
ICANN72 | Prep Week – Progress and Next Steps for Universal Acceptance
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SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you all for joining the ICANN 72 prep session on progress and next steps for universal acceptance. This panel is going to be led by Dr. Ajay Data who is the chair of Universal Acceptance Steering Group. I would like to invite Dr. Data to get the session started. Thank you.

AJAY DATA: Thank you, Sarmad. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. It's a very different time for everyone, especially I can see in Asia and India, it's 4:30 AM, very early morning, very less people could join at this time, but it's great that still, we have I can see 70 participants here. That's fantastic, and I'm very happy to plan and share with you the update from universal acceptance [for the community as our] annual plan and we share [with readiness and action plan] with the community. Next slide, please.

This is the agenda today, and this is how we are going to share about Universal Acceptance Steering Group the whole year how things are proceeding, how things are working out and how they're shaping up. And of course, while I share UA readiness and [inaudible] we have an action plan for year 2022 and it is supported with my colleagues here, chairs of each working group [who'll] share a little bit about their own each working group to the community. And then of course, we have question answers and we're happy to answer the questions if there are any. Next slide, please.

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.

What is universal acceptance? This is a repetitive one, we all know, but there are always new people. For them, we keep this slide that all domain names and all e-mail addresses work in all software applications. That sounds simple, but that is the problem which this group is trying to solve. The mission is to mobilize all software application developers, e-mail tools and service providers and all domain industry to get their protection services UA ready. And thus, we are on that everybody in the ecosystem of Internet applications ensure that their software are UA ready and they accept all kinds of e-mail addresses and software applications. Next slide, please.

UASG was formed in 2015 and since then, a lot of work has happened. The main objective of this group is to raise awareness of UA issues among relevant stakeholders, help developers make their system UA ready, and to ensure that they are able to do so, we provide the necessary documentation, ensure that there's some common consensus and standards are built, technology and tools are UA ready.

And that's where most of the time goes and the money goes, to ensure that the people who are building the systems have sufficient resources, encourage businesses and government and their developers and suppliers to ensure UA ready solutions. So we request governments and businesses to take necessary steps that their software are UA ready, which means their software can accept all kinds of e-mail addresses and domain names.

And of course, there is no point to keep doing something and we cannot measure. Measurement of the progress of UA readiness is also very

important. And you will see [inaudible] which I'm going to share. Next slide, please.

This slide is an important one. This is the kind of boundary and scope of the UA group. What kind of issues we solve. So you could see in the top three rows of the domain name side, these kind of examples are the examples of domain names we expect all kind of applications should accept and perform the way it is supposed to.

So let us say new short top-level ASCII domain name, which means it is not .com, .net, but it is something else, maybe .sky, then will the application accept it as a valid domain? And that is what is important, to understand that not all the applications consider new top-level domains as a valid domain, and there's a problem which we think must be solved.

Second is longer top-level ASCII domain names where the domain name has a top-level domain name which is more than three characters, like .engineering. Will it be accepted as a valid domain name? And internationalized domain names, a domain which has non-Latin characters. Will it be accepted as a valid domain name?

Let me give you an example here. In India, we are holding [inaudible] and in [inaudible], first time probably the [inaudible] has been hosted also along with IDNs and there are 12 IDNs of different languages out there. And I think ICANN uses Slack. And if you share that IDN, the link doesn't get formed automatically on Slack. That was reported yesterday. That's a UA problem. The domain name is valid but Slack does not identify it as a valid domain name.

Now the question is, should it be solved or should it continue? UA makes an effort to ensure that a bug is filed and we contact and do whatever is necessary that this domain name gets validated and accepted as valid domain name and the link is possible to be visible and people can visit the link by posting the link in the Slack chat or their projects, whatever the case may be.

E-mail addresses. To these top-level domains, there are e-mail addresses. So you could see ASCII@ASCII, ASCII@IDN, Unicode@IDN, right-to-left scripts. All those examples are valid e-mail address examples and these are all valid e-mail addresses. These must be accepted in all kind of applications, all kind of software, and this is where the entire scope is. How do we test it?

