
ICANN84 | AGM – APRALO Meets NextGen@ICANN84
Monday, October 27, 2025 – 16:30 to 17:30 IST

MICHELLE DESMYTER

All right. This session will now begin. Please start the recording. Recording in progress. All right, thank you. Hello, and welcome, everyone, to the APRALO meets NextGen at ICANN84. My name is Michelle DeSmyter, and I'm the Remote Participation Manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

During this session, questions or comments will be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. If you'd like to ask a question during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom, and on-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record, and please speak at a reasonable pace. I will now hand the floor over to Amrita Choudhury, APRALO Chair.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Michelle, and welcome to all the NextGens, the non-NextGens, and whoever are in the room. My name is Amrita Choudhury. I welcome the NextGen to ICANN84, though it is your third day today. Though this session is being held in Europe, which

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should technically be EURALO doing it, but since the meeting was to be held earlier in Oman, and most of you are from the APAC region, that is why I am speaking, so I welcome you.

We have some exciting speed dating group, APRALO dating kind of an activity, which we have planned for today, but I will pass it on to Sebastien quickly to introduce himself, and then we'll come back to hear you introducing yourself fast.

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET

First, Sebastien Bachollet, Chair of EURALO in the next two days, and then it will be done. I want to welcome you. Yes, you are in Europe. Welcome to Europe. But yes, you are coming from Asia-Pacific, as it was supposed to be a meeting in Asia-Pacific, but please be welcome, and I am sure that the Chair of APRALO, Amrita Chaudhry, will take care of you very well. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Sebastien, for the warm introduction to all the NextGen here, and even if we come from different regions, we are from the same At-Large community, so you can reach out to anyone. We will go in for a round of introduction with the APRALO leadership, and obviously we would like to hear from you, where you come from, what is your name, just that would help for now. Before that, I would like to introduce you to a few of our APRALO leadership and people who are here from APRALO.

I would start with Ali, who was actually the brain behind the planning. Ali is the Vice-Chair currently at APRALO. Ali, you can wave your hand. Then we have Priyatosh Jana somewhere in the room. He is the incoming Vice-Chair for APRALO.

We have Aftab out there, who is the incoming ALAC member. We have Shah, who is the current ALAC member, who is outgoing, but he is very much there in the community. We have Satish at the end, who is an ALAC member. We have Justine, who is busy in another GNSO avatar, doing what she has to do there. We have Cheryl, whom you all know. She is one of our mentors at APRALO.

We have Maureen out there. She is also one of the mentors, and we have Charles, who is in NomCom from APRALO. Besides that, we have some people from the GSE team here. Save is here from the Pacific region. We have Champika, who is from our region. He is in the OCTO team, but he is always there for us, from Australia.

We don't have the others in the room, but before I introduce you to a few of our volunteers, they'll speak themselves later. I'd like each of you from this side, whoever are the NextGen, to introduce, just tell us your name, where you come from.

OM PRAKASH SHARMA

Hello, everyone. I'm Om Prakash from Nepal. I'm excited to be in this meet.

KUSHAGRA SINGH	Hey, everyone. I'm Kushagra Singh from India. I'm excited to be here.
ARSHIA RIFAT	Arshia Rifat. I'm from Pakistan.
AREEBA SHAHID	Hi, everyone. I'm Areeba Shahid from Pakistan.
KHUN SINT PHOO WAI	Hello, I'm from Myanmar. I'm so excited to be here.
SAKSHAM JAIN	Hi, this is Saksham, and I'm representing Australia.
SHASHI RAJ	Hi, everyone. I'm Shashi Raj from India. I'm a cyber security student.
SADICHCHHA SILWAL	Hello, everyone. This is Sadichchha Silwal from Nepal.
KUSHAGRA SINGH	Hello, everyone. It's me, Anupam Gautam, from Nepal. I'm excited to be here and meet you all. Thank you.

AHMAD UMAIR SUHAIDI

Hello. Good evening, everyone. Umair from Malaysia, and most importantly, I'm Paolo's mentee. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much for your introduction and a warm round of applause that you are here at least. So, we have a section now where we want to introduce APRALO and how you can engage, but we will not speak. We have three of the fellows here, and they will introduce themselves and share, they'll have a chat amongst themselves, something like a fireside saying how they came in, what they've been doing, what they want to do. So, over to the three of you. Do introduce yourself.

