

**From:** "Victor Wilson" <victor@zadna.org.za>  
**Subject:** [DNA Board] ICANN meeting report  
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**To:** "Board" <board@zadna.org.za>  
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Report on ICANN Luxembourg meeting 2005-07-11/15  
<http://www.icann.org/meetings/luxembourg/>

wwTLD <http://www.wwtld.org/meetings/ccTLD/20050710.Luxembourg-documents.html>

The wwTLD meeting is not an official part of the ICANN programme. It is strongly supported by CENTR <http://www.centr.org/> which is a formal organization with an office, employees and membership fees. The wwTLD presentations and discussions were useful. Calvin Browne made a presentation on Registry, Registrar, Registrant relationships. Victor Wilson and Calvin jointly prepared a presentation on the Bad Glue issue but there was no time in the programme for it. A highlight was the session on dispute resolution. Consult the website for the presentations.

ccNSO <http://www.ccnsso.org/> or <http://ccnsso.icann.org/> (different)  
<http://www.icann.org/meetings/luxembourg/ccnsso-agenda.html>

In contrast to the one day wwTLD meeting, the two day ccNSO meeting was generally a waste of time. The ccNSO is a formal Supporting Organization in ICANN. While the GNSO has all the gTLD registries as its members, the ccNSO is fussing about (a) how to make more than the present small number of ccTLD registries join and (b) detailed changes to long and complicated by-laws which are unacceptable to significant potential members such as .uk and .de.

Victor has written up his comments and suggestions in a message to the chair, Chris Disspain. Basically they are that inclusion in the root zone should imply automatic membership and that mechanisms to "sponsor" members who are unable to contribute or participate should be found.

Two of the agenda items were "Accountability Frameworks" and "ccTLD Budget contribution and Apportionment models for ccTLD fees to ICANN".

The Accountability Frameworks cover obligations of ICANN and ccTLD to each other including payment. There is not yet consensus on the wording. One of the big issues is how to deal with disputes including arbitration, binding arbitration, and the jurisdiction. Costs of legal action in California make views on the last quite emotional.

The services being paid for have been grouped as: IANA services, Operational (including admin support), and self governance (including ICANN management, ombudsman, outreach etc). Debate: Can ccTLDs choose which services they want to pay for? - unresolved. What about members as opposed to non members paying?

ICANN intends to obtain revenue from ccTLDs as well as gTLDs. There are various working groups.

1. Budget advisory group (BAG): Determine costs of ICANN
2. Budget contribution working group: Determine how much ICANN can charge ccTLDs as a whole.
3. Apportionment working group: Determine how much each ccTLD should contribute. Would be helpful to know output of BCWG.

In a presentation to the GAC and in personal conversation, Paul Twomey confirmed that the formula used in his recent letter for dividing the contribution amount between ccTLDs was the same as last year (and probably the same as the year before). He is somewhat irritated that the ccNSO has not yet completed work on apportionment.

#### ICANN operations

In some respects there are similarities between ICANN and .za DNA. For example, strategy and budgeting processes for an organization which is driven by community input. At the Public Forum, questions of remuneration for Board members (some of whom put in up to 40 hours per week) arose. Vint Cerf responded that you could not pay him enough to join the Board and then cut the discussion short.

There was also a discussion of management of conflict of interest. ICANN has a Board committee for the subject. We are not unique in debating what level of detail should be minuted. There was much criticism of the process of negotiating the .net contract with Verisign. It is tough being an ICANN Board member.

#### WSIS/WGIG

With the report of the WGIG due to be released the next week, there was much interest in what its content would be. The presentation made by the WGIG was quite informative. There is still an opportunity to comment before Prepcom 3.

#### IDN

A lot of work is being done in the whole ICANN community on support of names in character sets other than 7-bit ASCII. The need is greatest for scripts such as Chinese, Korean, Arabic, etc, but also relevant for support of accented characters as used in Afrikaans and Northern Sotho. At about the end of last year, ways of abusing Internationalised Domain Names to perpetrate fraud were discovered. A solution to that involving constraining names to be from one script has been recommended. Other threats and best practices will be learned as deployment grows.

This report makes two recommendations to the .za Board.

1. There is no immediate need to define language tables for the .za domain. Constraining registrants to use unaccented letters only is not a serious restriction and certainly promotes interoperability.
2. Registries should prepare to support IDNs. This implies that certain strings such as double hyphen should be restricted.

As the standards stabilise and implementation experience grows, the registries can choose which scripts to accept.

General

Apart from the meetings, many of which are minuted or transcribed on line, there is considerable value in the contacts made and personal discussions with other attendees. Future attendees should not, however, consider it essential to attend the Board meeting (Friday) or even the Public Forum (Thursday). On the other hand, the wwTLD meeting on the Sunday is not to be missed. (All assuming that the programme stays more or less the same for future meetings.)

Richard Heath and Victor Wilson  
Luxembourg  
2005-07-14.

Regards,  
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