To test it, UA has come out with a five-pillar strategy. It should be accepted—so let us say for example in Slack which I just told, Slack do not reject typing it or pasting it. It accepts it, so it passes the first test. But it does not validate it as a valid domain. That is where it fails. Then it doesn't validate, so it doesn't process, it does not store as a domain name, it does not display as a domain name. So that is where the problem is.

It is accepting as a script, as a text, and that is where the problem is. We need to see that our domain names are accepted as domain name itself, not converted as a text. And if any software passes this five-pillar test, then it becomes UA ready. Next slide, please.

So today, we are going to share about UA readiness. Next slide, please. This is where we are talking about how the progress on different tools,

different stakeholders, has happened, what has happened there. And obviously, we will talk about what is going on in each segment. So these are our UA stakeholders in fiscal year 2021, and you can see that the focus is on five stakeholders, technology enablers, technology developers, e-mail software and service providers, e-mail administrators, government policymakers.

As the name suggests very clearly, they are very different to each other, but they are very connected to each other. And we focus on all the five stakeholders continuously through this year. Next slide, please.

UA works with working groups. We have many working groups now, and every working group is led by the chair and vice chair in those working groups. These working groups focus on a very specific work in their own area. So technology working group will [inaudible] the remediation work on standards, programming languages. E-mail address internationalization, EAI working group will focus on e-mail readiness, [sees the] engagement with service providers, administrators and everybody else, measurement working group will see and identify the gap in tools and technologies, communication working group sees that the message goes out well and preaches to the right audience and the communications are designed, whether it is in social media or website, [inaudible] communication working group.

Local initiative working group is a very new concept where we go out and create local initiative groups in regions and they create the awareness locally and UA ambassadors are the people who do the

outreach program at the national and regional level and organize trainings. Next slide, please.

So we have a process to address, and that is where the entire lifecycle goes of the readiness around UA. So we see as a community and decide what do we prioritize. Of course, you will agree that not all the tools and software can be addressed at the same time. So we see where the problem is more, which is a top language, which is a top software where we require our efforts [to put in.]

Then we determine how do we evaluate it and how do we evaluate the readiness in the software. And of course, then we submit a bug report, follow up on bugs, so if we can work on this, we do our work, if we cannot, then we contact the vendor, contact the company and see that this is where we need your support on. Otherwise, we develop our UA compliant guidelines and sometimes the Board itself ensure that the project is issued and we [build rapport,] develop the messaging and training and then conduct the outreach and training for stakeholders.

This is the process that's repeated for each cycle with [inaudible] stakeholders. Analyze gaps, determine solutions. This is a continuous process which working group on each area takes care. Whether it is technology working group or EAI working group, we work in the same fashion. Next slide, please.

The scope of UA readiness is all software's. And there may be some software and languages which may not be there, but this is where we would focus on each kind angle from the technology side, whether it is applications and websites as I shared, whether it is ICANN.Org or Safari

or now the Slack example, they're supposed to be UA ready. Social media and search engines, browsers, Chrome, Bing. While I was giving my example of domain names, imagine you type an IDN on the browser and it starts searching rather than taking you to a website and it does not link into—consider it as a top-level domain name. That is the kind of bug which we are trying to solve.

Programming languages and frameworks, all kinds of languages, JavaScript, Java, Angular, .NET and whatnot. We're currently working very closely on [inaudible] iOS, Windows. So basically, we do not leave anything. That's the nutshell scope for UA readiness. We will have to address [if the community needs it, some technology stuff, we will have to address it.] Next slide, please. We will not leave it undone.

This is a very specific slide for e-mail. So you see it's a complicated thing. Those who are not even expert on email setup, just a user, let me just explain what is MUA, MSA, MTA, MDA. MUA is a mail user agent. That's basically the e-mail software which you use. So if you're on an Android or iOS phone, you use a mail app, and that's the mail user agent.

That mail app communicates with the server. That's the submission agent. That is where the mail gets submitted. And mail server has the transfer agent which transfers e-mail to the respective person whether it is—if it is in the same local server, and basically you can call it as a queue manager and transfer it to the respective user. And if it is not user, then it gets delivered to the end user whether it is in the local server or outside server, the delivery agent will ensure that the mail is

delivered to the respective—this all traffic from the MUA to the MDA must be UA ready. If any component is not UA ready, then of course, a software is not ready and it will not be delivered and you will have issues for the EAI addresses or the other examples which I gave you for EAI.

