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HYDERABAD – Fellowship Program Daily Wrap-up
Sunday, November 06, 2016 – 17:00 to 18:00 IST
ICANN57 | Hyderabad, India

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It is November 6, 5 PM in hall four. This is the Fellowship Program Daily Wrap-Up.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Ladies and gentlemen, we'll be starting in a minute.

Fellows, guests of our wrap-up session, welcome. I hope you had good day today, and ready for this one hour wrap-up session. We will be having now a very interesting video. We'll be listening to this video by Chris Mondini, who did an amazing [inaudible] talk. I think that this is really interesting talk, which clearly explain what is IANA transition.

And then we are very lucky to have Chris in person here with us. Yeah, to talk to you directly and to answer your questions. So, let's first see this video. For our remote participants, unfortunately we cannot put this video through audio, but I am sending you the link.

Please follow the link, and the video is on.

VIDEO: [Music]

[Applause]

Do we still love the internet? [Laughter]

You know, it seems like a crazy question, but I ask the question because some of the things that you hear. Some of the crazy stuff, the scary stuff. When I scroll through the headlines, I see all kinds of nefarious activities. Hacking, cyber attacking, cyber bullying, and so forth.

And I think it detracts from our appreciation of all of the wonderful things that the internet provides and enables. We are over 3 billion people, each and every one of us connected on a single, interpretable platform. The amazing advances for public health, economic development, social human exchange.

And yet, that's not what makes the news. That's not what makes the scary headlines. There is one particular headline that I wanted to mention, I've been seeing lately, it goes something like this. The Obama administration is giving away control of the internet.

Or, America is surrendering the internet. And I find that particularly jarring, because the truth is so much more inspiring, and it involves all of you, and you should be proud, as I'll explain

in a minute. For those of you who haven't seen this scary headline, I'll let you know what's happening.

A technical coordination function of my organization, ICANN, is being privatized and globalized. And that's a good thing. The announcement is there. But to explain how a simple announcement like that can generate a scary headline, I'd like to make the following observation.

I don't know if you've noticed, but it seems like people's interest, and opinions, and anxiety about the internet, is increasing at a rapid pace, but our technical knowledge, that is to say, knowing how the internet actually works, is not keeping pace. And I can't think of a better way to illustrate this than the true story of the head of state who pounded his desk recently and said, how did the internet get into my country?

Who runs the internet? Get me the internet on the phone! [Laughter] And you can just imagine the poor staffer that had to run out, and figure out, who runs the internet, and he probably looked it up on the internet, of course. [Laughter]

And I don't know if you've ever asked yourself this question or if you've ever looked it up, but I am going to give you the answer right here on this stage. Right now, who runs the internet? Nobody. No single organization, government, person, group of people, institution or company runs the internet.

And to understand that, we need to understand a little bit about the internet's architecture. I'm an economist, I'm not an engineer. I'm fortunate to work with some of the great engineer pioneers that created this technology. They cringe when I simplify talking about this, and I know there are engineers here that might be cringing. But here is what they tell me.

The internet was not designed for control, it was not designed for security, it was designed for openness and scalability. It's actually a collection of networks, many tens of thousands of independently operated networks, that use the system of protocols and voluntary standards, to interconnect with each other. And even the data that travels on these networks, it travels in diffuse and [inaudible] ways.

So, you see the concepts of control and internet aren't really very compatible. And that's hard for people to get their head around, especially the kind of people that are used to being in charge. They want somebody to be in charge. Now, try as they might, these pioneers that architected the internet, were not able to decentralize every single aspect, and that's where ICANN comes in.

First of all, as you will recall, I mentioned there were voluntary standards and protocols that need to be signed up to if you want to join up your network to the internet. And we maintain that

rule book. We maintain, with our partners, the registries of these standards. The other thing we do is in our name, and we might be better known for this.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, it's the names and numbers, the addresses of the internet. Every website, every person, every device needs its own unique destination. No two addresses can be the same. And if you think about the 3 billion of us, and the many more billions of devices, that's an incredible scaling continually growing system.

And that means that a central point of coordination. And it's technical, and it's wonky, but it's really important because it is what keeps the internet global, scalable in one connected platform. You know these names, they're the domain names you enter into a browser. If you're a machine, you don't need the name to remember, you can use a number.

So IP addresses is one form of number. And all of this looking up addresses and looking up numbers, it happens in a blink of an eye, and it happens about 48 billion times a day, and you don't even notice, all because of this wonderful system. And it happens in a very decentralized way, but the basic rulebook and that root directory, the basic address book, requires central coordination.

