing list, at the bottom of the slide, you can write to that mail. Subscribe at apacspace.asia. That's where we discuss on the mailing list the agenda and so on. So, if you've not done it before, please do that. And again, thank you, Edmon, and the dot-asia team for providing the e-mail and the space online for us to do that. Then, we have the community mailing list and we have a community Wiki page which basically records down everything.

Now, I just want to talk a little bit about the APAC office. We've just crossed the fifth anniversary in August, so that also means that I've been at ICANN for more than five years now. If you're not seeing the report, this is the link. There are some highlights about our community's growth in ICANN. When the office first started, our

community was much smaller than it is today and I'm very happy to see the growth of the community as the years went by and I want to thank our longstanding community members as well for your support and your feedback and your suggestions that have helped us grow both the office and the community.

So, I just wanted to highlight this. Both the office has grown from two staff to 29 and 30 staff. Over the past number of years, we have a number of programs that is listed here. I won't go into the details.

Also, our community has grown. So, not just in terms of numbers, but your confidence as well as our community taking up leadership positions in the ICANN community. You will see the profiling of new leaders in the past year in the anniversary report, so that's something I wanted to highlight and congratulate all of us here as one community and hope that we can continue to work with each other to continue to support each other within ICANN. So, that's something I really wanted to highlight. That's all I'm going to say about the anniversary report. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

I will skip these slides first, until Akinori joins us and we will move to the next agenda item which is basically highlighting key events next year. We will have Sophia share with us about the GDD Summit. Over to you.

SOPHIA FENG:

Hi, everyone. My name is Sophia Feng. I work for a backend service provider and also TLD registry operator, ZDNS. What I would like to introduce is the upcoming 2019 events that happens in Bangkok, which

is the GDD Industry Summit. It's the first time this event held in APAC specific region. Next slide, please.

So, back in 2015, GDD Summit was initiated with the ICANN GDD team and also the ICANN contracting parties, mainly the registries and registrars, to have consolidated events to discuss the important issues and concerns that the industry and also ICANN concerns.

I think the first four GDD Summits held in different cities and in different regions, but mainly the US and European countries and cities. As participants from the APAC community, I had the chance to participate in the four GDD events from the 2016 Amsterdam event and this year's 2018 in Vancouver GDD Summit. I've been participating [inaudible].

Then, happily to know that next year, in 2019, there will be the first time that housing the [inaudible] in Bangkok which is an amazing city with beautiful weather and good food and amazing hospitality. I hope to see new friends and old friends together in this beautiful city.

So, why are we attending the new GDD Summit? [inaudible] experiences I have in this important event. Next slide, please. Next slide, please. Yeah, thanks. The last one. Thanks. This is the correct one. Thanks.

I have seen the values of attending the GDD Summit from various points. I highlighted some of the benefits that I get from these events. First of all, as you know, the ICANN meetings, policy meetings, happen three times a year, has a lot of issues and topics to discuss about, especially mainly the policy issues. But, however, I think as operators,

as a registry and also registrars, we get very carried away from various discussion points and forgot to actually meet people. We actually have less chance to meet the GDD team in one-on-one occasions to discuss the unique operation issues that we face as the contracting party.

So, I think it's a great opportunity to meet and have the one-on-one interactions with the members of GDD team, especially the engagement team from different regions and also the compliance team.

There are various sections that you can schedule a meeting with your GDD team members to be able to get more in-depth discussions and make the results come out of it to improve the operational excellency.

Second of all, as the ICANN [normal] meetings happens three times a year, focusing much on the policy discussion and how to formalize policy and implement the policy. However, there are different various parties involved in these discussions. I think GDD Summit provides the great opportunity to focusing or engaging, addressing the policy and operation issues that the registry and registrar cares the most.