It is not just about sending side, it is about receiving side also. We receive e-mails. when you receive an e-mail from the server and if your mail client does not understand that it's an EAI address, you might see garbage, you might see the mail malformed, and that is where we expect that not just sending but receiving an e-mail, you should be able to have an e-mail client which is UA ready. And if it is not, we will address this as a UA scope and try to follow the process which I just shared with you the last slide. Next slide, please.

Examples of gap analysis. And so you can see there's a list, an alphabetical order we try to cover, but most of the e-mail clients do now a better job than they used to do before. Not fully where we would like to, but we are reaching there and we are ensuring that we communicate with these large people, companies and ensure that they're UA ready.

So [see] number two, MS Outlook. It's at most L1. L1 means it can understand, support the EAI address and it can communicate with the server. So MS Outlook.com can send and receive e-mail. So you could see MUA, MSA and MTA all are green, and it means it is fully supported. You can see Courier which is all L2, it supports all. You can see Gmail, all L1. You can see XgenPlus, all L2 and mostly it supports.

So there are many clients in the world which now support the very basic need of EAI address and there's a large work going on and we continue to build this report and keep tracking what's going on in these software and update the community. If they want to adopt a software, they can pick up this list and see what they need to use to ensure their infrastructure is EAI ready or UA ready. Next slide, please.

So this is how we do remediation of e-mail systems. So we tested Sendmail of this version 8.17 alpha 0 and alpha 2. Found a few bugs in alpha 0 which we reported and were fixed. And that's the beauty of this entire community model, that in the multi-stakeholder model, all stakeholders take the responsibility and deliver a good result. And that resulted in 8.17 alpha 2 and later versions has solid level 2 EAI support in its MSA and MTA. That's the beauty of this entire e-mail system and that's how the remediation happened. Basically, we let the community know, or if the tool developer do not do it, we go and try to deliver code and a bugfix to the system so that it can be merged and called upon into the code itself. Next slide, please.

Gap analysis for UA readiness. I will not go into each site. There's a large thing I can continue for the whole day to keep giving you these documents, but I would encourage everyone to please look at this UA readiness document, the report published which is available on UASG.tech website. You see UA readiness framework. That's domain names and email addresses, so on and so forth. So there's a long list on the screen. These documents are all available on the UASG.tech website. There's a link on the slide also and the slide is also available on the ICANN schedule where the event is. You can download this slide

and click on those links and see them very well. There is no problem with that. Next slide, please.

We have guidance and training materials for UA, and this is where the work is. If you are interested to know more about how EAI mailboxes should be, how universal acceptance is working for Java developers, for Python, for [learn program is there now,] so if you're interested to learn a little bit about UA, you can actually go very [interestingly.] Very recently, we have launched with the help of ICANN a UA course and you can get a certificate for yourself and know a little bit more about UA through the Learn program. So there's many [inaudible] which is there.

The most interesting report which goes with lots of effort, UA readiness report. So if you want to know how the world is progressing with the tools and software, you can download that report and you will be able to see what has been done by UA group, by each working group, what kind of hard work has happened for each step to ensure that we have better world for accepting domain names and e-mail addresses. Next slide, please.

So also, not just the report, how do we take up in the world? So if you see, we conduct our outreach, and this is an update, but if you imagine, these updates are not just enough for very limited people. We have to ensure that a dedicated group works for each region. So as UASG leadership, we decided that we cannot be justified in the entire world by sitting at one place. Three or four people cannot just do justice in the whole world.

So, what happened? The community decided, let's do the local initiative. Local initiatives are formed with a common group of people in a particular region and they approach the UA under the program of local initiative. And we approve them. We don't only approve as a part of recognized group, we also support and fund them and provide them the necessary material and guidance so that they can do their entire UA work in their own region completely at their own will, freely. We obviously monitor the progress and support them financially, technically, with documents and communication, whatever the need may be. China, India, Thailand and CIS, all those countries are doing very good job. I actually spoke with Armenia a week before at their event. There are communities which are getting active worldwide.