ICANN also does something else that's very important. We convene a community. And why do we need to do that? Because it's not the corporation that I work for, the non-profit ICANN that makes the rules and policies that will evolve with the internet, it's actually the community of users that need those rules and standards.

And that brings me back to the beginnings of ICANN and to that headline I was talking about, because in 1998, when we were founded, the then Clinton administration put in place a symbolic, no fee contract. Significantly, it was with the Commerce Department. And why did they do that?

They wanted this new organization to be as far removed from government control as possible. They left it in California, where the internet was invented. They wanted it to be led by the technologists, and the businesses, and the users, and a way for activists, and governments, and Civil Society to participate, these are also developed.

But they really said, you guys go off and coordinate this yourself. The reason for the contract was this, back in 1998, it was just a few dozen people in a room. I mean, they were passing the hat around to pay for their lunch money. It was just a group of volunteers getting together to coordinate the internet's addressing system.

And so, support for the fledgling organization was offered by this contract that they put in place. And now, about a decade and a half later, last spring, the US government said, we're ready to let that contract expire. They said, first of all, ICANN is ready operationally, and the community is ready. This robust, dynamic community is doing a great job of stewarding systems.

Now, what does the community look like today? Well, it looks a lot like you. It looks a lot like the people on this picture. Thousands of people that dedicate hours to setup and establish policies and standards for the internet addressing system that we all take for granted. At our last public meeting, one of three that we hold every year, we had over 1700 participants.

They were from 120 countries. There were 100 governments represented. The 300 sessions were live streamed. There was remote participation. They were in seven languages, with simultaneous interpretation. And this is all going on to keep this addressing system working for all of us.

Now, when the US last year were ready to hand over what they call stewardship of the technical functions to this community, they put in place some stipulations. They said, this community itself has to come up with a solution, and it must be acceptable to the customers and the people that use these address and standards services.

They say it must support a multistakeholder model, that diverse group that I described. It must support the security, stability, and resiliency of the addressing system, keep the internet open, and above all, not result in another government being in charge, or an inter-governmental solution.

And so, in true ICANN fashion, the community jumped into action. They formed committees. They had about 300 meetings, many conference calls, about 20,000 emails were exchanged. And they came up with two proposals. One is the technical proposal for this transition of the technical functions to go smoothly.

And the other parallel proposal is about accountability and how my organization will remain accountable to you and the global stakeholders going forward when the US steps away. Now, you won't notice any difference when this contract expires. Your internet will work the same way it worked the day before on that day.

And what I find inspiring though, is this. It will quietly represent the dawn of a new form of global organization. A multistakeholder, a multi-equal-stakeholder organization, and what that means is that governments, including the US government, participate on equal footing with the technology

experts, with the businesses and the users like you that have a say.

So, why is the US doing this now? Well, there are a couple of reasons. If you remember the three plus billion people that are connected on the internet? Fewer than 10% are actually based in the United States. And so really, this American invention has now become a platform and a gift to humanity.

And the US is making good on its promise to let the stakeholders manage it. And you might ask about a few governments, China, or Russia, or India, that seem to want to assert more control over the internet, but let me tell you, as far as ICANN is concerned, and this community, and this transition, they're at the table, and they're participating in all kinds of policy decisions about how these technical functions should be run.

They've been doing so for many, many years. So, they are down with the stakeholder model, at least as far as ICANN's work is concerned. What they do on their own portions of the internet, is not our concern. So again, as I said, it won't be a noticeable change, but it will be a significant and inspiring change.

We are in the home stretch. There are proposals that are on the table. Actually even today, as we speak, there is a live online meeting that you can dial into and participate, if you want to. But I hope that you will explore ways to become involved, and I

hope that you will show your love for the internet by helping to write its next chapter.

Thank you very much. [Applause]

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. I hope you like this pitch. Chris, if we can ask you to come here.

The man in person. Please, applause. [Applause]

Thank you for joining us, and if you just briefly reiterate what has been said and get questions from our Fellows, that would be great.

CHRIS MONDINI: Thanks very much. Thanks for the kind words. So that talk was almost exactly a year ago. It was on October 25th of last year. And so, as you know, on October 1st of this year, the contract finally expired, so there was still a lot of work ahead, that took place after that particular talk. And it was a challenge, as anything related to explaining ICANN to a general audience is in terms of trying to be accurate, but also trying to make it understandable.

So, I hope you found it understandable. If you have any questions about what transpired since that talk, or if you have

any questions about the transition itself, or the current community work, I would be happy to answer your questions.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: So, we have 15 minutes to go with questions and answers. [Inaudible], please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is [inaudible]. I'm from [inaudible]. So, one year later, what you can add more to your presentation?

