



## **IDN Variant TLDs Program Public Session Summary** **ICANN 48**

20 November 2013 | Buenos Aires, Argentina

### **Overview**

The ICANN public session provided a presentation and status update on the IDN Variant TLD Program. Updates included progress made on the implementation of the IDN Root LGR procedure and the formation of the Integration Panel and prospective Generation Panels. ICANN also provided a status update on Project 7 under the IDN Variant TLDs Program and discussed any input received from supporting organizations and advisory committees on the User Experience study.

Finally, Dr. Kenny Huang of TWNIC presented on the status of the Chinese Generation Panel.

### **Agenda:**

- IDN Root LGR Procedure: Implementation Updates (Project 2.2)
- LGR Tools: Representing Label Generation Rulesets in XML (Project 1)
- User Experience Study: Community Input on Implementation of Study Recommendations (Project 7)
- Generation Panels for CJK (Community Collaborative Framework Proposal v1.0)

### **Presenters:**

- Han Chuan Lee (ICANN)
- Naela Sarras (ICANN)
- Kim Davies (ICANN)
- Dr. Kenny Huang (TWNIC)

To access the presentations and audio recordings, please visit the [IDN Variant TLDs Program](#) session page.

## Questions/Comments and ICANN Response

Below is a chronological list of all questions and comments received as well as the ICANN responses. Please note that transcriptions have been edited for consistency and clarity.

**1. Question:** Can you clarify the term “collision” and is this the name collision that has been raised for all gTLDs? Is there a specific name collision for IDN TLDs?

**ICANN Response:** To clarify, we are not referring to name collisions in the root zone in regards to gTLDs. Our focus is on avoiding potential collisions in regards to characters and character variants based on the work of the individual Generation Panels.

**2. Question:** If the Korean Generation Panel does not participate, what happens to the CJK integration work? Will the CJ panel continue the work without input from the Korean panel or will it wait until the Korean panel completes the work?

**ICANN Response:** According to the [Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels \(LGR Procedure\)](#), the Integration Panel must consider all related scripts for the integrated LGR. Therefore, all three Generation Panels need to submit corresponding Script LGRs to the Integration Panel for the initial review. We are currently working to encourage engagement of the Korean language community.

**3. Question:** What is the timeline of the Generation Panel? When do you expect to finish the work? Among the two following tables, which IDN table will be changed: 1) IDN enable/disable Unicode table 2) Language table?

**ICANN Response:** Script LGR Generation Panels are community driven efforts and their establishment and work timeline is out of ICANN's control. ICANN is focusing on outreach efforts to encourage communities in establishing these panels and developing the LGR work, as well as providing the necessary information and infrastructure to facilitate their work.

Regarding IDN tables and the new standard format to express them and other registration rules, now known as “label generation rulesets” (LGRs), we referenced to the TLD registry-supplied tables, which are not consistently implemented across all registries. We believe these legacy IDN tables could theoretically be replaced by the LGR, and we are testing this theory, although this is not the explicit goal of the LGR project.

**4. Question:** From what I understand, there is a separate CJK Generation Panel and is that the direction we are going? Is that the direction the ICANN team is comfortable with? If there isn't a Korean Generation Panel, but they participate in the CJK panel, is there a possibility for the Han script to move forward because we've dealt with the overlap within the Han script if there isn't a Korean panel?

**ICANN Response:** Discussions about CJK panel and/or panels establishment are currently ongoing. Community members, with advice from ICANN staff, are exploring implementable panel models.

However, it is important to note that, according to the LGR Procedure, Generation Panels for related or structurally similar scripts are encouraged to communicate or cooperate in the interest of arriving at a more consistent treatment of repertoires and variants for the root zone. In particular, the area where the three Panels need to agree is on the definition of variant for Han characters, more precisely the mapping from code point to one or more variants must agree. The repertoire may be different and the disposition for each variant may be different, but the same code points must have the same mappings.

**5. Comment:** I support having the CJK panel separate because we've dealt with the overlap with the Integration Panel.

**ICANN Response:** All options suggested by community members must be taken into consideration by the Integration Panel and the IDN team.

**6. Question:** Would the Chinese and Japanese panels focus on the Han script only or will hiragana and katakana also be considered? Or will there be two Japanese panels?

**ICANN Response:** Coordination efforts between Chinese and Japanese panels should focus on the overlap of Han characters.

However, each of the C, J, and K Generation Panels will be charged with proposing a complete LGR for the relevant community, for example Korean would include Hangeul, and Japanese would include Hiragana and Katakana.

**7. Question:** If there is no collision in code points from Korea then CJ should move forward, but who from Korea is to say there are no collision in code points—the government agency or the language community?

**ICANN Response:** It is assumed that the Korean Generation Panel will include Hanja in the repertoire. Therefore, and in accordance with the LGR Procedure, only a coordinated CJK solution treating the Han script and, at the same time, writing systems used in conjunction with the Han script, may be acceptable for integration.

Only a Korean Generation Panel can make the decision whether or not to include Hanja, and only the submission of an LGR proposal can commit the Generation Panel to include Hanja (or not). The LGR Procedure does not provide any other means for binding declarations by Generation Panels. Because of that, it is expected that a Korean Generation Panel be seated and submit an LGR proposal before the Han script can be included in the Root Zone LGR.