For example, the transfer processes – the registration transfer processes discussed in 2018 Vancouver meetings. It showcased the whole practices that are best for the registry and registrars. It was very eye-opening. It was very much detailed, down to the point that it impacts every registrar and registry's operations in daily. So, that provides more focus on the specific policy that the contracting party really need to put a focus on.

[Third], the part that I experience in GDD summit is we're sharing a lot of work and practices and experiences from the industry peers. For example, in Vancouver this year, there were interesting topics that one can learn about industry lead initiatives to improve domain name adoptions and then we can learn about [inaudible] practices and strategy in the industry and also how a registry and registrar can collaborate to market premium names to boost premium name sells. They are business practices experience being shared with the industry that is more close to our development in our products in the specific market and that is really useful to us, to me especially.

Then, the last one on the list. We have a cozy environment to meet the current and potential business partners. Since in ICANN meetings we have a lot of meetings going on, the agenda is very tight and sometimes we don't have that kind of more cozy, relaxed environment to meet our current potential business partners – for example, registry, registrars, and also some domain owners who will sometimes go to the GDD as we invite them in.

So, I think it's really a good opportunity as an [add-on] to our normal ICANN meetings. So, I would encourage all the contracting parties, especially the registrars, registries from the APAC region to go to this Bangkok meeting because it's close by us and it's also a good opportunity to show our voices and show our opinions and concerns in the APAC region. I'd really like to meet a lot of old friends, and also the old friends, in these meetings. So, thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: I'm jumping in – this is Edmon – just to see if anyone has any questions on clarifications before we move to next. The GDD Summit – let me add a little bit. I really welcome not only the registries and registrars, everyone to go and check it out. The thing is you don't have to go every time and that's not encouraged. I shouldn't say not encouraged. But the point is that it's focused very much on the industry discussion, registries and registrars, but as you think about policy, it's useful to understand the challenges that registries and registrars have as well.

So, once in a while, do visit it. And since it's in Asia-Pacific this year, please do come in force. So, I think that's what I want to add. Any questions about what GDD Summit? Do people know what GDD is? Anyone not know what GDD is? Everyone knows? What is GDD?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: It's Global Division ... Initiative. It's Global Domain Division. I'm sorry.

EDMON CHUNG: No worries. Part of the APAC space is to get people familiar with some of the acronyms as well. If there are no questions, I guess we'll pass it back to the next talk.

JIA-RONG LOW: The next speaker is ... Sorry, I'm trying to control it, but if somebody else is, too. So, the next speaker is Akinori who will be telling us about the next ICANN meeting which will be in Kobe.

AKINORI MAEMURA:

Thank you very much, Jia-Rong. Apologies. Please accept my apology to be late. My name is Akinori Maemura. I sometimes should [inaudible] ICANN board member, but this time I need to stick around my [inaudible]. I am working for the Japan Network Information Center. Then I am part of the local host. Next slide, please.

I am here on behalf of the ICANN 64 Local Host Committee to introduce the ICANN 64 meeting in Kobe. Next slide, please.

So, 64th ICANN meeting is in Kobe. Do you know how do we call this logo? This is called [marker]. I have no idea why it is [marker] but it's [marker]. This [marker] usually has ... The recent [marker] is a quite simplified design, line and then the characters. The important point is to be colored with some colors within the national flag. In case of Japan, it's a white base and then a red circle which is representing the sun. So, this is the [marker] of the Kobe meeting. I like that very much. Cool, isn't it? Say yes, say yes. Yes!

Alright, Kobe. Kobe is around ... Maybe not all people know about Kobe. Kobe is one of the three major cities in Kansai area and the other two are Osaka and Kyoto. Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe are located in a similar area. You can go to Osaka and come back to Kobe, for example, or you can take just one of our rides or trains to Kyoto and then get back. So, it's a really convenient place, Kobe is.

Then, one of the two ports which opened the earliest after the national closure of the Edo Period. The other port which was earliest was Yokohama. So, Yokohama and Kobe are both quite characterized with

some sort of exotic, some sort of Westernized kind of atmosphere. Kobe is a really lovely port city, in a sense. Next, please.