Ambassadors is a very good program and I would call upon and request, if you're listening to me very well, that there's an ambassador program always open. If you are very keen to represent us in your own region, please look at the ambassador program. and there's a leadership team and a community member and ICANN Org all work together to ensure that the trainings are organized, awareness is raised globally. Next slide, please.

So there are some event photos. Photos speak a lot, so there are pictures which you can see. There are some physical events which are obviously before corona and there are some events which are virtually done to raise awareness. You can see that globally, the events are happening, whether it is India or China, and this is what we need to do more and more in the whole world. Next slide, please.

So we are going to talk about now the action plan of 2022. Next slide, please. And this is where we are going to share today about the action plan. This is an action plan which community builds along with the leaders in UASG, and this is a bot tom-up process and this is how it works. Let me just take 30 seconds to share.

So each working group builds what they would like to do in this year, and they plan and discuss within the group and then discuss with the larger discuss list. So we have a discuss list and with each plan discuss this, and it culminates to a document which comes to the leadership, which means all the working group chairs and vice chairs and the elected leadership discusses them and finalizes the entire plan and [add the] administrative tasks with the help of secretariat which is led by Sarmad, and we build a document, then we take it to the discuss list again which is around 700 members, we take the feedback, incorporate that feedback into the document and that is how action plan gets formed, and then we submit it to UA, to ICANN, this is how the finances are going to be used, because we get supported financially through ICANN.

And this document, if you have not read, is available on UASG.tech website and the link is also available, you can look at that. Earlier annual action plans are also available in operational documents, so it is not just the current, you can revisit the old documents also if you want to. Next slide, please.

So this is [inaudible] the five stakeholders, but this year, we added two new stakeholders. This is interesting because this is not what we

decided, this is what the community raises the point that this is what also needs to be added. So academia also specifically got added, students and faculty involved in technology programs, and domain name industry which means registrars and resellers and registries also get added and we focus on them too. So we would like that no stakeholder is left in this entire scheme of the things which UA is trying to achieve. Next slide, please.,

So we have now for technology working group, we are going to have these working groups which are identifying as I shared already, and these working groups do the specific tasks and we are going to do this technology working group led by Satish. Is Satish there, Sarmad?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: No, Satish unfortunately could not join.,

AJAY DATA: No. So Sarmad, will you take it from here?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Sure.

AJAY DATA: Or if you want me to, I can take it.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Please go ahead.

AJAY DATA:

Okay. So technology working group is led by Satish Babu. Unfortunately, he's not here so I will try to do his part. This is how you will find T1, T2 in the action plan, and we will see that [inaudible] identifying technology stacks for UA [inaudible] and this is where the working group do the research, identify and prioritize the stacks for UA testing. And then obviously, once you do that, you need to also [inaudible] [how to program] for UA, which means develop, test, publish functional minimal running prototypes to demonstrate UA readiness on prioritized technology stacks. This is how the money or the effort goes.

Conduct technology remediation, which means develop remediation strategy and undertake remediation of technology prioritization. And this is where the focus goes only on remediation. Prioritize and develop training materials and identify the big picture of UA challenges of 2022 and issue recommendations for UA. And that's where we do the test, the survey, and ensure the community gets involved in this entire process of recommendations for the UASG. Next slide, please.

So we have Mark for EAI. Over to you, please, Mark.

MARK SVANCAREK:

Yes. I'm Mark Svancarek, chair of the EAI working group, and here we've got our action plan for the year. There are six buckets or categories. One of them is from last fiscal year and five of them are new. What we started working on last year—which we're still working on—is creating a self-

certification guide for EAI. EAI is the internationalized e-mail addresses, so e-mail addresses that contain either non-ASCII characters in the local part or IDNs or both.

We find that a lot of people don't know how to select software that is fully EAI compatible, so we thought that we would create as part of our action plan last year a self-certification guide so that software providers, people who provide online systems or standalone software and servers or even just libraries and tools could indicate what level of support they offer. So that's the self-certification guide and we're working on that now.

We have completed our second draft and now it just requires quite a lot of cleanup, honestly, so that we can share it more publicly with the community for feedback.