**8. Question:** Is there a certain amount of time to get the process started for Korea? I'm not representing Korea and I'm sorry that Korea has not participated. If we have a few weeks, I think we can address this.

**ICANN Response:** There is no specified deadline, but there is urgency for Korean community engagement and input.

**9. Comment:** It seems one of the reasons Koreans haven't participated is that we've always linked LGR and IDN variants. But there isn't variants for Korean context. ICANN should advertise IDN in general. ICANN should emphasize that you should come and participate in the Generation Panel.

**ICANN Response:** We probably need a refresher call for Generation Panels and emphasize that Label Generation Rules are needed in order to qualify for the root zone. The LGR consist of Repertoire, Variant Mappings, Disposition of Variants, and Whole Label Evaluation Rules. All scripts must define a repertoire, whether or not they plan to use Variants or Whole Label Evaluation Rules.

Since this discussion took place in November 2013, ICANN reiterated the Call for Generation Panels to Develop Root Zone Label Generation Rules in an announcement on 14 February 2014.

**10. Question:** Is there is a Generation Panel for Arabic script? If so, how does it represent various languages: Persian, Pashto and Urdu. Who represents each of these communities as some of these are spoken across multiple countries?

**ICANN Response:** All Generation Panels are required to adequately represent the diversity of their user communities. In the case of scripts that are used for diverse languages and in different geographical and political contexts, this can be challenging. However, in accordance with the LGR Procedure, ICANN and the Integration Panel are charged to ensure proposed Generation Panels will satisfy these requirements.

Arabic is a complex script and the Arabic script community is fully cognizant of these issues. ICANN doesn't have any proposals yet.

Since this discussion took place in November 2013, the [Arabic Generation Panel](#) was seated as of 14 February 2014.

**11. Question:** What outreach is being done for the missing Generation Panels (17 scripts)? We need to be more aggressive to encourage people to participate.

**ICANN Response:** Our initial focus was on establishing the Integration Panel. Now that the Integration Panel is formed and undergoing its work, ICANN will continue to reach out to script communities in order to highlight the need to form Generation Panels and initiate the LGR work.

**12. Comment/Action Item:** My suggestion is that each of the panels work should be widely distributed in the regions where the languages are spoken and open for public comment. And, where relevant, translations should also be provided.

**ICANN Response:** We can take that request as an action. The following document is a good candidate for translation into the target languages of scripts that don't yet have Generation Panels: 'Setting up and Running a Generation Panel'.

Since this discussion took place in November 2013, the document titled "Setting up and Running a Generation Panel" was translated into the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian. Translated documents can be found at:

<https://community.icann.org/display/croscomlgrprocedure/Generation+Panels>

The "Setting up and Running a Generation Panel" augments the Procedure by providing an overview of the tasks of a Generation Panel, information about a suggested composition and some notes on how to set up and organize a Generation Panel for a given script for the first time. In the event of any discrepancy between the information presented in this document and the Procedure, the Procedure shall prevail.

**13. Comment:** Latin is a problematic issue as it's widely used and yet no one feels they own the initiative.

**ICANN Response:** We agree. Outreach will be important regarding this script, particularly because it impacts so many other scripts. Given the perceived lack of "ownership" of this script, ICANN may be required to be more proactive in soliciting members to work on this panel.

**14. Question:** What is the schedule? For GNSO there is no further policy required for implementation going forward. Project 7 might require some elements. There might be questions that might be asked.

**ICANN Response:** Staff is doing research on several aspects of Project 7. Once information and work on the LGR is sufficiently advanced, we will provide more information on P7.

**15. Question:** What is the process to decide who speaks for a community?

**ICANN Response:** The intention for when a proposal comes in to ICANN for the Generation Panel to work on the script is that the proposal will show that they have done as much outreach in their community to make sure all communities are represented in the working group. ICANN, along with the experts forming the Integration Panel, are tasked to review proposed panel's

composition and ensure the diversity requirements are fulfilled in accordance with the LGR Procedure.

Any group proposing to form a Generation Panel will need to write a proposal with a work plan. This proposal addresses issues such as diversity and expertise. It includes information about affiliation of all individuals. This is the information that the Integration Panel will use to decide whether to recommend to ICANN to seat this panel or suggest to supplement panel's composition based on diversity criteria requirements.

The implementation of the LGR Procedure will follow a transparent process allowing interested experts from the community to express their interest to join existing Generation Panels. The same rule will apply for communities that feel underrepresented in a Generation Panel.

**16. Comment/Action Item:** The LGR procedure document provides a pretty good checklist of what needs to be there in the panel and what types of experts in language, policy, technology, and Unicode; perhaps when the Generation Panel is formed, ICANN staff could create a report that says these experts are checked off, and this is why, and present it to the community. And this report is put out for public comment and says we've checked it and it's in place and it fits the LGR procedures document.

**ICANN Response:** There is a public [Wiki](#) space that ICANN made available and maintains as a website for the LGR project. This workspace includes information on which generational panels are established and are working on the LGR, who the members are, and what expertise they represent.

Once a panel is seated and working, ICANN will inform on mailing lists and various ICANN platforms that this panel is seated and available for input.

**17. Comment:** Unfortunately, in my country Bangladesh there is no awareness or outreach -- even though we are being affected by what is going on here.

**ICANN Response:** Thank you for the input. ICANN will incorporate this into our plans for outreach to make sure communities and entities that are not typically represented in the ICANN process are represented in this work.