



# ICANN NEW DELHI 2008 MEETING

## INTRODUCTION

The 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of ICANN took place in New Delhi, India, between 10 and 15 February 2008. The .za DNA General Manager, Vika Mpisane, attended the meeting with Lucky Masilela, a .za DNA Board member.

The overall organisation of the meeting was impressive, with the generosity of both the National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and .in (India's ccTLD), the event organizers, being very visible throughout the event.

## 1. ICANN STRUCTURES MEETINGS

As usual, meetings took place in various ICANN structures, including ccNSO, gNSO, ALAC and GAC.

### 1.1 ccNSO

Around 40 ccTLDs attended ccNSO meeting, and the overall impression was that the ccNSO, as an ICANN supporting organisation, is growing stronger and that is a result of the hard work of its Secretariat, under the coordination of Gabriella Schitteck.

Chris Disspain, the ccNSO Chair and auDA CEO, formally welcomed .za DNA as ccNSO's latest member.

A number of ccTLD gave presentations, and these included:

- .IN (India) – Rajesh Agarwal
- .NL (Netherlands) – Bart Vastenburg
- .KR (Korea) – Han Sang Lee
- .RS (Russia) – Slobodan Markovic
- .JP (Japan) – Hiro Hota
- .UK (United Kingdom) – Lesley Cowley

Updates were also given by regional ccTLD organisations, including AfTLD (Africa), CENTR (Europe), LACTLD (Latin America & Caribbean), and APTLD (Asia-Pacific). The .za DNA General Manager gave an update on behalf of AfTLD. Of particular importance was the fact that AfTLD had opened up for formal membership for African ccTLDs and that the response from the region's ccTLDs was positive.

## **1.2 gNSO**

Amongst the key things reported by the gNSO was that a draft communications plan for the new gTLD process had been completed and would be reviewed based on inputs received from ICANN New Delhi meeting. It also reported that an operational risk assessment or readiness review was underway as part of preparing for new gTLD applications.

It also reported that it was in a process of contracting a service provider to help with drafting certain provisions relating to technical and business evaluation criteria. A draft new gTLD application evaluation map had already been completed.

## **1.3 GAC**

As usual, the Government Advisory Council (GAC) met the earliest (from 10 February) and their agenda focused, amongst other things, on the Joint Partnership Agreement between ICANN and the US government, and on IDNs. It seems the general feeling amongst attendants was that the ICANN JPA submission to the US Department of Commerce should be supported.

## **2. KEY TOPICS**

### **2.1 Joint Partnership Agreement**

The Joint Partnership Agreement between ICANN and the US government was under review by the latter leading to the ICANN New Delhi meeting. The ICANN Board had already made its submissions, making it clear that it was time for ICANN to operate independently of the US government's oversight.

The JPA is set to expire in 2009 and it is high time that ICANN should now operate independently of the US government. A fair way forward will be for ICANN to account to a certain UN structure, ideally the Internet Governance Forum, although this Forum still has a lot to do to make a meaningful impact in Internet governance.

Further, accountability lines for the ICANN Board still needs revisited and carefully re-defined particularly as ICANN seeks to be independent from the USG.

### **2.2 IDN progress report**

The testing of IDN TLDs had gone well, but it became clear that as much as there was generally a consensus in favour of fast-tracking the implementation of IDNs, there were still different views on how this should be done.

### **2.3 New gTLDs**

There was a growing interest in the new gTLD projects. This was because more and more organisations are interested in applying for new gTLDs, and it became clear that the ICANN staff needed to prepare very well for the next round of gTLD applications.

## **2.4 DNSSec**

The work of improving DNSSec is continuing. The ccNSO survey had shown that while the majority of ccTLDs were yet to implement DNSSec, there was keen interest in learning more about it and in implementing in the next few years.

IANA reported to the ccNSO that it had commenced what it called a test bed of DNSSec signed Root Zone.

## **3. IANA UPDATE**

As usual, Olivier Guillard (.FR & Chair of IANA Working Group) gave an update about IANA's work. The important part of the presentation was the report written by the ccNSO-IANA Working Group on DNSSec implementation. The report provided a checklist of what ccTLDs should consider if they want to implement DNSSec.

The work of automating the IANA service had also proven successful and stable over time. IANA reported that it was implementing a software (RZM) developed by ICANN & NASK to automate and improve the performance of Root Zone Changes.

Barbara Roseman of IANA also reported that IANA had now implemented IPv6 to 6 of the 13 root servers. There was consequently a small increase of the load on root servers, and IANA was still trying to identify any arising problems. She requested more volunteers to test the IANA system.

Verisign reported that Root Server could now be queried via native IPv6, and that it had added AAAA records to their A and J root servers.

## **4. ICANN MEETINGS**

A discussion took place within the ccNSO regarding the frequency of ICANN meetings and where the meetings should be held. The general consensus was that 3 ICANN meetings a year were sufficient, but there clearly was no common view on whether the meetings should continue being held in various places or be held in one country. There is a possibility of this discussion continuing at next ICANN meeting in Paris.

## **5. OVERALL IMPRESSION**

ICANN New Delhi managed to carry on with eagerness from the ICANN LA 2007 meeting. The key issues dominating the ICANN agenda going into ICANN Paris 2008 will continue to be the new gTLD process, IDNs and DNSSec.

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