The next one is to create a self-hosted EAI system that people can play with. You may not know how to play with EAI and see, do my addresses work in different places? What do headers look like? Things like that. So we wanted to create technical working setups and configurations for self-hosting to make it really easy for people to test these things. It includes scripts and links to resources and things like that. So that's the next thing that we're going to do this year.

The following two lines, we consider those to be just two aspects of the same thing. One is to identify a reference customers, the other one is to identify reference providers. So we like to get endorsements and case studies done. On the UASG website, you've possibly seen some case

studies that have been done, Xgen for example who provides an EAI compatible e-mail service. We have a case study on them.

But we'd like to be able to do this more readily. There's two parts of this. One would be to find customers who are actually using or evaluating compatible systems and get them to tell us about them. Another one is to find the service providers and have them work with the Comms team to write their stories as well. So you can see those two things go together. If there's any questions, let me know or we'll go to the next slide.

Ok, so E3 is sort of the counterpart of the self-certification guide. Just as in the previous category, we had suppliers and consumers, the self-certification guide is for suppliers. How do I tell people what level of support I offer? E3 is the user counterpart of it. So how do I know what it means to be compatible? How do I choose an offering? How can I look at the results of the self-certification and understand really what I'm going to get?

So this is a companion document that goes with E0. I don't think we have a name for it, it's not like a self-certification guide, but you can see how it helps people to make choices based on many resources, including self-certification results.

E4 is an ongoing task to schedule recurring calls between the working groups to improve the coordination between the comms team, the tech team and the measurement team. And it turns out we had to make this a priority because it just doesn't come naturally to us. We focus in our e-mail community and we work on things, but we're missing

opportunities to work with the comms team, the tech team and the measurement team

. So this is something that we decided we should do better this year. Candidly, we haven't invested in it very much so far this year, so this is a reminder that we need to crack down and work on it harder.

Then the last two categories go together. One of them is an engagement with market share leaders who consume e-mail addresses. So you can see in the description what we mean. If you go on Facebook, your identifier is your e-mail address. If you go on eBay, your account identifier is your e-mail address. And so we would really like to meet with these organizations and talk to them about becoming—to offer better support for universal acceptance.

But these aren't organizations that you just walk in the door and say I would like to talk to Mark Zuckerberg's chief of staff and talk to him about Facebook. So we need to find advocates who could get us meetings, get us contacts within these organizations. So what we're suggesting is that we work with ICANN Org and the Board to see if they have contacts in these areas. So that's what E5.1 is, try to figure out who the market leaders are, try to figure out how we get meetings with them.

Now, assuming we are actually able to make the contacts, set meetings, begin communication with them, then we would come along with 5.2. So we've left this sort of blank. A lot of work needs to be done before we get there. 5.1 I think is going to be very challenging and it's something that we hope for, but it'll be hard.

So these two slides show us this is the action plan that we have for this year. Are there any other questions? “Plus mark on building high-level contacts and reaching out.” Great. Thanks, Siva. Jonathan, could you clarify more? Do you mean ask the BC for contacts within these organizations? Yes. Yeah, that is a good idea. Certainly, we do have people who work at Facebook and Microsoft. I would be the Microsoft person. You know who the Facebook person is as well.

So that is a good point, that we shouldn’t just limit ourselves to ICANN Org and the ICANN Board. There will be contacts within other parts of our community as well. Yeah, and Google. Are there any other questions?

Okay, I think that’s it for me.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you. This is Nabil Benamar, chair of the measurements working group. I will try to present the 2022 plans for the measurement working group. We have mainly four tasks that we want to tackle during this year. The first one would be to prepare and publish the UA readiness annual report. This is something that we have been working on. We have shared some content earlier in the mailing list and during the calls.

The second task would be to do another gap analysis of various technologies, and it includes content management systems like Drupal and Joomla and other ones. Also, we want to tackle the social media applications, browsers, ecommerce platforms, websites. But mainly also the online webhosting services like cPanel and others.

