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ICANN75 | Prep Week – What to Expect at ICANN75: A Guide for Newcomers  
Tuesday, September 06, 2022 – 22:00 to 23:00 KUL

MELODY AU:

Hello and welcome to this session, What to Expect at ICANN75: A Guide for Newcomers. My name is Melody, and I'll be the remote participation manager for this session.

Please note that this session will be recorded, and it is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. During this session, questions or comments submitted in the chat will only be read aloud if put in the proper form, as noted in the chat. I will read questions and comments aloud at the Q&A at the end of the session.

This session will also include interpretation, and you can access it by clicking the Interpretation icon in the Zoom toolbar below. By clicking on the Closed Caption button in the Zoom toolbar also, you can view the real-time transcription. Please note that this transcript is not official or authoritative.

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name for the record and speak clearly at a reasonable pace. Mute your microphone when you are done speaking.

To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN’s multistakeholder model, we ask that you sign into Zoom sessions using your full name.

And with that, I will hand the floor over to Maarten for his welcome remarks. Maarten, please. Thank you.

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN:

Thanks very much for that. And thank you very much for organizing this. I really want to welcome you all to ICANN75 Prep Week. This is the very first event of many more to come at this very important session for newcomers on what to expect with our Annual General Meeting taking place less than two weeks from now.

The meeting itself will be hybrid, bringing together both people in person and online, and we look forward to build upon the best experience we already have in making this work. [It is] to be inclusive for all.

Having new people specifically to be involved in ICANN is crucial for us. Without new participants joining our more seasoned community members, the ICANN community will not be quite as effective in developing the crucial policies that help keep the

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Internet secure, stable, and interoperable in the long run. So you are in good hands.

And thank you for showing up here because this excellent preparation that is following my few short words will really help you to get the best possible running start for ICANN75. There's a great team at ICANN Org that supports me and the rest of the Board on a daily basis, and they're here to support you as well. Jia-Rong and his team have done an amazing job in the Asian Pacific region, and they're an integral part of a much wider global ICANN Org Team.

So with that, I'll hand you over to your facilitator today, Jia-Rong.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you, Maarten. Hello, everybody. I'm very happy with large turnout for our very first session. My name is Jia-Rong. I'm the Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement and also the managing director for the ICANN Asia Pacific office. I'm based in Singapore. Earlier you met one of my team members, Melody, who's facilitating the call. And you will see other members of my team throughout this call as well.

So for newcomers who are joining us for the first time, it can be quite daunting to be participating at an ICANN meeting. And you can see Maarten smiling because he has been there and done that as well. And we are here to help you.

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So one very simple tip for you ... Actually, I have two tips for you. for starters. The first is familiarize yourself with the ICANN Meetings page because that's where you navigate the different kinds of sessions that you will go to. And you will be able to see any changes that happen on the Meetings page.

Besides that, the second tip I have for you—a slightly more important tip—is to make friends and have around you people who are more familiar with ICANN so if you have any questions, you can always go to them and ask them. So that can be staff like myself or my team, or they can be fellow community members from your region. And now that you have met Maarten, you can ask him questions at any time if you see him on site or remotely.

So with that, I do hope that you feel welcome. And especially for newcomers, don't be afraid to ask any questions because, for newcomers, there's no such thing as a silly or stupid question and we welcome you. And it's with your participation that we can make ICANN a better place and also to keep the Internet going and to make the Internet even better.

So with that, I will hand the time over to my colleague, Yien-Chyn, who is our Stakeholder Engagement Manager looking after the Asia Pacific region. So we hand the time over to Yien-Chyn, please.

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YIEN-CHYN TAN:

Thank you, Jia-Rong. Hi, everyone. I'm Yien-Chyn from Jia-Rong's team from the ICANN APAC regional office. Today I'll be sharing with you information on what is ICANN, focusing on our mission and structure. Next slide, please.

So before I talk about what is ICANN and what is ICANN's role, I'd like to first provide you with a quick overview on how the Internet works. Next slide, please.

