



83

POLICY
FORUM



Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) and Universal Acceptance (UA) Community Update



ICANN83 Prep Week
27 May 2025

Agenda

1

IDN Update

2

UA Day 2025
10 Years of UASG

3

UA Remediation of
Open Source
Software

4

UA Curriculum and
Academic
Outreach

5

Relevant IDN and
UA Sessions at
ICANN83

6

Questions and
Answers

IDN Updates

Pitinan Kooarmornpatana
IDN Program Director



Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR)

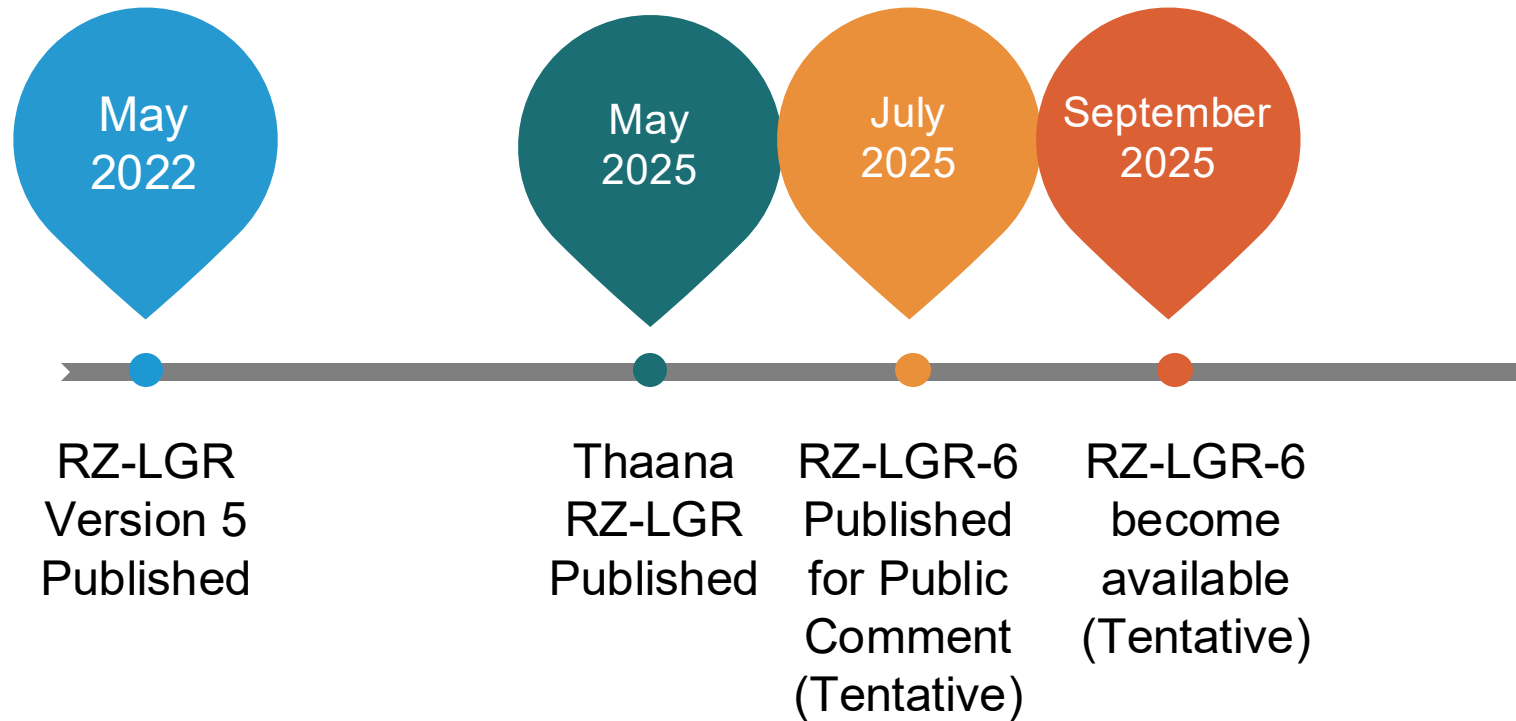
Thaana Script Integration in the RZ-LGR

- Thaana Script is used to write Dhivehi language, the official language of the Maldives.