Kobe is one of the historic places for the Internet. Kobe has a big meaning for the Internet itself because we had INET '92 meeting in Kobe, '92 meaning 1992 which is 26 years ago. This INET '92 meeting was the very inaugural ISOC General Assembly meeting. I think that you understand the IAB as the Internet Architecture Board but it is just happening in '92. Before that, we called it Internet Activity Board. Anyway, quite a tiny knowledge.

Another point that '92 is historic was this INET '92, IAB met for the meeting and decided one important thing which is the launch of the IPng Project which represents IPNIC's generation. Later, we called that IP version 6.

So, in 1992, we finally identified that the IPv4 space would be exhausting in near future and then start [inaudible] development.

So, this is one of the tips for having an ICANN meeting in Kobe. There will be some expression like ICANN meeting is back in Kobe. Then, in case of back in Kobe is [inaudible] this. Next slide, please.

I said that I am on behalf of the ICANN 64 Local Host Committee. That means not a single company is hosting this time but we formed a Local Host Committee which is a full line-up of the [inaudible] Japan stakeholders [inaudible]. I should state all the names of the companies who are joining the Local Host Committee. GMO Internet, Japan Registry Services, JPRS, IAJA, Internet Association of Japan, Internet

Multifeed, Interlink, NTT Docomo, Telecom Services Association, JPNIC – that’s a brilliant company – Business Ralliat, and Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics which is running the dot-kyoto as a registry. And the Com Laude, Taka Enterprise, Japan Internet Provider Association, WIDE Project. The last three are the network sponsors who are also participating in Local Host Committee: NTT Communications, KDDI, and NTT West. They are all welcoming you to Kobe.

Moreover, the Local Host Committee appointed Professor Jun Murai for the chairperson of the Local Host Committee. He is known as the founding director of the WIDE Project and he served the first six years as the ICANN director. He is quite energetic. Proposed us a lot of things for welcoming you.

We are so happy to have the public sector people to support ICANN 64 Kobe. One of them are Ministry of the International Internal Affair and Communicates who take responsibility for the telecommunications. MIC brought a bunch of funds for the ICANN 64 local hosting.

Another public sector player is Kobe City and Kobe Tourism Bureau made a subvention to this ICANN 64 meeting and then providing local aide.

We have ICANN 64 booth in ground level. When you are going out from this convention center, our booth is located on your right-hand side. So, please visit them and we can provide you of local information of Kobe, some snack, the Kobe local delicacy. It’s really good. Not salty, but sweet cracker. Then, you have gum of Pikachu. Sounds great. Please [inaudible] booth.

We have the Local Host Committee website, icann64.jp. It is now being composed. You will see just this graphic in this URL, but we will populate this website with a lot of information about Kobe, how to enjoy your life in Kobe or something other which will help you visit Kobe. That's all. Thank you very much. Any questions, if any?

EDMON CHUNG:

Please feel free. Is everyone going to Kobe? Alright, everyone is going to Kobe. So, no questions about Kobe beef or where to get Kobe beef? Please feel free to.

AKINORI MAEMURA:

Give me one hour to explain Kobe beef.

[YUNIS]:

Hello, this is [Yunis] from GMO. Nice to meet you all. So, speaking of Kobe, right before the Kobe meeting, we GMO Registry is going to hold a party in Tokyo. So, try to have some fun before back-to-back meetings. So, if you are interested in it, I have the invitation save the date cards. Please feel free to ask me after this seminar. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you for the offer. Hands up those who joined the party.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Excuse me. Do you already have the date?

[YUNIS]: Yes, we do. Friday night right before.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Right before Friday.

