



Special Sydney Edition

ICANN's 35th international public meeting was the second of three meetings held annually to conduct policy development and outreach. It was hosted by ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), AusRegistry International, operator of Australia's dot-au register, and auDA (.au Domain Administration), the policy authority and industry self-regulatory body for the dot-au domain space.

The meeting was opened by New South Wales' premier Nathan Rees, and Senator Stephen Conroy, Minister for Broadband Communications and the Digital Economy.

Premier Rees spoke about the impact and importance of the digital revolution, the important role that ICANN plays with the Internet, and the possibilities that new generic top-level domains will

open up.

Senator Conroy spoke about the Australian government's plan to build a high-speed broadband network connecting everyone in the country, using fiber to reach 90 percent of homes and businesses, and wireless and satellite technology to reach the remaining 10 percent.

There were 1,054 attendees to the conference from 106 different countries. The largest group came from the United States (286), followed by local hosts Australia (224). The participants engaged in a wide range of discussions about the Internet's domain name system and related issues.

ICANN's next international public meeting will take place in Seoul, South Korea, beginning on 25 October 2009.

So, what happened in Sydney and what are the next steps?

Many meetings, workshops, public forums and informal discussions were held over seven days by the different stakeholders of the ICANN model:

- Business interests
- Civil society – including the At-Large Summit of individual Internet user representatives
- Governments and government agencies
- Internet service providers
- Registrants
- Registrars
- Registries
- The technical community

Several key issues and themes evolved over the course of the meeting. They are summarized below.

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Further information about the meeting, including presentations and transcripts, is available at <http://syd.icann.org/>.

Links

Policy update:

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/policy/>

Compliance newsletter:

<http://www.icann.org/en/compliance/newsletter/>

Monthly magazine:

<http://www.icann.org/en/magazine/>

Blog:

<http://blog.icann.org/>

Announcements:

<http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/>



New gTLDs

WHAT HAPPENED

The four “overarching issues” that need to be addressed before the introduction of new top-level domains were the focal point of the meeting. Those four issues are: trademark protection; malicious conduct; security and stability; and demand and economic analysis – more details on each below.

There was also a more general update session on the new gTLD program on the Monday morning that outlined the most recent documents and changes made to the overarching issues following the second public comment period of the Applicant Guidebook.

Trademark Protection

The issue of how to protect trademarks in the event of a massive expansion in the domain name space was the most visible of the four overarching issues.

The authors of a report (IRT report) that proposed a number of solutions to the issue outlined their findings in numerous sessions and received feedback from the community. A main session on Wednesday afternoon also addressed the issue.

Three suggestions were the center of most of the debate: the creation of a globally protected marks list, where

a trademark registered across the world was given special rights to block domain registrations with that trademark in; an IP clearinghouse, where trademark holders are able to submit their information once in a common format and it be used across all gTLDs; and a uniform rapid suspension (URS) process that would enable a domain to be suspended if its registrant did not respond to a trademark holder’s request within a specific time period.

Malicious Conduct

A session on Wednesday afternoon addressed the concern that a large expansion of the domain name space will present new opportunities for abuse of the DNS, such as phishing, malware, the distribution of illegal content, and so on.

The broad concern is that with a large number of new companies entering the domain name market – both registries and registrars – that there will not be sufficient awareness of the problems of dealing with the criminal element online. As a result, there is an effort underway to find the best solution to pre-empt future problems without introducing unnecessary controls.

Security and Stability

A session on Wednesday focused on the Security, Stability and Resiliency Plan for ICANN as an organization, which was recently put out for public comment.

Demand and Economic Analysis

Two economic analysis reports were published a few weeks prior to the Sydney meeting and a special session held on the Monday to cover, in particular, the issue of registry-registrar separation.

ICANN introduced the registrar market shortly after its inception in order to produce greater competition in the domain name system. The approach was effective, reducing the cost of domain names to the user and greatly increasing consumer choice. With the expansion of the domain name space, however, the community has been reviewing whether the existing system where registrars and registries are kept strictly apart remains the optimal approach.

NEXT STEPS

Feedback from the meeting, as well as comments sent to recent comment periods covering both revised excerpts of the Applicant Guidebook and papers related to the overarching issues, will



be used to produce a third version of the guidebook for the Seoul meeting in October.

The first applications for new generic top-level domains are expected to be received in the first quarter of 2010.

MORE INFORMATION

The new gTLD program webpage contains the latest information as well as extensive background information on the whole process:

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtld-program.htm>

Trademark Protection and Malicious Conduct session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/3788>

Security, stability and resiliency session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/4234>

Economic analysis session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/4237/>

Economic analysis reports:

<http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-06jun09-en.htm>

New gTLD update session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/3902>

IDN & IDN Fast Track

WHAT HAPPENED

A session on the Monday afternoon gave the latest information and updates on the IDN Fast Track process.

