
MONTREAL – APAC Space
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MANDY CHEN: Hi, everyone. I'm Mandy Chen from Taiwan. I'm an alumni of 2018 APIGA. So it's a great thing – APIGA at ICANN and .asia and a lot of APAC ... IGO organizations host an as academy for young people to learn about IG [inaudible]. This is my sixth ICANN meeting, so I'm still quite a baby. Thank you, everyone.

[GEORGIE CHIN]: Good morning, everyone. This is [Georgie Chin]. I'm coming from JPNIC. This is not the time that I'm in ICANN. However, every single time that I'm here, I felt that there is something new and there's a lot of people that I like to meet and getting to know you a little bit more. Thank you.

NICOLE CHEN: Good morning, everyone. I'm Nicole Chen from Taiwan. I'm the former chairperson of the National Communications Commission of Taiwan. I have participated at ICANN meetings virtually many times, but this is the first time I came here personally. How about we communicate and exchange ideas more? Thank you.

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.

[HEERSA JOFAN]: Hi. [Heersa Jofan]. I'm the advisor to [inaudible]. This is my second ICANN meeting. It's good that it's not so confusing as the first time. I'm happy to have more chances to get to know each other. Thank you.

NATALIA MOCHU: Good morning. My name is Natalia Mochu. I am Jia-Rong's colleague, working with GSE within another region – well, half in APAC and for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. I'm based on Moscow. I'm happy to join your meeting today because this is a new experience for me as well. I look forward to hearing your discussions and get you experience on outreach and engagement. Thank you.

KENNY HUANG: Good morning. Kenny Huang. I'm an executive council member of APNIC and also from TWNIC. I will pretend to be your photographer, but your role one is coming, so I'll step down. Thank you.

[KAZUHIRO KATAMANA]: Good morning. I'm [Kazuhiro Katamana] from JPRS Japan. This is my first time joining the APAC space and the second time at ICANN following Kobe. So let's engage together. Thank you.

QUOC PHAM: Hi, everybody. My name is Quoc Pham. I'm from the Neustar domain name registry.

[NATHAN WALE]: Good morning, everybody. I'm [Nathan Wale]. I'm also from Neustar. I'm based out of Delhi, India.

[RAJI]: Hi. Good morning. I'm [Raji] from India.

HEATHER FORREST: Good morning. My name is Heather Forrest. I am associated with the GNSO. I'm the Associate Dean of the Law School at the University of Tasmania, the beautiful little island at the bottom of Australia. As I said to Jia-Rong when I walked in this morning, this is the room of fellow sufferers of jet lag. So I finally feel I'm with my own people.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Good morning, everyone. My name is Akinori Maemura from JPNIC. I'm now serving as a Board member at the ICANN Board as the appointee from the [Address Council] Organization. Thank you very much.

CRAIG NG: Good morning, everyone. My name is Craig Ng. Sorry for the voice. This is an ICANN thing. Every morning you wake up and sound like this. I am from APNIC based in Australia. I'm the general counsel for APNIC. This is not my first ICANN. I think my first ICANN was in 2001 when I co-hosted the Melbourne meeting. I just come intermittently when I need to. Thank you.

PAM LITTLE: Hi, everyone. Apologies for being late. I had a bit of a wardrobe struggle as to what to wear because it's so hot inside and so cold inside. Anyway, I'm Pam Little. I'm with the Alibaba registrar. I'm based in Australia, [inaudible] jet lag [inaudible]. Alibaba obviously is in China and elsewhere. I'm also on the GNSO Council. The APAC space is something very dear to my heart because I think I was involved since its inception. So I'm very pleased to see everybody. Good morning again.

HOLLY RAICHE Good morning from another jet lag sufferer from Sydney. I'm an ALAC member and I think I've been more than one. Possibly I started back in 2010. So I've been to a few.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But we don't have your name yet.

HOLLY RAICHE: Holly Raiche. See what I mean? This is the jet lag.

MAUREEN HILYARD: Hi. My name is Maureen Hilyard. I'm from the Cook Islands. Very jetlagged. I am the ALAC Chair and I think I represent Asia and Pacific, being on the board of the Pacific Islands chapter of the Internet Society as well as on the board of .asia. Thank you.

[BUSEN]: Hi. Good morning. This is [Busen] from Hong Kong. I'm responsible for the .hk top brand domain.

[ATOOSHIENDA]: Good morning. My name is [Attoshienda] from Tokyo, Japan. I'm with jprs.jp ccTLD manager and also jp [inaudible] registrar and root server operator. I'm also with the .asia board for, I'm not sure 13 or 14 years. Thank you.

ANTONIA CHU: Good morning, everyone. I'm Antonia Chu from Alibaba Cloud. I'm mainly focusing on ICANN policy [inaudible]. Very nice to meet you all. Thank you.

LINDA: Good morning, all. I am Linda from ICANN staff, based out of the Singapore office.

VICTORIA: Good morning. My name is Victoria from ICANN org. This is my first in-person APAC space, thanks to Jia-Rong. I've participated multiple times in webinars. It's really good to be here and put the face with the name together. So very good to see each other. Of course, I feel the APAC space is very dear to my heart too, somehow. I was born in China. I lived in Malaysia and I studied my Masters in Canada and now I'm based in L.A. So very good to be here. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No jet lag.

VICTORIA: No jet lag.

MARY WONG: Hi, everyone. My name is Mary Wong. I don't have jet lag because I currently live on the east coast of the United States. But I'm originally from Singapore and it seems like I probably spent half my time in Singapore, so I'm allowed to become an honorary member of the APAC team. In terms of my journey in ICANN, I guess, if there's a few babies in the room, I suppose I'm middle-aged. I started as a community member. I was a member of the GNSO Council for four years, representing the Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group, and I've gotten to know Heather, Pam, Edmon – a whole lot of you – in that time. I'm now a member of the ICANN staff and I work on the policy team. My boss is David Olive, who you have met. If not, please let me know and he'd be delighted to meet you. I am his deputy and I work with Natalie and others on a lot of strategic planning initiatives. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. My name is Jia-Rong. I introduced myself earlier, but for those who just joined, I look after the ICANN Asia-Pacific office.

NATHALIE VERGNOLLE Good morning, everyone. My name is Natalie Vergnolle. I am from ICANN org, originally French but I've been a resident of Los Angeles for 14 years now. I'm part of the MSSI team. It's the Multi-Stakeholder Strategy and Strategic Initiatives, our strategic department at ICANN. I'm very happy to be here today. Thanks for having me.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you. I see five people sneaking in as we were doing our introductions. I guess Mili and few others.

MILI SEMLANI: Thank you. Hello, everyone. I'm Mili from India and an ICANN 66 Fellow. I'm also the founder of [inaudible] mission. So I guess I don't want it before a baby. An embryo stage? Learning a lot about ICANN as a youth participant and hope to see more younger people here. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Justine?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Justine [inaudible].