So any device that is connected to the Internet including your laptops, your mobile phones, or even things like your washing machine, your ovens, all has its own unique Internet Protocol addresses. We call it, in short, IP address. And this address works like mailing addresses. So it allows for messages, videos, or other data to be sent through the Internet to the correct recipients.

But if you are using just IP addresses on the Internet, this is going to be very difficult for humans to remember. So instead, we use domain names such as example.com here on the slide which will be converted to its corresponding unique IP address for the correct content and data to be sent to the correct place. So the Internet works because of these unique identifiers which are managed or coordinated by different organizations within the Internet governance ecosystem.

So as a summary, we have three main unique identifiers. The first one being the Internet Protocol. This is the common language

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used by all devices to be able to communicate with each other on the Internet. And these are defined within the Internet Engineering Task Force, the IETF.

And then the second one, we have the IP addresses which are managed by the Asia Pacific Network Information Center, the APNIC. And finally, we have the domain names which are coordinated by us at ICANN. Next slide, please.

So ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure, and unified operation of the Internet through our coordination role on the Domain Name System. In short, we call it the DNS. And it's important to coordinate the DNS to ensure that data are sent to the correct places and that Internet users can access the correct content regardless of where they are globally. Next slide, please.

So in terms of ICANN's ecosystem, we are made up of three parts, and this is shown in the next slide. We have the ICANN community on top where you are a part of. And then we have the ICANN Board. So Maarten is here with us today. And also the ICANN organization. Next slide, please. Thank you.

So the ICANN community consists of global multistakeholder representation and volunteers from different stakeholder groups such as the technical community, academia, government, business, civil society, Internet users, and others. They all come

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together at ICANN to discuss issues and to develop policies related to the Domain Name System.

And as policies are developed within the community, the ICANN Board, which includes representatives from the global community, review and adopt these policies. So the ICANN Board then directs ICANN Org which consists of ICANN staff to implement the adopted policies. And the ICANN Board also oversees the performance of the ICANN Org. Next slide, please.

So to reiterate, the ICANN multistakeholder community comes together at ICANN—sorry, one more slide—and also through a bottom-up, consensus-driven, policy-making approach each individual and stakeholder group plays an important role in developing policies that impact evolution as well as the expansion of the Domain Name System.

So just to share with you an example on how the ICANN community comes together to discuss a topic that impacts the domain name space. So before the year 2012, we only had a handful of generic top-level domains (gTLDs) such as .com and .org. But with the increasing domain name registrations back then, the second-level domain—which is everything to the left of your .com or .net—was becoming longer and longer because the shorter ones were all already registered by others.

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So this was making it very difficult for people to remember the domain names. And as an effort to expand the namespace, a one-off 2012 round opened up for new gTLD registrations. And as a result, we have more than 1,200 new gTLDs delegated and introduced into the Internet.

Some examples include .xyz, .london, or even gTLDs in your local languages and scripts. So this provides—

MELODY AU: Hello?

YIEN-CHYN TAN: Yeah?

MELODY AU: Sorry. Could you slow down a bit?

YIEN-CHYN TAN: Okay.

MELODY AU: The translators [inaudible] problem catching up.



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YIEN-CHYN TAN:

Thank you. All right, so maybe I'll just quickly go back to the example because that had a little bit more technical terms. And maybe it was a bit too fast. So I'll just repeat on the example on how the ICANN community comes together to discuss a topic that impacts the domain namespace.

So before the year 2012, we only had very limited generic-top level domains such as .com and .org. And with the increasing domain name registrations, the second-level name, which is everything on the left of your .com and .org, those were becoming longer and longer because the shorter ones were all already registered by others.

So as an effort to expand this namespace, a one-off 2012 round opened up for new gTLD registrations. And as a result, we have more than 1,200 new gTLDs delegated and introduced into the Internet. So some examples include .xyz, .london, and also some of the gTLDs in your local languages and your local scripts.

So this provides much more selection for users, and it also promotes competition within the industry. So to further allow for other upcoming new gTLD registrations in the future from here, the ICANN community in the past few years had extensively discussed this topic through a policy development process called the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures. Or you will hear people call it in short, SubPro. So this is just one of the many examples

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on discussions and work ongoing within the ICANN community. Next slide, please. Thank you.

