
ABU DHABI – At-Large APRALO Showcase
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SATISH BABU: Good evening ladies and gentleman, we will start in a moment. The MoU signing ceremony has taken a little longer than scheduled, so people are stuck there. They're on their way; we'll start in another five minutes time, apologies for the delay. [AUDIO BREAK]

Good evening ladies and gentlemen can I please request people to take their seats. Please be seated. [AUDIO BREAK]

I'd like to apologize again for this delay; we are waiting for some of our speakers to come after the previous function. So over here we can see some of our representatives who are here today, who are participating in the general assembly. [AUDIO BREAK]

Right, so we have now two speakers lined up, so I'll start now. The other speakers will join us as we proceed. Dignitaries, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 10th anniversary showcase of APRALO, which is the Asian, Australasia and Pacific Islands, originally the At-Large organization.

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The founding leaders from Asia Pacific started their work on creating the MoU of the region to be signed with ICANN in 2007, which is the reason why we celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2017. The actual MoU was signed in 2008 in Italy, and I'm happy to note that several of the founding leaders are actually present here today, including Cheryl and Edmon.

In fact, we kicked off our general assembly preparations by acknowledging the work done by our past leaders, constituting them in the form of an advisory committee, and several members of the advisory committee were actually present during our discussions here. We've had a very eventful week the last several days. We have about 43 representatives of member ALSes, as well as individual members.

For the first time ever, we are having an individual member representative at our general assembly. And these people range all the way from the Middle East to the Pacific, and for the last four days we've been having capacity building sessions from Saturday through Tuesday, and today is actually the high point for us, it is has been the general assembly sessions; two of them, and our showcase which is happening right now here. And tomorrow we conclude with a couple of de-briefing sessions, and in all this, the common thread, the most important topics that we're discussing is how we can, the ALS community, the

individual members community, the entire APRALO community can participate better in the ICANN policy related areas in particular.

My colleagues on the APRALO leadership team and I are very pleased to welcome all of you gathered here today, I would like to introduce my colleagues, Ali, there he is. He's disguised in an Arab traditional dress. We have Lianna; Lianna, where are you? We have Maureen. We have Holly; Holly, where are you? There. And we have Kaili.

We also acknowledge the presence of several of our leaders here; Cheryl, Edmon, Rinalia, [inaudible] is standing there, there he is. And [inaudible], I saw him briefly, [inaudible] yes, another one of our leaders, so we'd like to acknowledge the presence of all of these leaders, even the people who have not turned up today for various reasons, I'd like to remember them at this time.

Although my colleague Ali is going to give a formal word of thanks, I'd like to thank a few persons or institutions. One is ICANN for the budget support provided. The second is the staff support, excellent staff support from Heidi and her team. And, I would also like to mention the sponsors, TRA, and DotAsia, who are here and who supported both these events for us. Thank you very much.

With this, I'd like to formally welcome the dignitaries here; we have with us the ICANN outgoing chair, Steve Crocker, as well as Goran Marby, ICANN's CEO and President. On behalf of all of us, I'd like to welcome both Steve and Goran to this meeting, thank you. You can sit down. Actually, he wanted you, I think. Please.

GORAN MARBY:

It's important to follow the script. I usually when I give speeches I always innovate my speeches slightly, especially to Duncan's, joy. This time I've been told there are a couple of sentences I have to say. Before that, I saw your book, we talked about that earlier; the 10 year book. I got it from Rinalia, thank you very much, and this is one of the occasions where you start with, "I'm going to have a look," and then 15, 20 minutes later realize you're still moving -- I think that was a fantastic one. I don't know who you did it and how you did it, but whoever did it, a big applause. And a great thanks to Rinalia to showing it to me.

Over the last 10 years, your active participation on a debate of issues like IDM's and Whois has helped to bring the perspective of users from your region to the topics and helping to shape policies with taking into accounts the user interests. The capacity building efforts you lead are innovative; for example; the collaboration with our APEC office on the capacity building webinars.

There is nothing more important than making sure that you are representing, contributing the end user perspective into ICANN's policy development and I appreciate the work you do. Sincerely valued engagement and the contribution of all groups of civil society represented by you. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication over all these years, and we're looking forward to the next 10 years.

The reason why my staff wanted me to follow the script is because it's not only from me, it's also from the people working for me who wrote this for me and they wanted to make sure that what they feel was sent over to you and I'm very happy to convey that message. Thank you very much for your hard work, and keep fighting. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thank you very much, Goran, for that address. I now request Steve, the outgoing chair of ICANN to address us.

