ICANN67 | Virtual Community Forum – UA Local Initiatives Working Group and Ambassadors Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 – 10:45 to 12:15 CUN

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Hello everybody and welcome to the session on universal acceptance, local initiatives and ambassadors. We will get started. Let me hand it over to Dr. Ajay Data who's a chair of the universal acceptance steering group. He'll take us through this session. So over to you, Dr. Data.

AJAY DATA: Thank you, Sarmad. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. This is our second call, and it is going to be a very lengthy call, a lot of speakers today, and [inaudible] we had very full call and a very large participation in the last call, and we hope that—we have less participants right now, but hopefully we will have a lot more numbers as time passes.

I will not take much time today which I wanted to speak more, because we have many speakers and we have large agenda to cover. So Sarmad, we will straight forward go to the speakers for local initiatives, and let us have one by one and then we go in that direction.

However, before we have a speaker, I just want to tell you that we have geographic regions, we have a charter which is in front of you, you have a link, and there is an initiative which is being done in every geographic region which is [under our] scope right now. However, we

are going to have a lot more activities in each local initiative which is underway right now.

And right now, these are the five regions, which is China, European Union, India, Russia and United States, and we have some speakers coming up from these regions, including from GSE team which are helping us to do this local initiative, get going, and finalize [inaudible].

We are also having some community-based interest into the Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean and southeast Europe, which is a very exciting additional interest which is taking good shape, and we hope that these are all going to materialize in the near future. Next slide, please.

So this is community members from the local initiative here, a country or a region or a particular location community gets together and they would like to work on new initiatives in the region to bring in more people online, solve technical problems, influence the influencers, talk to government, so all kinds of activities go there, and these are the three basic categories which the plan [inaudible] local initiative community members technically where they can collaborate with our tech group, they can do outreach with the helps of comms group and public sector engagement where the leadership works together to go and talk to [PSUs] in the government. Next slide, please.

So we have now the update from local initiative. We have these leaders who are coming from CIS region, Maria, China, Jian-Chuan, Egypt, Abdalmonem who is our [inaudible] also, india, Samiran

Gupta, ICANN, and LAC is Sylvia, LACRALO, she's going to represent. Next slide, please.

Sarmad, let me just hand it over to you back and please run these leaders as our time is passing by [inaudible] so that we can cover everybody. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Okay. Thank you. So we'll invite Maria to come in and introduce the local initiative in Commonwealth of Independent States in Eastern Europe. Over to you, Maria, and please let me know when you'd like to move the slides.

MARIA KOLENSIKOVA: Thank you, Sarmad. Hello to everyone. We can switch to the next slide right now. I'm chair of local initiative from CIS and eastern Europe countries, and here is our short report on the work done. So please, next slide as we have not much time.

Okay, so here is summary of our local initiative. It was approved by UASG leadership in December last year. Since that time, we worked hard and our initiative has gathered already experts and official representatives from seven countries: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Latvia, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine. And in our region, we have at least 11 IDN TLDs delegated.

Our community, our membership mostly consists from registries, IDN TLD registries, accredited registrars, and recently we have some members from just IT companies from the region.

We have such a structure, let's say. We are working on the regional level and have members from different countries, but each member or several members from one country can go together, meet and decide their exact local problems, issues and so on. And for example, in Russia, we are going to organize also like subgroup for exactly Russian issues.

So how we work, we work very easy. We are based on the charter for local initiatives, and we have biweekly one-hour calls. We have mailing list and just chat for short messages in Skype. And this is quite convenient and easy way to communicate, so in case you are looking for opportunities how to organize your work and prepare your own local initiatives, it's quite easy. And thank you to UASG for help and how to organize it. Next slide, please.

Here's our short outcomes since December. There was one technical trainer for e-mail administrators, and it was based on the pilots or let's say draft slides of e-mail administrator tutorial which is prepared by [inaudible] working group. So it was like pilot version. It was quite successful.

Also, our members were invited to participate in evaluation of the popular websites. This is one fresh evaluation which will be published soon, as I understand. So in Russia and Ukraine, representatives take part in it.

Also, we decided to contact Facebook and we tried to find the representative of this company to discuss some problems because in our regions, IDN domain names are usually used for brand marketing campaigns and [there are] problems with displaying at Facebook. Our local community feels difficult because of this, and nobody can use IDN domain names in posts and comments because they are in Punycode, and end users just can't see clearly what is the project, what is the brand, and can take it as, I don't know, bad links or viruses. And this is quite a problem for promotion IDN registration and for promotion, so the usage of these domain names.

Also, we have some ongoing projects now. we are planning to organize for universal acceptance hackatons, but they all are planned for May, maybe June. And also in Russia, we are preparing and it will be launched maybe next week a project. It's, let's say, a marketing project, but it's mostly for—it'll be like an educational portal with all information about universal acceptance, some technical details. So we are planning to communicate mostly with developers and e-mail software providers. We are going to share with them some useful materials how to deploy universal acceptance, EAI and how to support IDNs. So I hope it will help us to make it easier to find information in Russian language, devoted to IDN and AI support mostly, of course. Next slide, please.

And here's our plans. Plans are according to the action plan which was prepared by our local initiative. It's quite short. You can read it, of course, but we had just left for us some room in case there will be more activities and we feel that it really will be thorough, we will

include them in our next reports at the next UASG meetings, because not all events, not all consultations can be announced now. so we are just mentioning them in our plans.