JUSTINE CHEW: Good morning. My name is Justine Chew. I'm based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, so you'll be coming to visit my city next year in June. Yay! I'm an incoming member of ALAC. This is probably the first proper APAC face-to-face meeting I've been to. I've always had a clash in terms of

scheduling for all the other ICANN face-to-face meetings, so I thought I'd put this on my priority today. So here I am. Thank you.

[HAHOLLY]: Good morning, everyone. My name is [Haholly] from [inaudible] ICT. This is my first time to attend an ICANN meeting. Nice to meet you all.

ELLEN STRICKLAND: Good morning, everyone. I'm Ellen Strickland from Internet New Zealand. We run .nz.

[SINYAM SAKI]: My name is [Sinyam Saki] from Japan. I'm working from JPNIC. In the ICANN meetings, mainly I attend GNSO or related conferences.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, everyone. Before I had it back to Jia-Rong and the photo-taking, this also could be participated in remotely. So I'll just hand over for the remote participants' introduction.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I'm just going to read out a few who have introduced themselves in the Zoom room. Hopefully they actually have less jet lag than the rest of us do. Online we have Joyce, who is my colleague, as you know, from the ICANN APAC regional office in Singapore, part of the GSE team. We also have Paul Wilson, head of APNIC. We have Raymond Zylstra, Director of Policy and Compliance, registry solutions at Neustar, who's been in the

industry since 2002 and attending ICANN meetings since 2008. We also have Lianna, who's head of comms for APAC, our colleague based in Singapore. We have Ganesh from the Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations based in New Delhi, sitting in a conflicting session a few doors down but listening in remotely and trying to not to suffer from FOMO. He says hello to all APAC friends. We also have [Save], our fellow colleague who covers Oceania, based in Australia. We also have [Shar Ramon], a remote participant from Bangladesh, a member of ICANN's NCSG.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We also two more joining us. Just a quick intro.

AJAY DATA: Ajay Data, chair of the USG and ccNSO Council member.

[SHIBON]: Good morning, everyone. I'm [Shibon] from NIXE, the National Internet Exchange of India.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: If we keep going and we'll never end, so we'll end here.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. The plan is, as usual, for our APAC community photo-taking. It's extremely important, so part of the agenda includes photo-taking. We have an official photographer who is here. So we will take the next

seven minutes. We'll follow [Savina and Sameran], who will lead us together with the photographer, go outside, take a group shot, and come back in again. So follow the instructions so we can be really quick. We'll come back here at 9:00 local time. For those joining us remotely, please bear with us. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Hopefully we're all feeling a bit more refreshed after that mini-morning exercise to have our group photo. Once again, thank you very much, everyone, for coming here first thing in the morning to support the APAC space. It's good to see that we've got quite a number of newcomers. So I don't feel so awkward. I think we will just get started here.

First up for today we have Jia-Rong, who's going to give us the welcome remarks.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you very much. Again, if this is the first time you met me, my name is Jia-Rong. I look after the ICANN Asia-Pacific office.

Can we go to the next slide, please? For those who are joining us for the first time and also remotely, what is the APAC space? Basically it is literally a "space" for our Asia-Pacific community members. The entire goal of it is to have a network amongst us as one community. What we try to do is we facilitate for our community to get together on a regular basis. The second bullet point talks about it. We try to go for bi-monthly

conferences. If the month happens to be during the ICANN meeting, we will do a face-to-face meeting, like here at this one.

The very large group photo that we had on the slide is when we were at the Kobe meeting. It was so large we had to go outside to take the photo. The next APAC space – you see our current photo being put up.

The whole idea of the APAC space, besides the network, is also a practice ground to facilitate our community to participate in ICANN discussions. Now, we are all familiar with Asians that, generally, we are very shy for various reasons: for cultural reasons as well as language challenges because we don't speak English as a first language. So the idea is that we can get together and share our views with our common community. The whole idea is that you voice your view, you test your ideas out. Then, when we go back to the main sessions at ICANN meetings, we can participate and voice our views.

As Edmon said just now, no question is a stupid question. It could be a brilliant question, but because culturally we feel “Oh, I'm too shy to ask a question, I am not asking it.” Now, in this space, throw that all away because we are amongst friends I want to encourage you to share your views.

Various topics we have covered for the APAC space include DNS industry topics. We try to keep you current about the ICANN policy development processes, about ICANN reviews. So those are the few focus areas, and today we will cover a different topic that is current in ICANN as well.

If you have not joined our mailing list, please write to subscribe@apacspace.asia, at the bottom of this slide. Our mailing list is discussed at apacspace.asia. Again, thanks, Edmon, for providing support for this platform to really be community-led.

Now, if you want to look back at the recordings and the notes of our APAC space meetings, you can go to the link at the very bottom. We have a community wiki. Everything is recorded there. I want to thank my colleagues, especially Joyce, for facilitating a recording and notes and uploading them on the APAC space wiki page.

I'll had the time back to Sabrina. Thank you.

SABRINA LIM:

Thank you very much, Jia-Rong. Following from that, we're now going to jump into the meat of this morning, beginning with Nathalie, who's going to help take us through ICANN's five-year strategic plan and tell us more about it. Nathalie, please?

NATHALIE VERGNOLLE:

Thank you, Sabrina. Good morning and good – what is it? Good evening in Asia, I guess, right now, everyone. Thank you for having me. You probably have heard several Board members talking about the strategic plan. They've been mentioning this effort that has been going on. So I had the pleasure of supporting Akinori, who has left us momentarily, and other Board members in developing this ICANN strategic plan over the last few months. This plan was adopted by the Board in June in Marrakech but will not come into effect until the first

of July of next year, so there's still time to familiarize yourself with the plan and embrace it and take it with you as you plan for the work ahead in the next five years.

Can we go to the next slide, please? Strategic planning. Where do we have a strategic plan? It's mandated in our bylaws. Our bylaws ask that we produce a strategic plan for a five-year period. That plan is complemented by a five-year operating plan that describes how we're going to go about implementing the strategic plan. The operating plan itself is complemented by an annual operating plan and a budget that goes into more detail of the projects that are going to be undertaken and the associated costs.

Next slide, please. The structure of this new plan, if some of you are familiar with the current strategic plan, is very similar to the current strategic plan. We kept a very similar structure, so that might be familiar to you. There are three main components of the strategic plan. The first one is a vision. I will come to that vision. It's a new vision, different from the vision of ICANN as it was five years ago because a lot of things have changed at ICANN in the last five years. The second component is the mission. That mission is the mission as it is stated in the bylaws. Nothing new there. The third component of the plan is a set of strategic objectives and goals that describe the path from where we are to where we want to be. As I mentioned, the strategic plan will be complemented by an operating plan that we'll detail how and at what cost we'll implement our strategy.