JASMINE KO

Hello, everyone. This is Jasmine Ko, ICANN fellow, and I'm from Hong Kong. I have been in APRALO for a while, and yeah, I will pass it to my fellow.

ANKITA RATHI

Hi, everyone. My name is Ankita, I'm from India. I'm also an ICANN84 fellow, and happy to be here.

SAMEER GAHLOT

Hello, everyone. My name is Sameer Gahlot. I am from India and part of APRALO community for the last two years, and I'm also current ICANN84 fellow. So, now currently in order to make it more interactive, what we are planning to do, we will have a generic

discussion, and if anyone would like to jump in or they would want to share their perspective, how they get to know about APRALO and whether they are being part of any working groups or whether they are part of any other IG ecosystem which ultimately contributes to the APRALO community, you could definitely turn on your mic, and rather than making it a three-person interaction, we would want to make it a multi-person interaction.

So, if anyone of you would want to say anything, we are open to that, and now we will start the discussion. Jasmine, would you like to tell me what's the full form of APRALO? Hold on, hold on. I know many of you are not aware about that. That is the reason why I ask this. Anyone in this room would want to share what's the full form of APRALO?

KUSHAGRA SINGH

Can I help with that?

SAMEER GAHLOT

Yeah.

KUSHAGRA SINGH

So, APRALO stands for Asia-Pacific Regional At-Large Organization.

SAMEER GAHLOT

So this organization represents, if you could mention Jasmine or Ankita, what other region this organization or this community is covering, that would be great to the participants here.

ANKITA RATHI

Thank you, Sameer. APRALO basically represents all the countries that we have in the Asia-Pacific region. I think most of us are here from a lot of countries in the Asia-Pacific, so yeah, we represent all the Asia-Pacific here.

SAMEER GAHLOT

And since we both are from India, and Jasmine is from Hong Kong, so supposedly if we are doing any activity within that region, so APRALO is the particular community through which we have to maybe we could interact with them, take their guidance, report to them, and ultimately APRALO will directly coordinate with the ICANN. So this is how the structure is, and maybe Jasmine, if you could highlight some of the initiatives which you are taking within that region, how you are taking, and when you have started, you or Ankita, anyone of you.

JASMINE KO

Maybe it's easier to say how we started. I'm so sorry, I was too nervous. I got all of my information out of my brain. But for your reference, it's everything on our website as well. So, if you need more, well, very neutral information, it's always available. But then if you need personal experience sharing, it's always here.

We have a storybook, it's a human library, you can always interact with us. So, for myself, since I previously worked with .Asia, so the journey for me to know about APRALO is because obviously .Asia is one of the contributor registries in this, I mean like this ICANN structure, so I was starting with helping to nurture the APAC youth leader as well in the APIGA program, the Asia-Pacific Internet Governance Academy.

So, that's how I also got to learn about the ICANN issues because with the youth ambassador from that mission .Asia, that's the effort part of drafting the content of model ICANN.

So, that time I remember there was issues about Latin Diacritic Script and also about Universal Acceptance, issues like that during the model ICANN. So, that's how I got to know more about the issue. But then still now, it's really taking me some time to observe and to see how other leadership while giving guidance to people who join new here.

And then so I think that's how I got to know more about, but yeah, maybe you guys, how do you guys start with that?

SAMEER GAHLOT

Yeah, so my journey is similar to Jasmine, like Jasmine was working with one of the registry .Asia and I'm working with National Internet Exchange of India, it's also a registry in India. Nixie being a registry proactively participates in engagements related to ICANN and IGF and that's how I get to know about that there is this community in

the APAC region which deals with the ICANN related matters as well as internet governance related matters.

But within us there is someone, I mean Ankita is here, who has a different exposure to APRALO and she is not working with any registry. So, I would want to hear from Ankita, because most of the participants or the NextGen fellows, they are to a certain extent not working with registry. So, how could they participate and Ankita, how you started your journey, if you could shed some light on that.

ANKITA RATHI

Thank you, Sameer, thank you Jasmine. So, yeah, I'm not a technical person, so I got to know about ICANN when I joined Net Mission Academy and when I went to APIGA, that's when I met Amrita for the first time and I got to know about APRALO community and that's how I became the part of the community, joined the mailing list and also joined various working groups that they have in the community.

And I think, I mean, it's not compulsory to be coming from a technical background. You can join the mailing list, you can become part of various working groups that they have in the APRALO and just contribute to the community back. Yeah, thank you. And Sameer, if I can ask you, what motivated you to, you know, join the APRALO group and what do you think are the incentives that you gain being a part of this community, you and Jasmine both?

