
ICANN83 | PF – APAC Space Session
Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – 09:00 to 10:00 CEST

ATHENA FOO

Hi, everyone. Welcome to the session APAC Space. My name is Athena, and I'm the participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. If you would like to speak during the session, please raise your hand in the room or in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will unmute in Zoom and on-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. For the benefit of other participants, please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace.

During this session, questions or comments may also be submitted in the chat. These questions or comments will only be read aloud if put in the proper format, which I have shared in the chat. I will also read them aloud during the time set by the facilitator of this session. Without further ado, I will hand the time over to Samiran to kick off this session. Samiran, please.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you, Athena, and welcome everyone to this edition of APAC Space. For those who've done this meeting before, this is a session for APAC community members, and the whole idea is for you to get a chance to hear from each other on what's going on, what's important, and what's coming up.

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Today we've got an exciting roster of speakers. We've got Amitabh Singhal from the Board. We've got Adam Peake and Angela, my colleagues, who will be speaking as well. And then Akinori, Nicole and Dima will be talking about the briefing on the RIR governance document. Later, we'll hear from Joy Chan and Vivek Goyal on the Trusted Notifier Network. And of course, Shita Laksmi, who's with us, will be moderating the community discussion. After which, we'll get to the important part of this morning.

We are going to have coffee and snacks and get to talk some more. And, of course, there's going to be a group photograph. So, without further ado, let me hand over to Amitabh. Three minutes, Amitabh. And you get to tell us in three minutes what the Board priorities are at this meeting.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Thank you, Samiran. Good morning, everyone, good afternoon, good evening, wherever you are on the remote. It's a pleasure to be here. with you. I think my first introduction to APAC Space was when I took the seat in Istanbul, and after that I haven't had a chance, so this is the first time I'm here in front of you. And thank you so much for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to share our thoughts on the Board priorities.

As you know, that before every ICANN public meeting we have three days of intense workshops of the Board, and there are a lot of topics that are discussed. Now, given the three minutes that I have, I would not be able to go through the entire list, but I'll probably pick

up a few of those important topics that I think are important, and please feel free later on to pick up any other subject that you might think is important to discuss. We are here to discuss that.

So, without ado, I would just dive into the topics that were very interesting. One is, of course, a very abiding topic, which is of abiding interest for everyone, which is DNS Abuse. We spent some time going through the reports from the org about the enforcement of DNS Abuse requirements from the registrars and registries. And it seems that we have achieved some success in mitigating to quite an extent the DNS Abuse issues but then there is a long way to go there.

So, we had a one-year review since the new DNS enforcement clauses were incorporated into the registry agreements and registrar agreements. And I think what we heard was that there are some very proactive measures that ICANN has been taking to issue notices, launch investigations, issuing notices of breaches. And there's a whole process of informing the community, making them aware of the issues related to DNS Abuse. This is an ongoing thing. And before coming into Prague at the CPH summit in Vietnam, again, with the registries and registrars, we spent considerable time in discussing this particular topic. So, it's something that is related to consumer protection and how we trust the internet. So, that's a very important topic as far as we think we need to give that a priority and on a continuing basis.

The second important of course topic was related to Next Round. As you know, by next year, we are on the path to open up the expansion of the gTLD space along with IDNs. And the organization has been working very, very hard and very glad to report on behalf of the organization that there is a big progress and I think the path to progress as we learned is going on time on schedule. There didn't see many red flags, and I think even if there are some hitches along the way, they will be taken care of by the organization.

So, the component of the Next Round preparation is also an important component as far as we people from APAC are concerned. As you know, Samiran and team have been spending considerable time on making people aware of the Application Support Program. Now that's something that we were really hoping for APAC region to really go for, and I think the results are showing. Broadly speaking we have had about 40 applications which are in the drafting stage. Some of them have been submitted already and there is a path of drafting of application, then submission, then conditional approval and approvals.

So, there is the number that we came across was about 40 applications have been drafted or are in the submission stage, which is a good number compared to what happened in 2012, because there were only three ASP applications at that time. So, this is a big jump at this time, thanks to all the work that the community and everyone has done in raising awareness about this opportunity.