Next slide, pleas. What is the new vision? The new vision was carefully picked by our Board members. Every word in that vision counts. It's a pretty extensive statement. It's quite long. It doesn't even fit on one slide. I have to put it on two separate slides to put all of it down on paper. As I was preparing the slides, I was trying to highlight the most important words, and I ended up putting in a lot of color because almost every word is important in that vision.

Just to highlight a few, "To be a champion of the single, open, and globally interoperable Internet" is a pretty bold statement of our new vision. Also, "Being the independent, trusted stewards of the unique identifiers." Then some major words, such as, "collaborative," diverse, "the global public interest" – all of these were carefully picked and put in that vision to reflect the major role that ICANN wants to play in the ecosystem in the coming years. I will not read the whole vision, but it really summarizes very well the intent and where ICANN wants to be in the next five years.

So we can skip over the next slide and go directly to the one after that and talk about the mission. Our mission was adjusted during the work on the IANA stewardship transition that occurred a few years ago. This remains unchanged. Our mission is why we exist as an organization. It really anchors everything that we do. In all the strategy that was defined, it really was always behind those objectives and goals that have been defined. So we're a technical organization with a relatively narrow remit, and our mission is to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier system. The full mission is

stated in the bylaws under Section 1.1, if you want to read the whole thing.

Next slide, please. As I mentioned, the last component of the strategic plan is a set of strategic objectives and goals. There are five main strategic objectives here that directly come from work that we conducted with the entire community, asking each stakeholder group and everyone at ICANN what they saw coming and what were the different trends that they saw coming that would impact ICANN and what opportunities and threats and challenges those different trends represented for ICANN. There was a lot of convergence and similarities in what we heard from different stakeholder groups. So it was relatively easy to come up with those five objectives, and we feel we have a very strong set of strategic objectives here.

There's no particular priority for any of these. We got rid of the numbers on purpose to not put any priority on any one of them. I did have to put them on the paper, so I have to start with one. So I'll start with security. On security, the objective is to strengthen the DNS and the DNS root server system.

The second objective is around ICANN's governance. It is to improve the effectiveness of our multi-stakeholder model. There's a lot of talks around this already.

The third objective is around unique identifier systems and evolving the system to continue to serve the need of the global Internet user base. I'm very happy to be here today in this region, which represents where

many of our next Internet users will be. So I guess this will be an objective dear to your heart.

The fourth objective is on geopolitics. It's about addressing the issues that are impacting ICANN to ensure a single and globally interoperable Internet. What that really means is, how do we avoid fragmentation? So how do we keep the Internet open and interoperable?

The fifth objective is on financials and ensuring ICANN's long-term financial sustainability so that we keep on going, I guess.

So this is just the beginning of the journey. Once we have a plan, it's only the beginning. As we embark on this journey over the next five years, it will be important to see how things go and monitor our progress. That should not be just checking boxes – “I've done this, I've done that.” So it's not just about, “I've accomplished those different things,” but also measuring, “Is this getting me closer to where I want to be?” So, through those different projects that we are working on, are we getting closer to the vision that the Board has drafted? So it's doing that regular check on all the activities that we'll be performing to see if we are headed in the right direction but also acknowledging that things might change. So our strategy might also have to change. So we will need to keep a finger on the pulse of how things are evolving and potentially adjust our strategy if we think we need to do so.

Let's move on to the last slide. There's a lot more in the strategic plan than what I presented to you today. Each of the five objectives that I briefly went over has a set of goals underneath, and each goal itself has a set of targeted outcomes. I really encourage you to read the full

document. I hope you'll find that a lot of those outcomes really clarify what the intent is behind the different goals and objectives. They're very, very grounded and really give a clear sense of what is it that we want to achieve in the next five years. The plan is available in six languages, including Mandarin, and I put the different links here on this slide. More information on strategic planning is available on our website, too. Thank you.

SABRINA LIM:

Thank you very much, Nathalie. I appreciate it. Well, the strategic plan is definitely a major hot topic here for ICANN in Montreal. Jia-Rong is going to help us make some sense of what it could mean for APAC, for our region.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you, Sabrina. Let's go to my slides. Okay, pause here first. First of all, thanks, Nathalie. If you've been participating in ICANN meetings for the past couple of years, Nathalie and her team have been very involved in having these community sessions to talk about the strategic outlook. That's the result of how the strategic plan came together.

Now, I think I want to reemphasize the point that Nathalie made. The strategic plan is really our whole ICANN community's plan. It didn't come from ICANN org, the staff, or just from the Board. It came from many numbers of sessions that resulted in this final plan.

I think what is good about this plan is that it's relatively simple in that there are five main objectives that are relatively easy to follow. In the

region already, I've been given instructions: "How are you going to implement these in the region?" So this is a key problem statement for me. It's very clear. We can't implement this just from the org or from the Asia-Pacific office. We can't do this on our own. These objectives are very ambitious in nature in a way and very challenging. That's the whole reason why we have to have this discussion here at the APAC space. I do not think that one session would cut it, so we're going to plan a series of discussions with you so that we can think about how to flesh out the plan further to try to implement that in the region.

So really think about this as a series of discussions. Nothing is set in stone, like Nathalie mentioned. The plan itself will also evolve. Our activities will have to evolve alongside it. I want to make sure that we keep the conversation going the whole time. If we need to make any adjustments, we can do that together.

Again, this is a quick recap of the five strategic objectives. I'll zoom into them a little bit and talk about the Asia-Pacific angle to them and how we think we can try to contribute to these objectives.

Next slide, please. So the first one is on strengthening the security of the DNS and the DNS root server system. On the right are a number of activities we have been doing in the region. It falls neatly back into this goal. For example, on the root system security and stability, we've been putting out ICANN-managed root server instances, formerly know as the L-root. We put about 30 of them now within the region and really helped to improve the overall root server system.

We're working on identifying partners to work on this technique. It's from the IETF and called hyperlocal deployment. I won't go into detail on that because only the more technical colleagues know what this is. If you don't know what this is and I have to explain this, it might take the whole session.

The next area would be measuring DNS use and abuse. The Office of the CTO has a couple of projects: the identifier technology health indicators and then domain abuse activity reporting. We tried to find partners to join these projects as well, amongst others, like – we got very good support from Kenny and his team. TWNIC is involved in contributing to these project, for example.

[inaudible] really is the DNS ecosystem security, specifically targeting DNSSEC deployment and technical training. In fact, this one we were successful with that we get about 60 or over requests for training a year, bearing in mind that a year only has 52 weeks. Then our [trainer, Champika], is on then road half the time of the year. So there's really a look of work that we need to do. The demand is really high and we really need to try to deploy DNSSEC. We can't do this on our own. We have to find a way to scale this. So, again, that's another area that we've been working on and we need to think of how we can look at the community to really strengthen this.