CHRIS MONDINI: So, I sit… I've worked at ICANN now for almost five years, and I worked in three different offices. I started in the Silicon Valley office, then I moved to Los Angeles, and then I moved to the Washington, D.C. office just at the moment that the US announced its intention to transition the IANA stewardship. And it was a very busy time, and this talk was actually designed to try to spread the word about what was happening to a broader audience, because we had a sense that when the transition itself was about to happen, it would generate news, and we didn't want stakeholders to be nervous about the change, and think that it was more important, or risky, or strange than it was.

So, what I can tell you is that, if you were following the news about the transition over the last few months, there were several challenges to it that arose in Washington among some of the US government stakeholders, who raised their questions and concerns in a way that we had anticipated. And so, some of these talks were helpful in, I would say, inoculating some of that opposition.

And we explained, very calmly, to the doubters in the US Congress in particular, that in fact, many of their staff and many of their committees had participated over the course of the two and a half years in developing the proposals, and that the proposals had met criteria that they themselves had signed up to.

So, it was… So for me, it was really a crash course in like American politics and Washington lobbying, and you know, it's actually another illustration of why I think multistakeholder is the best approach, because government stakeholders don't have all of the answers, even though there is a strong sense of responsibility, as I said, to either fell in charge, or you know, protect what they think needs to be protected.

And so, it gave them really all a crash course in the technical underpinnings, and it seemed to work.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] from Bangladesh, for the record. I was wondering, previously it was NTIA who was overseeing the responsibility of IANA functions mainly, some of the functions. Now, there is another community in front who is doing this, more or less, same thing. So, in future ICANN meetings, do you see or do you think the community will give us some report, or activities, in case of transparency and accountability in that community?

CHRIS MONDINI: So, the great thing about the way IANA is administered is that it's already extremely public and extremely transparent. And so that was also one of the arguments that we had to make, is to say, first, it's a voluntary addressing system, that different networks sign up to and join, and every change in the root address, you know, in all of these registries and databases is very public and very available.

And what was called the IANA department, which was within the ICANN organization, gives regular reporting on all of its changes and activities to a number of venues around the world. And they are now, post-transition, organized into a subsidiary and they're called the public technical identifiers, but it's really the very same team, performing the very same updates, and they'll be performing the very same reporting.

So, in terms of the actual administration of IANA, it's still very public and very highly reported. Now, the stewardship function of the NTIA, earlier, was just to make sure that whenever there was a change in the root zone, the, you know, the top level domains, for example, that ICANN had followed the procedures and the will of the community's policy making process, according to its bylaws and procedures.

And in the years between 1998 and last month, they also said, yes, ICANN did. They didn't really have any other powers greater than that. NTIA really just had a check and confirm type of certification type of power. Now, at the same time though that ICANN's community was coming up with a way to sort of restructure how IANA's technical functions are performed, the community identified ways that they thought ICANN's accountability and governance could be strengthened, because they had been perceived that the US role was a little bit more than it really was.

That the US somehow made everybody much calmer, that the ICANN, that we're employees of, would follow the will of the community that you're members of. And so, there were some mechanisms, there are now some mechanisms in place for the stewardship of the community to replace that of the US.

But it's not really a new… There are some sort of quality control type committees overseeing the technical functions, but in terms of the overall stewardship function, it's not a new committee. It's the existing supporting organizations and advisory committees, just with some new enhanced powers.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: [Inaudible], please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, [inaudible] from Afghanistan. My question is on post-IANA transition and in the future, how do you see the role of ICANN? Do you think this will broaden up? And will you, will ICANN have other activities added to their list?

And I would like to congratulate on the video. I was a [inaudible] speaker four years ago, and I know how hard it is to get ready for that, and especially the time management. So I appreciate your comment on that.

CHRIS MONDINI: Great. I want to look at your talk.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's on Afghanistan [CROSSTALK…

CHRIS MONDINI: Yeah, it takes a lot of practice and preparation to end. So thank you for the kind words. So, post-IANA transition. So, contrary to what you mentioned in your question, I would say that the bylaws and the mission that are now in place, are actually much more explicit about making sure that ICANN stays within its remit of being focused on the addressing systems, the unique identifiers, and the technical…

The administration of the IANA functions, and the convening of the community on addressing issues, DNS issues. And I think there was a very strong view of the community that they wanted ICANN to stay in that remit, because there are other internet organizations and other venues that are discussing other topics.