Another good number that I am happy about is APAC itself has about 16 of them. Only North America has 17, so we are the two regions leading the pack there in terms of the number of ASP applications in the pipeline. And I think the organization is doing a great job of ensuring that ASPs, whoever faces or is facing an issue, there is a lot of support material available. There are pro bono services to help them along the process in case they find it difficult to progress their applications. So, that's the level of engagement and the Board has been constantly tracking this progress very proactively.

The second part of the Next Round is the registry services evaluation program. There, again, 30 are initiated, 40 are in the drafting stage. Again, APAC leads there with about 17 of them, so we'll see a good number coming from the APAC region, and I think Samiran and team would probably be able to give more details on how it is going.

Then the next thing that happened was, as you know, the Application Guidebook has been released for public comment, so there's an opportunity for everyone to go through it. It's a big document. Please use your AI to get a summary, use technology. But I think it'll be important for every one of us here in the APAC region to create awareness that everyone needs to look at that and provide feedback on improvements if there are required, which will be important for us.

So, that was about the Next Round. I think a big topic is also the upcoming WSIS+20 review. There's a strategic delegation from the Board, about 10 Board members and, of course, the organizational staff in full strength will be there. It is also critically important this time because IGF is up for review after 20 years. And I think very shortly, in the next couple of days, our team will be sitting together to draft a strategy and discuss how to approach and the points of discussion that we will take up there. So, we have to get into the preparation mode now before we land up in Oslo. And I think quite a few of you will be there, so we'll be happy to discuss anything that comes up.

Amrita has been a regular there, so have been so many others. Akinnori, you are there, right, at IGF? All right. So quite a few veterans here of the IGF community and it will be good to learn now also as to what we should really prepare ourselves with and how to make an impact. Maureen, I can see, yes, can also give us clues into it. So, that's what I wanted to say about WSIS as of now.

I think there was a big discussion, and that's the elephant in the room, was about the reviews. It was discussed, and I don't want to hide behind anything, but very clearly, when I joined the Board, and I became a member of the OEC committee which is the Organizational Effectiveness Committee, I didn't really know what this whole reviews thing was about. When I started to look into it, it turned out to be so complicated. It took me at least a couple of

months to figure out or get my head around to what this is all about.

Now in brief, it was about 21-22 different kinds of reviews that over the years the community has tried to develop. Now there are specific reviews, there are organizational reviews, there are work streams, so there's a plethora of reviews that are required to be done. And then going back into the ATRT3, there were certain recommendations that needed to be completed and there were about 15 recommendations, out of which when I went through the documents, I realized and everyone does also in the Board when we discuss, that at least 7 of them recommendations were not completed and there was a certain sequence of events that were required to happen.

Okay. Which basically means that the reviews that were supposed to be done and completed in a certain time frame were not completed yet, without which and the inputs from which could have gone into preparing for the next round of reviews. So, that was a big topic of debate within the Board. We discussed it in and out and we have discussed with the SO, ACs and we have received communication from the SOs and ACs. And everyone said yes, we need to really step back and see how these reviews need to be rethought to be more effective.

And very clearly, I think the Board is very, very sensitive to the fact that it involves the entire question of accountability and transparency of ICANN itself. But there is no backing out from that,

obviously. So, we need to just kind of work with the community. We are talking about engaging with the community to understand how to go forward on the reviews and take it from there. So, I think I've overshot the time limit. There's too many things to discuss, but-- Sorry?

SAMIRAN GUPTA

I said very comfortably.

AMITABH SINGHAL

Very comfortably. We can spend hours on this. But thank you for giving me the opportunity. And hopefully I've covered the major ones. And anything else, let me know. Thank you.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you, Amitabh. And I would be remiss not to introduce our two other Board members from the region. We have Chris in the room and Sajid and Mr. Buckridge, Mr. Chapman. So, we're delighted to have such a high-level Board representation at the APAC Space today. So, without further ado, let's move to the IGF and WSIS+20 review update. Adam, you have like 30 seconds now.