Our fifth area is our technical partnerships. One example is we have a partnership in India with the NASSCOM – NASSCOM is an industry association in India – focusing really on technical research. The idea is to have the results of the technical research contribute back to areas

like an RFC in the IETF. So these will again come from the region and really help to drive the strategic plans/objective and strengthening the security of the DNS.

A question I have for everyone is, out of those areas, what areas do you think you would like to further partner with us or you know of other stakeholders within your community locally that can partner with us? And also any areas you think that we could work together as a community.

Next slide, please. The first one is relatively meaty because it's quite technical, so we'll move to something that perhaps the other half of our community will also be very interested in, which is on improving then effectiveness of ICANN's multi-stakeholder model of governance. This one will be quite familiar. Within the region, we have a number of community-building initiatives. I would call them established platforms today. One example is the APAC space. It's been very successful. Within the APAC space, we now have a very regular group of community members coming together. So we know each other relatively well.

Another key platform for us within the region are ICANN readouts, first started from Japan. We took the model and we tried to implement in China and India, and they're going very, very well. So you can see we're a very strong regular group of community members from these countries. Coming together, they also come back to the APAC space. So there is a kind of local community and regional community that fosters each other, complements each other.

The third bullet point here is supporting regional Internet governance fora. You see our report at various regional Internet governance events, like the Asia-Pacific regional IGF. We make sure that we are there every time. We make sure we participate in the multi-stakeholder Steering Group and also local/national IGFs and schools of Internet governance. One area I didn't put there – in a way, we take it for granted – is also the APNIC meetings, APRICOT – all the events that we support. In all of these events, you will see our community coming together. So it's thinking about how we can further build these to leverage on these events and to continue to work with one another.

The last bullet point under community building is also that we've been working very closely with APRALO leadership with Satish and the others to really work to engage potential and current ALAC structures. They are one stakeholder group that we can really work with to leverage on and to further propagate to get people to get people to participate in the ICANN multi-stakeholder model.

The second bullet here about trying to think about improving effectiveness is that just turning up for meetings alone is not enough. We really have to make sure that our voice is heard. The whole point of the APAC space, as I mentioned, is we share ideas first, but it cannot just be within this space. We have to bring the ideas back to the policy development process. That's where the global Internet governance space in ICANN gets the diversity of views, gets the right representation.

One good example I have that has contributed to this is the Asia-Pacific Internet Governance Academy. Mandy was saying she's an alumni of

that. The statistics are quite good. One of four of the alumni continue on in the Internet governance space in ICANN. We have a couple of the community members that joined the working group for the PDPs. We also have members who went to IETF and starting drafting RFCs and also members who are now very active in APNIC as well. So this is a good example.

The question that I have for everyone from our community is, what can we do further besides just attending the meetings? How can we really strengthen our participation and make sure our views are heard?

One other point I'd like to make under this area is that we now actually have a group of regulars and veterans. What do I mean? Regulars are people who have attended more than, like, three ICANN meetings. So [Mandy] is not a baby. She's been around for six ICANN meetings. Within this room, in fact, a lot of us are regulars. We also have veterans. Who are the veterans? Actually you know yourself immediately. I saw the reaction. Edmon, Pam, Holly. You've been around and you've been participating very actively.

How can we strengthen this link between our regular group and to really work with the veterans and to think about how we can contribute our views? That's something we like to ask to think about and we can discuss more during the discussion.

Next slide, please. I just have two more slides. This next one is evolving the unique identifier systems, blah, blah, blah. Very long. The key point here is, how we do bring the unique identifier systems to the next billion Internet users? I think the key point here really is, for our region,

internationalized domain names and universal acceptance. Those who can come online within our region have come online. Those who haven't? A lot of that is actually related to not having an ecosystem that fosters them to participate to come online. One of them is really language.

So can we further support the development of local initiatives within the region? [Samuron] and my colleague in China, [inaudible], are very plugged in, working very closely with the UA Steering Group, which [Ajay] chairs. In the leadup to the next round of new gTLDs, where the current work on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures is going to close out, we need to think about raising awareness within the region and let people know that this is available. The infrastructure for domain names in other scripts is available. Domain names in your script are available. Then we can work with the local community so they can take it up and come online. Something we have to think about is, how can we work together on this? Because there's a lot of work related to this one.

Next slide, please. The last one is the fourth goal in the strategic plan. It's really about geopolitical issues. We are seeing more and more legislation and potential regulation coming up. GDPR is the first one. In fact, if you look at it, a lot of other regions and countries are thinking about what to do.

If we need to be ahead of things to look at what geopolitical issues could impact ICANN's mission and could impact a single and global interoperable Internet, we really need to work together. Org within the Asia-Pacific office has only 30 staff. That's all we have. Having a strong

network with you, knowing what's coming in your countries and regions, will really help us be able to track what's going to happen and how it's going to impact ICANN.

Next slide, please. I don't have the fifth goal. It's because it's about financial management. But, if you think there's something we can work together on regarding that, then I'm happy to get more inputs. It's really more from a top-down structure. Within the Asia-Pacific office, we don't have that much to talk about for that goal, but again, if you have any ideas, feel free.

So, broadly these are a few areas I'd like us to all think about. I'm planning for a series of more discussions so that, by the time we reach the next financial year, when the strategic plan is going to be officially starting, we would already have our plan in place and we can start implementing it.

So that's really it. I'll hand the time back to Sabrina first before we go for community discussion.

SABRINA LIM:

Thank you very much, Jia-Rong. Based on Nathalie's sharing of the strategic plan and Jia-Rong's remarks, as well as some initial questions to get your brain going on some things you may want to comment on or ask about, I will now hand the time over to Edmon once again to kickstart our community discussion.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Sabrina. My job is supposed to be easy. Why am I here is to keep my mouth shut so that you guys can talk, I guess. Any particular clarifications first? I guess there is a lot of information that Nathalie and Jia-Rong mentioned. Any thoughts, questions, in particular or in general to start off?

Please?

QUOC PHAM: A thought on the unique identifier slide that Jia-Rong presented. This is my second ICANN, by the way. So I'm still a baby and I get to make baby mistakes.

With IDNs, that's something that's very special in our area because it's such a diverse range of scripts and the way people talk. I think there has to be an effort from everybody here in trying to promote that because, up until recently, I didn't really appreciate the level of diversity in IDNs until working with the guys in NIXE. There's 15 IDN TLDs in local Indian languages and it covers 22 different languages as well. So, in a country like India, where there's a billion people, much like as it is with China, there's a large community out there that has content on web pages in the local script, but the way you get there has to be ASCII. So the full experience is not supported. There's a lot of work for registries to have to standardize the way they do things, but there's also an effort from registrars and there's also an effort from business as well to try to promote the use of internationalized content and also the way to get there as well.

So it's always a side topic. We always think about it, but it's too hard because existing websites are already in ASCII. So we don't anything with that. As the world gets bigger and as more languages come online, we can't really let this sit because there's a lot of investment in developing tables and languages and having people get together and try to make sense of it. So it'd be a great shame to let that fall apart.