Okay, so they're quite concrete, and we will work on them. I think that's it. In case you have any questions—

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Maria. Yes, if there are any questions, we can certainly take one or two questions or comments at this time.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: We have two questions. One from Raymond Mamattah about the ambassador in Africa. So first, are there some local ambassadors from Africa? Especially from Ghana.

Second question, what does it take to be an ambassador? This, I believe, has been taken in the chat for some certain extent, but in case anyone want to add something.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: I think let's take more general questions towards the end in case there is a follow-up needed from the chat, and maybe take questions which are relevant to Maria's presentation at this time.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Sure. Of course. Then the second one from Satish Babu, what outcome is expected from the four hackathon in CIS?

MARIA KOLENSIKOVA: I think there are several outcomes that we can reach, because first of all, hackathons will be provided for students, actually, for young developers. So this is quite PR approach to work with youngsters, with our next generation to inform them on what is going on now and what they can expect further. And usually, these people are quite curious. So I think it's a very good audience to discuss this question.

Also, it's a possibility to try and find technical decisions on how to implement universal acceptance functions. And if students can do it, maybe all other developers can do it too. There is no so big issues regarding implementation, so it's quite small thing maybe to start such discussions. And also, it demonstrates the activity in the region and it takes the subject to inform the wide community that something is going on here to raise this topic and to start to discuss it.

Also, for example in Russia, I think that in our neighbor countries like Ukraine and Georgia who decided to make it, many educational programs are quite popular now. This is, let's say, an easy way to start these discussions.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Maria. In the interest of time, let's move on. Let me invite Jian Chuan who's at ICANN GSE team to give us an update on China local initiative.

ICANN 67
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
7–12 March 2020

JIAN CHUAN ZHANG: Thanks, Sarmad. This is Jian Chuan Zhang from ICANN GSE team and based in Beijing, so I'm more like a liaison between UASG and the Chinese community. Very happy to have this opportunity to give a quick update about local initiative in China. Next slide, please. Thank you.

The summary of local initiative from end of the last year to February this year, China local initiative was led by the Internet Society of China, ISC. January the 9th in Beijing, they held inauguration meeting of China UA local initiative.

Basically, there are 28 founding organizations attend the inauguration meeting. It's worth noting that this funding organization not only covers the registries and registrars but also some leading IT companies that are highly relevant to UA work, such as e-mail service providers, search engine, browser, Chinese input, etc. Next slide, please.

So in the meeting, we got three things accomplished. First one, we elected the leadership. The ISC's deputy secretary general, Mrs. Pei was elected as the chair, and we have three UA ambassadors elected as vice chairs. And CNNIC, China's ccTLD operator, CONAC, China's government TLD operator, Baidu, leading search engine, Sogou, China's leading input company, and 360, China's leading browser company serve as vice chair organizations. That's the leadership.

They also passed bylaws. Basically, bylaws define the purpose of the initiative, the criteria and the procedures of joining, leaving the initiative, composition, that kind of thing.

I also want to highlight that two IT company, Baidu and 360, they share their progress in supporting UA. For example, Baidu, their search engine already includes one million Chinese IDN, and their public DNS resolver also supports Chinese IDN resolution. For 360, they are working on UA readiness for their browsers and search engines. Next slide, please.

So plan for this year, currently, I think they have finished the local initiative proposal and submit to UASG looking forward to signing the agreement. So based on agreement, they can carry out the follow-up things. I will highlight some of them here.

Also want to highlight that originally, they were planning to do something in April or May, but unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, I think some things will be delayed. But I hope everything will be returned to normal as soon as possible.

I will highlight some notable items for the plan this year. For example, we will follow up the progress with Baidu and 360. Also, we will have face-to-face communication with China's leading social media company, Tencent. They are famous for Tencent and QQ mail. Also face-to-face communication with Sina. It's another leading social media company famous for Weibo, it's like a Chinese version of Twitter.

Also face-to-face communication with NetEase, they are one of the leading e-mail service provider. Basically, the QQ mail and the NetEase mail are the top two e-mail service provider, so we are working with the EAI.

ICANN 67
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
7–12 March 2020

Another face-to-face communication with iFLYTEK and Sogou. They are famous for Chinese input and voice recognition app. Last one is with another two browser—in particular mobile browser—company for their support.

So that's basically a quick update about the whole situation here in China. Later, I think one of the three ambassadors, Walter, will introduce more specific things about what ambassadors have done. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Jian Chuan. We'll take maybe a question or a comment if there is one for Jian Chuan before we move on.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: We don't have one for now.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Okay. Then let's move on, and we have Abdalmonem who's going to be introducing the work being done for the local initiative being developed in Egypt. Over to you, Abdalmonem.

ABDALMONEM GALILA: Thank you, Sarmad. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening. I am working for the regulator of Egypt. I am based here in Cairo. Let us go directly to the next slide, please.

ICANN 67
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
7–12 March 2020

We reached out to one of the ministry of communication affiliated organization here in Egypt called ITIDA, Information Technology Industry Development Agency. ITIDA is an executive [IT arm] here in Egypt and offers also a wide range of services that helps to strengthen the capacities of the local IT firms, attracting and [services] multinational IT companies.

The first thing which they told us about is universal acceptance is related to IDN only? Of course, this is a basic question and we answered that it is not related to IDN only but also for new generic top-level domain names and EAI.

They requested me and us as a group of the local initiative [inaudible] need to have an Arabic [note] about the concept of universal acceptance initiative, why we should have universal acceptance, UA readiness, UA ready for the applications.