STEVE CROCKER: So that little confusion you saw before, we hired Goran about a year and a half ago now, and we've been trying to figure out who's in charge. He wins; I'm leaving. So I too have some prepared remarks which I will summarize because you've heard pieces of this already, but I've had the pleasure of watching the

RALOs and the whole At-Large structure evolve over my time, and when I started out, I was chairing the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, which was a small, just beginning operation.

And Cheryl and I used to chat about how it was going and I learned quite a lot watching her and seeing the organizational developments, and I've been truly impressed about the maturation and the development of strength and breadth and a real capacity here. So I too have to recognize that for your group this is 10 years; that's a big deal. Diversity is of course the key word, and I'm sort of echoing the line from Alice through the looking glass where the Tweedle Dum says that she's not real and she cries, "I am so real." You guys are real, there's no question about it, it's not a dream and there's just no stopping you and so just keep it up.

The rest of what's written here for me is basically an echo of what you've heard from Goran, 35 APRALO, ALS representatives, leadership, just breath in every dimension. So with that, I congratulate you, it has been one of my extreme pleasures to be able to interact and meet with you from time to time, and I've taken enormous pleasure in being part of this organization, and I wish you all the best, and I don't think there's much risk about that; I think that you will do well and because you will do well,

the rest of us, the rest of ICANN and the rest of the internet will do well. Thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Steve, for that address. We now have the incoming vote chair of ICANN, Cherine Chalaby.

CHERINE CHALABY: Thank you very much; I don't have a piece of paper on me. I don't want to focus on diversity, but I do want to focus on your commitment to representing end users in ICANN. I think the end users are very, very important to ICANN, and you are probably the only group that actually represents the end users, and everything we do at the end of the day affects them, and that's very important to us.

So I want to congratulate you on 10 years of effort; you have 52 ALSes in about I think 29 countries and other territories, you have the most number of sub-region of all the regions of ICANN, and you also have an interesting dichotomy, which is you have the most internet users, but at the same time you have the most people who are not connected, who are offline, and therefore you have a great potential and a great opportunity here.

So congratulations on your 10 years, and I wish you all the success for hopefully another decade. So thank you very much, I really appreciate it.

SATISH BABU:

We now have our two board members from the At-Large community. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Rinalia Abdul Rahim, the first of the two.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM:

Thank you, Satish. Can you all hear me? So it's been 10 years, how do you feel? Tired, me too. It's been a really long week, it's also been a really long term. Whenever we talk about APRALO, we always talk about diversity, and I think it's particularly important to the region because the diversity is so enormous in terms of geography, linguistics and culture, and what's surprising is that despite this vast diversity, you guys don't end up fighting a lot.

Actually, I don't' ever see you fighting at all, and that is what I consider to be very special about APRALO. So within this rich bed of diversity there is a lot of pragmatism, a high spirit of collaboration and I see innovative approaches coming out of it, and I'm very, very, very proud of you. And I just want to say thank you for all your support for being my home base, as a

person coming from the Asia Pacific region, and that e-book that was produced, it was just fabulous, thank you.

SATISH BABU: Thank you very much, Rinalia. Before I hand over to my colleague, Ali, for the rest of the evening, [inaudible], I'd like to invite Leon just to say hi, very briefly talk to us.

LEON SANCHEZ: Thank you. Thank you very much; I was really not expecting to address the audience this evening. But I'm very happy to be here, the showcase from APRALO is just something that just doesn't cease to amaze me. Whenever I think that APRALO can't do better, you always set the bar higher.

I mean, it's not only the diversity in culture, the diversity in languages, the diversity in different countries that are within the region, but it's that you always set the bar and set the example for the rest of the RALO's, and I'm telling you this from the bottom of my heart; you are the example for all of the RALOs to follow. I mean, in LACRALO we have been following your steps, and we're still a little bit behind, but don't look back because we're going to get you. Thank you very much.

SATISH BABU: So at this point I will hand over to my colleague, Ali, who will take you through the rest of the proceedings, he will introduce you to the sponsors of the event and other things. Please, Ali.

ALI ALMESHAL: Thank you, Satish. First of all, excuse me with this because it is the first time I am with this address so I'm a bit worried, and I haven't been given the manual of using this. Although this is the local address of my country but unfortunately I never, ever wear that so I said specifically for APRALO and to go in red, so I decided to go with that. So if I am not concentrating because of this...

At this moment, I would just give a brief introduction of how we arranged this, for the showcase. This started in Copenhagen where we have met with the host in Abu Dhabi for ICANN60 and it started from there. Continuous e-mails, meetings and conference calls until we figured out how we can do it, where we can do it, and it's a huge amount and big sponsors for that.

So I don't want to delay it more, I would like to request the TRA representative, Mohamed from TRA, on behalf of Abdulrahman Al Marzouqi, which he is excused for a certain situation, so come here and give a speech, please.