Just one more thing before I stop talking. What I've seen with a lot of IDN table development is that everything behaves slightly differently. So I think, with registries, at least, we all need to make sure that – the only way people are going to pick this up is if behavior is ... Because there's no surprise in it, right? So the way registrars behave, the way registries behave, with respect to IDNS is they need to make sure the experience is the same for every single users that engages in it so that there is a willingness to go and register domain names and use them, not just defensive registrations or just registering something for fun but actually want to get an IDN and wanting to use it. I think that's very important. Thanks.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thanks. Those are actually very good thoughts. You actually touch on three areas in terms of IDNs. One is the technical and policy complexity there right from the very beginning: the tables, the characters that you can use, characters that are deemed to be variants of each other.

The second part I think you touched on is the experience, which is, I think, related a lot to Ajay's work at the Universal Acceptance Steering

Group. The user experience needs to be consistent across platforms and across TLDs and across different applications.

Then there's a third component, which is the general awareness of, hey, you can actually use these things and people are actively using it. I think this community has been historically the community that has been driving IDNs.

So that's actually a very good topic. I don't know whether anyone wants to respond further before I go to ... unless it's directly related to this, I'll get them to respond and then come back.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Thank you, Edmon, thank you, Quoc, for raising this point. Actually, just for a small clarification's sake, you need identifiers for ICANN strategic ... also in tools like IPv6. So IDNs [inaudible] IPV6 is part of the unique identifiers.

As a community, Edmon, as you rightly said, we are the people who are more [inaudible] our native language. I think we are also too laid back here right now to adopt IDNs. Very few community members are leaders or people who are working in their organizations or other organizations are adopting IDNs or trying to work on UA.

So this is basically a common goal. It is not just [inaudible] and Edmon's or universal acceptance organization as a whole. We all have to work together to make this a reality to bring the next billion people online and really become a strategic goal of ICANN. Otherwise, we'll just come in and talk. So when we have in India 15 IDNS ... Yesterday I was hearing

that we have many IDNs in China that our ambassador was presenting. There are many uptakes of IDNs. But the actual users of IDNs and UIs is really a challenge. So I would really encourage with this APAC platform to think about how do we really engage with the work community and encourage them to adopt IDNs and UIs and become part of the UA initiative so that the people who are having a problem communicate with the UA technical group, UA support system, and get the problem solved and really take the next billion people online. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Have you joined UASG yet? If not, please join.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yeah.

EDMON CHUNG: Did you want to add to that? No? So please.

FIDYA SHABRINA: Good morning. I am Fidya from Indonesia. I am an ICANN 66 Fellow. Earlier in the morning, I just came minutes after you had just taken the picture. Anyway, I have a question regarding the universal acceptance in the APAC region. May I be advised regarding this issue of complexity in Asia-Pacific? In particular, is there any measurement taken to scale the progress of the acceptance? Or is there any [upcycles] currently going underway for this? Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

Thank you for the question. We have taken many, many initiatives to raise the awareness. Now ICANN leadership from March onwards have also created many working groups. One of the working groups is the Technology Working Group, where the technology related issues related to the technology enablers and technology developers are both addressed. Just to clarify the difference, technology enablers are the people who bring frameworks, who bring standards, like IETF, EIII, or the [inaudible]. All the frameworks, like Python, Java, .net – these are the people who are interested in that. Then developers are the people who use those frameworks and develop software, mobile applications, websites, and everything else. So this technology working group is really solving this problem. Anybody who is interested in working with this group, these groups are open so you can join in and you can monitor if you want to become part of the mailing list. If you're a technology [inaudible], then you can actually support and solve this problem. That's one.

To create awareness, we have another [inaudible] initiative: to create small, small working groups within each touch points within ICANN. Now we have GAC as universal acceptance working group operating. We have ALAC. We have NARALO. We have LACRALO. We are now seeing that universal acceptance working group in each particular SO/AC or each particular regional organizations are now taking place. This is where the discussions will happen. What is really needed in that particular region [inaudible] to us. If there is support required for technology and solving the problem, we are there to help.

I hope that answers the question. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: If I could add to that, UASG.tech – if you have not joined, please join. Just a little background. The ICANN community really has been the driving force, but it's an open community group whose funding is supported by ICANN but the direction is driven by the community. So please join and participate in it.

I see that Kenny wants to ... Is it specifically on the issue? Because I have Craig and Mili in the queue.

KENNY HUANG: Same.

EDMON CHUNG: Same issues. Then we'll jump to Kenny first.

KENNY HUANG: Sorry to interrupt the queue. [I'm putting my hat outside of APNIC. Actually, I'm the Co-Chair of the Chinese [generation] panel for a root zone and also the co-author of IETF RFC 3743, which happened to be a [inaudible] registration [inaudible]. I feel very frustrated when working with IDNs within the ICANN community. Especially because a lot of our discussions mainly focus on technical discussions. Basically we should rename all the technical discussion, rededicate to IETF or Unicode

[inaudible] technical organization instead of reinvent the wheel within the ICANN community a lot of time.

Secondly, when we try to promote IDNs, considered to be one of the very early adopters for IDNs, actually encourage ICANN also to adopt IDNs [inaudible] ICANN.org? Have you ever considered to apply different languages for ICANN.org to allow different people using their own language script to access ICANN to access the information they require? Thank you.]

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Kenny. I think that directs to Jia-Rong. I think it's a broader question. The first few questions seem to be on IDNs and universal acceptance. What is the response, I guess, from ICANN?

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you. Actually, I had a couple of discussion with Goran, our CEO. He has made it very clear that the topic of universal acceptance is now a pet project for him. He used the term "pet project," but what he means is that it is a priority for him. He's asked me about this topic before. He also had mentioned that we should think about how ICANN the organization – our systems and our websites – can better support IDNs.

So he's asked this question before and there are some different views from the community. In fact, from us in the APAC community perspective, it's all straightforward. It's a non-brainer. We should do it. We must do it. But from this perspective of the global community, he's

gotten pushback from some other community members from other regions that say, “No, ICANN org, you don’t have to do this much.”

I think the key point here that I’m trying to say is that we have to make this demand known across the globe to other communities as well. Then they will get it better. When that demand from our region is made clearer, then it’s easier for us to act. I think what he’s getting right now is a mix of different views and it’s very hard for us to want to be able to act immediately.

So the only point I really need help on and your support is to raise your voice more often. Talk about, “ICANN, your system is not ready yet. ICANN, how can you support other scripts at your second level? How can you do it?” So really raise this. Then it will really help us be able to move forward. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Jia-Rong. I think we’ve been raising it for more than ten years now, but we will continue to raise it.

JIA-RONG LOW: I think we need more people to say it. Maybe it’s like Edmon is saying it so much that people got used to it.