- As per the [Root Zone Label Generation Rules \(RZ-LGR\) Procedure](#), the Thaana Script Generation Panel (GP) was [formed](#) in September 2024.
- The GP developed the Thaana RZ-LGR and organized the local public consultation to get broader community feedback in January 2025.
 - RZ-LGR proposal published for public comment from 27 March through 7 May 2025.
 - Final Thaana RZ-LGR proposal [published](#) on 23 May 2025.
- Integration Panel to consider final proposal for integration into the next version of the RZ-LGR.

Timeline for the Next Version of RZ-LGR



RZ-LGR-5 integrates the following 26 scripts:

Arabic, Armenian, Bangla, Chinese (Han), Cyrillic, Devanagari, Ethiopic, Georgian, Greek, Gujarati, Gurmukhi, Hebrew, Japanese (Hiragana, Katakana, and Kanji [Han]), Kannada, Khmer, Korean (Hangul and Hanja [Han]), Lao, Latin, Malayalam, Myanmar, Oriya, Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu, and Thai.

RZ-LGR-6 is expected to integrate 27 scripts by adding Thaana script.

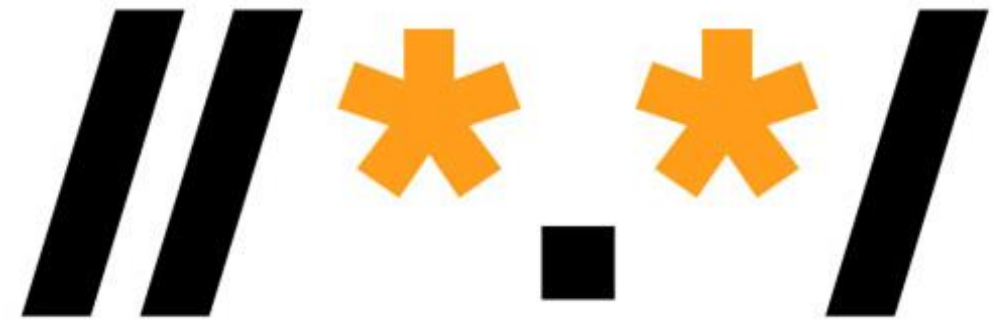
IDN Related Policies

Summary of IDN-Related Policy Development for gTLDs

- Final Report on the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process ([Sub Pro](#)), Topic 24: String Similarity, and Topic 25: IDNs, [adopted](#) by the ICANN Board in March 2023.
- Phase 1 Final Report on the Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Expedited Policy Development Process ([IDN EPDP Phase 1](#)).
 - ICANN Board [adopted](#) most recommendations based on the [scorecard](#) in June 2024.
 - Some pending recommendations based on the [scorecard](#) were [adopted](#) in September 2024.
- Phase 2 Final Report on the IDN EPDP ([IDN EPDP Phase 2](#)).
 - ICANN Board sought feedback by the public comment [proceeding](#), closed 03 February 2025.
 - ICANN org currently performing analysis on recommendations in order to aid in Board consideration step.
- [PDP Latin Script Diacritics](#)
 - Charter [adopted](#) by the GNSO Council on 19 December 2024.
 - The [working group](#) was formed and started its work in March 2025.

IDN-Related Policy Development for IDN ccTLDs

- The fourth ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP4) for (De-)Selection of IDN ccTLDs will replace the [IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process](#).
 - The ccNSO Council [adopted](#) the Recommended Policy, as per its resolution 203-04, in March 2024.
 - The [Board Report](#), dated 13 June 2024, was submitted to the Board for consideration.