So my colleague Carlos will be giving you more information about the multistakeholder policy-making process later, but here's a quick glimpse of the official or formal structures of the ICANN multistakeholder community. So there are total of three supporting organizations (ASOs) and four advisory committees (ACs). Next slide, please.

So I think we missed out a slide here. Yeah, sorry. Thank you. So on your left, you will see the three ASOs listed. These SOs are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas that they represent. So for instance, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (the GNSO) develops policies on gTLDs. And then the ccTLDs participate through ccNSO. And they discuss and develop policies relating to ccTLDs.

And on your right, you'll see the four ACs. The ACs do not develop policies, but they give advice based on their representation. And they can also participate during the policy-making process. So for instance, government representatives will participate in the Governmental Advisory Committee (the GAC) and will provide advice on ICANN activities as they relate to the concerns of governments or public policies.

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And with that, I'll end my presentation here and hand back the time to Jia-Rong. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you. And with that, we'll hand over the time next to Carlos from the Policy Team. Carlos, over to you please.

CARLOS REYES: Hi, everyone. Thank you very much for the introduction, Jia-Rong. And Yien-Chyn for giving us an overview of ICANN. That's very helpful.

My portion of this webinar will really take a deep dive into the community that we just learned about. So you'll learn a little bit more about how the community works and how these groups contribute to ICANN. Next slide, please.

So we just covered this a few minutes ago, but there are three supporting organizations, and each supporting organization develops policy based on its specific remit. The Address Supporting Organization develops policies for Internet number resources such as Internet Protocol addresses. Now there hasn't been any new Internet number resources in about a decade, so we have not had any global policies from the Address Supporting Organization.

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However, there is a lot of policy development at the regional level. So for example, in the Asia Pacific region we have the Asia Pacific Network Information Center. And that community develops policies for the allocation of Internet number resources within its service region. So even though you may not see policy development happening at ICANN, there's still policy development happening at the regional level.

The ccNSO, Yien-Chyn mentioned earlier, develops policies for the country code top-level domains. And again, this is an area where, at ICANN, the remit is specifically on global ccTLD issues. ccTLDs work with their national stakeholders to manage their ccTLD. And sometimes legislation can impact those policies as well. So the remit at ICANN is purely for global matters of cooperation and best practice sharing, and the ccNSO is a great platform for that.

The GNSO is what you'll see most at ICANN75, and that's because there's a lot of work happening in generic top-level domains. So the GNSO consists of several stakeholder groups and constituencies. They will be very active during the Annual General Meeting as well. Next slide, please.

So we have these infographics that we developed a few years ago for newcomers, and really for anyone at ICANN, to explain at a high level how the supporting organizations develop policies. In general, there is a scoping phase where the supporting

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organizations determine whether or not an issue falls within their remit and whether or not they want to initiate any sort of policy development.

This is important because, as I mentioned, every supporting organization has a specific mission and if an issue falls outside of that mission, then there then there is no action that the supporting organization can take. Once the supporting organization determines to proceed, there's usually some sort of working group that is developed—excuse me—that is led by the community to develop policy proposals.

This is the longest phase of the policy development process within the supporting organizations. Working groups are very deliberate in what issues they discuss, and there's often project plans and different meetings, regular teleconference. The ICANN public meetings serve as different mileposts.

And finally, there's public comment throughout the process. So even if you're not part of a supporting organization or advisory committee, there are opportunities for the public to contribute through our public comment process.

Once a working group finishes their work, there are usually some recommendations, and those go back to the Council. Every supporting organization has a Council, and the Council essentially manages the policy development process of that

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supporting organization. So if a working group approves a recommendation, then it goes to the Council for review. And then if Council approves it, it'll then go to the ICANN Board.

So at a very high level, that is how policy development works within the supporting organizations. Here, we covered it in 90 seconds. However policy development is a very meticulous process, so it often takes maybe two to three years for the working group to really explore an issue and come up with a consensus recommendation. Next slide, please.