And so, we didn't want to have any kind of mission creep, as they call it. There are some additional issues that were identified by the working group that put the proposal for the transition forward, and they're in something in a work stream here called work stream two.

So, you may have seen that on the agenda. And these are the issues that the community said, okay, we should address these as part of improving ICANN's governance and accountability, and clarifying ICANN's structure and role and so forth. But we

don't need to solidify them right now to get through the September 30th expiration of the contract.

And those are some things that look at things like the diversity of the community, the jurisdiction of certain contracts, or how things are adjudicated within ICANN. The accountability of the structures within the community themselves, are they being really truly representative?

But I think, you know, this is the first public meeting after this IANA stewardship transition, and my sense is that the community feels this heightened sense of your own responsibility, and I think it's really actually going to improve the sort of discourse and policy making going forward.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Well, Betsy graciously agreed to give a couple of more minutes for Chris. We're liking having you here, so we'll give more chances to our Fellows to ask questions, if we can go. I have Ricardo in the queue. Then Paul, then [inaudible]. Okay, one, two, three, and we are closing the queue.

RICARDO: Yeah, you almost answered all of my questions in the previous one. When do you expect the work stream two to end the…? This group is working, but I see it's taking a long time. When do

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you expect it to end? So the community is really empowered to take the positions, to have this, establish it, finally end it.

CHRIS MONDINI: So, it's never good for me to comment on how long the community would take, but I think they have been discussing this issue among themselves, the community members active in work stream two, and they really wanted to just take a matter of months, not like a year or more than a year.

So, I don't think I can be any more specific than that, and I think that the community, at the end of this meeting, will have a better answer for your question. I think the community is already empowered. So, some of the new enhanced powers of the community, such as singing off on ICANN's budget, singing off on its strategic planning, stronger independent review processes, those are already in place, and those are really the ones that were important to demonstrate an empowered community.

I would say the work stream two issues are more like the icing on the cake, as we say, or the details that remain.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Paul, please.

ICANN|57
HYDERABAD
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PAUL:
Okay, Paul for the record. Christ, I just have a question about the next phase, after the post-IANA transition. Is there any outstanding items pending that need to be resolved for maybe the transition to actually be complete?

CHRIS MONDINI:
So, the transition happened. You may know that the, that VeriSign is the company that actually updates physically the servers in the root, and it used to be a process where ICANN would transmit a change to the root to the NTIA in Congress, and then NTIA would sign off and send it to VeriSign.

And there was a long period of parallel testing of this sort of direct communication between ICANN and VeriSign. And so, from a technical standpoint, it's complete. Like the contract expired, the root zone is being updated, and it's being done without the need for the US government to be involved.

So, that's happening. As I said though, in work stream two, there are still a few remaining governments and accountability type of issues that the community will be working on in the next few months. But the transition happened. So, we're, you know, we succeeded.

When I made that talk… I mean, I'm very happy for the talk to be shown now because it all turned out okay. But there were times where I wondered if I would try to find a way to remove it forever from the internet.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: By the way, the link to your [inaudible] talk was sent before ICANN meeting by one of our Fellows, who thought that for the newcomers, it would be really interesting to listen to this talk. So, they are coaching us, even remotely. [Inaudible], please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes. [Inaudible] from Egypt. I had a question, but you answered one of them, a while ago. But let me say it again as my two questions are related to each other. How do you see ICANN now after the transition? This was the first question. Second question, how does US government see ICANN now?

CHRIS MONDINI: So, you know, the transition, as I mentioned in the talk, was all about the US government really finally showing its vote of confidence in the stakeholder community. And as I answered in the question, I really think that the stakeholder community is showing the level of responsibility, and maturity, and seriousness to take the work forward.

So, I'm very optimistic about the future of ICANN. As for the US government itself, it has always been sitting in the governmental advisory committee. In fact, the NTIA of the Commerce Department sits in the chair, in the GAC, for the US, and it will remain very active, I'm sure, as the leading voice in the GAC.

But rather than being in the GAC, and also having this special contractual role over IANA functions, now it's just in the GAC. So, I think, you know, the US can be very proud in a way that they launched this fledgling organization and now it's a more independent, global, private, privatized or non-governmental, you know…

As I said in the talk, it's kind of a new category of organization that's coordinating a global resource, which is internet addresses.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: [Inaudible], please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi. This is [inaudible] from Pakistan. I've got a silly question, please don't mind. Other than [inaudible] my knowledge, there has nothing that's been done other than diversity or [inaudible], NTIA has left that and given it to PTIR, whatever you call it

[inaudible].   But, other than diversity, what actually have you done?