SAMEER GAHLOT

So, Jasmine, would you like to go first, or should I?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Yeah, so do remember you have a limited amount of time.

SAMEER GAHLOT

Sure, sure. So there are certain things which keeps me motivated or to contribute to this APRALO community. One of them is how could we deal with the emerging technologies and that is something which for which I'm very passionate about and I'm coming from a dialogue or I've submitted one paper at the United Nations University which got accepted.

It talks about the emerging technologies and APRALO to a certain extent has a role to play within that paper which I submitted over there and just the way I submitted my paper, it could be anyone of the NextGen who could definitely submit their observation findings and they could definitely play a bigger role in this community. So, Jasmine, over to you now.

JASMINE KO

Yeah, thank you. I think I'm more like a very different person. So, since the community here, it's very open, inclusive and transparent. I think the atmosphere that people give me is they're very supportive of newcomers and also many people encouraging

really different communities to share what is happening in the region and provide resources on doing their local initiatives.

So one of the also opportunities that I'm very thankful that Leadership Team Grammy, it's my participation on ACES, the At-Large Community Engagement Subcommittee that helping to really see how we could drive ICANN priority initiative into a local level such as the Universal Acceptance campaign and also, we talk about DNS abuse, like how to combat the phishing.

So in that team, we have been working on creating materials on phishing and that's a process that we work together with people from different regions and that is a chance that we could contribute our local content. I think it's really motivating because it's a platform and also the process that you could really interact with people from different regions and share the best practice.

I think that's the thing that really motivates. If you have certain things that you find, maybe I know some of the NextGen is doing presentation on DNS abuse and things etcetera. I think that's something very relevant and be able to engage with us further.

SAMEER GAHLOT

Yeah, one last question before we give on the floor to proceed with the other segment of the session. So, Ankita, I would like to ask you one question. This is a human tendency, like if you are getting some benefits, then you will stay connected. What are the benefits

or what are the perks of being attached to the AP-DALO community, if you could highlight some of them.

ANKITA RATHI

Transactional relationship, but thank you, Sameer. I think, yeah, as Jasmin also mentioned, other than like you mentioned about a research paper that you got to present and also capacity building leadership skills that you also gain when you talk to people. There are so many experts and like industry experts and leaders in the community who you can talk to, who you can be a part of.

We have monthly APRALO has monthly meetings, a lot of hot topics that are discussed in every meeting. So, I think just giving back to the community and since we all are here at ICANN, so it's a given that we want to do something towards the various issues and challenges that we are seeing in today's world. So yeah, I think that's what keeps me motivated to be here and to stay connected with everyone. Are we good on time? Okay, thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. Though we wanted it to be interactive, it was not that much interactive, but what we would be doing next is going to be, so can I have all the NextGen fellows stand up? And it would not be country-wise grouping. Okay, we are going to break you up. So, we'll have groups of four, four and three. I think we have 11 people here.

Oh, we've got 10. So, what is going to be the math to divide it into? So, we have three, three, four. Okay, so we have two Pakistan, two India together, which is not going to work. And then we have two Nepal together. That's also not going to work.

So, all of you come here. We will make groups and may I request our volunteers to be at this station and I'll tell you what we have to do. So, can someone from our leadership help to get a group of three, three, four made, which is equivalent?

So, what we would be doing next is we'll have three groups. You can see three boards on three sides of the room. We'll have a speed dating with APRALO, 10 minutes each happening now. You will be moving from one board to the other, and these would be specific boards. You can ask questions, interact, and we will do it for 30 minutes. Who is going to break them into the groups?

Okay, so the group, APRALO group leads, please take it ahead. We have 10 minutes and Gisella, will you help us to keep time? Then we'll move them to the next group.

GISELLA GRUBER

And timeout.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Please can we come back to the table now? Time up. Can we get everyone back to the table? Thank you everyone. Back to the table.

Back to the table, please. Can we come back to the table? The show is not over. Back to the table.

MICHELLE DESMYTER

If everyone could go back to the table. Ladies and gentlemen, we're running out of time. Please get back to the table.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

So, thank you everyone for indulging us and going to all the different spots and interacting. Do we have some takeaways from each of these landing stations? Yes. Natalia, do you want to share what you all did at a high level in one minute?