So now on to the advisory committees. I like the way Yien-Chyn referenced that the advisory committees provide advice based on their representation. And that is true. There are different perspectives here that make up the advisory committees of ICANN.

The At-Large Advisory Committee voices the interests of Internet end users. So all you, all of us. The GAC is the Governmental Advisory Committee, and that's where governments participate in ICANN specifically at the intersection of public policy and ICANN policy. So any matters that are priorities for governments and how they interact with the ICANN mission and ongoing work, this is where you will see the GAC get involved.

The next advisory committee is a Root Server System Advisory Committee. This advisory committee is composed of

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representatives from the root server operators and the root zone management partners. There's also a caucus which is a separate body within the RSSAC of Domain Name System experts. And they contribute to the technical research of RSSAC advice. So even if you're not employed by a root server operator, there are opportunities for you to participate in the work of our RSSAC.

The next Advisory Committee is the security and stability Advisory Committee. It's composed of Internet security experts, and they advise the ICANN community, the ICANN Board, on all matters related to the integrity, resilience, and stability of the Domain Name System. And they produce advice pretty regularly. I think in their history, they're up to about 121 advisories. And like the other advisory committees, all of the advice that's developed can be directed at the ICANN Board for action.

So this is the role of our advisory committees. And they also participate in the policy development processes of the supporting organizations depending on their interests. Next slide, please.

Again, very similar infographic. All of these infographics are available on the ICANN website in multiple languages. So if you'd like to learn more about the details ...

There's also a scoping phase. There's some phase where the advisory committee analyzes an issue and starts to develop their

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advice. And then issues the advice to the relevant audience, most likely the ICANN Board. Next slide, please.

I'll share the link to these infographics in the chat in a moment. I saw that request in the chat, so just give me a few seconds here. But in the meantime, we can talk about what to expect for ICANN75 in a big-picture overview. At the Annual General Meeting, we'll see a few things. One is collaboration. And that's really the biggest theme that you see at and ICANN public meeting. It's all of these ICANN community groups collaborating on priority issues.

For ICANN75, we'll see a lot of discussions on generic top-level domain registration data—of course, this is in response to the General Data Protection Regulation in the European Union—and other developments in the Internet ecosystem that affect how gTLD registration data is accessed and managed. There's a lot of ongoing conversations and various policy development efforts underway in different stages.

We'll also see discussions about Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance. Those are, really, two efforts to expand the Internet and make it more accessible to stakeholders everywhere.

There's [inaudible] session. This plenary session was proposed and is being developed by the ICANN community for ICANN75.



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The focus is on Internet fragmentation and what challenges that poses to ICANN's mission. So I recommend you participate in that session. It should be pretty lively. There will be two moderators and various community participants representing the groups that I mentioned a few minutes ago.

The AGM is also an opportunity for education. Of course, we'll have Tech Day which is a standard part of ICANN public meetings. This is a technical workshop. The Domain Name System Security Extensions and Security Workshop (DNSSEC). Of course, there are ongoing deployments of DNSSEC. And if you'd like to learn more about these trends, you can participate in that workshop.

There's also tutorial about the Root Server System. That will be led by the Root Server System Advisory Committee. And the At-Large Advisory Committee and the Governmental Advisory Committee will have capacity building programs for their members.

Capacity building is an important aspect of ICANN work because when we bring in new members, we have to ensure that they're ready to contribute to the work of ICANN. So there's always a capacity building element to the work of the community.

It's also a time of transition. Several ICANN community groups will be inaugurating new leaders. They've recently elected new leaders. Other ICANN community groups will elect new leaders

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soon. So you'll see some transitions happening in our community groups.

And finally, the AGM provides an opportunity for ICANN to celebrate. We celebrate the contributions of the community, including the leaders who are finishing their terms, as well as announce the recipient of the Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building. That will happen during the AGM.

So as you can see, there are a lot of different themes to explore during the AGM, and the community is busy finalizing all of those details this week before travel begins to Kuala Lumpur. There's always remote participation available for these programs. So if you cannot be in Kuala Lumpur, look at the schedule and then hopefully you can join us virtually.