[YUNIS]: Yes.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. I guess, with that, we have a little bit of time to discuss what we want to talk about in Kobe and probably before. I'll start by saying, just building on what Jai-Rong mentioned earlier, APAC Space is really a place where you can ask crazy questions or whatever that you are unsure about ICANN and it's hoping to get more people on board. So, yes, this will repeat a lot of things because we expect newcomers to come by and hopefully you become leaders in the community and you stick around, but some of the things would be somewhat repetitive.

In the past, we have had special sessions around new gTLDs. Last year, we talked about privacy and GDPR when that was a hot topic. I guess it still is. And various other items. I think we are going to touch on IDNs and universal acceptance later today. But we have about 10 minutes or so here to get your self what we should talk about in Kobe and also there will be a webinar in between now and Kobe. That's held – remind me – once every two months or thereabout. Plus two of the annual ICANN meetings that we have the APAC Space activity.

So, I'm hoping that someone would have – [inaudible]. Ali?

ALI ALMESHAL:

Thank you, Edmon. Speaking from the At-Large perspective and from APRALO hat here, I want to know the contact and the people that we need to reach out for, like we do outreach and we do as well inreach. We invite students, universities, and civil societies during the event or even before the event. That definitely will be in cooperation with the Outreach and Engagement Committee that represent APRALO.

Also, we want to see where we can look for more active and more new ALSes from the area that we will be in. So, I would like to get in contact with people who are in charge from now to start preparing and see what we can do in coordination with the APAC Hub, with the outreach, and with the leadership team of the APRALO as well. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

I see Don's hand up. I think that question is probably to Jia-Rong. Also, Akinori, in terms of connecting to the local communities ahead of time.

AKINORI MAEMURA:

So, we will take this offline. Basically, work through me. We have a close collaboration between the office and APRALO so we can discuss how we can plan towards outreach activities in lead up and at Kobe.

EDMON CHUNG: I don't know with Akinori wants to add anything in terms of local community. I think the interest is ... Of course work through Jai-Rong. So, we'll all work through ...

AKINORI MAEMURA: As a local host, I am really happy to help something and then we do have a key player in Japan. For example, Rafik Dammak resides in Japan, for example. Adam Peake who is now in ICANN Org are very familiar with Tokyo. He lived there more than ten years. So, a lot of resources are [inaudible] by the local host and friends. So, Jai-Rong is the main person at ICANN Org to help you, but we, the local host, will help Jai-Rong to help you. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Don?

DON HOLLANDER: So, just building up on the question Ali raised is trying to find some way to engage people from the Northern Pacific Islands, Guam, Martial Islands, etc. Just like you would normally. You might do something from the South Pacific. These sort of developing communities in that area. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Don. I guess that seems to me like – at least for the time being – outreach and getting more people to participate remains a top-of-mind item. In guess I'm hoping to look to see if anyone has any other

topics of interest to add into the coming webinar and also for discussion Kobe. Anything that is happening here that you wanted to understand a little bit more? As I mentioned earlier, last year we had specific sessions to talk about the new gTLD subsequent procedures because that was being discussed. Please bring in some of the topics that you feel would be useful to get especially newcomers up to speed. I see Satish.

SATISH BABU:

Thank you, Edmon. Satish for the record. I come from APRALO. A couple of topics that we would be interested in. One is IDNs which already have been mentioned. It's a high-interest topic in India. There's a lot of excitement now. So, that is something that we would like to delve deeper into.

The other is applicant support, particularly for IDN-based new gTLDs. So, we were wondering if there is any special need for supporting IDN-based new applications. And if so, we would like to hear more about it. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Sorry. You mean the IDN gTLD or ...?

SATISH BABU:

Applicant Support Program in general is of interest, but in particular is that in India there is a lot of questions regarding can we get some

support through the Applicant Support Program for IDN-based new TLDs?

EDMON CHUNG:

That's actually a good point. Maybe we'll take not on that. There is, obviously, the subsequent procedures went through the public comments at this point, initial report. They are still working through those comments. What would be useful, perhaps, is to bring in some of those leaders specifically on the topic of the two topics, IDN and also the applicant support, and maybe have that as a discussion in our next events. Thank you for that suggestion. Please?

