

TEN YEARS OF ICANN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

2008

MAJOR MILESTONES

2-7 NOVEMBER

Cairo, Egypt
10th annual meeting

- Draft Applicant Guidebook for new gTLDs posted for public comment; first application round expected in 2009
- Draft Implementation Plan for IDN ccTLD fast-track process posted for public comment; implementation expected in 2009
- Improving Institutional Confidence document and revised transition action plan put through next round of discussions
- Proposed inter-registrar transfer policy and amendments to RAA reviewed by Board
- .mobi and .coop requests for single-letter domains at the second level approved
- A total of 945 registrars with ICANN accreditation, representing 163 million registered domain names and 1.4 billion Internet users
- 9 accountability frameworks or exchanges of letters signed between ICANN and ccTLD operators this year
- Second business access agenda draws larger numbers from business community
- 89 applications for fellowships submitted; 30 fellows attend

22-26 JUNE

Paris, France

- ICANN Board approved staff to proceed drawing up implementation plan for new gTLD process
- IDN ccTLD fast-track moves into implementation planning
- New mechanisms to slow domain tasting introduced, resulting in 85% drop in this activity through the end of 2008
- PIR proposal to implement DNSSEC in .org approved
- Board approves vast majority of recommendations for reforming its main policy body, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
- President's Strategy Committee recommendations for post-JPA transition plan and Improving Institutional Confidence released for public comment
- Dedicated business access agenda added to schedule
- 131 applications submitted for fellowships; 15 fellows attend

10-15 FEBRUARY

New Delhi, India

- New Accountability and Transparency Frameworks adopted by Board
- GNSO improvements report posted for public comment following independent review
- SSAC submits reports on domain-name front running, fast flux, DNSSEC, and Whois
- First general assembly of the Asia-Pacific Regional At Large Organization (APRALO) is held
- IDNC working group provides initial report on introducing IDN ccTLDs
- ICANN pledges to deploy IPv6 across ICANN's infrastructure by mid-2009
- 67 applications submitted for fellowships; 18 fellows attend

29 OCTOBER – 2 NOVEMBER

*Los Angeles,
California, USA
9th annual meeting*

- IDNC Working Group established
- 18 accountability frameworks or exchanges of letters signed between ICANN and ccTLD operators in 2007
- ICANN signs agreements with Inter-American Telecommunication Commission of the Organization of American States (CITEL) and the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organization (CTO)
- Review of five ICANN geographic regions begins
- GNSO submits recommendations for implementation of new gTLDs to Board for review
- .museum proposal approved
- Vint Cerf steps down as chairman and is replaced by Peter Dengate Thrush
- Global fellowships program draws 167 applications and 23 attendees

25–29 JUNE

San Juan, Puerto Rico

- ICANN unveils system to try out 11 new IDN test suffixes in Arabic, Persian, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Greek, Korean, Yiddish, Japanese and Tamil; adaptation of most major Internet browsers to the Punycode character translation system is expected by year-end
- Domain name registration fee drops to under \$10, a significant drop from the more than \$50 per name charged in 1998
- North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) forms, completing the restructure of the At Large supporting organization
- Global fellowships program begun in May draws 125 applications and 31 attendees in San Juan

26–30 MARCH

Lisbon, Portugal

- The application for a .xxx top-level domain is rejected by the Board
- The President announces a review of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA)
- Agreements signed with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) to conduct outreach to governments and local Internet communities
- Regional At Large Organizations formed for Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe
- RSSAC and SSAC report on adding AAAA records for IPv6 address records to the root

TEN YEARS OF ICANN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

2006

MAJOR MILESTONES

2-8 DECEMBER

São Paulo, Brazil
8th annual meeting

- Joint Project Agreement signed by ICANN and US Government
- Testing of Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) begins
- First Regional At Large Organization (RALO) agreement signed with Latin America
- New system of accountability frameworks and exchanges of letters between ICANN and ccTLD operators results in 18 such agreements signed this year

26-30 JUNE

Marrakech, Morocco

- Generic and sponsored gTLDs are readied for implementation: cat, jobs, mobi, travel, tel, and asia
- Global Internet users top one billion, not counting Internet-enabled mobile devices

25-31 MARCH

Wellington, New Zealand

- Over 33,000 domain name disputes handled by ICANN dispute resolution providers involving 40,000 to 50,000 domain names
- Number of registrars grows to 850; number of domain names registered exceeds 100 million
- Board requests recommendations for amendments to the proposed sTLD registry agreement for .xxx to address potential registrant violations of the sponsor's policies
- SSAC submits report on alternative TLD name systems and roots
- SSAC submits report on DNS distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks on TLD and root name system operators
- 2006-2009 Strategic Plan approved and adopted

2005

MAJOR MILESTONES

30 NOVEMBER - 4 DECEMBER

Vancouver, Canada
7th annual meeting

- ICANN opens strategic planning to public; articulates priorities and goals for the next three years
- ICANN recognizes AfriNIC as Regional Internet Registry
- Two new President's Committees formed to cover overall organizational strategy and IANA

