DNS Entrepreneurship Center in Egypt – DNS-EC

NTRA-ICANN Partnership

Background

ICANN Engagement Strategies for Middle East and Africa both identified:

- The need to grow the domain name industry ecosystem in both regions

- The need to develop local expertise in DNS technical, policy, and entrepreneurial areas

Internet Ecosystem in Egypt (Dec13)

- Population: ~84 million (+8 million abroad)
- Young population: 25% between the age of 18-29
- Facebook (Mar13): 13 Million users (largest in Africa – 20th worldwide)
- Mobile broadband: 3.9 million subscribers
- ADSL: 2.63 million subscribers
- Internet users: 38.75 million users
- Mobile Subscribers: 99.7 million subscribers

DNS market in Egypt (to-date)

- Domain name registrations under .eg: 9,000
- IDN registrations under مصر. : 3,255
- No ICANN accredited registrars
- No gTLDs submissions from the country
- Involved in 2 new gTLDs applications through the League of Arab States

The Project

- Establish a DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC) to foster DNS sector in Africa and the Middle East

- Partners: The National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority of Egypt (NTRA) and ICANN

- Location: Egypt

Why Egypt

- Bridge between Africa and the Middle East
- One of the largest Internet markets in Africa and the Middle East
- Richness of skilled human resources
- Influential voice in global Internet Governance fora and long time supporter for multi-stakeholder approach

NTRA/ICANN Partnership

- ICANN will support the establishment of the center by providing expertise necessary to develop local capacities

- NTRA will oversee the project and invite relevant local parties to contribute to its implementation

Scope

- Foster the DNS sector
- Develop related industries
- Provide 3 main services
  - Professional training and capacity building
  - Consultancy services
  - Technical operations

Professional Training and Capacity Building

- Develop and certify local expertise
  - In DNS **technical** operations of registries and registrars
  - In domain name **policies**
  - In domain name **business** aspects
- Improve basic DNS awareness and education for policy makers and law enforcement
- Help in making DNS informational material available in key languages in Africa and the Middle East
- Lend expertise to Africa and the Middle East to support the DNS industry in the region

Consultancy Services

- Provide consultancy
  - In domain names technical operations
  - In DNS registries and registrars business
  - For future gTLD applications
  - In DNSSEC and other DNS security related issues
  - In setting of domain names policies
- Assist in creation of:
  - Local registrars
  - ICANN accredited registrars
  - Future gTLD registries
- Provide consultancy services in Africa and the Middle East

Technical Operations

Take lead in:

- Developing Egypt's DNS infrastructure
- Revamping Egypt's ccTLDs (.eg - مصر.)

Project Phases

- Launch Phase (June 2014)
  - Partnership announcement
  - Signing of MoU
- Phase I: Startup (1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015)
  - Create program targeting to train and provide calibers in the different DNS related tracks
  - Program's graduates will be the nucleus working force of the Center

Project Phases

- Phase II: Training and Consultancy (1 July 2015 – 30 June 2017)

  – Create training programs and certification

  – Introduce work track on providing national and regional consultancy in the field of DNS

- Phase III: Technical Operation (Ongoing)

Work Underway & Next Steps

- Finalize project document
- Reach out to potential partners and discuss possible roles
- Finalize details of Phase I in relation to training programs, selection criteria for trainees, timelines, etc.
- Raise awareness among local stakeholders and seek support from industry
- Sign MoU at ICANN 50, London

Thank You