GANGESH VARMA:

Hi, my name is Gangesh Varma. I work with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations. I'm also a former ICANN fellow, so it's good to be back.

Just building off on what Satish saying, I think there's also [inaudible] interest in how we could learn from shared experiences on ccTLDs and IDN variance of ccTLDs. So, if there is any success stories or challenges that certain ccTLDs have faced given the Asia-Pacific reason. Similarly, I think, given the importance of the multi-stakeholder model and questions on governance with ICANN strategic regional plan, maybe we could also discuss a regional perspective on how the governance model has worked or not worked and what are the challenges that Asia PAC region stakeholders face in that.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. That's a good idea. I think what we can do is, building on what Satish suggested is the next time we will try to coordinate a few of the IDN ccTLDs and their experience which will complement the session well, I think.

I understand there is an online question. In fact, I encourage those who are online remote participating with us to put in any questions. There isn't? I saw one earlier. It's for later? Okay, no worries. We are about to move to the next one, but I'm hoping if there is anyone who has further ideas or thoughts, please. Oh, Mili?

MILI SEMLANI: Hi, I'm Mili. ICANN fellow this year. Just because it's happening in Kobe next year, it's in the region, I want to know if there are any capacity building initiatives pre-ICANN maybe for the youth or just groups in Japan itself, like with universities and such, if there are any such efforts that have been made and if there are ways that other youth missions in the region can collaborate, even offline. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW: That's the thing that we are currently working on. There's a lot of interest from different groups, so we are trying to explore the best way to do this. That's interest specifically for the Japanese community because they are a bit shy and they would like to have something that's more targeted for them. There's also interest for the regional youth as well to come in. So, we are trying to explore various options. We will come back to you on this one.

EDMON CHUNG: Please, go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hi, there's a question from Harish Chowdhary. What are the capacity building programs for university students?

JIA-RONG LOW: I think it's a similar question. Basically, we are trying to work on something in the lead-up to Kobe. So, we will come back to everybody on this.

EDMON CHUNG: Specifically, for ICANN, there is the NextGen. There is also the Fellowship Program. I will bring this up – and thank you, Mili, for speaking up. Mili is also an alumni of the NetMission program from dot-asia. So, we are also ... Besides dot-asia, I think other organization, like in Korea, in KISA, the Korean Information Security Authority – Agency – also has programs. And I think that might be a good idea for APAC space maybe to collect some of those initiatives and send it out to the mail list. That's a good note. And with that, and building on the IDN discussion earlier on, let's move to the next session.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Hello, I'm Pitinan. So, there's a lot of talk of a lot of interest in IDNs. So, I would like to share a little bit about the status of the work on IDN, but specifically for the root server label generation rules project.

The IDN is quite special for the APAC space because it's very relevant for us. Of 28 scripts which is identified now that is being used in the Internet, more than 20 is from our region. I think this would be a very right place and right time to take an interest in this.

Before I go into the detail of the project of the root zone LGR, I just want to talk briefly on what is the IDN program. So, IDN stands for Internationalized Domain Names. Most of you are very familiar with this, but for benefit of the newcomers, IDN program is under the GDD which is we find out the acronym earlier, the Global Domain Name Divisions at ICANN.

Our objective of the IDN program is to enable the development of domain names in the multiple languages and scripts, and of course has to be in secure and stable manners.

So, in the IDN program itself, has several projects going on now, both in the top-level domain and the second-level domains. So, for the top level, the first one is what we are going to talk about today, the root zone label generation rules. This project is defined what is the root to use to be able to form the labels stable and securely in the root zone.

The second one IDN variant TLD implementation which is [user] definition from the first project to go into the implementation phase.

The last one is the LGR Toolset which is the tool that facilitates the first two projects.