So we first try to establish a shortlist of these main online webhosting services that we have nowadays in different parts of the world. One of the working group members is from Russia and share with us the solutions for hosting services that are really active in this part of the world. We are trying to get further information on this and making the shortlist, because there are a lot of solutions and we need to come up with the most used and see their UA readiness. So in this case, we would finish and publish ongoing gap analysis work on social network applications and browsers, because this is something that has been initiated last year, and conduct a second phase of analysis of content management system.

So we were working on content management system but we decided to switch to online webhosting services because they are more urgent this time, and we'll get back to the content management system to finalize the work that has been started last year.

The third task would be to do a gap analysis of the top 1000 websites globally. So this is another review of the UA support of 1000 websites globally to see how it has improved over the past years. This is something that we want to do this year as well.

The last one would be to measure the EAI support advertised by the e-mail servers. For this, we have established through our discussions during the calls some examples that we want to tackle, some solutions, and then to be more comprehensive, we need to make a survey about e-mail servers deployed globally to measure EAI support [inaudible].

That's all for me. If there is any question, I'm happy to answer. Thank you.

MARIA KOLESNIKOVA:

Hi all. My name is Maria Kolesnikova. I'm a chair of communications working group, so here are our plans for this year. But first of all, as a coms person, I would like to invite everyone to join our social media channels. I will provide our links in the chat, so please, if you want to follow UASG work, recent reports and documentations, gap analysis results and so on, please follow us. Here are some links in the chat.

And while I will be talking about our plans that were determined by the working group members, you are welcome to put in chat any ideas and suggestions on how to improve our communications by UASG and if you need some materials, some information from us.

So we have actually ten tasks for this year. Some of them were continued since the last year, such as development of communications plan. This is quite a big document and we need to review and study objectives, key audiences, messaging and existing communication channels, how to improve all our system of communication to reach out the relevant stakeholders. So we are continuing to work on this.

We also have decided to prepare by the UASG special content, like explainer videos. We help to create some catchy and easy to understand explaining of what is UASG, how to make your application UA ready, how to configure mail service to support EAI. It will be short videos and of course, as UASG is a global issue and it is promoted on

regional levels, the videos will be provided with subtitles in at least the six UN official languages.

We also provide such context like blogs and case studies. This is success stories of achievement of UA readiness. So they're published on UASG website. You are welcome to visit the website and to look at them.

Also, this year we decided to look at the possibilities to collaborate with some mass media to raise the UA topic in online resources, with journalists. So we will look how it can be done. And also, as you know, there are a lot of reports and different kind of tools, testing approaches and different kind of documentation. That is why we decided to review the existing content and probably how it can be packaged in different formats to better dissemination.

Also, we work here on the improvement of internal communications inside UASG community because this is quite a big community so far and for example, recently we launched the UASG newsletter which is spread through the UASG working group mailing list. So we want to keep updated all our members on all their activities which are in different working groups for example and in different regions like local events, some articles, some blogs that are spread not only by UASG but by our members and our partners as well.

And of course, we provide the translation of UASG documents in collaboration with ICANN translation service. So if for example you are interested in any document of UASG and you want to get it in your local language, please contact us and we will consider the request to make the translation of this. Next slide, please.

And of course, we have the task to maintain the UASG communication channels like the website and social media pages. So that is why this is in our action plan. And this year, we continue to redesign the UASG website. We want to make it more clear and friendly and as we have lots of documentation, this year we are working on the better structure of these documents so the visitors of the website can reach out to the necessary document and find it easily. So we hopefully finish this work soon.

And also, we are working on organizing opportunities of UASG speakers to be presented on different local events, so offline or face-to-face if possible somewhere, and with a special focus on IGF forms because we think that universal acceptance thematic is quite appropriate for these platforms as well.

And as you see, we are also taking part in promotion of UASG annual report, so we work on its preparation and how to promote it via the audience. So this is all of our tasks. If you have any questions or comments, please, I'm here to answer them. Okay, no questions, I think. Thank you.

AJAY DATA:

Thank you, Maria, thank you, everyone, for giving updates. local initiatives are a very important aspect of the entire UA work. We have a program available on UASG.tech website. We accept a group in a particular region to get together and see that they are taking necessary steps for UA, and then [they] plan the activities and submit to UA leadership and we recognize the group and ensure that they are our

local initiative representatives. And of course then this becomes a local initiative chair, vice chair and a community-led working group into that region, like India and China and other parts of the world we already have them.