By the way, ITIDA is responsible for the companies that work with the government and also the companies that export software programs outside Egypt. I already did this Arabic note and submitted it, and waiting for the feedback in order to conduct universal acceptance awareness and training, and of course, I will speak about this in the ambassador program for EAI [inaudible] workshops. Next slide, please.

The target is the same for government [inaudible] to have more awareness, more UA readiness training or universal acceptance training. We already reached out to [inaudible] the ministry of communication website to make it UA ready and to have one meeting

with them and there is a new version of the website of the ministry that will be universal acceptance ready. And they asked us if there's a technical consideration for how to make this application to be ready. I already submitted this document and I am following up with them.

I already developed the EAI testbed system here in the telecom [inaudible] of Egypt, and now EA is under the vulnerability scan by the security team. And the next meeting in ICANN, I will give feedback about how user [inaudible] deal with the Arabic e-mail addresses.

For academia, I am still working with Information Technology Institute to conduct several training—I conduct training for one day, universal acceptance training in different sites here in Egypt, and it's one day. I think it is so restrictive for me as it is [inaudible] like we could have exercises on how to make this application to be UA ready.

I am looking also for having universal acceptance hackathon for open source engineers in ITI and outside ITI, and working also for EAI development hands-on workshop here in Egypt and still conducting [IDN UA evaluation project team.] Next slide, please.

The progress for me, I am still working for the government, I'm still working with them. For academia, [inaudible] ITI universal acceptance hackathon, and therefore the computer science engineers hackathon, I [will conduct this.]

I wanted to show you how it is important to have UA hackathon for computer science engineers. After we did the previous hackathon in August [inaudible] we submitted a ticket for Microsoft [inaudible]

framework. Also submitted—I think it's that one of the drivers used to connect to the [inaudible] wasn't compatible with UTF-8 and [inaudible] IDN names or EAI addresses [inaudible].

I am looking also for EAI deployment workshop in August in Sudan. We're also applying to have a one-day workshop for EAI deployment in Bahrain for [middle of] 2020. But actually, unfortunately, it is postponed. Next slide.

Also, I'm looking for Africa Internet Summit to conduct EAI workshop for e-mail administrator, for technology [deliverable,] and awareness session in Africa DNS Forum 2020. Next slide.

Thank you. That is all for me, Dr. Sarmad. the floor is yours.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:	Thank you, Abdalmonem. Any questions or comments?

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA:	We do have one comment from Jim DeLaHunt. "I'm very impressed by the work of these local initiatives. Well done." End of comment. And we have a new one in chat. "To all local initiatives—from Mark Datysgeld—organizing hackathons, we need to have access to the output to better understand what is being done and act upon it. Please try to coordinate an online folder for different initiatives or something of the sort. It would help greatly." End of comment.

We do have a question from Satish Babu. "Who are your local partners for EAI in Egypt, Sudan, Bahrain, etc.?"

ABDALMONEM GALILA: I think it is a question [inaudible] about can we have a bit more info about universal acceptance [inaudible] after we make the hackathon for universal acceptance for computer science students. They ask us to be responsible for [evaluation] project team inside the faculty.

A little bit note about this [evaluation project,] it is about [healthcare,] medical system, so everyone, whatever the language, could log into the—open the application using domain name in IDN, and make sign up and adding his e-mail addresses, whatever the language, and then he will receive activation through e-mail to activate this account. And every time he [inaudible] for example to add request for a doctor to have a medication [inaudible], he will receive confirmation, activation e-mail. And also, if he wanted to speak in Arabic and fill the form, it will be allowed for the system.

As our question about who are the local partners for EAI in Egypt, Sudan and Bahrain, [inaudible] for Egypt, I just developed the EAI training environment, so it is the time to look for that in Egypt. For Sudan, I am working there with the regulator of Sudan [inaudible]. For Bahrain, TRA of Bahrain and RIPE NCC. Did I miss anything to answer?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Abdalmonem. I think you covered the questions, so I think in the interest of time, let's move on. May I invite Samiran Gupta, who's an ICANN GSE team member, to give us an update on the local initiative being planned for India? Over to you, Samiran.

SAMIRAN GUPTA: Thank you, Sarmad, and hello, everyone. Can I go to the next slide, please? Thank you.

I'm just going to step back and talk a little bit about the UA local initiative process which started last year. But in specific terms, on 16th October 2019, the Indian Language Internet Alliance—or ILIA—submitted a proposal to UASG for spearheading the UA local initiative in India.

Essentially, this Indian language Internet alliance is a group of individuals, companies and institutions which collaborate on issues around technology and adoption of technology related to Indian languages.

IALIA, as I've said, is comprised of community members from technology, business, academia and government, and they have made a proposal. Essentially, this proposal has been in our radar for a while, we are currently waiting for the legal agreement between ILIA and ICANN to be signed before the work can get started.

In the meanwhile, I must add that ILIA already conducted one meeting in December of 2019 to get their community members organized and everybody is standing by for the projects to get started.

The last thing I'd like to add over here is that ILIA is part of a larger chamber of commerce and industry in India and it's a nongovernment nonprofit organization. Next slide, please.

So in this slide, you will see the key activities which are planned by ILIA, and the time frame is April through September of 2020. Essentially, there are three buckets of engagements: technical collaboration, general outreach and community development. And for example in technical collaboration, you can see the training workshops and a couple of webinars. And more details are given, of course, where these workshops would be held.