Universal Acceptance

UA Day 2025

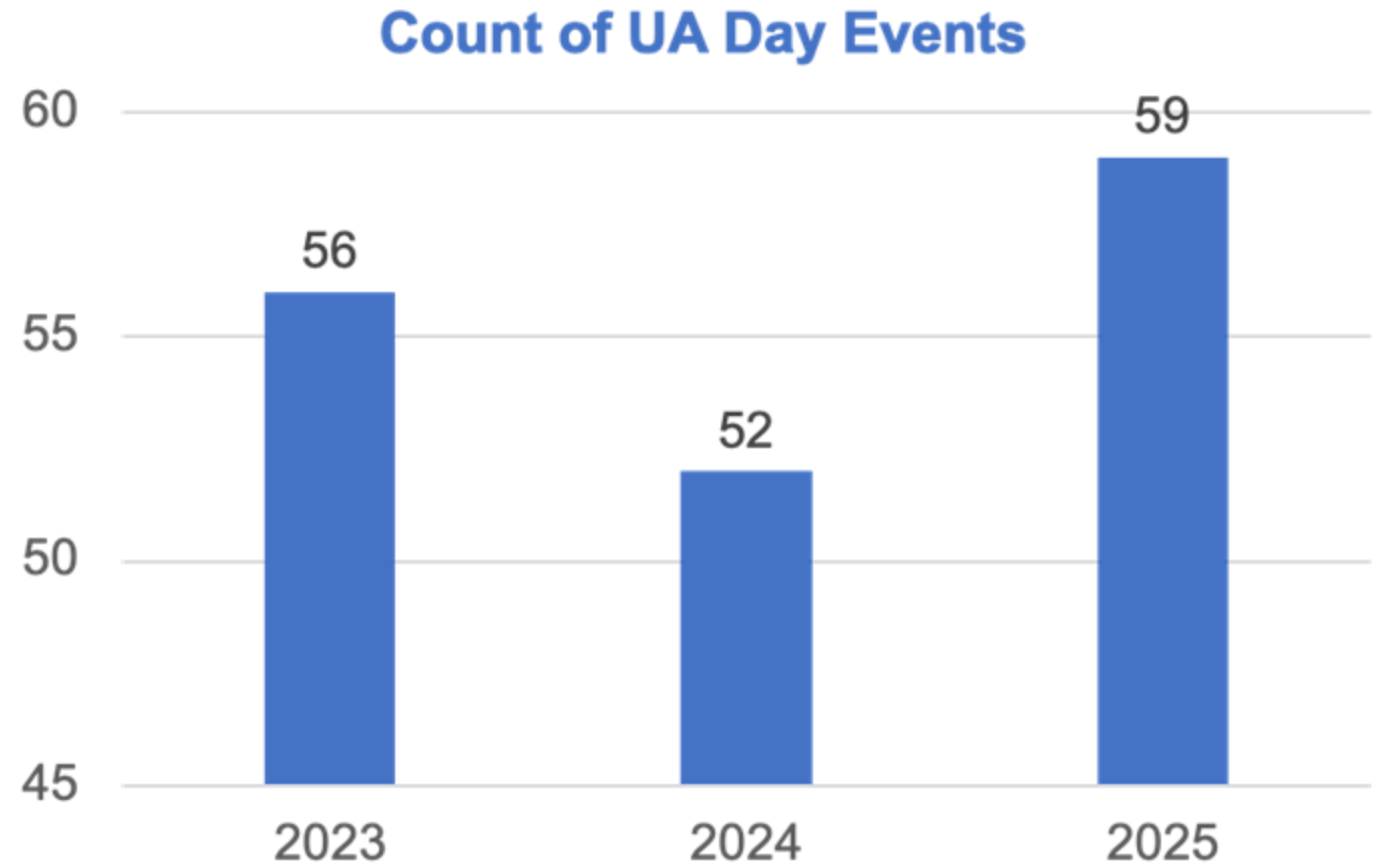
#Internet4All

Anil Kumar Jain

Chair of Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)

UA Day 2025: Third Annual UA Day

- UA Day aims to create global awareness and build capacity for UA adoption.
- Involves ICANN community, including UASG, ALSes, RALOs, and ccTLDs, as well as UNESCO.
- 59 UA Day events in 2025:
 - 53 national events
 - 5 regional events
 - 1 keystone event



UA Day 2025 Report will be at icann.org/ua-day-en soon.

UA Day 2025

Keystone Event

- Keystone UA Day event

- Held on 8 May 2025 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, co-located with the Contracted Parties Summit and APAC DNS Forum.
- Hosted by UASG, UNESCO and ICANN, with many organizations participating on panels:
 - American University of Bahrain, CNNIC, CORE, DotAsia, LANIC, Meta, Ministry of Science and Technology of Viet Nam, PANDI, Point Quebec, THNIC, VNNIC, ZDNS.
- Photos of UA Day events will be available on [Flickr](#) soon.