EDMON CHUNG: Exactly. That’s why I need to shut up and pass it to Craig. I have Craig and Mili in the queue. Anyone else wants ...

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: [inaudible]

CRAIG NG Mine is actually very simple. It's actually just a question for Jia-Rong. You mentioned the ICANN readout. I actually don't understand what that means. Could you please elaborate? Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. Can we move to the slide on ICANN readouts? The background is this. In fact, a long time ago – I can't remember how many years now – very shortly after ICANN started ... The Japanese community is a very collectivistic community. Not everyone can join ICANN meetings. So those who can come to ICANN meetings – for example, like [Chen] and [Mitamorason], who are there – come to ICANN meetings. After they finish the ICANN meeting, they go back and they'll invite the local community together and give them a debrief. The debrief is a readout. Essentially, they will then share, "I went for (say) the GAC meeting (or ccNSO and the GNSO)," and they will update on what the discussions are, what are the issues that's on the table, and what do we need to think about as a local community. This has worked out fantastic in Japan.

So we tried to take the same model and we went to China and we did it there in China and in India as well. In fact, in India we have so many people wanting to host readouts that we are having a challenge being more coordinated. So that's the background behind it. Thank you.

CRAIG NG:

Thanks. Actually, that makes a lot of sense to me now. That's great. I think the Japanese community is the best at doing this. I think they do that for the APNIC meeting as well. So they were working with [Izumi] last time. I know that, after every APNIC meeting, the Japanese community will get together and discuss what happened at the APNIC meeting as well.

That's fantastic and I think we should probably work closer with you guys to expand that practice to other regions as well. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

That's a great point. And a readout is not just a readout of the transcript. It's a digested readout.

Others in the room from other parts of the region, if you think that your country or city is ripe for something like this, I think you can definitely connect with Jia-Rong and try to get that started.

You wanted to add to that?

CRAIG NG: Just very quickly, the other thing is that, for the APNIC meeting and for our policy discussions, again, JPNIC assembled their community and they discussed a policy proposals that's coming at our meeting before their meeting. So they actually get a community position within Japan. That's very clear to us and that's very good because, when a person speaks at the microphone about a policy proposal and speaks on behalf of the Japanese community, for example – in the case of Vietnam, I think they do that as well – we know that it actually comes from deliberative discussion and not the voice of one person. Thank you. That's it.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you. I have Mili. I have a remote. I have Pam. I have Kenny. I'll go to Mili first. Is that okay? Mili, please.

MILI SEMLANI: Thank you, Edmon. I have two comments and I'm going to save one in my head as the incoming NCUC rep for Asia on ICANN's multi-stakeholder model and how to evolve it, especially in Asia because we have multiple challenges there.

Also, with respect to NCUC, what I've observed is we don't have that many Asian individuals or even non-profit organization participating. One of the challenges we've been seeing is it's not about just coming to the fora. I think as an Asian community we've done fairly good job at that. One of the reasons why I'm here is the result of that. But where we need to do a little more is on capacity building in terms of policy or just

getting involved in policy. So we do definitely need more things like policy writing courses. Coming from India, I wouldn't even say we have a fully sophisticated policy development kind of procedure or education or skills. So I'm guessing that could be a challenge for a lot of people in the region. And English not being a native. So to compete with that in this place ... If you could think of how we can incorporate more of these courses or even live webinars or training sessions at the local level. There are multiple groups. There are ALSes, [inaudible] IG and others who can facilitate, along with ICANN and other organizations who want to support it. So that's one.

The second one. I'm going to switch my hat to the [inaudible] for IG. We're a group of young people from Asia who are trying to involve and keep continuing their engagement in IG. You'll be hearing a little bit about us later.

What I want to bring up here is I see the strong Asian community and there are lots of young people and we've all been talking about, including the Board, the future of ICANN and who's going to do all this work as we progress through the years. So if we could do some kind of an informal buddy mentor program with the APAC space. There are lots of veterans. There are people who've been doing amazing things in the past 20 years in this space. As young people, if we could have that connection to that senior member, friend, or regular or veteran, just helping us navigate the space when we could to these meetings initially. So that could really help.

Sorry. The last one is about readouts. If we have any format or structure on how we organize these, who can do it, what do you need – if there’s anything like that, like a group that I run that – our community could just take it up and do it within our little community. Does it have to be at the country level? At the city level? Or can it just be with a group of people who are interested? I’ll be happy to know about that. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you. I think it’s very organic, though. It’s very bottom-up. If you can imagine a mechanism, I think Jia-Rong would be willing to look into it. Also, maybe Jia-Rong can share some experience from the others as well. Did you want to add to that?

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you. Great ideas. I’ll just respond more on the readout do I don’t take up much time. We can put together a template of sorts, like how the readouts programs are being run in Japan or India or China. That’s not a hard and fast rule but just more for reference. I think we can do that. We can post it up and anyone interested can take it up and see where we go from there. If you have any questions, just reach out to me. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

I have the online question, Pam, and –sorry?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

[inaudible]

EDMON CHUNG: Oh, Samiran wants to—

SAMIRAN GUPTA: Yeah. Hi, Mili. I just wanted to add that you had made request about policy development courses. We actually did one as a pilot almost with CIS earlier this year. That’s a model that we are open to trying to repeat, perhaps in the region as well. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG: We had a remote question.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Yes, we do. The question comes from [Yin Morushun]. I’m really hope I’m reading that right. If not, please forgive me. The question is, “How do we encourage non-ASCII language users to become more engaged? Does ICANN allow user names or alternative nicknames to display in our own script? I think this would be a good start. Thank you.”

EDMON CHUNG: I can pass it directly to Jia-Rong.

JIA-RONG LOW: Sorry. Just quickly. Not answering the question, but [May] is the chair for the Myanmar Label Generation Panel.

EDMON CHUNG: But you still have to answer the question. I guess this is a question of [Zoom's]. Can [Zoom] allow this or can any sign-ups on ICANN or portals use IDNs or EAs or different languages as they sign up? That's probably the question.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. I think the answer is similar to what I responded to earlier. Definitely within ICANN systems we are still working to be fully UA-compliant. So there has been some updates from our Chief Information Officer, Ashwin. He's been working on it very hard and we're moving in that direction. So it's a matter of time before we get there.

But we also realize it is not so straightforward because there is a mix of systems that we, as in the organization, developed. Those are easier because we can just put in the code straight away. But there are also a number of systems that we work with the vendors on, and some of the vendors are taking much longer to respond to our requests to be able to support IDNs. So there's a mix of these things, and that's why we realize that it's such a huge challenge trying to propagate this in industry across the region and across the world.

EDMON CHUNG: Yeah. Adding to what Jia-Rong mentioned, actually for everyone, every ICANN meeting ICANN IT actually gives an update on their journey for full universal acceptance through all their systems. It's been a very exciting story, actually, for the last few years. It's definitely for me one

of the highlights of the ICANN meetings. So I do encourage you to take a look at that journey.