And it's here that we will engage with several companies who are already working in the space. For example, there is a company called [inaudible] Technologies which works in the translation and data enablement space, there's data exchange which provides e-mail in IDNs and local languages.

So all these kinds of companies and others will form part of these training workshops, and then there's general outreach which there would be two events which would be targeting more generic audiences rather than the technical community.

And lastly, in this development or in this space, there's going to be community development and this is going to be done through articles that will be published to the FICCI- ILIA membership. And then part of that community development would be two expert talks with technical students.

So given that India is a fairly spread out geography, we have these events coming up in various parts of the country as you can see the names of the cities which are mentioned over here. But again, hopefully—we need to be mindful about the whole situation around

COVID-19, and I'm hopeful that we will be able to get all of this started on time and executed on time. Sarmad, Next slide, please.

I just had three slides, so this is my last slide, and I would like to end by saying that the ILIA proposal addresses UASG's local initiative strategy pillars of technical engagement, general outreach and community development.

The challenge in India is that there is a huge diversity in terms of languages. As you might be aware, India has 22 official languages. But this is also an opportunity given that some work in this space was already done by the Neo-Brahmi Generation Panel when they worked on the nine Neo-Brahmi scripts, and it will be possible for applicant support to use these nine scripts when the next round of new gTLDs open whenever that happens.

So therefore, the importance of UA awareness is very timely. I'd like to also add over here that we've got very good support from the government of India in terms of creating awareness on UA, but I will let the UA ambassador Harish Chowdhary speak more about that later.

And lastly, we also had interest from a couple of regional players who'd like to collaborate with ILIA and take the process of universal acceptance to other parts of the country as part of the larger plan.

So I'm looking forward to the kickoff, and hopefully, the next time this update will be provided directly by representatives of FICCI-ILIA. I'll end here now. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Samiran. We'll take a question or a comment for Samiran if there are any at this time.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: There are none at this time. Anybody wants to have some question or comments?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, then we should keep moving forward. We'll invite Sylvia from LACRALO to perhaps provide an update on their plans for setting up and starting local initiative activities [inaudible] in the LAC region. Sylvia.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Okay, thank you. Hello everyone. I would like to say that since before Montréal meeting, we are working to become a local initiative, but as we are many organizations and we like everyone to participate, only now we are ready to send our official proposal to start the local initiative. Next slide, please.

In our region, we have some challenges to face. We know understanding of universal acceptance issues are not well known and the adoption of Unicode has been inconsistent. We also know that the internationalized domain name is low in our region, no strong demand for IDN domains.

But some of the regional ccTLDs have resisted use of the Unicode. So our intended outcomes are motivate the stakeholder [identified as]

ITT developers as well as governance agencies to be adopters of the UA compliance. Also, to do outreach to large enterprise networks such as hotels or banks about the importance of UA compliance. There is also a low level of UA readiness adoptions in mail products, and especially in different applications. Next slide, please.

But we also know that we have a wonderful and very committed community. Our LACRALO UA working group members are [known to] the regional stakeholders and will be focused on the communication and collaboration Work Track hem. So we are focusing the general outreach and awareness raising with LACRALO organizations, with e-mail service providers, influential organizations such as universities, also browser developers associations and general public.

And we also have good communication with the ccTLDs in our region, especially we are going to start a new project with LACTLD in order to know some of the issues regarding not to use the Unicode. Some are not doing that, so we are going to use that opportunity to do outreach about universal acceptance too.

We also are thinking to do outreach to the large enterprise such as hotels and banks maybe. We are preparing some workshops and webinars in some regional countries based on the manual and the webinar that Mark Datysgeld, our ambassador, did especially for us. We need to thank you, Mark, because you did great work in our region.

Finally, we are ready to now perform compliance tests to the top 100 most important or relevant websites in our 23 countries in LACRALO region. And in that case also with the help of Mark. Next slide, please.

Right now, we are planning eight outreach activities in five countries as you can see in the screen, and especially for example as you see in brazil, in Sao Paolo, we will be in touch with more than 3000 members of a developers group. These are an organization, a group, and we try to do a huge workshop with them.

So that's all from LACRALO. Thank you for having me.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Sylvia. We can take a question or comment for Sylvia.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: We do not have comment or question for Sylvia at this time. We do have for Samiran earlier if we have time to take.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Sure.

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Okay. There's a question from Yeseul. Will there be at least one representative for each different 22 Indian languages? Thank you.

SAMIRAN GUPTA: When you ask whether there'll be a representative from each of the 22 languages, do you mean a representative in the UA initiative, or what exactly? Can you just explain that a little bit?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Can you repeat it, please?

SAMIRAN GUPTA: Okay, so your question is in the UA initiatives, will there be a representation in the local initiative, whether there'll be representation from each of the 22 languages?

So Yeseul, we are not really working in that manner that each language is treated separately. However, as you are possibly aware, when the Neo-Brahmi Generation Panel worked on the nine scripts, those nine scripts actually addressed the requirements of many of those 22 languages in terms of being able to use those scripts online.

I think the baseline is from those scripts, and then of course, when these local initiative programs start getting rolled out and the community in India finds problems they need to solve, I'm sure they will try and solve the problems for every language that comes in. But it's not necessarily that each language would be treated separately but it'll be done as a composite. Does this make sense?

SYLVIA HERLEIN LEITE: Yeah, sure, I totally agree with you.

YESEUL KIM: Yes, can you hear me?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Yes, please go ahead.

YESEUL KIM: Yes, I totally understand what you're talking about, so thank you for the answer.