NATALIA FILINA

Thank you very much for this work together. It was very interesting. I would love to continue, by the way, all of these dialogues. So, we asked a question about what might be our focus of interest and how it reflected within all of this ICANN role.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. And at the history of APRALO, anyone wants to share? Cheryl?

CHERYL LANGDON ORR

Okay, right. Really wheeling out the fossils now. We had a chat about how APRALO was formed. We shared some embarrassing photos of Charles as a child. We talked to our speed dating partners

and wanted to see from them what they thought, what some of the challenges might be for them to get involved.

And obviously, with us being such a large and diverse area, that was one of the things. But what was interesting is the number of people who did not duplicate what they said. So, what we got from each group was unique and different. And I think that's a reflection of why we celebrate diversity.

And I'd like to encourage all of our incoming, hopefully, fresh-thinking youth in particular to come and make the difference, not with separation, but with integration of your thoughts, your energies, and our future.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Cheryl. Group three, who would like to speak what you did? Satish's group. Satish, Priyatosh, and Shah.

JASMINE KO

Okay, okay. I think group three, it's mostly about next step. So, I think it's a very unique conversation, too, because people NextGen, you guys from different security groups, and also you have different interests area, how you want to continue, such as joining the ASO, with ccNSO, and also with not just about the groups that you plan to join, but also the issues that you want to focus on, such as DNS abuse, et cetera.

So I think it's a very good wrap-up about interacting with different leaders and also getting to know about your fellows NextGen. It's

a good check out about how you want to continue and have a more-clear focus on, in terms of the groups, security groups, or in terms of the subject domain that you want to focus on. So, yeah, I think that's the next step. Is there anything you want to add on?

SATISH BABU

Just one point to add. All of us agreed that being a fellow or a NextGen in ICANN is a superpower, and that you can go do things with that superpower. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, everyone, for this. This is, as Natalia said, the conversation can go on. We had very limited time, but please feel free to reach any of us, irrespective of APRALO, EURALO, we don't have, we have Boko, no, we have just APRALO and EURALO here. We did have... she stepped out. So, please feel free to reach out to anyone, ask questions, don't feel shy. You have your hand up. You want to speak?

NATI

Yeah, I'm sorry, I don't have my card. So, this is the EuroDIG report. No, I just want to make this note. This is Nati again. I talked to many of you. I just want to reassure you that as a former NextGen, I'm more than happy to provide you with also mental health support and everything, but of course, guide you through what you can do next. So, don't feel shy. And of course, you can approach me also.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Yes, thank you so much, Nati. And from us in APRALO, I know you all are here making your first step into ICANN. You don't know much. You may be confused. You may want to see other things. What you could do is, what we normally tell everyone, we told Ankita and Jasmine and even Sameer, they're sitting here, that's why I'm talking about Kushagra is there, is you can join our WhatsApp group. It's an open community. See what we do.

If you want to, yes, Adisha also comes at times. I've seen her. So, if you are interested, you can participate in an activity. If you're not, you can stay passive, but it's a very lively group, I feel. We work mostly on WhatsApp because that's how our community in APAC likes to work. We are not so much into emails. We do emails, but we are mostly on WhatsApp. So, feel free to join it.

We have the WhatsApp group and I'm sure Ankita, Sameer, Jasmine or any of us, one can share it with you. You can join in. Do put in your names there because sometimes we get, we had an open group, which was a spam. We got too many spams and then we thought, no, let's close it.

So you have to give your request and once you send us a message, we will get you added so that then you can experience it. Do things if you don't like, move out, but at least see what it is. And then you want to say something? Yes. Last words to you.

KUSHAGRA SINGH

It's so lively that you get to know people about this.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Yes, we do everything. We just don't do formal work. We do everything out there. So, thank you so much. Please do join the WhatsApp group. That's what we can say. Or if you don't join, I know two of you have joined. Yes. So, thank you so much. I think we are ending on time. Have a good evening. I hope you got your green bands. Enjoy. And just speak to anyone in the rooms.

KUSHAGRA SINGH

Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much.

MICHELLE DESMYTER

Just one quick. These things don't work. Just one quick thing. I just want to speak to you all before you leave for five quick minutes. We can just meet right here. Okay.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

And we have some wonderful staff here, Gisella, at least in our region. And Yesim is online. And obviously Michelle is here, but Gisella and Yesim are always supporting us. Super people. They are also on WhatsApp. They are super active and they help us all the time.

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