ADAM PEAKER

30 seconds. Good morning. There's an old picture of me. Yeah, it's very nice to be back in this room. I was in the Asia-Pacific region for 27 years, and then I went back to Europe. So nice to see you all again. The IGF, we have a number of experts in the room. I see

Amrita, and behind me, Chris, who are both on the Internet Governance Forum Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group. Another member from the APAC region is Masanori Kato, former Board member, and so on.

So, there's always been a strong connection with ICANN and the IGF because we believe in the same multi-stakeholder model of governance and approaches to the development of policy and the future of the Internet. I think there's probably a slide, if we could pop along to that, please. Yeah, so it's, as Amitabh said, we're at a pivotal moment. The IGF and the WSIS process is 20 years old. Angela will talk about WSIS. I'll give a quick introduction to the IGF.

So, it's important to us because it is about multi-stakeholder governance and ICANN is the exemplar. It is the example of multi-stakeholder governance in operations. So, we believe in it philosophically and we act in it practically. And so, we participate in the IGF because we want to deepen our outreach and our engagement. We want people to understand what ICANN does in our multi-stakeholder global approach, and we want to deepen our engagement and our relationships with others in the policy and technical communities.

So, we use it as an opportunity to share expertise of what we and our technical partners do and sort of providing the internet. There's a very useful definition of internet governance from the WSIS and IGF process of the notion of activities of and on the internet and we are the of part. In a way, we're the kind of groups

with the Regional Internet Registries, with the IETF, ICANN. We deliver the internet that those people who are acting and developing policy and applications on the internet are able to do so because we provide the global interoperable interconnected internet. So, the IGF and us are deeply intertwined cousins, I suppose, or brothers and sisters.

So, what we're going to be doing there in about 10 days' time in Norway, we'll be sharing technical expertise, as I said, and I'll put an example of something from a workshop we organized last year, which will give you some notion of that. Raising our visibility, we will see-- Yeah, let's jump on to the next slide, please. Oh, that's the one. So, the IGF this year has a-- Usually, the schedule is sort of 10 or 12 parallel tracks going on at any one time, and over the course of the week there might be 300 or 400 sessions, but there's not that many this year.

So, we only have two events. The first is an open forum, demystifying the WSIS+ 20. Kurtis, along with Doreen Bogdan from the ITU, the government of Finland, and the CEO of Smart Africa will give some opinions. So, this is high-level engagement that we provide. And then the second is a workshop about strengthening multi-stakeholder participation. Amrita is a speaker, of course. And it's talking about IDNs and inclusion and bringing the Internet forward, as we talk about in the Next Round.

So, two examples of the types of things we do. High-level sessions, we're part of, Kurtis and other Board members will speak on high-

level sessions, parliamentary tracks, and very important, we'll have a lot of bilateral meetings. Most of the time we'll be spending with government representatives, senior representatives of business with civil society, and I hope with you as community members who might be participating in the IGF. So, at some point, we'll be sending around an invitation for us all to get together in Norway as opposed to Prague. I think I can stop there, and Angela, over to you for a quick WSIS thing.

ANGELA WIBAWA

Thank you, Adam. I'm very happy to be here in this morning. For those of you whom I've not had the chance to meet, nice to meet you all. My name is Angela. I'm from the ICANN team in the APAC region. So, I will try not to get too long to share these updates on WSIS+20, because some of this have been shared. And if you managed to join the session yesterday, the community session in the afternoon, you might have already heard some of the arguments, the key messages that's very important to the technical community.

So, the WSIS+20 remains relevant to the ICANN community, including those from APAC. So, the most pertinent recent developments are the appointment of the two co-facilitators from Albania and Kenya, and also the publication of the roadmap. So, through our engagements, we learned that both ambassadors welcome engagements by ICANN and the technical community and they both expressed commitments to the modalities of the

WSIS+20 resolutions to have all stakeholders participate in the review process.