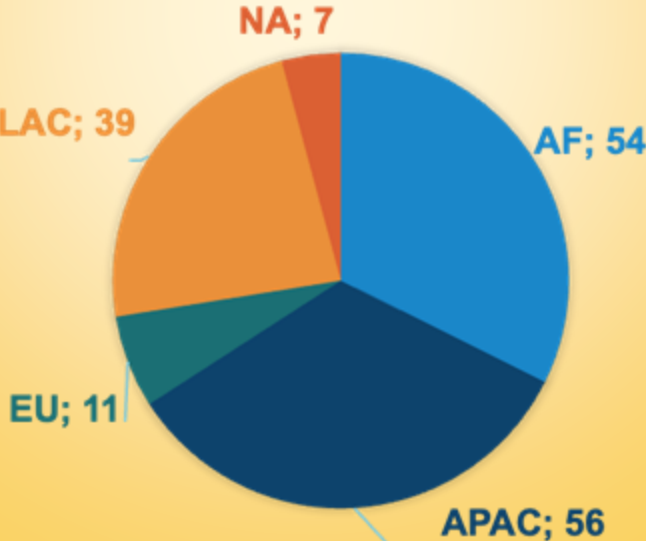
UA Day 2025 Keystone Event Sessions

- UA Day 2025 Opening Ceremony.
- UA Day 2025 Plenary: Enabling Digital Inclusion for the Next Billion Internet Users.
- Internationalized Domain Names – A Gateway for Multilingual Internet.
- Universal Acceptance – Enabling an Inclusive and Accessible Internet.

Recap of UA Day 2023-25

167 UA Day Events in 3 Years

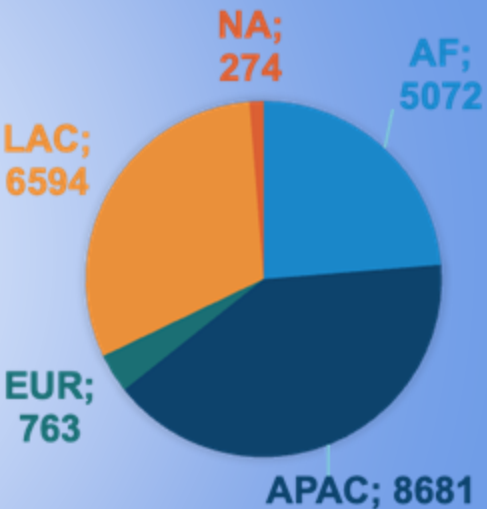
167 UA Day events held in 82 countries and territories in 39 languages



Participation Across the Regions

Featured 21,384* participants across the globe.

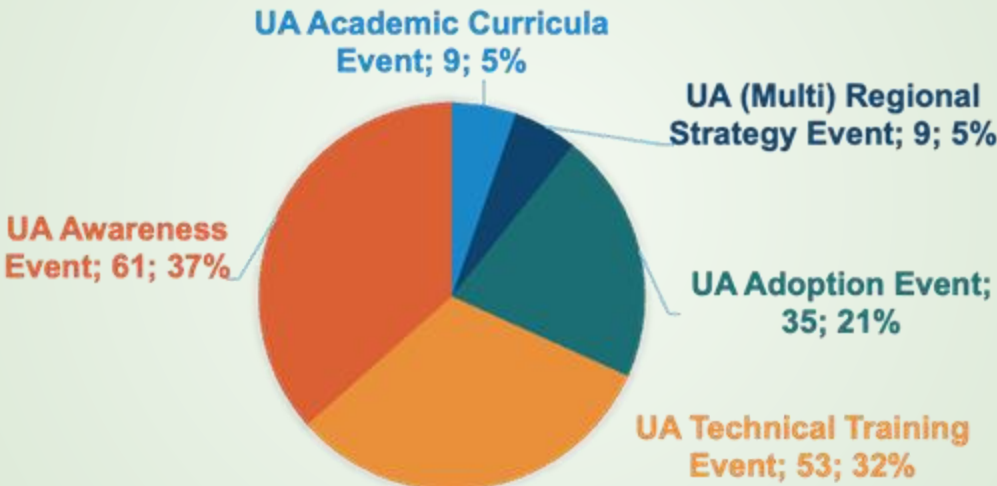
- 9,424 participants in 2023
- 6,544 participants in 2024
- 5,416 participants in 2025 (*as of 22 May 2025)



UA Day Event Dates

Organized on or around 28 March annually, with events between 1 March and 30 May.