As, per my knowledge, there was work, enough work was done on transparency and accountability, as well. But other than this, do you think there is any other thing that you have worked on that can be really, that can actually you want to tell me at least, that that is something worthy? It has been done [inaudible].

CHRIS MONDINI: So, if I understand you… First of all, it's not a silly question at all, it's a very good question. You know, I think in terms of what remains to be done, or what more can be done to make ICANN better is very much in the hands of the community, and I've been hearing in some of the conversations of the sessions I've attended here, many experienced community members asking similar questions.

But then remembering, oh wait, we're now the empowered community, so we have to answer the questions ourselves. So, for example, I heard questions about, is the way that the community is structured or organized adequate for its purpose? Well, that's a question for the community itself to answer.

So, it's good that you're asking the question, because it's the kind of question that the community should be asking itself. I

think that the transition proposal and the accountability proposals themselves, provide a good framework to go forward and set sort of the rules of the road, but I think it's now in the community's hands to make ICANN even better, more global, more responsive, bring the domain name system to, you know, innovate in the domain name system in a way that it brings it to more users, parts of the world, supports businesses, innovations, and interconnections.

So, it's an exciting time that you're becoming involved.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: [Inaudible]?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you. [Inaudible] from Ghana. We've been taught that the ICANN is a multistakeholder approach here, which is the community providing, making the information available and all of that. My question here is, we may have some [inaudible] in the community, would like to kind of operate the policy in the…

Have you foreseen or have you thought of some of these things coming up? And what are some of the things that you have put in line to mitigate these days? If you have some of this [inaudible] through ICANN.

CHRIS MONDINI: It's an important question, and it was one that the community asked when they were working on the new proposals. One very important test, they called it a stress test, was they want to be sure that ICANN would not be subject to capture, whether by a government or a company, or by an organization.

So, this idea of control of ICANN through some of the organizations was one that they explored very carefully. The proposal tries to take that into account, and if you look... You know, it's very reminiscent of the way national constitutions are written. So many constitutions you see have different powers residing in different parts.

So, there is what are called checks and balances. So, they've got this structure in a way that there are checks and balances so that no one part of the community has the ability to be ascendant or more powerful than the others. But the question you're asking is also, what about the motives of the individuals that are operating in the community and how clear are they being about their motives.

And the best mitigation, I think, against any sort of infiltration or flooding the system, or pretending to have one position when you have another position, is bringing in more stakeholders from more places and more perspectives, because the more diverse

stakeholders from different technical and disciplinary, and professional backgrounds, and the more parts of the world there are, the more that they will be able to see how that we're maintaining a balance.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: I'm sorry, I cannot tell people no to ask questions, but this is last five minutes, so those are in the queue, I'm closing it. James, the next one.

JAMES: Okay, I'm James from South Sudan. I would like to know from the start of the video, there were several headlines like the internet has been surrounded, and ICANN has given it out, and I think those come from the stakeholders. And from now, in the transition, how are they feeling like? Are they in support or are they still expressing resent?

CHRIS MONDINI: So that, you know, the thing about the audience in the video is that they're a US audience, they were really a Washington, D.C. audience, and there were some really scary headlines that would say this very simplistic things about, you know, giving away the internet.

And it's very hard to, when somebody is saying something that sounds very scary in a short headline or sound bite, as we say, to take the 10 minutes it takes to explain why that isn't true.

So, that again, was another purpose of the talk. I will tell you that since the transition has happened, I haven't seen a single headline or story about it. I think that the opponents within the US political system of the transition have moved on to their next topic that they're concerned about, because, remember again, it was a contract that expired, and so there isn't even… There is no way to put it back, in fact.

So, I think, you know, the opponents that were in the US political system are not coming around and saying, we were wrong and now we're really happy, but they've gone very quiet, and I think they've turned their attention to other issues.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Very short questions. Mohamed?

MOHAMED: [Inaudible] member. I don't have a question, I have a comment about your [inaudible] talk. Of course, very inspiring. And [inaudible] I am engaged now because your way of giving that speech. Of course, to someone who asked about the opponents who objected to the IANA transition, I've had a couple of

discussions about that already with the GAC members, and I think about, as somebody mentioned, that the senators who were actually opposed to it, nobody takes them seriously up there.

CHRIS MONDINI: Well, I can't comment on any national government or branch of national government, as I'm a representative of a global multistakeholder organization. So, I have no opinion on your comment.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Noted.

CHRIS MONDINI: Noted.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Amal, please?