SAMIRAN GUPTA: Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you. So I think we'll keep moving ahead, so thank you, Samiran, for answering the question on UA initiative of India, local initiative on India, and thank you again, Sylvia, for the presentation on LACRALO initiative. Let's move on.

We are now going to start presentations on ambassadors who are working or volunteering for universal acceptance promotion. If Dusan is online or Dr. Data, would you want to come in briefly before we go into individual presentations for each of the UA ambassadors?

AJAY DATA: Do we have Dusan online?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: I don't see him, so please go ahead.

AJAY DATA: Okay, so let me do that work. Dusan is actually leading the ambassadors working group and monitors activities of all the ambassadors. [Somebody even asked how ambassadors operated.] So basically, if somebody has interest in UA, understands the technicalities of UA work and what it takes, and able to contribute locally to some extent, then with the help of GSE team, we identify, and if somebody applies, we verify through the process, and then let him onboard.

The idea is that an ambassador represents UA initiatives locally and that region and talk about, do the workshops, going to speak, create awareness. That's the basic task of UA in a nutshell. Abdalmonem, Harish, [inaudible] and everybody are doing wonderful work in their own region, and some of the work is going to be presented to you. So Sarmad, please run each ambassador. Please stick to five or six minutes strictly because we have to cover a lot. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Dr. Data. So we'll get brief updates from our ambassadors and we'll start with Abdalmonem for a quick update from Egypt.

SAMIRAN GUPTA: Thank you, Dr. Sarmad. Next slide, please. The agenda for this slide today starts by what I said at ICANN66 in Canada, what I said about my goal until ICANN67. So from ICANN66 to ICANN67, what are the [inaudible] I did here in Egypt, and I'll open the floor for questions. Next slide.

Yeah, what I said is that universal acceptance training is started in ITI, academia becoming engaged with universal acceptance, and back again to the government and say hi. Next slide, please.

Egypt local initiative will be submitted soon. I said all of this at ICANN66. EAI testbed system in progress, trying to reach out to the open source and over the channel. Next.

From ICANN66 to ICANN67, I did three UA trainings, each of them one day. I'm already working with universal acceptance graduation project, and there is a professor inside the university, [asked them whether they] wanted to know more about IDNs and EAI, so we'll have to [assess] your application within the environment or Arabic or whatever language. They selected Arabic and French, and also sending e-mail address, e-mail from Arabic to French and vice versa. So they requested me to make EAI deployment training for two days.

Actually, this EAI deployment training took one day, but they are university students so I tried to start from low level of training. I already did the consultation with Dr. Sarmad [inaudible] for EAI training environment. I will talk more about this EAI training environment. It is complete open source component. For example,

[inaudible] all is working with it. I talk about this EAI test environment, [inaudible] before. Next slide, please.

This screenshot, I think there is another slide before this. No problem. These are some pictures from the events I conduct and the EAI workshop here in Egypt. Next slide. This is the schema of the network of the environment I did for e-mail address internationalization [lab] to help me inside the workshop for [inaudible] to train the student, train the e-mail administration, train the government e-mail administrator, whatever.

I already developed the root server, I already developed the resolver, I already developed the DNS server. I added all of this and have all of this inside the [lab] network. So everyone [will be assigned] a virtual machine from the participants, and they could access the virtual machine and install the EAI server and access the EAI server using his domain name and send and receive e-mail to other participant in the workshop, whatever the language. Next slide, please.

Some language here are used Arabic and French. For example, the first one, it is called [inaudible] and there is another one which is French. I could add as many TLDs I could add, so why I am going to have EAI training environment?

So the concept came to me and Dr. Sarmad from one event [inaudible]. We'll have to request some hostnames, we'll have to request public IPs to test and have EAI [hands-on] workshop. So I think it is difficult for the host or any host to cover all of it, so that is the idea behind make the training labs. I only need from any host that hosts

the AI workshop hands-on, I only need cable of ethernet. Next slide, please.

What are the challenges I faced during the EAI training environment and during the EAI workshops that were held here in Egypt since one week ago?

There are some Arabic letters not recognized well by network tools, like [inaudible]. The network tools [inaudible] understand the letter kaf and the letter mem, but I have a workaround for this and it works with the same.

Terminal is not able to handle the direction of paths for MailDir right to left and left to right. It will be in opposite directions.

Terminal not able to handle Unicode names by translating it offline to Punycode. [I shall translate it outside the application and commit to] the terminal.

We already developed—me and Dr. Sarmad [inaudible] and of course all the effort done by [inaudible] for making labs for everything inside the environment. Since one lab is still in progress, OpenDMARC and DKIM to make the [for] environment of mail server to be secure after [we developed the framework.]

Why is this training environment? EAI hands-on workshops, any language could be used, so only one internet cable needed, no need for asking host for domain names, it's completely open source. It's not only used for training but could also be used for testing mail clients or testing e-mail libraries, something like that. Next slide, please.

For international activities, I'm going to Tanzania school of IGF. I make a presentation there about e-mail deployment workshop at the University of Dodoma, and also conduct universal acceptance awareness session in Tanzania Network Alliance, Kondoua. For MENOG and Saudi Arabia, it is postponed. I hope it comes online soon. Next slide.

Some photos from Tanzania. Next slide. It is the time to deploy EAI. Will not be any money, it is open source, it is tested. [I say it is yes.] Next slide.

Thank you. If you have any question, I am here. the floor is yours, Dr. Sarmad. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Abdalmonem. Any questions or comments?