We're also, I think, at the UASG working closely with ICANN to make that experience into a case study/case studies. So just in response to [May's] question, yes, I think that's the direction, and, yes, we should all make sure ICANN gets through all of it. But it will take time. I think the whole community will learn from the ICANN experience as well.

I have Pam and then Kenny. Anyone else?

Pam, please?

PAM LITTLE:

Hi, everyone. It's good that we stay on this slide. I have two comments on this. One is I think this is about evolving ICANN's multi-stakeholder model. Therefore, I'm a bit surprised to see there's so much focus on the non-ICANN activities. So I think maybe we want to rethink about maybe shifting the focus a little bit to how to engage in ICANN because this is about ICANN engagement or the ICANN multi-stakeholder model, not those. I'm a big fan of all those things you guys are doing – [inaudible] and all that – but I think we need to maybe rethink to focus on how to engage in this space. This is about ICANN activities. This initiative of evolving ICANN multi-stakeholder model would have a significant major impact on how we engage in ICANN, who is going to be engaging in ICANN and even allowed to be engaged in ICANN. You might have seen the EPDP model where the participants or members of that working group are actually appointed by their respective

stakeholder groups or constituencies. So that means it's not open to you or I. Maybe you're very keen on a particular working group but you have to be appointed or supported by you respective group to be able to join that group and participate in.

So this would fundamentally change. I think there will some aspects of the outcome of this effort that will change how we engage in ICANN, who will be engaging in ICANN. So I think we should really pay attention to it. I would like personally to see more focus within the ICANN construct – activities, if you like.

The other thing is related. Again, I'm from the GNSO community. I like to see more of our community members, also along with this particular strategic goal about how to encourage more folks from the region to be engaged in the GNSO activities because this is really a very important part of the ICANN community or structures. The GNSO is the body tasked to develop consensus policy for generic top-level domain names. We're not talking about cc. We're just talking about g. Only this body – GNSO – can develop policy. These recommendations come to the GNSO Council. If the council adopts them, it'll go to the Board. If the Board adopts them, they become consensus policy. This is a vital, important space if you want to shape the outcome of the Internet. So I would encourage folks or ourselves to think about how we can have capacity building really focused on people who can join the policy development activities within the GNSO, whether it's the contracted parties house, which means registries or registrars, whether it's the non-contracted party house, which will be a non-commercial user group and the commercial user group folks. Thanks.

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Pam. I'll respond quickly. Jia-Rong, please add to that. Not to defend ICANN, but APIGA, the Asia-Pacific Internet Governance Academy, actually features a mock-ICANN session for the training. Some of the alumni from APIGA actually [inaudible]. So that I think is relevant.

But I think you bring up a pretty good point. Some of these probably should go under the geopolitical bucket, like the IGF and those things, rather than in the enhancement of the MSM here at ICANN. Jia-Rong, please add.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. Just responding to Pam's point – it's relevant – I want to just take a step back and point out how the process flow works. Imagine the community-building part that's outside of ICANN as a building block towards being able to come back and engage in ICANN because, first of all, if people are not aware that, at ICANN meetings, what is being discussed, they are not going to come here and engage here. So we have to start off somewhere, which is to bring ICANN to the regions first and bring the discussions to the regions. That's when people then understand, "Oh, this is what it's about. I want to be engaged." Then they come and attend. So that's the first building block.

So actually where we are right now is exactly on the same page. The question that I have is, how do we go to the next step? We started building that community with a group of regulars now. They are coming

to the APAC space. They are going for the readouts. Even within the regional Internet governance fora, why I raised it here is because it's actually the same community members who are attending APriGF, who are initiating the local IGFs. They touch ICANN in that way.

Now, the challenge really for us is they're very active, they've very interested, so how do we now take them to the next step? Bring them to ICANN, not just here attending, but, just like you say, Pam, how can we really help them to be plugged into the GNSO and really participate? So that's the challenge sometimes I feel.

I know that everyone in this group is definitely very eager, very interested, and there are various unseen barriers sometimes. I think that the suggestion that Mili made is something that's pretty close to my heart. If we can really strengthen the network with you, the veterans – with you, Cheryl, with Holly, with Edmon and Ajay – how do we think about doing something that can help that network? Then think about bringing them into really participating in GNSO. So that's something I hope we can do together. Thank you.

CRAIG NG: Maybe a mentorship program via WhatsApp.

PAM LITTLE: Just very briefly, Jia-Rong, that is well and good but I think this particular strategic goal is about within the ICANN construct already evolving ICANN's multi-stakeholder model.

EDMON CHUNG: I have Kenny and Holly and five minutes left on the clock.

KENNY HUANG: [Thank you, Edmon. I put on my hat as an APNIC Board member. I'm not sure whether I should discuss transparency just inside the entire community or just outside ICANN. Anyway, I'll just try to recap the ICANN readout, and the program was developed by the Japanese community. I think we do have something similar, probably something we can share. For example, we do have a regular OPM (open policy meeting) two months before the IR meeting. Most of the IR policy proposal would be digested and discussed within the open policy meeting. One example is a [inaudible] policy amendment, which was driven by the efforts of the community contributions. So I think that's a very obvious example. The other case is for [inaudible] outreach effort not only going through one channel. For example, you also have [inaudible] with [inaudible] frequency of IGF, like [inaudible] and [inaudible] also contributed to [inaudible] IGF. We spread out information to different kinds of channel. For example, we also have a regular meeting with ICANN, such as the ICANN engagement. Probably we can also increase the frequency of discussion with the community and focus on ICANN [regulatory] issues. Thank you.]

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Kenny. Holly?

HOLLY RAICHE:

About participation, it's something that ALAC has also discussed a lot in terms of involvement with a multi-stakeholder model. Certainly I understand Pam's point, which is, yes, the GNSO is where policy is made. That is not an easy thing to do. In fact, the 2014 review of the GNSO pointed out the difficulty with participating in the GNSO, made some recommendations which the GNSO has said they'd do ... I take a deep breath and say, "Well, maybe." But I would point out it is not an easy process, and this is the sort of place where in fact you need to learn how to do it. I think probably what the GNSO needs to do is to take a little seriously how to actually help people engage because we're all volunteers. A lot of the time, this is our spare time. We're not getting paid and it's hard to understand the issues unless there is some help. This is where we might look to ICANN – do we have webinars, is the GNSO reaching out? – to actually understand what the community says because it's not that easy to participate.

So good luck. I've been doing it for years. I feel really comfortable doing it, but there aren't many of me. Thank you.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you, Holly. Last word by Donna.

DONNA AUSTIN:

Sorry. Donna Austin. I'm the Chair of the Registry Stakeholder Group and also work for Neustar. Being from Australia, I'm very conscious that the Registry Stakeholder Group meets every week, but it's a time that's very inconvenient—

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Usually 2:00.