The session focused on the ongoing implementation efforts of the Fast Track and covered details such as the application process, the relationship between the IDN ccTLD managers and ICANN, financial contributions, and IDN Tables and variant management.

In terms of documentation, the latest version of the Implementation Plan was published prior to the meeting, as well

as three papers that identified open issues where further input from the community is needed. A public comment process was opened prior to the meeting and closed on 15 July.

An introductory session to IDNs was also given on the Sunday before the meeting.

NEXT STEPS

Feedback from the meeting, as well as comments sent to the public comment period on the Implementation Plan and papers will be used to produce a revised version of the Implementation Plan.

Remaining tasks include: production of an online application form; IDNA implementation; finalizing the evaluation process; formation of a stability panel; and finalizing a linguistic process.

The aim is to finalize the Implementation Plan in time for the Seoul meeting in October.

MORE INFORMATION

The Fast Track webpage contains the latest information on the process as well as extensive background information:

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/>

[fast-track/](#)

You can also view the broader IDN program webpage at:

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/idn/>

Monday Fast Track session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/4076>

Fast Track implementation plan public comment period:

<http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/public-comment-200907.html#fast-track>

IDN introductory session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/3747>

Operating Plan and Budget for FY2010

WHAT HAPPENED

The Operating Plan and Budget was outlined during a Monday session, concluding six months of work and repeated community consultation. The budget was approved by the Board during its public meeting on the Friday.

In broad terms, the budget expects revenue of \$63.6 million, with operating expenses of \$54.4 million (a 4.9 percent growth over 2009 and in line with a promise not to grow more than five percent). There will be a contribu-

tion to the reserve of \$4.9 million.

Full details of where ICANN will spend the money and where it comes from were outlined during the session and are also available on line.

NEXT STEPS

Now the Operating Plan and Budget is approved, ICANN will shortly begin its Strategic Plan process until January. The Strategic Plan will then be used to create the Operating Plan and Budget for FY2011.

There will be several periods of public comment during the process for community input and review, all of which will be announced on the front page of the ICANN website.

MORE INFORMATION

The Financial webpage contains full information about ICANN's budget as well as links to other resources: <http://www.icann.org/en/general/financial.html>

Monday session on the Operating Plan and Budget: <http://syd.icann.org/node/3809>



HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Visit the Public Participation Site and let us know what you think about the current issues.

If you care about the Internet and how it evolves, your voice will only be heard if you get involved.

DNSSEC Interim Solution

WHAT HAPPENED

A few weeks before the start of the Sydney meeting, ICANN outlined an interim solution for digitally signing the root zone. The solution sees ICANN working with the US government and VeriSign to help secure the domain

name system through the use of the DNSSEC protocol.

A session was held on Wednesday that went through that solution as well as through broader issues with respect to the rollout and use of DNSSEC.

NEXT STEPS

ICANN will work with the US Department of Commerce and VeriSign on the interim solution with the goal of a signed root zone as soon as feasible in 2009.

MORE INFORMATION

Announcement of interim solution: <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-03jun09-en.htm>

DNSSEC session: <http://syd.icann.org/node/3791>

Improving Institutional Confidence (IIC)

WHAT HAPPENED

A report that provided detailed proposals following the year-long improving institutional confidence (IIC) consultation was published prior to the Sydney meeting for review.

The report was the focus of a session on Wednesday. Two proposals in particular were the focus of attention, both requiring bylaw changes. One would allow the community to request

review of a Board decision through a majority vote, and the second would establish an independent review body for Board decision.

Other changes, including looking for ways to improve participation across Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, a staff code of conduct, and the production of executive summaries of documents, were highlighted in a number of Board resolutions on the Friday.

NEXT STEPS

The proposed bylaw amendments have been put out for public comment until 25 September. The other changes will be developed by either staff, the CEO, or a new Board-GAC working group and put out to the community for review.

MORE INFORMATION

Information about the documents, the public comment periods, the regional meetings and the Implementation Plan

can be found on dedicated IIC webpages at:

<http://www.icann.org/en/jpa/iic/>

Wednesday IIC session:

<http://syd.icann.org/node/3871>

Public comment period on bylaw changes:

<http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/public-comment-200909.html#iic-bylaws>

Joint AC/SO Meeting

WHAT HAPPENED

Representatives of ICANN's Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations, as well as ICANN Chief Operating Officer Doug Brent met to discuss issues of joint interest.

A single-page summary of the event was produced the next day and discussed within the different groups during the week.

Broadly, the meeting concluded that there was significant frustration and exhaustion due to the volume of work. A lack of visibility of the impact that volunteer input has on decision making, particularly for Board decisions, was also highlighted.