11-15 JULY

Luxembourg City, Luxembourg

- ICANN and IDN leading registries revise IDN guidelines

4-8 APRIL

Mar del Plata, Argentina

- IPv4 global allocation policy adopted
- Proposed sTLD agreements for .jobs and .travel approved; other new sTLD applications for .asia, .mail, .tel (x2), and .xxx still under consideration

2004

MAJOR MILESTONES

1–5 DECEMBER

Cape Town, South Africa
6th annual meeting

- ICANN Strategic Plan posted for public comment
- Final .net RFP posted for public comment
- NRO takes over role of ASO with respect to policy issues relating to the operation, assignment and management of Internet addresses
- WIPO II recommendations taken under consideration
- ICANN Core Principles and Corporate Governance Guidelines posted for public comment
- First ICANN Ombudsman appointed

19–23 JULY

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

- Registry/Registrar request for extension to implement extensible provisioning protocol approved
- Board receives SSAC report on redirection in the .com and .net domains
- President's Advisory Committee on IDNs established

2–6 MARCH

Rome, Italy

- Formation of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) approved

2003

MAJOR MILESTONES

27–31 OCTOBER

Carthage, Tunisia
5th annual meeting

- .info redemption grace period approved
- .pro second-level registration offering approved
- GNSO Council adopts domain deletion policy
- Board seeks community input into development of new gTLD strategy and process
- "SiteFinder" case, and ICANN reform discussions

22–26 JUNE

Montreal, Canada

- IDN Guidelines v1.0, which are committed to by the cn, info, jp, org, and tw registries in their IDN operations
- ICANN begins authorizing certain registries to deploy IDNs according to guideline provisions
- Formation of the ccNSO approved

23–27 MARCH

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- Board adopts four consensus-policy recommendations of the GNSO Council's Whois task force on Whois data accuracy
- Board Governance Committee established
- Draft IDN implementation approach approved

TEN YEARS OF ICANN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

2002

MAJOR MILESTONES

14–15 DECEMBER

Amsterdam, Netherlands
4th annual meeting

- Board Evolution and Reform Committee formed
- Development begins for introducing a limited number of new sponsored gTLDs

27–31 OCTOBER

Shanghai, China

- ICANN approves first UDRP dispute resolution provider in Asia Pacific region
- ICANN recognizes LACNIC as Regional Internet Registry

24–28 JUNE

Bucharest, Romania

- Evolution and reform issues discussed include:
 - Devise specific measures to ensure geographic and cultural diversity in all parts of ICANN structure
 - Consider the creation of an At Large Advisory Committee for informed participation in ICANN by the broad user community
 - Ensure that the Nominating Committee represents a balance among all Internet communities
 - Collaborate with critical infrastructure providers and the technical community on effective working relationships
 - Ensure that ICANN's PDPs enhance and promote a transparent bottom-up process
- Redemption Grace Period added to registry agreement

10–14 MARCH

Accra, Ghana

- Evolution and Reform and Committee's work plan discussed
- Security committee charter approved
- LACNIC application and transition plan discussed

2001

MAJOR MILESTONES

12–15 NOVEMBER

*Marina del Rey,
California, USA
3rd annual meeting*

- IDN committee formed and receives charter
- At-Large Study Committee issues final report presented to Board

7–10 SEPTEMBER

Montevideo, Uruguay

- Proof of concept gTLDs implemented to meet growth and specialization demands of Internet community: aero, biz, coop, info, museum, name, pro
- Process for geographic and geopolitical names in .info opened to further discussion

1–4 JUNE

Stockholm, Sweden

- Registrar application and accreditation fees revised
- Policies developed for the approval of additional Regional Internet Registries
- DNSO charged with formulating transition plan for .org from VeriSign to another registry
- New TLD evaluation process planning task force formed

9–13 MARCH

Melbourne, Australia

- Board begins review of agreements for four unsponsored top-level domains (.biz, .info, .name, and .pro)
- ccTLD–ICANN meetings in Honolulu, Geneva, and Melbourne bring the ccTLD community closer to consensus on appropriate agreements with ICANN
- Stuart Lynn becomes CEO
- Task force formed to develop consensus policies for the implementation of IDNs, especially:
 - IDN standardization and testbed deployment
 - Intellectual property considerations in IDNs
 - Public education and outreach on IDNs

TEN YEARS OF ICANN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

2000

MAJOR MILESTONES

13–16 NOVEMBER

*Marina del Rey,
California, USA*
2nd annual meeting

- Major agenda items for public forum are selection of new TLDs, and study of At Large membership
- Board selects seven new TLDs
- 24 new registrars receive ICANN accreditation, bringing total to 159
- First ICANN financial statements published
- Several experimental IDN testbeds in operation or announced
- Esther Dyson steps down as Chairman and is replaced by Vint Cerf

13–17 JULY

Yokohama, Japan

- CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution approved as a UDRP provider
- DNSO Names Council recommendations on new top level domains
- 11 new registrars receive ICANN accreditation, bringing total to 135
- At-large membership registration exceeds 158,000 internet users worldwide