AMAL: Thank you very much Chris. If you… I'd like to know advance about the new ICANN structure after this transition. And my second question is about, is there any mechanism of evaluation

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and monitoring of ICANN accountability from outside ICANN? Outside IANA which is called now PTI?

Is there any other accountability mechanism? Or the ICANN review team could handle this to?

CHRIS MONDINI: So, it's interesting. One of the things that existed before the transition was a series of mandated reviews about different aspects of ICANN's work. And these reviews are scheduled at regular intervals, and they're opened to participation, and they're actually completely open.

So, they will form committees and hold everything like, you can follow it in real time and ask questions and participate. And these were done under something that ICANN signed with the US government called the affirmation of commitments, saying that they would, that ICANN, we would review ourselves on a periodic basis for our effectiveness in different areas like security, and stability, and resiliency, and so forth.

There are, also as you mentioned, reviews for things like outcomes from the new gTLD, generic top level domain program, that are again, also, anybody can volunteer to be on those review teams, and can certainly follow the work and participate in the public comments and the questions.

So, there are already a lot of review processes that happen, and they're open to outside participation. And those regular reviews that I mentioned are now mandated in the bylaws of ICANN, so they will continue. So, there isn't like an outside organization in charge of monitoring us, because you all are in charge of monitoring us and other observers are.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I mean, new mechanism. After the transition, is it the same as before? Isn't there a new mechanism for monitoring and evaluation for the accountability of ICANN?

CHRIS MONDINI: I don't know.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Yeah, I know Fellows can ask hard questions. So, before going to the last one, which [inaudible] is assigned to, I will read the question which came through Adobe from [inaudible], I know he is here. We have heard several ICANN speakers note that the internet and the multistakeholder models are first.

From your experience and insight, where do you think these models can or will be leveraged again? Or is it a historical one off?

CHRIS MONDINI: Well, that's a good question for somebody to write their PhD dissertation, I think. But, you know, we live in this world where I think governments are recognizing they don't have all of the influence that they used to have. I think we live in a world where borders are less meaningful. There are a lot of issues, which whether it's global health, like pandemics, or whether it's climate change, or managing fisheries or oceans, where, you know, the borders are irrelevant, and the economic interests, there are health and human safety issues.

There are governmental security issues. And of course, there are technical experts on each of these issues. And so, I think ICANN coordinating a global resource like internet addresses, if you think of them as that, is a really good model that could be applied in other areas.

Also, you know, going back to the question, how ICANN needs to remain within its technical remit and stay focused on addresses. There are all kinds of other very contentious internet issues out there, which also should have, in my view, a multistakeholder attempt at consensus. So, if you think of any sort of controversial internet headline that you see, it's usually not about technical things like at the ICANN level, but usually about, you know, other issues.

There may be a space, an opportunity at other venues and other forums, to say well, let's instead of talking to the stakeholder groups one by one, let's get everybody in a room together and try to address, you know, fill in your contentious issue. I think it would be pretty inspiring if we could do that.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: And the last question, [inaudible] please.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you for your talk. [Inaudible]. I'm a first time Fellow. So my question is, the issue of the US government has changed under the Clinton and then the Bush administration? And the subpart of that is, do you think the direct or discourse by the US government will change if Donald Trump wins?

CHRIS MONDINI: So, I can't comment on the political process in any particular state or government. Which is my easy out for the second question. It's really very significant, and it was a talking point that we used very frequently in these discussions about the various US administrations. When in 1998, the contract was put in place, it was stated at that point that it will one day expire, that it was going to be put in place until ICANN was up on its feel,

and demonstrating that it was globally responsive, and fulfilling its remit.

And every US administration through both of the, you know, through the Bush administration and so forth, supported that. And it was the Obama administration that finally said, okay, it's time. ICANN is ready. It was interesting, you know, that…

It was interesting that it very nearly became sort of a political issue, but again it's a very hard… I mean, there are so many other issues that are much more easy to understand, that I can't imagine, you know, at the technical level of what ICANN does, I think we're now in a really good position to go back to doing ICANN's technical work, without a lot of political attention.

And as I said to the earlier question, I think that the opponents among the US political actors, have, you know, they're focused on all kinds of other issues, and this one is, I think it's behind us.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you very much. And our apologies to you…

[SPEAKER OFF MICROPHONE]

No, I think that your… This topic is really interesting, and we had this wrap-up session, but I knew that this would be

interesting for all of us having with you us, because we know you have tight schedule. So, thank you very much. [Applause]

And my apologies Betsy. I also wanted… I invited Betsy to do a brief presentation on ICANN Learn, which later you can go further and find out more information. So, if you can briefly describe what is ICANN Learn and what can be found there, that would be really helpful for Fellows.