We also have the IDN ccTLD Fast Track. That's a separate track for the ccTLDs. At the second level, we also have the IDN Implementation Guidelines, which some of you participate in that. That will be the guideline for registries who want to offer the IDN at the second level, how to do that. We also have the [inaudible] second-level LGR. So, the registry who wish to offer the IDN levels can get on board more quickly.

All these projects will be updated in detail later on in this week, so we have IDN program updates on Wednesday morning, so all who are interested please join us there.

Now let's talk about root server label generation rules project, or Root Zone LGR. Basically, this project started in 2013 and that's because the Internet community found out that we don't really have a good definition of how to use the labels, the particular script, to form the labels correctly in the root zone or in the Internet system.

The LGR procedure was defined or developed by the communities, so this project follows that procedure. The procedure says to be able to use the script correctly, we need to answer three questions. First, what are the eligible characters of that script to used in the system? That's the code point. You see those four-digit decimal thing. So, that is the first question to be answered for each script.

The second one is some of the scripts have something called variance which just means the same or alternate-able. So, the definition of the

same is variance, can be different from script to script. So, these are the examples of some of the variance.

So, for the first set, Arabic. The first one is in Urdu [inaudible] language. Second one is the Persian language and the last one is Arabic. It's [inaudible] same. It looks slightly different, but the Arabic communities [find that] they are the same. This can prevent the confusion for the user. So, when you go to the first one or the second one, it's not going to different places.

The second type of the sameness or the variance – for example, for Chinese, they have the traditional one and the simplified one version of the same words. So, this kind of thing is not based on the visuals, but is the meaning the same, the sound the same? The Chinese communities find that these are the same.

The last example here, “epic” in English or in Latin script. Interestingly, you can view the whole same “epic” glyphs in another total set of code points from Cyrillic.

So, these kinds of things, Latin communities and Cyrillic community has to work together to make sure that these two levels are not creating a security problem to the users. So, that's the second part of how to use the script correctly. We have to define the variance.

Then, the third part is especially from the [inaudible] script, like South Indian or Neo-Brahmi scripts. So, some of the scripts, you can have multiple level to form a script. You can have [main] consonants and the vowel can go below or on top of, or even around, a consonant. So, you

have to define how to form the rule, the level, which is make sure they're not creating any rendering problem across the system. So, that's the three main parts for Root Zone LGR Project.

Of course, in the LGR procedure, all this knowledge obviously lies in the expertise of the script users. So, we have to make this work based on the community input. This will be done in two steps. The first step is each script user community has to form the generation panel for that script and define and answer those three questions. And once the proposal of the script finished, it will be submitted to ICANN and then we will forward to another panel we call integration panel.

So, this integration panel is tasked to analyze all the submitted proposals and make sure they are all harmonized and they are all aligned. And if there is another question or if they have any conflicts, it would go back to the original GP. After everything is done, then it will be integrated into the root zone. So, we will have a big, final single root zone LGR at the end.

And this is the exciting part. Last time I did this update last year in APAC Space, we have finished eight script LGRs. But today, as you can see, there's a lot of – the bar is already at the top. It's already almost ready to integrating. So, we have finished ten more and we have one from Korean. We have eight scripts from Neo-Brahmi scripts and we have one from Sinhala. So, basically all are from APAC regions.

For this, I would like to take an opportunity to invite all of you, give them another round of applause to congratulate for this work. [applause]

Actually, most of them are here as well. I can see so many familiar faces.

So, for the generation panels, for the past year, we have two new generation panels. In January, we have formed Sinhala generation panels. We have the chair here with us as well. Hi, [inaudible]. He's one of the co-chairs of the Sinhala GP. [applause] And also, in June, we formed a Myanmar GP. We have [Tinsa Pul] there from Myanmar, so she's the chair of Myanmar GP. [applause] They will also give their updates in the IDN update Wednesday morning.