And just a brief history. This is the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of ICANN. So next year, we'll be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And it's also our second time in Kuala Lumpur. We were last in Kuala Lumpur in July 2004 for ICANN20. So a lot has happened in in Malaysia and in Kuala Lumpur and a lot has happened in ICANN since then, and it'll be nice to reflect on those milestones. Next slide, please.

So, how to prepare. After this session, I recommend you download these slides. There are various agenda pages or briefings that you can refer to as you participate in Prep Week and

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also contribute to the sessions. We have a lot of resources for you depending on your interests and availability. Next slide.

So finally, let's say after this session or another Prep Week session or after you navigate the AGM, you'd like to get more involved. I recommend you join one of our open community groups. Or you can observe a working group. A lot of those proceedings are open and you can participate as an observer so you can really see the mechanics of how the policy development process transpires throughout the years.

Or you can also write a public comment submission. As I mentioned, any policy proposal that comes from a supporting organization will often go through multiple cycles of public comment, really to ensure that there's participation in that effort.

So consider these three options to get involved. We're very excited to welcome you to Kuala Lumpur, and we're grateful that you're taking time now. So thank you very much, and over to our next speaker. Jian-Chuan, go ahead.

JIAN-CHUAN ZHANG:

Thanks, Carlos. Hello, everyone. This is Jian-Chuan. I'm also a member of the GSE team, but I'm based in China and I look after the Chinese community. So with Yien-Chyn and Carlos' introduction, I believe you have a better understanding of ICANN.

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Now I'm going to give you a very quick preview of high-interest topics in ICANN75. Next slide, please.

So just to give you some background information, ICANN75 is the Annual General Meeting, or AGM. That's the first hybrid ICANN AGM since the pandemic's start. So for your information, AGM is the third meeting in the three-meeting annual circle. So ICANN holds three meetings every year.

And the overall focus of the AGM is to showcase ICANN's work to broader global audience with more time dedicated to capacity building and the leadership training sessions. I think Carlos has mentioned this point.

So some very high-interest topics for your information. As Yien-Chyn and Carlos mentioned, there are many SO sessions and AC sessions. I don't mention them here. I believe Deborah will give you more information. So this is just a quick information for some very high-level or high-interest topics.

The first one is a Welcome Ceremony on Monday. So for your information, this one wasn't held in the second meeting. So this is only held in the first and the third meeting. And the second one is a Q&A with ICANN Org's Executive Team, also on Monday. So I think this session will give you a very clear understanding of what's ICANN role, what ICANN's goal, and how we prioritize those goals.

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A third one is APAC Space. It's on Tuesday. There are also Africa Space and the Latin American Space. So as the title suggests, this is literally space for the regional people to gather in ICANN meetings. ICANN meetings provide a global platform, and in this platform regional people also wish to gather together to have some regional perspective. So those kind of local or regional spaces are also very interesting places for newcomers to join to meet your friends from the local regions.

The first one is, I think, the ICANN Board Members Welcome Fellowship and the NextGen @ ICANN Program participants. This is on Wednesday. So you have direct opportunity to talk, to interact with Board members to have a better understanding of ICANN's overall strategy and working plan.

And the next one is a Plenary Session on Internet Fragmentation, the DNS and ICANN. I think you must have heard about the term "Internet fragmentation." I think this is a result from some new technologies or new legislation around the world. There are many challenges to the current global Internet, so there are some discussions to set to discuss how to address those kinds of challenges.

But be careful. There might be some unintended consequences. Those unintended consequences may increase the risk of the fragmentation of the Internet. So I think this will be a very

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interesting topic—the new technology, new legislation, and their potential impact on the DNS and ICANN.

The last one I want to mention is updates on geopolitical, legislative, and regulatory development. I think this is specifically for the challenges coming from new legislation. You must have heard about GDPR. Right? But actually, there are many other similar regulations or laws or policies from many places around the world.

So I think this is a very critical session for you to understand the overall picture of what is going on around the world in the regulatory or policy remit. We also know that those impact on DNS and ICANN.

