



# ICANN MEXICO 2009 MEETING

## INTRODUCTION

The 34<sup>th</sup> ICANN meeting took place in Mexico City from 1 to 6 March 2009. This meeting was well-attended with an estimated total of around 1200 delegates and a strong presence of the Mexican internet community.

The meeting, as usual was hosted by ICANN and the local host was the Mexican Internet Association (AMIPCI). It was opened by Vice Minister of Communications of Mexico, Gariela Hernandez. He highlighted the positive impact that information technologies have had on Mexico's productivity, competitiveness, and the living conditions of ordinary people.

## 1. INTERNET SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Like the preceding ICANN Cairo meeting in October 2008, the ICANN Mexico meeting was preceded an important training for ccTLDs in "Attack and Contingency Response Planning" in Cairo. The event was primarily attended by the Latin and South American ccTLDs, and was hailed as a success in making ccTLDs more robust.

## 2. KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### 2.1 New gTLDs

As usual, the issue of new gTLDs continued to be the hot potato in Mexico, and my impression was that while it is still marred by uncertainties, ICANN had done to commission studies on competition and pricing, and the issue of registry-registrar separation for the new gTLDs.

I was impressed to see that both the ccNSO and GAC were cautiously supportive of a transparent new gTLD process. A particular concern remains with the costs involved in applying for new gTLDs, as the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook was said to stating an application of around U\$135, 000. Views were expressed in various ICANN organisations' meetings that this amount would discourage participation by businesses in developing countries.

There was an interesting round table discussion on 2 March about new gTLDs. It became clear that the issue of city gTLDs needed to be clarified as it was not clear how

ICANN would ensure that government approval and support would be obtained by those applying for city gTLDs. Trademark issues also continued to be a thorny issue.

The ICANN Board subsequently approved the establishment of a new gTLD Implementation Recommendation Team (IRT) to look at trademark protection issues. The IRT is comprised of diverse international participants and is expected to table recommendations for discussion leading to ICANN Sydney.

More information on new gTLDs can be accessed at <http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtld-program.htm>.

## **2.2 IDN progress report**

IDN ccTLDs continued to be another burning issue as the ccNSO discussed the matter in detail in consultation with GAC. A revised implementation plan was discussed. At the close of the ccNSO meeting, the ccNSO Council approved the resolution to have ICANN deal with the introduction of IDN ccTLDs applications the same way it deals with usual ccTLDs.

A revised implementation plan will be released before the ICANN Sydney meeting based on the inputs from Mexico, and will be discussed further. My impression is that the ccNSO Council resolution will help in making the IDN fast-track a really fast-tracked process beyond ICANN Sydney.

More information on this is available at <http://icann.org/topics/idn>.

## **2.3 Improving Institutional Confidence (IIC)**

Following the initial discussions at ICANN Paris and ICANN Cairo, the Mexico meeting discussed IIC further. The ICANN President's Strategy Committee released its draft Implementation Plan (for information purposes) on how to improve ICANN institutional confidence ahead of the conclusion of the Joint Project Agreement (JPA) in September 2009.

It is hoped that the ICANN Sydney meeting will see the ICANN organisations and Board make firm resolutions as the JPA would be due to expire in 3 months' time.

## **3. OTHER DEVELOPMENTS**

Other particular discussions took place about the following:

- (a) Independent reviews of the ICANN Board and the ICANN supporting organisations as required by the ICANN bylaws.
- (b) Business access meetings between ICANN and business leaders with an aim of encouraging business' participation in ICANN processes.

- (c) ALAC Summit that had the global civil society discuss important ICANN issues (new gTLDs and IDNs) and other Internet governance issues in detail.

## **OVERALL IMPRESSION**

*Written by:*

*Vika Mpisane  
General Manager  
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