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: We have one question from Jim DeLaHunt. "I'm interested in giving presentations on UA to my local community. How helpful is it for me to ask for formal ambassador status? Helpful for UASG or helpful for my effectiveness. In parentheses, I'm motivated to do the work with or without ambassador status." This perhaps might go to Dr. Ajay. Thank you.

AJAY DATA: Hello. Thank you, Pitinan. Thank you, Jim, for asking this question and the opportunity for me to clarify [things.] It's a win-win situation.

You're already a very senior person, understand UA and IDN very well, and I'm sure as [inaudible] you are presenting a paper and at least applied for proposal to present an IDN [conference,] which is great if it gets approved.

So the idea of having the ambassador status is that we have a person whom we can reach out to help in local initiatives, as my friend, [inaudible] just shared that we can fund a little bit of travel and participating into the local initiative at local region. It's not a big amount, it's small support, but it's not the motivation for sure. It is about the communication with the leadership, communication with the UA team and different working groups and getting help from the technical perspective, communication perspective, and then taking that initiative locally.

I think there's a nutshell. So people who are passionate about UA work, taking the IDN and trying to bring in more people online, they shall definitely look for ambassador program and try at least apply and become part of us. Thank you very much. I hope that answers the question.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Dr. Data. Let's keep moving on. So we'll invite Harish Chowdhary to give an update on his work as an UA ambassador in India.

HARISH CHOWDHARY: Hi everybody. I would be covering what are the regions I'm covering during my workshop, the summary of the program, some observations and feedback, and the further action plan. Next slide, please.

I have covered north and eastern part of India, and it was Delhi as well as Bihar, one of the eastern states, in the capital, that is Patna. Next.

So these are the details of the workshops organized on the universal acceptance. Universal acceptance workshop was done at the Birla Institute of Technology. It is the Mesra campus in Patra. And during the pre-ICANN67 session in Delhi, it was just last week, and there was a very big event conducted by Internet and mobile association of India which was—the name India Digital Summit where more than 3000 participants [inaudible] the event, and there was a specific session called Bharat bhasha in which all the stakeholders from different communities came and we have shared our views and details about universal acceptance, IDNS, EAI. You can also go through my slides and click on the links so that you can see what we have actually done during the event.

It is also [inaudible] one of the organizations called CDAC which have launched gistmail.in in Devanagari script. It is gistmail.bharat on which one user can go and register their e-mail IDs in the language— the main language of India is Hindi, so it is a starting point, and you can try it and provide some feedback on it.

Apart from that, we are also making a website called bharatbhasha.bharat on which we are listing all our workshops with the details. Next slide.

ICANN 67
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
7–12 March 2020

So these are the partners, and you can see Reverie Technologies, Universal Acceptance, Xgen, Bnest is [inaudible]. smart cities. There are some universities, government institutions like NIELIT and CDAC, local partners. We have VIT University and we also have location partners. So these are the different partners from different domains, government, academia, and other startups. They all are there to help us, and I'm telling them what is UA and why UA concept is important for them. Next.

And there are other supporters in which Bihar Entrepreneurs Association, and then you can see GDG Pune which is one of the Google activity, IIM, Indian Institute of Management. So these are the different supporters which are helping us in India for the proliferation of universal acceptance and its workshop sessions. Next.

There are a few observations and feedbacks. Startups, students and academia are very interested in the subject as they feel there are several important use cases in India. However, I feel that there is more need of capacity building workshops, because India is very big and there are different localities for many languages.

But in the first place, why these capacity building workshops are required, as you can see, people are unaware of universal acceptance and related concepts. So we have to also organize, I believe, the further technology and developers, java developers based upon the document which our esteemed working group on EAI has created so that people with the java skills could deploy EAI.

So this is my request again. If e-mail ID could be provided on uasg.tech, it would be useful for us for the outreach, and then again, smooth travel support and which I know Dusan and other administrators are already working on. Next.

This is the plan, and you can see there are several new organizations and some organizations helping us in which the important one is the Kurativz Technologies which is helping us under one of the state government startup IT policy initiatives, and ISOC Rural Development Special Interest Group is also helping, especially the ambassador in India, to provide universal acceptance sessions so that more people could be part of the initiative. National Institute of Technologies, Bhopal. Earlier, this workshop was cancelled because of some bad weather conditions in Bhopal, so we are again in touch with them. India Internet Foundation and Council of Information Security under their Internet governance initiative. And thanks a lot, Samiran, for as Samiran already described the local UA initiative in India, but as ambassador I'm also planning to work with the local UA initiative to share my expertise and experience of earlier work. Next.

So these are tools and resources for the people who actually want to learn about universal acceptance, and I think that's all from my side. thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Harish. Any questions or comments?

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: No comments or questions so far.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Okay, so then let's keep moving on. We have Walter Wu from China. he's going to share an update of some of the work he and other colleagues in China are doing in the context of UA. Over to you, Walter.

WALTER WU: Thank you, Sarmad. It's really a big honor to represent all the three ambassadors from China to give update on—

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Walter, may I interject here? You may need to speak a bit louder. You're coming in a bit faintly. Back to you. Thank you.

WALTER WU: Okay. All right, so actually, in China, all the three ambassadors' work is actually combined with—work together very closely with China local initiative. All three China ambassadors—I'm trying to switch, sorry about that.