So again, this is just a very quick preview of the critical sessions at ICANN75. For more information, please just, as [inaudible] mentioned, just check the ICANN website. And I think Deborah will also give you more information for other sessions. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you, Jian-Chuan. Let's hand over next to Fernanda.

FERNANDA LUNES:

Hello. I hope you can see me. My name is Fernanda Lunes. I am the Senior Program Coordinator of the PRS Department here at

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ICANN. I am based in Washington D.C., so good morning from here. Next slide, please.

While being a newcomer at ICANN can obviously sometimes feel a little bit overwhelming, as I'm sure you've seen we have a lot of resources available for you to help make you make the most of your opportunity to participate. And as I'm sure you can tell from this call, there are a lot of people who are also happy to help you find your way.

A great resource for you to begin your ICANN journey is our free online learning platform called ICANN Learn. If you haven't done so already, you can sign up and start taking a few courses. You'll find some training on ICANN processes, policies, technical topics, skill building courses, and many other topics that may be of interest to you. These will help you maximize your participation in the work of the ICANN community.

There are also other ways to connect and boost your knowledge of ICANN. You can, for example, sign up for your regional newsletter which will give you ICANN information relevant to your particular part of the world. You can follow our social media accounts which will be listed on the final slide of the session. So you there will be bullet points with some of our social media accounts there. And as you've probably already done, register for ICANN75.

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And then a tip for you here is to bookmark that Meetings page. That way, it'll help you navigate the schedule more easily and you can easily access that. And note that participation links to the sessions are only provided 24 hours in advance for security reasons. And as some of my colleagues mentioned in the chat, also note that you can access the presentations from any session within that schedule.

And if you haven't used Zoom before, there's information in the Meetings page that will help you set it up to participate efficiently. And just a quick tip. It may take a few little clicks for you to get in the session, so be sure to give yourself a few minutes to get settled when you want to attend one.

And then you may also want to explore our Newcomers webpage. And from there you can learn more about our NextGen at ICANN Program for university students and our Fellowship Program designed to help participants from all around the world participate fully in ICANN meetings.

My colleague Deborah will be giving you some more information about those programs coming up next, so stay tuned.

And acronyms are always a challenge in new environments, and ICANN in particular is full of them. So it can be helpful to bookmark the Acronym and Terms page so that you can quickly reference them if you hear something that may be unfamiliar. It's



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also, of course, fine to encourage people to explain the acronyms they use. We're all trying to get a little better at that. So please, if you don't understand something, feel free to ask somebody to explain.

Other webpages you may want to note are community webpages, policy development support, and the technical functions page. Each of these can give you some great insight into the complexity of ICANN and also how the various teams and community groups come together to achieve the great Internet policy development work that gets done here.

So with that, thank you very much. And I'll hand it over to Deborah.

DEBORAH ESCALERA: Hello, everybody. I'm Deborah Escalera and I manage the NextGen for the public responsibilities Support Department at ICANN. Next slide, please.

So I'm just going to give a quick overview of some mandatory sessions for the NextGen and the Fellows, and some notable sessions for all newcomers. So tomorrow, Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, we have the Generic Names Supporting Organization Policy Update. On Thursday, the Universal Acceptance Community Update, the Policy Update, and the

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Planning and Finance Update. Participation in other sessions is based on sector of interest. Next slide, please.

Get to Know ICANN Community Sessions. There's the GNSO virtual session on September 9<sup>th</sup>, GAC and UASG on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September, How Policy Works in ICANN on 19 of September, RSSAC Information Session on 20 September, At-Large/APRALO Monthly Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, SSAC Public Session on 21 September, and ICANN Board Members Session on 21 September.

Remember, you must register for all of these sessions. And again the links, if you are participating remotely, will be posted 24 hours in advance for these sessions.

There is a special session taking place for the Fellows on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September: How Consensus Works in ICANN. And that's hosted with Melissa Allgood. And that is for the Fellows only.