So, this commitment was reflected in the roadmap of key steps. I will share later in the chat room the link to the roadmap. So according to this roadmap, there will be several stakeholder consultations throughout the process, including before and after drafting of the elements paper, the zero draft, and the first draft. So, these consultations will be held virtually at UN headquarters at various locations. The purpose of this is to ensure inclusion and wider participation by all stakeholders.

So, the process has started with the first round of preparatory and stock-taking sessions on 30th May. This particular stock-taking session was only meant for UN member states, but the process was transparent and open because it was broadcasted at UN TV, so any stakeholders can watch and heard the members' priorities. So, there was visibility on that.

Amongst the priorities by UN member states, we were glad to hear that quite a big support of the multi-stakeholder model and the continuation of IGF. Only several member states identified technical community as a separate stakeholder or specifically called for strengthening of the IGF. Understandable, maybe they're not as familiar with our community yet, but there's also a good call to streamline the GDC within the WSIS process. So, that's good that there's a shared view to reduce duplication.

Non-government stakeholders will and already have some chance to share their views at the first stakeholder consultation. One happened last night at a decent APAC timing. Not decent for us in Prague, but decent for our colleagues back home in APAC. And another one will be happening in the morning of New York time or later 4:00 p.m. Prague time.

So, in response to ICANN's suggestion, UNDESA proactively shared the registration link in our WSIS Outreach Network mailing list, I believe a week ago, so there are opportunities to participate and join the consultations. And at last night's consultation, there were quite a number of familiar names from our APAC community. They spoke and shared their views, including our own colleague from APNIC.

So, ICANN will be participating at this afternoon's 10 June consultation. Our intervention will underline the role of multi-stakeholder model in keeping our internet stable, secure and unified for the past 20 years and into the future. The key message to take away here is that the WSIS+20 administrative process has officially started. It is important if you are an interested community member who wants to participate, please participate meaningfully. You can do this by engaging your respective governments or your WSIS+20 negotiators, if you know them, or by registering to participate in UN consultations. Even if you're not speaking, listen and support your colleagues who are sharing their views.

So, the information gathered to these consultations might affect how the WSIS+20 final outcome takes shape. So, it's important to get your views heard. It's been important and continues to be important that government and multilateral process provide opportunities to share their views. And to be fair, they've done their part. A lot of these processes have been open and facilitative, so it is encouraging.

In turn, we must make use of these opportunities. Attend the open consultation process, even if you're not speaking. Listen to arguments. Echo them if you share the views. If we do not participate in these processes, it will not be unreasonable if one day they are taken away from us. They have been given for us to participate, we should make full use of it.

So, ICANN will continue our effort to inform community of developments, including whenever there is opportunity to contribute. When the Elements Paper comes out, the Zero Draft comes out, we will likely organise webinars to provide a platform for community members to share views and we will inform these developments primarily through our network outreach. I will also drop the link in the chat group. So, I encourage you to join if you have not done so. The network outreach mailing list is a good resource for information because I know not everybody have the resources to follow. We do follow developments, and we share news, so please use this resources made available. And with that, I end. Thank you.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you, Angela. Thank you, Adam. Let's move to Akinori. As usual, I'm going to say you have 50 seconds, but take your time.

AKINORI MAEMURA

All right. Thank you very much, Samira. Good morning, everyone. My name is Akinori Maemura from Japan and then longstanding APAC Space member, I think. And then now, I am serving at the ASO AdWords Council. And then I'd like to introduce the current updated status of the ICP-2. Now it has been renamed into a RIR Governance Document. I am with my fellow ASO AC members from Asia Pacific, Nicole Chan, and Di Ma. So, we us three are more than happy to answer your question if you have.

Okay, then please go ahead with the slides. And then the slide, if you are distributed, it contains a lot of content, which cannot be squeezed up in 15 minutes. No, no, no, 50 seconds anyway. But I do my best and do that in seven minutes. Just go ahead until the-- Okay. So, ASO AC is this kind of thing and next page please. 12 members currently seated in the Address Council except the AFRINIC region because they cannot elect anyone.