So, that comes to the end of my presentation. Maybe just a last bit before I close. If you can see on the previous slide, we still have two more generation panels yet to be formed which is Thaana script used in Maldives and Tibetan script used in the north Asians. So, if anybody is here or remotely, you will have your IDN script users or you know someone who can be potential leading of these efforts, please contact me. That's all. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

So, I see that there is a question online. If there are any questions for Pitinan as well. First, the online question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Thank you, Edmon. It's again from Harish Chowdhary. The question is: dot-com allows for cross-script labels. This may allow phishing and security issues. What can we, as APAC, do about this?

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Do you mean the second level, I would say? So, for the scope of our work, normally the second level will, based on the policy of the registries. So far, we have the IDN guidelines trying to address that, but it's still yet to be ratified by the board. So, we are working on it.

EDMON CHUNG: Let me add to that a little bit. Harish, I think the instrument to look at is the IDN guidelines. It has recently been updated as Pininan mentioned. It's still going through a process.

However, I guess as APAC space or APAC community, we can try to especially understand that guideline a bit better and promote it to ensure that not only gTLDs, but ccTLDs, would abide by it, and over time, I guess that we want to make sure that dot-com also abides by the guidelines as we move forward. Not to say that they are now in violation in ways, but it would be useful for us to keep promoting those issues.

JIA-RONG LOW: Okay, there are no questions. We need to move on to the last agenda item which will be Don will be speaking to us about universal acceptance, specifically to introduce to us UA ambassadors because we have a number of them from our community.

DON HOLLANDER: Thank you very much. Next slide, thanks. So, I'd just like to introduce you to the concept of universal acceptance. It's that all domain names and all e-mail addresses work equally as well as any other. So, the usual

example, if you have an e-mail address with a dot-com extension, that should be accepted equally as well as if you have a dot-technology extension or a [inaudible] extension or dot-[inaudible] or a dot-whatever extension.

What we found is that while the Internet works, the DNS works, the [inaudible] flows correctly. The application is at the end of the wires, so the eBays and the Facebooks and the – I don't know what young people use anymore. Biba perhaps. They don't always treat all domain names and all e-mail addresses the same.

So, the Universal Acceptance Steering Group was formed three and a bit years ago as a community initiative strongly supported by ICANN. We're very pleased with that and thank them very much for their support.

Our goal is to help accelerate the acceptance of all domain names and all e-mail addresses. Those of you who have perhaps gray hair or at least some tenure in this Internet space may remember when DNSSEC was first introduced or when IPv6 addresses first became available and how long it has taken to get those adopted. Well, getting people to update their systems for universal acceptance extends far beyond the Internet networking environment.

So, the UASG has created a role of UA ambassadors and I just want to introduce you to a couple of them who are based in Asia-Pacific. So, UA ambassadors, these are voluntary positions. They're not remunerated at all. But they are people that we, as a group, think speak well, understand the topic well, and extend the reach of the UASG by

engaging locally in events or events – they just provide more people who can talk authoritatively and comfortably about the topic and they are supplement to the rest of the community.

So, Ashish Modi is the first one here. Ashish is based in Jaipur, India. He understands universal acceptance well. He also understands e-mail address internationalization which is an additional topic for the Universal Acceptance Steering Group. Traditionally, e-mail was English characters at English characters dot English characters. Then, IDNs were introduced so you could have English characters at Chinese dot Chinese. Then, about 2010 the standards for e-mail were updated, so you could have Chinese characters at Chinese characters dot Chinese characters. In my case, I have a Mauri at Mauri dot NZ. So, if you wanted to send me an e-mail and you know how to type macrons, you can send it to [inaudible] dot-NZ.

Then, the other UA ambassador here is Harish Chowdhary. Harish is based in Delhi. He's actually online, so if I make a mistake, I'm sure he'll pop up in the online chat. Harish works for Nixi. He's been a strong advocate for universal acceptance for quite some time. Nixi, who is the ccTLD operator of India, also operates quite a number of dot-[inaudible] which is how you say India in India, local languages. And they've got I think 12 ccTLDs deployed with that. Harish is also able to talk strongly and authoritatively about the topic. If you look at uasg.tech, which is our website, you will be able to find Harish in one of our videos.