The art of Small Talks is taking place. And that's an interactive session with Melissa Allgood, and the NextGen are welcome to attend this session. It is not a mandatory session, but you are welcome to attend this session with the Fellows.

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, ICANN is hosting a Fellowship Social Networking Hour, and all are welcome to attend this social interaction. So we hope you will attend. Next slide, please.

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Schedule highlights include the Welcome Ceremony taking place on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>, Q&A with ICANN Org Executive Team on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>—please do not miss that one, it's actually mandatory for Fellows and NextGen—Plenary Session taking place on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup>, the ICANN Public Forum on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>—also mandatory—and the 24<sup>th</sup> ICANN Annual General Meeting and Community Recognition on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Updates on Geopolitical Legislative and Regulatory Developments on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

And ICANN Board members will welcome Fellowship and NextGen @ ICANN Program participants on Wednesday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September.

NextGen participants will be delivering their presentations on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> and on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> of September. And we are hoping that all will attend these presentations. Next slide, please.

Please visit our social media links to stay connected. And that's all for me. If you have any questions, please send questions to [engagement@icann.org](mailto:engagement@icann.org). Thank you so much.

JIA-RONG LOW:

Thank you, Deborah. Yeah, that's a very comprehensive list of important sessions we recommend for you to attend. And a couple of shout-outs as well. Do attend the Welcome Ceremony because I'm going to be the MC for that. And during the Welcome

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Ceremony, there will usually be a cultural performance, so that's one interesting session. And you will also see me at the socials. That's where you can get to know me more personally. And if you have any questions, you can always feel free to reach out. So most of us will be there, and that's where you expand and do your network.

All right, we have some time now so let's move into the Question and Answer Q&A. I think Melody would have some guidance for us on how to go about doing the Q&A. Melody, can you help us, please?

MELODY AU:

Yes. Thank you, Jia-Rong. So if there are any questions, you can raise your hand in Zoom and we will call on your name. Otherwise, if you prefer you can also type your question in Zoom and I can read it out. Thank you.

We have a hand from Sophie. Sophie, you may unmute and ask your questions.

SOPHIE HEY:

Thank you so much. I just wanted to clarify. So earlier it was said that the 2012 round of new gTLDs was just a one-off round. I'm a little bit confused because I thought there were a number of rounds between 2000 and 2010 where sponsored TLDs were

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introduced as well. And I also thought that the 2012 round was meant to carry over into ongoing rounds and that the current Subsequent Procedures was meant to be about enabling a future rounds. So I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you, Sophie. Carlos, would you be able to help us with this question?

CARLOS REYES: Yeah, thanks. I don't recall talking about the new gTLD program, but my comment was about the Address Supporting Organization. And the last time that we've had a global policy was for IPv6 in 2012. So that is separate from the new gTLD program. So hopefully that clarifies my comment.

JIA-RONG LOW: No problem, Carlos, because I know it wasn't from you.

CARLOS REYES: Oh, okay.

JIA-RONG LOW: Just that you would be able to explain the full gTLD program pretty well in terms of the background. Do you want to help with

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that? Or we can have Yien-Chyn talk briefly and you can add to it if it makes it easier.

CARLOS REYES: Either way. Whatever you prefer. I'm happy to—

JIA-RONG LOW: Yes.

CARLOS REYES: Yeah, so I guess maybe ... Why don't we start with Yien-Chyn and then I can supplement?

YIEN-CHYN TAN: Yep, sure.

JIA-RONG LOW: Sure.

YIEN-CHYN TAN: Thanks, Carlos.

CARLOS REYES: Thanks.

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YIEN-CHYN TAN:

Thanks. Thanks, Sophie, for the question. So the 2012 round was actually a one-off opening, but after that, because some of the new gTLD applications that came in, they required a little bit more time for review. So that's why you saw some of them delegated after the exact period that we were talking about.

So currently, it's not an ongoing process, but the PDP that I was talking about—the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures—for that one it's targeting to be more of an ongoing process.

So, Carlos, did you want to add anything else from there?

CARLOS REYES:

Yes, great. Thank you. So I liked that overview. I think that's very clear and simple, especially for a topic that is so complex.