BETSY ANDREWS: Hello, I'm Betsy Andrews. I work in the development at… I work in the same department with Siranush, in development and public responsibility. And we work closely with Chris's department as well. And I really just want to introduce myself.

I recognize a lot of you from the other night, and I look forward to meeting those of you who I do not yet know. One of my main projects is to manage the ICANN Learn platform, and it's a free online learning platform that contains information and lessons about anything that's related to the ICANN world.

So, some of the content can come from ICANN. Most of the content is meant to come from community members, such as yourself. So, I would be delighted if you explore the platform, learn from it, and come up with some ideas of things that are your specialty, that you think you can teach the ICANN world.

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So, the reason ICANN Learn exists is because information about ICANN is all over the place, and sometimes it's hard to track down.

So, for those of us who are just entering in this world, and trying to determine how we're going to participate, sometimes that information is difficult to pull together and difficult to organize in such a way that we learn where we want to go. So, it's Learn dot ICANN dot org, but Siranush will be sending that to you along with some slides.

I'd be happy to answer some questions, though I know you haven't had much of an overview of it. Basically, we have six languages represented. We also have additional language content that we are soon to launch. We have some technical issues that we want to overcome. I was just speaking with the accessibility group this morning, and got lots of great ideas for ways that we can branch out and lower those barriers to access, whether that's language or visual impairment, or hearing impairment, or low bandwidth issues.

So, I welcome your ideas on that. It's definitely a program that is evolving, and I want it to evolve, we all want it to evolve in a way that benefits the community broadly, and that's really a place where I think Fellows can take a key role. Because you are coming to ICANN from a particular perspective, with your

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particular career goals in mind, and very often Fellows are the ones from whom we get these really fresh perspectives.

So, I want to know what your ideas are. I want you to participate in it. And I'd love to share with you the plans that we have for the future, as things progress. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you Betsy. And Betsy also graciously bring gifts for us, some ICANN Learn pens, so feel free to come and take. Are there any questions for Betsy? Any specific one? Yeah, Lucas, please.

LUCAS: Hello Betsy. Lucas from Brazil. So, my question is, there is plan to use the ICANN Learn platform to generate certificates that will have, for example, to select reviewers or people to participate in the working group and work parties. It is a different question. There are also plans…

I also make a lot of use of the ICANN Learn, so I use like, for example, [inaudible] to get people together to produce more content, and also do local outreach. And I don't know, do [inaudible]…

BETSY ANDREWS: Thanks Lucas.   I enjoy hearing from you.   Certification is something that we get asked about a lot. And it's contentious particularly in the United States, because there is a legal system of certification bodies.   So ICANN is not a certification body. We're not permitted legally to provide certificates.

But one way that we're solving this problem, because I like to have a badge when I finish something, but also helps with resumes and… To be able to demonstrate what you've done is, they're a way that we're going to change the platform such that if you complete a course in its entirety, so you can't skip around and do lecture one and lecture 12, but if you complete a court in its entirety, and you pass the quizzes that are included, the instructor will have an option to setup an automatic email.

So, once you've completed the course, you'll receive an email that indicates this person has successfully gone through all of this content. And the difference is only that ICANN can't certify that you know what's in there, ICANN can only certify that you've gone through it. Does that make sense?

And to answer your question about participant, I think that's fantastic. And you'll be happy to hear that I actually have a lot of Portuguese content in the works, and a couple of Brazilian internet governance courses that we've done some video work

with. So, in fact, I need some help with transcribing those videos.

So, if you know anybody who would want to help sort of clean that up and make sure that we're accurately demonstrating what's in the course, that would be awesome. Thank you.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: Thank you. Any other questions? Yes.

INES: Hi. Ines [inaudible] for the record. I was wondering, so the ICANN Learn platform is very interesting indeed. I was wondering if there was a way to make it like an app? Like… Would be more practical, maybe.

BETSY ANDREWS: That's definitely one of the options that we're exploring. The question about accessibility with apps and what not, has to do with resources. So, we just have to decide what are the priorities for the community and how can we reach the most people who want to participate. I think we will have an app, but that is not currently something that we're committed to doing.

But I definitely note your comment. And I will use that in the future when I request funding for an app.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible] from Egypt. Thank you for this unique application, but I think it is very good for newcomer or for someone, I think it's the second time, any time a need to know information about any community. So, what is the motivation after I… For example, I am here, after this meeting, I wanted to see a small movie for about three minutes, about each meeting.