MOHAMED NASSER: Thank you, all. And Ali, I think you are looking good and you can ask all girls about you. Thank you all, I would like to thank you all and hope you all have a good time here in UAE, and a special thanks for Abdulrahman, and he sends you his sincere sorriest for not being here, for an urgent situation so that he cannot be here. And thank you, all.

SATISH BABU: Thank you, Mohamed. This is something from the APRALO and especially from The School of Internet from India, given to the TRA for their support and thank you very much.

MOHAMED NASSER: Thanks a lot, thanks a lot. [AUDIO BREAK]

ALI ALMESHAL: Without their generous support and funding to us this would never have happened the way we are looking at it right now, and more things to come hopefully. And also I'm sure most of the ALSes and APRALO ALSes have attended a wonderful dinner that we were out together, and that one was always supported by DotAsia. May I call Edmon, please.

EDMON CHUNG:

Thank you and thank you for actually allowing us to jointly celebrate DotAsia’s 10 year anniversary as well, so thank you for that. It’s funny; I’m feeling a little bit more emotional than I thought I would be. APRALO is really home for me at ICANN; I started participating before APRALO was created back in 1999. But that was -- Rinalia mentioned how peaceful we are, but the ICANN days before APRALO they were not usually as peaceful; we saw the split of the ccTLDs from the gTLDs and we saw a lot of things happen and then APRALO happened.

It’ also a big learning ground for myself; I learned a lot from -- I guess I would consider Cheryl one of my great mentors, and if you have seen the video, I learned the concept of voluntold; the first time, the first day I participated at APRALO I helped take -- you know, Cheryl said, “Can you take notes?” And, yeah, who can ever say no to Cheryl, right? And to me, for DotAsia, we will look to continue to support APRALO’s work, it’s a very important part of DotAsia as well.

As long as ICANN continues to renew our contract and maybe lower the fees a little bit, we will definitely have more dinners and better dinners going forward, but it is really coming back to celebrating 10 years and celebrating diversity. Diversity is in a way both a blessing and a curse for this region in many ways. Of course, it’s great to have this diversity, it’s also very difficult for

us to get consistent participation from around the region, and that's something that DotAsia has been, and hopefully will continue to support as well.

In capacity building we have been supporting a lot of young people coming to ICANN meetings, coming to internet governance forums. The net mission initiative, which is one of the ALSes at APRALO, is something that we are very proud of, and they are growing up well as well. So that's an area that we think DotAsia will continue to support, not only the youth participation but of course the dinners that happen.

So with that, please join us in a joint celebration of ten years of DotAsia and ten years of APRALO, and I will take this opportunity to invite all of you actually to come to Nepal in Kathmandu where we will have another huge dinner when the apricot happens and the annual general meeting of DotAsia happens at the APRICOT meeting in February, 2018. You're welcome to be at APRICOT and hopefully we'll see you at the dinner then.

And one thing that I just realized earlier this week is that we're celebrating 10 years together now, and it seems like we will celebrate our anniversary together forever, so looking forward to that, thank you.

ALI ALMESHAL: And now you have two more things before the nice things outside. One of them who is blocking you from that is our chair of ALAC;, Alan, may I invite you, please?

ALAN GREENBERG: Alan Greenburg for the transcription record. Cheryl has taught me well. I'm the third chair of ALAC since the beginning of RALOs and there's been a progression; my predecessors are Cheryl and Olivier, neither of whom can say hello in less than 12 minutes. And therefore, to make up for it I'm normally allocated about 37 seconds and I do try my best to not exceed it and I won't today.

I'd like to take the opportunity to say I am delighted to see the crowd here, I'm delighted to see the program that has been put together, and I couldn't be more proud to, if I'm the chair, perhaps I'm partially the father of this and I've been around for ALAC for 11 years now one way or another, and to watch the APRALO grow as it has and mature and be really productive, is just an absolute delight, so keep on doing it, thank you.

ALI ALMESHAL: At last, with a very wonderful ending to this showcase, I would like to call our incoming Vice Chair, Lianna, to present something special for you. Please.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Thank you, Ali. I'm honored and delighted for this opportunity to welcome you all and congratulate you on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of APRALO, which comprises the largest, diverse and vibrant community from Asia, Australasia, and Pacific Islands. We are very proud of our expanding and evolving community; 52 ALSes and 9 individual members.

And for the celebration of our first decade of history, we have prepared a short video, so without further ado, let's hear how our members perceive APRALO and what their areas of interest are.

[VIDEO PLAYING]

Thank you very much; you see how diverse and vibrant is our community. And now I would like to invite you all to enjoy the drinks and the entertainment. Please come, thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]