Other issues raised included: that the purpose, roles and responsibilities of volunteers, staff and Board are not clear; levels of trust are low; the Board

operates at too operational a level; and the current processes are not scalable, particularly as the organization continues to grow and internationalize.

Possible solutions to these issues were also discussed and included: prioritization of the workload; better scoping of issues at the start of policy processes; improved accessibility to issues by providing summaries; and improved contact between groups.

NEXT STEPS

The meeting summary will be posted for community review and discussion and use to inform further discussions at all levels of the organization in an effort to find and implement solutions to the issues raised.

MORE INFORMATION

The ACSO session:
<http://syd.icann.org/node/3808>

New Board Members & CEO

Two new Board members took their seats at Sydney, and a new CEO for the organization was named.

Ray Plzak and Mike Silber joined the Board, replacing Demi Getschko and Dave Wodelet. Rod Beckstrom was named as the new CEO and replaced

Paul Twomey, who will stay on in the role of Senior President until the end of 2009.

The Board webpage provides more information:
<http://www.icann.org/en/general/board.html>

Board Resolutions

The full set of Board Resolutions at the public meeting on Friday can be found online at <http://www.icann.org/minutes/resolutions-26jun09.htm>.

A transcript of the meeting can be found at: <http://syd.icann.org/files/meetings/sydney2009/transcript-board-meeting-26jun09-en.txt>

A short summary of resolutions is given below.

Board minutes highlights

- 2010 budget and operating plan approved.
- A ban on the use of redirection of DNS records for all gTLD registries i.e. registries won't be allowed to display anything but an error message if someone types in a domain name that hasn't been registered.
- A new working group of the Board and GAC to review the GAC's role within ICANN.

- The publication of two proposed bylaw amendments to improve accountability: one to allow the community to vote for a review of a Board decision; and a second to establish an independent review body.
- A series of initiatives from the Improving Institutional Confidence consultation: look for ways to improve participation across Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees; a staff code of conduct; the production of executive summaries of documents.
- Introduction of a new CEO.
- Staff to work on GNSO stakeholder charters and present them for decision by the Board at its July meeting; the new GNSO Council to be seated in Seoul.
- Staff to produce a new version of the Applicant Guidebook, incorporating feedback from the meet-

- ing where appropriate, in time for the Seoul meeting in October
- Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) and staff to work on new GNSO constituency applications and provide recommendations as soon as practicable; SIC recommendations for the review process – including an expansion of the timeframe for review cycles from three to five years – to be published for public comment.
- Dot-pro registry given permission to allocate single and two-character domains.
- Seoul official chosen for next meeting.
- Working group created to look at the issue of specifications for the internationalization of registration data i.e. allowing for Whois records to be produced in more languages and scripts.

- Charter approved for working group to review ICANN's geographic regions.
- Changes in Board Committee membership.
- Working group for ccNSO review approved.
- Changes to SSAC membership approved.
- Acknowledged receipt of At Large Summit Final Declaration as well as the final report of the ALAC review.
- Thanks to: Paul Twomey for his work as CEO; the local hosts, scribes, interpreters and other people that help the meeting run effectively; the IRT team for their report on trademark protection; the sponsors and community.

Sydney Fellowship Update

Several months ago, a series of articles regarding the Fellowship Program was kicked off, and so far three alumni of the ICANN Fellowship program have had the chance to highlight their particular ICANN journey. Articles like these will continue to show up in the monthly magazine, but I would like to take this month's space to review the ICANN meeting in Sydney, and in particular, what a typical Fellowship week entails.

For the Sydney meeting the fellows were scheduled to arrive by Sunday morning 21 June, in order to get settled and attend a year long tradition of attending a welcome social, in order to meet one another face to face prior to the start of their ICANN work week. In the past, invitees have included selection committee members, NomCom members, ALAC (in the form of a joint gathering in Mexico City), ICANN staff including regional managers who will be able to assist the fellows later on back in their region), and Board members. Fellowship alumni who are attending the meeting are also always invited, as they take on the role of mentor to new fellows and first time meeting attendees during the week and beyond. This is a real ice breaker and

starts everyone off knowing their "classmates", as well as stressing the idea of networking with anyone and everyone as the week progresses.