We not only support with the local initiative document, technical support, guidance, but also financially for doing an event and doing the awareness program in that region. That is what the local initiative is. We have already four local initiatives, and two, three are going to be new into the region. We are already going to be discussing for Thailand and we are also going to be live there in a much bigger way. Another part of the world, like I said, [inaudible] another part of the world is going to be—Next slide, please.

Sarmad, do you want to do this or should I do it?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Please go ahead, Dr. Data.

AJAY DATA: So this is where we are talking about. For local initiatives, we encourage, if you're in another part of the world and you think that you need to take some steps for UA in your region, I would request and encourage you form a group and submit the proposal to take a local initiative in your region and lead that group as a chair or vice chair or supporting as a member, see that UA initiatives are taken care in that area. And that's a very important one, because we believe that local working groups can do much more [inaudible] in their own region

because they understand the nuances and culture much better than a central team.

We would request that if you have a group who would like to take up, we would be very happy to consider a local initiative in your region. The next steps are, please engage as a stakeholder globally to promote UA readiness. And as I shared that we have local initiatives, ambassadors and working groups which meet regularly and convert into actual plans which are now rolling out local initiatives in fiscal year 2022.

UA ambassadors continue to outreach the community. Very important group, and we have I think eight of us together as UA ambassadors deployed worldwide. As the work of gap analysis progresses, the UASG is increasingly shifting to remediation of the underlying tools.

We always thought that, is awareness enough? So we thought not. Awareness is one part. We also need to give the solutions, and that is where a lot of time is being given for remediation of the technologies and tools which are available and which we are trying to see that we prioritize and do more and more around that. And please support UA by making your systems UA ready.

And that's the most important one I always believe. It's like walking the talk. We have been working on—and I shared an example. In India, when I became part of the working team of hosting an IGF here in India, which is happening first time in India, we ensured that the websites are UA ready, and that's how we have to make a small impact.

So now 12 IDNs are being used, 12 e-mail addresses are being created, and it is being used to reach to the community who would be more comfortable within that region. That is how we ensure that whatever work we try to do, they are UA ready and we are promoting the IDNs [inaudible] so that all people can have access to that e-mail and test out their own platforms. It is not just an example and a lead by example, it is also giving an opportunity to people to test their systems and ensure that they're UA ready. Next slide, please.

So this is our last slide. I would request everyone to join the community by simply clicking the link or [UASG.tech/subscribe](https://uasg.tech/subscribe). You can just click on the link and join. You can sign up the form and every week, we review the entire requests and we add everyone. We do not reject. So do not think that you're in the selection process. You are electing yourself to become part of it and you'll be part of the group you'd like to become. That is the simple process. We have kept it completely open and it is always open. We request you to please take part, join and contribute to the UA mission.

Also, as Maria has already shared, please join the social media groups, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn so that you are aware what's going on and also share the posts done by UASG tech social media team and spread in your area, spread in your region that communication so that we have more and more community talking to us.

If you have any questions or queries, please feel free to write info@uasg.tech. it reaches to our secretariat and we will do all necessary steps to answer in the best possible way. Thank you very

much for joining this meeting. We can have questions if there are any. You can write in the chat box and Seda is monitoring that chat. You can ask questions. We'll wait a minute. Thank you.

So, thank you. I think we haven o questions. Sarmad, over to you, please.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:

Thank you to all the panelists and all the attendees who joined the session. As there are no further questions, we can close this session. Before we close, please note that the recording of the session is going to be available online in case you want to follow up, and we also have a couple of other UASG engagements during the ICANN 72 week. in the schedule, you will find the UASG engagement with the Governmental Advisory Committee—GAC—already in the schedule. Please look for it. We also have a UASG interaction being planned with the GNSO which will be available through the GNSO schedule, so please also look for that in the GNSO schedule, it'll be announced. So we look forward to seeing many of you back during those sessions. Thank you very much, and we can close the session and stop the recording.

AJAY DATA:

Thank you very much for joining, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]