Next slide please. You have the multitude of slides, but I will skip all. And then please go ahead until the timeline chart. Go ahead, go ahead, go ahead until the timeline chart. All right? Now. Okay, thank you very much. So, we did the ICP-2 review. That's quite a long process. And then that has two folds. One is the consultation

of the principal, draft principle. It's a rough point of the ICP-2 revision design. And then we did the consultation and then had a really good feedback. They are all valuable.

And then based on the feedback, we worked on drafting the new ICP-2 document over the last APNIC meeting in Putrajaya, Malaysia. And then now the phase of the consultation for the draft, the Governance Document, just finished. And then here, the ASO AC, all hands here in Prague for the ICANN meeting, and then we are now conducting the intensive sessions to review all feedback. So, this is the second phase of the consultation for the draft document.

Next slide, please. We actually appreciate the really, really good input from all regions. We actually did the consultation through the webinar and then mailing list in every RIR region, including the AFRINIC region. And then we had quite a number of the feedback through the ICANN public comment process and the webinar input and the inputs to the mailing list. We additionally have, for example, the ICANN SSAC provide us the feedback with the SAC document. They are all taken into account. And then we are doing the really, really tough job to integrate them all. Actually, we are analyzing it into similar category of the comment for every article and then we are considering whether and how we reflect that kind of input.

Next slide, please. So, the public comment period is already closed in the end of May, and then we are now doing the reflection of the consultation. The ICANN's public comment report is already done,

and then you can see it in the public comment page. Next slide, please. The Committee Engagement Plan.

Next slide, please. ASO AC, as I said, full hands of us are in Prague. No, sorry about that, one exception here, but almost all people are here. And then we have eight, collectively, consultation sessions for us to talk with other segment of the ICANN community. And then we are at the APAC Space here with the AC member from the APAC region.

Next slide, please. So, from now on, we will work on analyzing and then revising our draft document and then we expect at the end of August to September this year, we will come up with a revised RIR Governance Document draft to be published. And then from September, we will have the ultimate circuit of the RIR meetings, and then we will have some further consultation for the final text. And then we expect that in the fourth quarter of 2025, we can complete the process of the approval at the NRO Executive Council, and then ICANN Board. So, we will complete this project until ICANN Board approval by the end of this year.

Next slide, please. So, I think this is already said. Next slide, please. Working through the feedback we received from ICANN and the RIR consultation during ICANN83, I think this is already mentioned, but the important point is that you can have a look at the ICANN's public policy report in this URL. And then we're still hearing your voice for the for this process and the document, so please feel free and then don't hesitate to come up to us to express your

perspective on this process and the document itself. And we are here to hear you. How about this? Thank you very much

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you, Akinori. So, of course, we have a Q&A session later. So, let's move very quickly on to the segment on the Trusted Notifier Network in APAC. Joy, the stage is yours.

JOY CHAN

Allow me to get my shared screen. Okay, good morning. And I think it's a great opportunity for me to be able to speak here in the APAC Space about the Trust Notifier. This is the topic I'd like to share with you on behalf of TWNIC. As our Board member, Amitabh, was talking earlier when he was saying about DNS Abuse, I think we are here at the ICANN event. Everything that we are talking about is really based on the very important infrastructure on the domain name. When we are looking at the digital transformation, digital engagement, when everything is going to digital, the very fundamental domain name plays a critical, very important role.

And when we are looking at the domain, and I just want to share with you a very quick peek that we did research on our transparency. So, between January 25 to now, that's only about five months, that we were able to be able to identify 33,000 abused domain names related to our community. So, among them that you can see that there's 21,000 that's on the fraud, there's about 12,000 on the narcotics, and also some of them are on the sexual

assault and child and youth. That's with zero tolerance that we want to make sure that those abuse domains need to be either taken down to the sinkhole or not resolved.

And among them that you see that there's 99% that's on the other top-level domain, and there's only 1% on the TW. When we see those domain names, if they are the TW domain, we were able to be able to do just a little bit more to take care of the abuse. But looking at where they are coming from, many of them are from the e-commerce. And as you see on the right-hand chart, most of them, about 50% are from dot com. And what do we do with it? We follow the protocol to report them, to take down or to do whatever the action that we needed to do. But the result sometimes is just not very timely.