Is that the motivation for me to join as a volunteer in each community? If this is required. So, is this a motivation, a record, for two minutes, it will be good after each meeting.

BETSY ANDREWS: That's a good comment. Thank you. I'll take that to heart, for sure. One of the things that we want to expand the content for, is for people who know what ICANN is, they may have gone to an ICANN meeting, but there is a gap between that and being gung-ho and ready to join a working group.

Maybe they're interested in a variety of topics, and they're not sure which working group they want to participate in. But I think there is a place on ICANN Learn, for content that can help people make those decisions, and lead them to a place where they can contribute fruitfully.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I want to highlight, what is the mission from ICANN meeting to attend before? And the mission required for me after attending the ICANN meeting?

BETSY ANDREWS: Do you mean the mission as it pertains to ICANN Learn? Why would you contribute? Well, I think that the main reason why you would want to contribute is to help pave the way for other people to participate in the process. But I think also, it's a way to build skills. You're building an online course, you're getting connected with other people in the community.

ICANN Learn has the capacity and the resources to make your courses more accessible to other people. So, for example, if you come up with a course idea, it's approved, and we work it out, and it goes on the platform, it can be translated into the six other languages and you can reach a broader audience.

You can educate people about an issue that is particularly significant to you and your constituency. So, those are a couple of reasons why.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hi. [Inaudible] from… ICANN Fellow. To help pave way for others, as [inaudible] said, is there an option for the content to be available at other platforms? Not just Learn dot ICANN dot

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org, other ICANN… Would other platforms that… I mean to say, there is more reach for people to participate, for example, YouTube, or [inaudible], or a couple of other platforms.

I'm not just talking about the video learning options, other content options as well. Your comments on that, please.

BETSY ANDREWS: Thank you. I appreciate your question, and I'm definitely not going to cut you off this time. We were just in a previous session where there was not time for your question. That is something to consider, but I think one element of ICANN Learn, well not one element, the element of ICANN Learn is that it is a learning platform.

So, we need a content strategy that establishes what are we trying to achieve? What are the learning objectives that we have? And there is a lot of content within ICANN that's appropriate for a variety of different means of communication. So, for example, our communications team does brilliant info graphics, and brochures, and our web design team does a lot of things that are accessible on that level, and that have, in fact, more accessibility options then what we can currently offer on ICANN Learn.

So, I think while we are going to take steps to make what we have more accessible to other people, I don't think that content that is on ICANN Learn is necessarily universal. I don't think that it's static. I think the process of learning in an online setting, where you don't have an instructor with you, but you can take quizzes, engage how much you're learning, and you can participate in a discussion area where ICANN staff will put you in touch with an expert in your field, or multiple experts in your field.

I think that's unique. So, if we translate that to a static situation, we would lose some of the value. However, an app could include all of those things.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I think my point of view was more the level of distribution and diverse participation. We as a community organization, right, we're trying to bring in more participation from different parts of the world. People not knowing what ICANN does, and what, how they could make a difference by participating, ICANN Learn is a great initiative.

They could learn so much from these already available information, videos, info-graphics, and everything. So, my question was that, you know, by engaging more platforms, distribution channels. Of course, the social [inaudible] ICANN

Learn, don't you think we could have more participation and, of course, we could spread ourselves to different parts of the world where we are not there yet.

This is also in line with the discussion that I had with Tom Schnider of GAC. He said that there are about 160 plus countries and the representatives, but out of them, about 80 odd countries participate, and then out of them, only about 40 are left to, you know, engage. So, that's in line with the question that I asked. I'm sorry.

BETSY ANDREWS: Right. I think I understand you now. So, you really mean a marketing initiative so more people know more about it, as opposed to a different platform or different form of what ICANN Learn is offering. Yes, and I agree with you, and there are definitely plans in the works. We want to get our content strategy organized and know what we have to offer, and we want to make it as widely available as possible.

So, I take your comment to heart very much. Thank you. Are there any more questions?

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN: There are more questions, but, I'm sorry. We are running out of time. Betsy will be here, just talk to her offline, but I would like

to thank technical team and translators for this one hour being with us. Thank you very much. [Applause]

I also thank Betsy for being with us. Thank you for being so patient with us. She will share with you her business card, and also Betsy sent the PowerPoint, which I'm going to send you, as usual, I'm doing this at the end of each day. So, you will have this PowerPoint presentation.

I thank you all, and just have a rest for the 20, 25 minutes, and I'll see all of you in APRALO showcase. Another fun evening in hall one. So, all of you are invited to APRALO showcase networking event. Thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]