This is Dr. Ajay Data. He is also based in Jaipur. He runs a company called XGen Plus and they are one of the more active providers of EAI e-mail services. So, if you want a Chinese @ Chinese dot Chinese e-mail address or a Japanese @ Japanese dot Japanese e-mail address or Arabic. Arabic is a little different. With Arabic, it becomes Arabic dot Arabic @ Arabic in terms of how it, with the mailbox on the right. Ajay's company is able to provide that. And if you see Ajay around and you ask nicely, he will provide you with quite an inexpensive mail hosting system in your native script. So, you choose your domain name and then you choose your mailbox name and he'll help you support that. If you don't want to spend any money, he also offers a free service under his own domain names, very much like Gmail or Hotmail. I just can't pronounce the ones that he supports.

This is Ashwin Rangan. He is ICANN's CIO and he is also very knowledgeable about universal acceptance and he has spoke on our behalf quite a number one of times. Ashwin actually has the ability to speak from experience since ICANN IT has been pursuing universal acceptance making ICANN's own systems UA ready for the past four years or so. If you want to hear more about that, Ashwin is speaking at a USG public forum tomorrow at 1:30 PM.

And that's me, an old man based in New Zealand who thinks it's important that people are able to use the Internet in their own language, in their own script, for their own purposes and shouldn't have to learn the English character sets at all. I've been working for 20 or some-odd years on empowerment of developing countries through the

use of Internet technology. I'm the Secretary General of the Universal Acceptance Steering Group and I speak also on the topics.

That's just a brief introduction to the topic and our regional UA ambassadors. These are pictures of other ambassadors that we have. Tobias is in Germany, Abdulmanim is based in Egypt. He's floating around. He's doing some fantastic work. John Lavigne based in upstate New York. Elaine Pruis in rural Washington State in the US. And Dusan. Dusan is based in ... I think he's based in hotels and airplanes, but I think his family lives in Serbia.

So, thank you. That's just an introduction to the topic and an introduction to the UA Ambassador Program. I'm quite happy to answer any questions or if you know of an event near you that you would like a speaker where you think it would be useful, we're happy to do that.

Our target audience is software developers. We are not so worried about Internet networking engineers, but the people who write the applications that people use every day. Thank you very much.

JAI-RONG LOW:

There is one question from online. Actually, more than that now.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Yes, it's a question from [inaudible]. The question is what is the difference between UA and IDN program? It seems that they have the same goal.

DON HOLLANDER: So, universal acceptance, while IDNs are part of the issue, it also covers all domain names, not just the non-ASCII domain names. So, if you have a dot-technology or a dot-email or a dot-blackfriday domain name or e-mail address, you may also encounter some applications that don't allow you to use them.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible], do you want to read out [Ashish's] comment?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sure. So, [Ashish Modisi] says, "Hello, everyone. Thanks, Don, for the introduction. Just to add a few things. So, now you have a dedicated person to be reached for UA-related queries and suggestions from India. As a UA ambassador I have already started to connect with various concerned authorities from the government, universities, and private organizations including CTOs, software developers and others.

In addition, I am speaking at various platforms time to time and creating awareness about UASG. Continuation to this, we have started a series of IMAE UASG for creating UA awareness and addressing the problem statement of UA. This series will run for a year, covering ten workshops across India and I'm addressing in each one of them as a UA ambassador. I request you all to continue to support and to create more and more awareness throughout the region.

EDMON CHUNG:

Alright. Thank you. So, now we are running out of time. Two minutes. Any other business or any other issues you'd like to raise? If not, then thank you, everybody, for your time. Please go to the newcomers in person and say hi, exchange name cards, and keep in touch. We will see you again soon. Thank you very much. [applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]