Monday through Friday, the fellows are required to attend the daily morning session (which is always noted on the overall ICANN schedule); it is a unique aspect of the program in which the participants get personal and in-depth presentations from community members and staff, as well as from attending alumni. The week is customized, depending on the interest and experience level of the selected fellows for each meeting. In Sydney, there were 11 first time meeting fellows, which meant that part of the agenda focused on the basics of the ICANN structure, its Strategic and Operating Plan, and how to create the best experience possible from the ICANN meeting itself, which can be overwhelming to a new comer. The remainder of the week brought: Informal consultations with Janis Karklins and Chris Disspain, regarding the GAC and ccNSO respectively, as part of the charter for the Fellowship Program is outreach and increased participation in these 2 constituencies; an interactive discussion on the new

ICANN Security Plan and a presentation by an alumni, Stephane Bruno, regarding IXP in Haiti; a presentation from the managing author of the new gTLD Applicant Guidebook, Karen Lentz; and presentations regarding NomCom and ISOC. Throughout the week, several alumni and all of the fellows dialoged within their meeting space, shared regional issues, created possible solutions, and found common ground on which to build a strong interface and lasting professional partnerships.

As part of the program week, there are always key workshops and/or presentations that become mandatory for the fellows to attend, in order to broaden their knowledge of ICANN and its mission, and to encourage them to find a place within ICANN that will benefit them, their region and ICANN itself. The fellows are the "building blocks" and it is the goal of the program to provide them with the information base and global networking opportunities they need in order to become part of ICANN's future. Such workshops in Sydney were: Orientation session for new and returning ccTLDs, Introduction to ICANN, DNSSEC, Abuse of the DNS forum, Internet Governance, and Improving Institutional Confidence. As

well, each fellow attends the Public Forum, in which they are encouraged to join the community and lend their voice and opinion, and the Board meeting on Friday.

Following the week of learning, sharing, introductions, presentations, etc., each fellow went home to consider the week's events and experience. Within 2 weeks of the ICANN meeting, each participant is required to provide a report back to ICANN in order to complete the fellowship program. This allows them to reflect and put together a personal and professional plan of action based on the events of the ICANN week, and share with ICANN how they will proceed to put the knowledge and their skills to work for the benefit of the global Internet community.

The ICANN fellows are a diverse, well-educated, motivated, global group of people, who have the desire to grow, learn and participate in their place of business, region and the ICANN community but require the financial support in order to attend meetings and become fully engaged and immersed in the ICANN processes.

Documents Produced for the Sydney Meeting

New gTLDs

- [Applicant Guidebook Public Comment Analysis](#)
- [Guidebook Revised Excerpts](#)
- [Economic Report on gTLD Introduction](#)
- [Competition and Pricing Response](#)
- [Root Server System Scaling Study](#)
- [Trademark Protection \(IRT Final Report\)](#)
- [Overarching Issues Wiki](#)

IDNs

- [Fast Track Implementation Plan](#)
- [IDN Explanatory Memoranda](#)
- [Documentation of Responsibility](#)
- [IDN Tables Development and Usage](#)
- [Financial Contributions](#)
- [Cost Analysis of IDN ccTLDs](#)

Other Documents

- [Improving Institutional Confidence Evaluation](#)
- [Stability and Security Plan](#)
- [Board Review \(2nd Working Group Report\)](#)
- [ALAC Review \(Final Report\)](#)
- [Review Systemization Report](#)
- [Travel Support Guidelines](#)
- [City Top-Level Domain \(CTLD\) Constituency Petition](#)

You can view edited videos of the conference's main events as well as full videos of events in the main ballroom and the ccNSO at:

<http://syd.icann.org/video>

Pictures of the conference can be found at:

<http://www.icann.org/photos/>

August 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 Board Governance Committee Mtg	6	7	8
9	10	11 Board Finance Committee Mtg Board Public Participation Committee Mtg	12 Board Structural Improvements Committee Mtg	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 Board IANA Committee Mtg (Tentative)	26 Board of Directors Mtg	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Board Finance Committee Mtg	9 Board Governance Committee Mtg	10 Board	11	12 Retreat
13	14	15 Board Participation Committee Mtg	16 Board Structural Improvements Committee Mtg	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Board of Directors Mtg			

Upcoming Meetings

- 5 Aug—Board Governance Committee Meeting
- 11 Aug—Board Finance Committee Meeting
- 11 Aug—Board Public Participation Committee Meeting
- 12 Aug—Board Structural Improvements Committee Meeting
- 25 Aug—Board IANA Committee Meeting (Tentative)
- 26 Aug—Board of Directors Meeting
- 8 Sept—Board Finance Committee Meeting
- 9 Sept—Board Governance Committee Meeting
- 10-12 Sept—Board Retreat
- 15 Sept—Board Participation Committee Meeting
- 16 Sept—Board Structural Improvements Committee Meeting
- 30 Sept—Board of Directors Meeting

We Want to Hear From You

If you have a comment about an article you've read, want to know more about a particular topic, are confused about an acronym, or if you would like to submit an Op-Ed article? We invite you to submit your thoughts, ideas, and feedback to us at: Michele.jourdan@icann.org