I'm just saying that the China UA ambassadors work very closely or even part of the China local initiative work, and actually, we gather to prepare the organization foundation and organizations, China local initiative. For today's presentation, I would just provide some update about the outreach work ambassadors did. Next slide, please.

In December, we visited the Sogou company. Sogou is the leading—they do search engine, they do browser, and they also do Chinese input software. So I think they're one of the biggest Internet companies in China.

The major purpose to Sogou is trying to educate and communicate with them for the UA and the IDN support issue. We asked for several issues for them to consider. Part of it is the browser resolution issue. For Sogou software, Chinese domain name is not correctly resolved in the Sogou browser. We hope to [inaudible] that issue and we found they do not support all the IDNs, so we suggest them to download and update the newest gTLD from ICANN website.

And also, we talk about their search engine. Their search engine should collect Chinese IDN domain names and show them when the internet user do the search. We also talk about the Sogou input software to support the audio or the voice input above IDN. We all believe that if in the future, Sogou can update and support the voice input, that it will be very good implementation of the Chinese IDNs because it is very useful for the China Internet user to use the voice to say and point to a web address rather than type. Next slide, please.

We also visited Baidu. Baidu is the leading search engine company, also one of the big internet company in the world. And actually, the major purpose to visit Baidu is also focus on the browser, on the search engine, and also on the input issue. But actually, Baidu, it seems they gave a pretty positive response because Baidu agreed to be a vice chair of China local initiative, and also in the conference [of

ICANN 67
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
7–12 March 2020

the first] China local initiative, Baidu even began to give some detailed suggestions about when the website owner is using the new gTLD with the Chinese domain name, what they need to do to try to increase the ranking result of Baidu. So I think that that's a very positive sign for the search engine to support the China IDN. Next slide, please.

As ambassador, we work together with the China local initiative, we create a Wechat official account that is just like the official website of the—actually, Wechat is very popular [used] in Chinese, they're highly efficient and can communicate with people who are interested in the UA or IDN-related topic. So we set up an account and we began to publish some related articles for that. Next slide, please.

We do have a plan to, in the spring, begin to try to reach more Internet companies or related organizations in this quarter, but unfortunately because of the [pneumonia] situation, all of the work has to be suspended. But we just work with some registry, and some of them, they just use this opportunity to do the free trial for more enterprise-related companies to take this opportunity trial to try the IDN. Next slide, please.

For example, this one, several one, it's just like the different registry, like the [inaudible], especially for [inaudible] registry, they just set up a website called actually medicalmask.[inaudible]. That actually works with a medical mask manufacturer to use this domain name, and that's a very good showcase for more people understand or know the idea of IDN, because the medical mask is very difficult to be shopped, to be purchased the last several months in China. So if [you

would have find] some resources and know IDN medicalmask.shopping, that'll be very attractive to people to try and use the IDN.

So basically, that's the basic situation of the ambassador in China, and update. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Walter. Let's take some questions and comments.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: We have some comments from Jim DeLaHunt. First, "Humanitarian projects, including COVID-19 response, might be a useful vehicle for UA promotions. Medical information might be more accessible if delivered on a website with IDNs in local languages. Such IDNs might get lots of visibility and drive awareness of UA." End of comment.

The second comment from Jim DeLaHunt, "Ambassadors and local initiatives may want to know about Translators Without Borders project, translatorswithoutborders.org, a non-profit organization in United States which connects volunteer translators to humanitarian projects. If UA people participate in humanitarian project, then Translators Without Borders might help translate." End of comment. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Jim, for your comments, and I think Walter's presentation also touched on one of the points you raised. So yes, I think those are

good suggestions. Let's keep moving on in the interest of time. We have Yazid from Benin. He's one of the newest ambassadors with the UASG. Over to you, Yazid. Please share your activities and plans.

YAZID AKANHO: Thank you very much, Sarmad. Hi everyone. Like Sarmad said, I'm one of the latest UA ambassadors, just last December that I've been nominated as UA ambassador. Next slide, please.

I'm going to quickly present a summary of outreach activities that have been taken from November to date, sharing some of the vision and feedback, and also giving an overview of the plan I have for the next month. Of course, actually, this is my first ICANN meeting as UA ambassador, and I feel very small after what my elders have presented, but let's go. Next slide, please.

Thank you very much. In the last December, I have participated with Abdalmonem in a webinar organized by AFRALO on universal acceptance and IDNs. The idea was actually that AFRALO and AFRALO chair and members wanted to understand what is universal acceptance, what is the scope of UASG, and also what is the mission and role of UA ambassadors.

So through some slides, we explained them what is universal acceptance, what are the challenges, and also, Abdalmonem explained them what he's been doing since two years now. and also, I share with them how I became UA ambassador and also what I'm planning to do.

It was a very interesting session because it's AFRALO so there were lots of members from different regions and the subject was very important for them, mostly because Africa, you know, we have a lot of local languages here, and also, we have the less participation in terms of Internet users. So for us, it is a real challenge to address universal acceptance to bring more people on the Internet.

My second activity was an outreach session that I presented here where I work. I work for MTN Benin, who is the mobile network operator. We have an operation in Benin, but MTN is a group with 22 operations around the world. The HQ is based in Dubai with the technical HQ in South Africa.

I thought that it is very important for a telecom company like MTN to be aware about universal acceptance and e-mail address internationalization and related stuff, so I conducted the session to technology department which is composed of IT, network and capital project group, and really, the session was very interesting. It was the first time they heard about universal acceptance and the challenges also, so we discussed about a lot of things, like universal acceptance and e-mail address internationalization concepts, the impact of new gTLD and non-ASCII mailbox addresses now which we must [pick off] on the Internet, the role of UA and UASG, of course.