So, we have this Trust Notifier agreement with the parties that we felt that there is a lot that we can work together. So, the result or the goal that we are looking for is that number one, we can reduce the social harm on the DNS Abuse. We know who they are, we know where the domain is coming from, and we can just reduce a lot of the efforts so that we can take some action much quicker.

We also are able to leverage on the expertise and enhance the review process because when we have report from our community knowing that some of the domains needs to be taken care. There's a lot of the investigation we needed to do that, and there's also the verification that we needed to do. So, if we have the trust notifier partners who can do it from their side, it's just much easier on the

process. And also, this obviously can reduce the cost and operation resources.

So, with that, we felt like the trust notifier mechanism should be something that needs to be encouraged and promoted. And the applicable scenario can be on phishing, on the malware, on the botnet, on the farming, also on the spam. So, when we are working with our partners, it doesn't have to be all of the scenario, it could be selectively on some of it which they felt like it's hurting the most.

And so, far that when we are working on the trust notifier that we have signed the MOU with .Asia, with CSC, with KISA from Korea, with Nominet from UK. And not only that we are doing that, you can also see that the CSC has also been working with ID-CERT, .TOP and the LINE in Taiwan. So, today I'm just very happy to be here to announce to all of you that two more are adding on our MOU, one is .top. This is the new gTLD. And the other one is LdotR. So, we're very happy having Vivek representing LdotR here.

The MOU has been signed. In the interest of reducing time efficiency, but we're very happy to announcing this today and also having Vivek from LdotR and our CEO, Joe Fan. Maybe you guys can come up here to do a handshaking just to formalize this MOU. Can we do that? Also, Vivek may want to give a little word on this. Go ahead.

VIVEK GOYAL

Okay. Thank you, Joy, and everybody from TWNIC. At LdotR, we work with brands to protect those brands on the online space. And I believe Trusted Notifier program is a key aspect of reducing DNS Abuse all over the world, especially in the APAC Space. Trusted Notifiers bridge the gap wherein they educate the brand owners, company owners on what is possible through this route. That not everything is DNS Abuse. What is doable, what is not doable, what kind of evidence you need to provide to enable registries, registrars and other stakeholders to actually take action.

On the other hand, they provide relevant information to the relevant registry or registrar or other bodies to enable them to take faster action. They make the process more efficient for not only the brand owners, but also for the registries, registrars and other parties to take faster action and reduce DNS Abuse. And I applaud TWNIC for taking this step in this region and leading the way. And I would hope to see others follow through and make Trusted Notifier a success program across APAC and be a shining light for others in part of the world as well. So, thank you very much.

One more thing. This was only made possible because I heard about this program in the Seattle meeting for APAC session last time. And that is why I was able to participate in that. So, thank you, Samiran and ICANN, Joy and the team at TWNIC, for making it happen. Thank you very much.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Do you guys still want to shake hands or? Thank you so much. We are running a little behind. I didn't say so, but nonetheless, let's move straight on to the community discussion, which Shita Laksmi will moderate. Shita, the stage is yours now.

SHITA LAKSMI

Thank you, Samiran. Thank you for the excellent moderation. Actually, we still have time for conversations and dialogue. So, without further ado, I would like to open the floor for people who would like to speak or who would like to ask questions for the honorable people here. We have so many agendas, so maybe yes, I see Mira. Mira, please do so.

MIRA FAJRI

Hello, everyone. Mira here from Indonesia. I'm with pandi.id registry. I have a special interest with blockchain and how it develops now as a technology. And I noticed that there is technical obstacle they have which it's a result from them not having an internet governance or a perspective of like a governance approach for them to make it to make it like a standardized technical solution. So, I would like to inquire whether there's a discourse anywhere to broaden the internet governance context to this blockchain situation. Will ICANN give and push the community to then also have interference or like a collaboration with them, or we just left them as an alternative DNS and not really taking them in as a part of the internet governance context? So yeah, maybe if

there's someone like have the answer for this inquiry of mine.
Thank you.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you. If I am going to go to the Board first.