167 UA Day Events by Type



10-Years of UASG

Initiated Projects in Collaboration with ICANN

- UA case studies
- UA Curriculum
- Identifying big-tech and open source orgs for outreach
- Social media outreach

Mechanisms for Working

- Six working groups
- Six local initiatives
- 19 UA Ambassadors
- Blogs and announcements
- Analysis and reports

Document Hub

Developed and published 50 documents, including:

- UA test data and frameworks, EAI self-certification guide
- Annual UA-readiness reports
- UA gap analysis of programming languages, content management systems, email tools, social media apps, websites, and more
- Free code samples and self-hosted working EAI system

UA Day Events 2023-2025

167 UA Day events in 3 years, reaching 21,300+ people

Raised Awareness with Stakeholders

Outreach through 300+ events including ICANN Public Meetings, local/global IGFs, WSIS meeting, local technology forums, and UASG training sessions

UA Remediation of Open Source Software

Status and Plans

Arnt Gulbrandsen
UA Technology Senior Manager



Overview

- Work on address syntax and UA-ready email.
- Self-hostable EAI server released.
- Code contributions sent to several systems.
- Roadmap for providing UA-ready services:
 - Roadmap for registrars/webhosts.
 - Roadmap for registrants.
- Survey of UA-readiness of websites:
 - Top global and 20 country-specific sets of sites.
 - Work in progress, nearly ready to publish.

Code Contributions (Partial List)

- We contribute code to open source when that matters, e.g. when the team there needs UA expertise and/or UA isn't high on its priority list.
- Cyrus and Dovecot (email servers).
- Mozilla Thunderbird (smartphone mail reader).
- Apache JAMES (mail-processing library).
- PHPMailer (mail-sending tool used by web sites).

EAI Self Hosting Software

- Complete suite of software for a self-hosted UA-ready mail server:
 - SMTP, IMAP, webmail.
- Easy to install:
 - Linux, low resource requirements.
 - Public IP address needed.
- Uses common, widely used software.
- Available at: <https://github.com/icann/eaiselfhost>.

Universal Acceptance Work in the IETF

- Draft *RFCs related to email addresses and content:
 - User-friendly email addresses (draft-ietf-mailmaint-interoperable-addresses).
 - General, safe addresses (draft-ietf-mailmaint-smtpUTF8-syntax).
 - Structured email (calendar invites, etc, draft-happel-structured-email-trust).
- RFC 9755 recently published; solves UA interoperation issues.
- Other ongoing relevant work includes passwordless login.

*RFCs are Internet standard and other documents developed within the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

UA Curriculum and Academic Outreach

Overview and Updates

Geraldo Ferreira
UA Technical Manager



UA Curriculum Integration Program

- ICANN started the [UA Curriculum Integration Program](#) to increase knowledge and visibility of UA.
 - Consists of 12 modules covering the important topics of Internationalization, IDNs, EAI, and UA.
- Allows for **small-scale upgrades** to existing courses or offer a **separate** course in technical programs.
- *ICANN's Role*
 - Provide the UA curriculum materials.
 - Conduct a 2-3 day faculty training.
 - Provide technical support to the universities for up to 2 years, to integrate the curriculum.
 - Promote the collaboration on UA curriculum through social media and other channels.
- *Universities' Role*
 - Make relevant faculty members available for the 2-3 day training locally or online.
 - Integrate the UA curriculum by updating the courses in the relevant degree program(s).
 - Seek technical support from ICANN as needed for the program.
 - Hold quarterly interim discussions during the program to provide feedback.

Updates on Academic Outreach

● Student UA Hackathon in Bahrain

- ICANN worked with Telecom Regulatory Authority and American University to host the third student hackathon focused on UA adoption on 27-28 April 2025. Details at <https://البحرين.هاكاثون>.
- 60 students competed in 12 teams, and developed AI powered software to support domain names and email addresses in the Arabic and other languages.

● UA Curriculum Faculty Training in Mexico

- ICANN conducted a UA Curriculum faculty training from 6-8 May in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.
- Four institutions participated, with 17 on-site attendees and additional 15 online attendees.
- **Key Takeaways and Next Steps:**
 - Universidad Modelo already decided to integrate the UA Curriculum.
 - Need for ICANN to continue developing additional learning tools for students.
 - Need more information on impact of UA in the community.

IDN-UA Related Sessions at ICANN83

ICANN83 IDN-UA-Related Sessions

For more sessions and discussions related to IDNs and UA, please join ICANN83:

[Monday, 9 June](#)
[13:45-15:00](#)

At-Large Policy Session (Covers IDNs and UA Topics)

[Tuesday, 10 June](#)
[13:45-15:00](#)

ccNSO:Breaking Barriers: How Governments & ccTLDs Advance UA

[Wednesday, 11 June](#)
[09:00-10:00](#)

String Similarity Evaluation in the New gTLD Program

[Wednesday, 11 June](#)
[15:30-17:00](#)

Celebrating 10 Years of UASG and Moving Forward

Engage with ICANN – Thank You and Questions



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