I also showed them what are the principles of universal acceptance readiness: when we say that a system is UA ready, what does it mean in terms of verification, in terms of rules? The five major rules that must be confirmed.

So showing them that, how for a company like MTN, what is the way forward, because we are using a lot of applications internally. We also have our own gTLD which is .mtn, but even if we are not yet using it, the day will come that we will go for it. So, are we ready? Are our internal applications ready for .mtn? Maybe there's some filtering that has been applied on those applications that will not allow e-mail addresses ending by .mtn. So we have to take care of all of this, we have to check all of this, for the new applications also that are being deployed. Our project managers actually understood what is their role in this and it was very interesting as a session next step, please.

So like I said, yes, during the session with AFRALO, we really noticed the interest of African region for this subject related to universal acceptance. Many of them of course asked how to become universal acceptance ambassadors, how also to outreach in the region, how to start discussing universal acceptance challenges in the countries, and this is something we try in the next month to cover in the region through the local initiatives for instance.

Yes, like I said, internally, the .mtn gTLD case has been really discussed. We even did a test with an application and it has been rejected. So these are stuff that we must cover internally in MTN. I'm planning also to send an e-mail to MTN group to take this at group level. Why not? If they're interested.

So I must also continue my awareness at this level to make a universal acceptance matter that can be addressed from group level. And of course, project managers, they understood that they have to raise this

concern with the suppliers, our external suppliers, application providers, and also our system engineers were actually happy that the mail servers are EAI ready. So these are some feedback we got. Next slide, please.

Okay, this is a quick overview of my agenda plan for Q1-Q2. This is what is validated. There are some discussions which are ongoing with the GSE team and even with Abdalmonem also, but nothing concrete for the moment.

So yes, the first one is already done. The second activity is something that I'm planning an awareness session that I'm planning to take with the developer community here in Benin to talk about universal acceptance, IDNs and EAI, non-ASCII characters, e-mails, etc. that they have to be aware of.

In May, I will be in Ivory Coast normally to attend IGF Ivory Coast, but just before IGF, there'll also be Internet governance school that they're planning to have, so I will also, during the Internet governance school, we have a session with the participants to explain to them what is universal acceptance because like I said, global point on the region is that universal acceptance is something very new for them. So we have to do this outreach to make people understand that we must care about universal acceptance issues.

And during the forum session, we also have a presentation with all the participants coming from various profiles. There'll be developers, technologists, policy advisors as well as the government. So I think

that this will be a very good audience to catch up what is their role in the fight for universal acceptance.

Doing those outreach is something important for me to at least initialize a local interest on the country, on the subject. so after that, we can now plan for a local initiative on the region covering those different countries. And hopefully, in June also, I will be attending AIS in Congo. I've also already applied to be volunteer for EAI workshop during AIS, so I will be in touch with the GSE and with UASG to make this concrete.

These are the plans which are validated already. Like I said, there are some internal discussions ongoing and I will probably update on the go or maybe at Q3 or Q4. Thank you. Next slide, please.

Those are continuous activities that I'll be doing locally here, is to get and compile IT contact details from ministries here in Benin and from key organizations like mobile network operators and big telecom companies also. There are some service providers also, I will get those companies' IT contact details and compile them in a document, and also get in touch with the ministry of ICT in order to prepare an awareness session with them. I'll come back to you probably in the next month with updates on these activities. Next slide, please.

Okay, I think it's okay for me, it's over. I'm available for questions if any there is. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you, Yazid, and let's take any questions or comments for Yazid, or I guess let's open this up for other questions and comments for other people who have spoken on UA ambassadors as well.

PITINAN KOOARMORNPATANA: Thank you, Sarmad. We have one question from Raymond and Winsome about how to become an ambassador. I guess it's already addressed, some of it, in the chat, but in case anyone's [inaudible] give more information on that, perhaps Dr. Ajay.

AJAY DATA: Thank you, Pitinan. Of course, you already said we have addressed this question. However, anybody who's interested to become ambassador, please get in touch with local [GSE team] to guide you further or reach out to UASG.tech website, and there's a UASG ambassador program document you can [inaudible] and also get in touch with existing ambassadors to know the [inaudible] and what is expected.

The most important thing which is required is the passion for universal acceptance and the time to commit around these activities. Ultimately, it's a [very big] effort. So that's, I think, enough for UA ambassador program, and anybody interested can look at the site and apply if required. Thank you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you. We're almost over with the session time. If there's any other last comment or question from anybody—Yazid, you want to come in?

YAZID AKANHO: Yes. Thank you, Satish. I just forget to mention something that might be important for us. I'm planning with Abdalmonem a technical hackathon here in Benin during our next Benin DNS forum, which is dedicated to DNS. So of course, again, we'll come back to you once all those are well planned. But it was something I thought would be interesting to share with you.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you. Thank you all for joining the session, and thank you to all the presenters for keeping time and sharing your updates. It's great to learn details about your activity. Dr. Data, would you want to make a last comment and then close?

AJAY DATA: Thank you very much for joining this initiative which is for all of us, which is going to make an impact in every region, every life and bring lots of people online. Thank you very much for joining. Looking forward to see you all, or some of you, tomorrow again. Thank you very much. Goodbye.

EN

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Thank you. Bye. We'll close the session now. We can stop the recording.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

ICANN 67
VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM
7–12 March 2020