SAJID RAHMAN

Sure. I mean, just a simple, by definition, blockchain is decentralized. So, it goes against the ethos of blockchain companies to be under a central system, a central naming system, a number system. So. I think we obviously in ICANN and the Board, we are discussing regularly on the development that's happening in the blockchain space, how it is going to impact the naming system. We are aware of companies like ENS, etc. But we don't think at this point, the blockchain companies that are out there ready to offer a centralized naming or number system. It just goes against the way they work.

Now what's happening in the blockchain space? There are different layers of-- So, you have layer one which is Ethereum Salona, etc. And then you have layer two apps which are like, ENS is one, then there is one called Unstoppable domains and etc., which are based on layer one protocols. So, they themselves are trying to come up with some interoperability between key layer ones, but I don't see that ARC coming together to have a centralized system at this point.

SHITA LAKSMI

Okay. Is there any questions from the floor? If not, maybe I can ask for the WSIS+20 review. We have been discussing about this for quite some time, and I would like to know from the ICANN perspective on the possible outcomes of that discussion. Whether the state members, whether the UNGA later on will give more mandates. Just predictions from the ICANN, from the overall conversations, if you can share. Angela, perhaps, or Adam?

ANGELA WIBAWA

I'll get it started. It's a little bit hard to tell right now because it's like, well, I can't predict what I will eat for dinner tonight. Well, I can decide, but I can't predict. I can decide, but I can't predict. So, this is like you're asking what a prediction. So, it's very hard to tell what will the outcomes be because there's so many uncertainties out there. And the WSIS text itself, I have to remind the community, it's a lot broader than internet governance and it's a lot broader than ICANN's remit. We are trying to engage and raise awareness of the process, but even within the discussion itself, we notice that there's a lot of discourse beyond ICANN's purview. And we facilitate that discussion. It's great because that's the nature of internet. There's a lot of interconnection aspects. There's social aspects, economic aspects, security aspects. So, it's very hard to tell.

Where I'm hopeful and from what we've gathered so far from discussions with government around the world, they do, majority

of them, most of them, have very good intent. Nobody wants to outwardly break the internet. So, I'm very hopeful, but it's very hard to tell right now how it is going to look like. And of course, the process will move very fast. So once the elements paper come out, which I think is just in a few weeks' time, two weeks' time, and then after that, very fast, there will be rounds of discussion, draft zero, and then there will be a flurry of activities and negotiations, draft one.

And a lot of these activities, unfortunately, by nature of UN, it will happen negotiation behind closed door. So, I can't tell, but I encourage the community to continue sharing your views, please. Have positive view on this. Share proof points. Share what you think might work. Please don't get discouraged and trust the process. Let's be hopeful about this. I've been, at least my personal sensing is, I'm hoping for positive outcome. However that may be, the shape and form might look slightly different with shifts, but I'm hopeful. Thank you.

SHITA LAKSMI

Thank you, Angela. I'm opening the floor again for the questions or discussions. Yes, please, of course. Please come here, state your name and who do you like

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

Good morning, everyone. My name is Thuy [ph]. I'm from VNNIC. I'm also a member of ICANN, ccNSO and also a member of APTLD

and [inaudible - 00:48:03]. I would like to ask something about WSIS following this topic. And as a member of the region, I would like to know how we can follow APAC or APNIC or APTLD in the process. And we already see that ICANN, you have your initiative and process towards WSIS issue, but it's good if APAC and APTLD and APD can share how we join in the reasons for this issue. Thank you.

KENNY HUANG

Thank you for the question. I'm Kenny Huang, chair of APNIC. And basically, there are two tracks to discuss this kind of issue regarding WSIS inside APNIC. And we have APNIC mailing list discussion. And you can either go through the APNIC talk to submit your perspective regarding WSIS development. And we also have official channel. For example, we have a cooperation site that will conduct APNIC meeting. And that kind of issue will be discussed inside of Corporation SIG.