DONNA AUSTIN: Yeah, usually 2:00.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Sometimes 3:00 [inaudible].

DONNA AUSTIN: Yeah. So what I've been doing is holding a meeting once a month aimed at the registries in the Asia-Pac region so I can bring them up to speed with what we've been talking about within the stakeholder group because I recognize it's a problem that at 2:00 in the morning nobody is going to be with it. We actually have a team in Melbourne that this becomes helpful for as well. So that's something that I am doing for members of the Registry Stakeholder Group that are in the APAC region to try to bring them up to speed with what we're talking about.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Could that be extended [inaudible]?

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Donna. Holly, did you want to add to it?

HOLLY RAICHE: [inaudible]

EDMON CHUNG: Okay.

HOLLY RAICHE: [inaudible]

EDMON CHUNG: Thank you, Donna. That is an improvement in the multi-stakeholder model in some sense.

As Jia-Rong started the session, this is just the beginning of really putting the strategic plan into action. I believe it will hit the ground running next June? July? Next July. Between now and then, whether they're in the right buckets, as Pam has mentioned, or whether other parts of the community would like to see more initiatives coming out from ICANN, definitely the APAC space would also be an area and a space that you can voice it out in. Or you can also find Jia-Rong directly.

With that, I pass it back to Sabrina.

SABRINA LIM: Thank you, Edmon. Well, as we continue to think about how it is we can all collaborate even further together in the region, we shall move to final item for today, which is an introduction about Youth4IG by Mili and Mandy. Ladies, please.

MILI SEMLANI:

Thank you, Sabrina. Hello, again. Mili here, speaking as founder of Youth4IG. I'm really glad to see all the energy that we want to put in in enhancing the multi-stakeholder model and also bringing newcomers and regulars up to the veteran level. I guess that's what Youth4IG tries to answer for the region. We're a youth group of all the young people – we do have an age limit, yes – in the region and fairly newcomers in the region who are acquainting themselves with Internet governance and ICANN. It's not just ICANN but it's all of Internet governance and includes APNIC, APriGF, IGF, and all the other forums.

So we realized that there was no space for us to connect as newcomers and talk and discuss our issues. There were certain things that we wanted to speak about but sometimes it was the apprehensiveness of reaching out to somebody very senior and asking a very stupid question or sometimes it's just the lack of access. So this group has been around for about six months and started right after the Kobe meeting. I'm really grateful for all the support from .asia, ICANN, APNIC, and all the community members in their own capacities and individually also that have helped us steer this, just getting on with this groundwork and being there. Right now we're literally just a small WhatsApp group where we communicate and engage. We share updates. We will haven't had a readout, but maybe that's something we can consider.

I'm really hopeful that we can think about this buddy mentorship program at ICANN and broader to help people like us and more younger people, a lot of them part of APIGA, to come to these forums and engage in a more profound way, apart from just attending the meetings and

learning something new. It's also about going to the next step of actually helping policy making.

With that, I'm going to pass the floor to Mandy to speak about a mentorship model that we're trying to build for our little group and the little help that we can take from you all. Thank you.

MANDY CHEN:

Thank you, Mili. As Mili suggested [inaudible] we were talking about here, a lot of people were saying, how do we get people more engaged? As Mili said, Youth4!G is just this thing we created to connect more users in the APAC region. Most of us actually have some kind of experience, some fellowship experience, either from APIGA, ICANN, APriGF, APNIC – all kinds of initiatives in the IG ecosystem. But this one thing that most of us members have realized or have identified are these issues that this fellowship experience, although it's very spectacular and a great opportunity to learn, it's a one-off thing that's super condensed in four or five or six days of experience, where you'll learn everything. You know every person and you hear about all the super important topics. Then, once the fellowship ends, you're back in real life and you have no resources, no guidance. Even if you want to get engaged more, you really don't know how because you don't have the access. All of us know how it's very hard when, one, a lot of us are not native English speakers, and, second, we're newcomers and there's all the acronyms, and, of all the super important topics, you don't know which one to pick. So that's why we wanted to this mentorship program.

It's actually the very first project because we're a baby organization also. So for this project we formed a working group. I'm the Co-Chair and the other Chair is Jianne from [NetVision]. So what we're planning to do with this mentorship is really just fill in the gap after the fellowship ends and you want to get more engaged but you really just don't know how. So we want to have this mentorship program where we have mentees pair up with mentors who are the seasoned experts who know everything so we can have this bi-weekly one-on-one sessions where the mentees are able to ask all the stupid questions they want and she can get answers, very elaborative, very tailored to what she wanted to know, because it's a one-on-one session and it's impossible for us to do this when it's big, time-limited sessions. So that's what we're trying to do.

But we also know that all of us have our formal job and our IG commitments on the side. Everyone is super busy, so it's impossible to ask the mentors, especially seasoned experts, to have this much time with the mentees. So we're also designing this role of teaching assistant (TA) kind of thing, which is going to be served for our Youth4IG members so we can talk with the mentees in the intercessional in some periods. We can discuss, we can learn, we can do our homework together if the mentors assign us homework.

So that's how we're going to do it. This is the plan we're going to do this mentorship system. Our ambition is to actually launch this pilot program next year, so we plan to start recruiting maybe during February, after the big Chinese New Year and Christmas and everything so everybody is more relaxed while happy once you had the holiday. So

we start recruiting in March and maybe have this short pilot program from April to June because, of course, because we want a sustainable thing, our ambition is for this to be a one-year program. But with our limited resources and experience now, we really just have to test this idea out to [inaudible] and manageable skills. So we're testing now maybe April to June next year.

Actually, I think we're two minutes from the end, so [inaudible] I'm presenting to you guys. We actually already have the guideline of this finished. Most of the documents we're preparing for this program is almost already finished, but I don't want to occupy your time and stop you from getting the coffee from the coffee break because everybody was complaining about jet lag. I think the coffee break in the morning is so much better than the one in the afternoon.

But please, if you're interested and you're super nice and your super busy but you still want to be a mentor, please come to us. Please come to Mili or me. We can talk more. We can tell you more details of what we're planning to do. Actually, we have a Youth4IG member in the back to, who's also a [inaudible] ambassador. So, if you want to know more about us, you can search Youth4IG on Twitter or Facebook. We have a website. Shout out to Edmon for the .asia website. Thank you very much.

SABRINA LIM:

Thank you very much, Mili and Mandy. We welcome you for IG to the neighborhood. We're certainly looking forward to working with you and seeing you guys around a lot more.

Because we're almost out of time, just very quickly, any other business or matters to raise? If not, then I believe I shall just close the session.

We all good? Okay. Thank you so much, everyone, for being here first thing in the morning, badly jetlagged. I hope you all have a fruitful week here in Montreal. Thank you very much also to our remote participants for being with us this evening, all the way back home is Asia-Pac. See you all at our next APAC space webinar.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]