What's good to keep in mind about the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures ... So that was really looking at the 2012 program. And then the generic supporting organization, the GNSO, chartered this working group to look at recommendations for improvements to the program, or changes.

All of those recommendations, those outputs are now part of the Operational Design Phase. So ICANN Org is guiding the analysis of the ICANN Board as it determines how to respond to those policy recommendations from the GNSO.

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I don't know if any of my colleagues from GDS are here to talk about the ODP, but that work is underway. So to the extent that the Board will soon make a decision, it's really based on the outcomes of the ODP which will be the operational design assessment. And that will determine how new gTLDs—when there's a new round, etc.

So there's a lot of work there. You can see some of those discussions at ICANN75 usually in the form of updates because, as I mentioned, the organization is currently now doing its Operational Design Phase to inform the Board. So it's not that it's on pause or anything. It's just the next step in that process.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you, Carlos.

MELODY AU: Any other questions? Amina, please.

AMINA RAMALLAN: Hi. Thank you, Melody. I think this question is from a newcomer's perspective, just a follow up from what Carlos said and what Yien-Chyn and Sophie [said as well]. What does a new round of gTLDs mean? Thank you.



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JIA-RONG LOW: All right, shall we go back to Yien-Chyn first, just to continue from the last round to the new rounds?

YIEN-CHYN TAN: Yeah. So if we're talking about the 2012 round ... So I previously mentioned that the last time, there were only very limited generic top-level domains. So we really wanted to open up the namespace. So we wanted to have a different kind of variety of gTLDs in the name space.

And when we say “new round,” it's really an application round open for the registrations of new gTLDs. So new gTLD are basically everything that are not the legacy gTLDs which is the usual one that you've always heard about—.com and .org. Those are the legacy gTLDs.

But the new gTLD are basically everything newer. So things like .xyz, .london. And also, Carlos, I think he mentioned briefly about Internationalized Domain Names. So those are in new ... Actually, they are delegated during the new gTLD applications as well.

JIA-RONG LOW: Thank you, Yien-Chyn. If I may add, just to help to clarify on the idea of the round. So the ICANN community essentially decided that to call it a “round” means that there is a start and a close. So we start and then people apply and then we close. Then we start

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to delegate. That was what happened in the last round. In fact, in the current discussion on Subsequent Procedures, there was some suggestions from community members on why should that be a round? Should we consider opening it indefinitely so as and when people would like to apply for a new gTLD, they can?

But I think the broader consensus to the outcome of the SubPro EPDP was that we should consider the next one as a round as well so there will be a start and a close. So as far how that consensus came to be, there would be ...

It's a pretty long conversation, but I think when we can get together on socials and you can meet community members and leaders who are part of that conversation, you can ask them as well. I think that would make for pretty long and detailed, interesting conversations over drinks and [inaudible].

MELODY AU:

Thank you, panelists. Is there any other questions? We still have about 10 minutes left. There's also no questions in the chat. So thank you to all of the panelists. And a big welcome again to all of the newcomers here. I think there's a lot of enthusiasm in the chat.

So if there's no further questions, we look forward to seeing you in Kuala Lumpur and online as well. So thank you very much,

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interpreters and also tech support, for your help. And we can end the recording now.

Oh, Maarten, did you want to say something?

MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Yeah, sure. I really appreciated the presentations. Very professional, very well set up, as always. Also the questions. No wonder people asked about the next round of TLDs. Yes, of course, this is one of the big focuses. So if you're interested in that, follow it because we want to do it better than before. And we are committed to the [inaudible].

Really looking forward to see you. And as Jia-Rong said, the Board is in a specific role and it's one of the three bubbles. But it's not really a bubble. We're people, too, and we're very happy to see you and answer any of your questions that come up when you run into us.

So thank you to the team and thank you all for joining here. Really a pleasure.

MELODY AU: Thank you, Maarten. And thank you, everyone. We can end the recording now. Thank you. See you.

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MAARTEN BOTTERMAN: Thank you. Bye-bye.

MELODY AU: Bye-bye.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**