Basically, Corporation SIG will cover some topics that's outside of APNIC core business, especially regarding broaden stakeholder. And so, WSIS, I think that would be a proper agenda to be discussed inside Corporation SIG. And also, you can raise a similar issue to be discussed in APNIC AGM. And that was also proper forum to discuss anything broad topic concerned with APNIC stakeholder point of view. Thank you very much.

SHITA LAKSMI

Thank you, Kevin. Any feedback? Amrita, and then Edmon later. Amrita first.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Shita. So, just to add from the Asia Pacific regional IGF, we have a working group on WSIS which is formed. It is open to everyone. We had the first discussion last week. It was just an introductory discussion where a bit of overview was given to the APAC community on what WSIS is. We encourage you to join the mailing list and we will have more such discussions which is in an APAC-friendly time. And I know Angela is going to speak about it, but the mailing list of ICANN is also useful because most of the information is put in.

And just to add, tonight, when the discussion of the WSIS+20 was held by UNDESA, they have given an email ID. I'm sure Angela and others could share. If you as a community member have any comments, you can submit your comments there. The process tonight was quite good, unlike GDC. Everyone got a chance to speak. It was in an APAC-friendly time. So, I would encourage you to, if you have some comments, there are three questions on which they want responses. And they're pretty straightforward. You can submit your comments. Thank you.

SHITA LAKSMI

Thank you, Amrita. I hope we've answered your questions. Yes, Edmon.

EDMON CHUNG

Yeah, Edmon here. So, responding further to Thuy's question, actually, the APSTAR meeting that's actually happening in Da Nang in Vietnam is a kind of cross meeting with APNIC, APTLD, but that's what APSTAR is. All the different AP internet organizations try to come together. And the plan for the coming meeting, which was set forth from the February meeting, is to spend a little bit of time talking about WSIS+20, especially with the Draft Zero coming out expected to come out in August. The APSTAR meeting, which is happening together with the APNIC meeting, will be in early September. So, I think that's an important, I guess, date on your calendar.

And hopefully, I'll extend this to everyone to join as well. You can just check out APSTAR and be at the APSTAR meeting, either in person or online. And I understand that it overlaps a little bit with APTLD, so I'm hoping that APTLD could zoom in or some way patch together the community as well, because it is an important pivotal moment, as Adam mentioned earlier.

SHITA LAKSMI

Thank you, Edmon. I think there's one more. Okay. Adam, okay. Please do, Adam.

ADAM PEAKE

I just wanted to add to a couple of things. I think we've mentioned the GDC process last year, which you'll probably remember. And at

that time, we were a little bit concerned. The technical community had been mixed with civil society, so we were losing our sort of independent standing as a stakeholder group. That has been resolved, and we are now recognized in the process independently again. There was concern about how recognized the multi-stakeholder process would be. The outcome of the GDC, again, was the Global Digital Compact, I apologize. The GDC process was that the multi-stakeholder processes around Internet governance were important and central. So, we're seeing an evolution from a period of a year ago when we were a little bit more concerned.

As Amrita said, the processes are much better defined by the co-facilitators who are running this process, so they are much more inclusive, there's record-keeping. So, we've moved away from a period, you may remember from about 12 months ago, when we were genuinely quite concerned, to a much more professionalized process. And the distinction Angela made between the WSIS really is about development. It's about the future of information or digital society. Internet governance and what we do is an important part of it, but we don't really have the spotlight on us. So can't predict where we're going, but at least the process is stronger, more inclusive, and improved, I think. So happy days, we can hope. Thank you.

SHITA LAKSMI

Thank you, Adam. I'm sorry we have to close the session. Well, as you mentioned, we have improved processes and I borrow what

Angela was mentioning, we have to be more hopeful and do the process, the positive outcome of these conversations. Before we go into snacks and coffee, I will return back to Samiran. Thank you, Samiran.

SAMIRAN GUPTA

Thank you. And before we go into snacks and coffee, we are going to do a group photograph. So, thank you, everyone, for joining. Great to see you. Enjoy the rest of the meeting. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]