7–10 MARCH

Cairo, Egypt

- ICANN and IETF sign agreement setting out technical work to be done by IANA on behalf of the IETF and IAB
- Board authorizes recruitment of permanent CEO

1–4 NOVEMBER

*Los Angeles,
California, USA
1st annual meeting*

- Esther Dyson elected Chairman of the Board, with Pindar Wong as Vice Chairman
- Board Executive Committee formed along with other Board committees
- Board adopts policy framework for ICANN's At Large membership structure and elections
- 11 new registrars receive ICANN accreditation, bringing total to 87
- Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) ratified by ICANN Board; four dispute resolution service providers worldwide chosen
- ICANN splits registry/registrar functions – increases competition in domain name marketplace

23–26 AUGUST

Santiago, Chile

- First documents outlining UDRP posted for public comment
- Protocol Supporting Organization ratified
- Address Supporting Organization agreement paves the way for continuing efforts to organize and establish new regional Internet registries for the African and Latin American/Caribbean geographic regions (AfriNIC and LACNIC)
- Non-Commercial Domain Name Holders Constituency recognized

25–27 MAY

Berlin, Germany

- Second meeting agenda includes reports from the Chair and President; plus reports from the Governmental Advisory Committee and the Root Server System Advisory Committee
- Also on the agenda: the 1999–2000 ICANN budget; a report on status of registrar accreditation process; a discussion of supporting organization status; reports from the DNSA constituency organizers and DNSO general assembly organizational meeting; discussions of pending SO applications, WIPO report items, ICANN membership structure, independent review policy, and geographic diversity provision in the ICANN bylaws

2–4 MARCH

Singapore

- First meeting features an ambitious agenda covering Domain Name Supporting Organization application proposals, draft registrar accreditation guidelines, a draft conflict of interest policy, and a draft reconsideration policy

2008 ICANN MEETINGS

ICANN holds three meetings each year in different locations around the world in order to engage the international community in ICANN's work. One meeting each year is considered the official annual general meeting, during which the Board is reconstituted and newly elected board members take their place. These meetings provide excellent opportunities for outreach and face-to-face policy discussion. Meetings are supported by a host city and sponsorships are sought to help defray the cost of running the meetings and to assist with logistics.

In addition, ICANN hosts two regional outreach meetings each year to address the concerns and issues facing local policy makers, managers of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and Internet businesses. All these meetings are vital to ICANN's model of bottom-up, consensus driven policy making in action.

New Delhi, India 10–15 February 2008

More than 720 participants from 76 countries, including 290 participants representing local business and Internet interests from the host country, took part in ICANN's 31st international public meeting in New Delhi for five days of discussions about the future of the Internet. Hosted by the Indian Government and the National Internet Exchange of India, the meeting was officially opened by Shri Jainder Singh, Secretary of the Department of Information Technology for the Government of India.

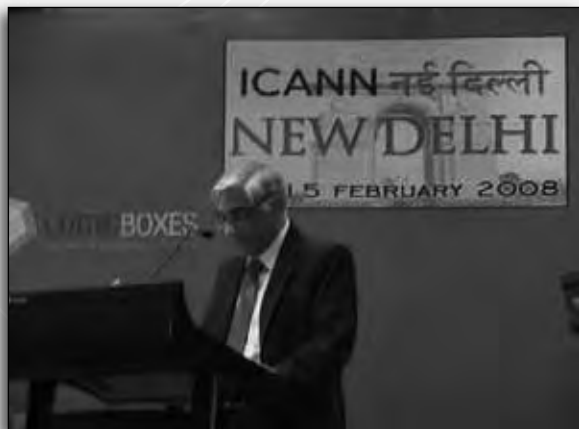
The meeting provided a unique opportunity for outreach in the region, including business, with a business roundtable discussion held with leading Indian business representatives. See <http://delhi.icann.org/15feb08/outreach>.

Issues of significance to attendees included the process for introducing new generic top-level domains, or gTLDs, the domain names like .com, .org and .info at the top level, which generated considerable excitement and comment. An implementation plan based on the policy development work of ICANN's policy development arm for the generic space, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), was presented for consideration. It clearly demonstrated that implementation is a complex task that raises challenging technical, operational, legal, economic and political questions that affect the Domain Name System.

After reviewing the implementation work, the Board planned to consider a course of action on the GNSO policy recommendations for the introduction of new gTLDs. Further discussion is expected at the Paris meeting in June and the Cairo meeting in November 2008, and during public comment periods before and after the Cairo meeting. ICANN expects to start accepting bids for specific names some time in 2009.

In addition, the introduction of Internationalized Domain Names, or IDNs, domain names in non-Latin scripts, is considered one of the biggest changes to the Internet since its inception.

Representatives of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) met to discuss the potential introduction of IDNs that are meaningful representations of countries or territories; that is, ccTLDs or country code top-level domains.



Shri Jainder Singh, Secretary of Information Technology for the Government of India, formally opened the New Delhi meeting.

Meeting attendees participated in workshops and meetings on the fast-track process for introducing IDN ccTLDs in the near term. The main issue was whether initial deployment would be limited in some way by country or territory. For example, India has 22 official languages. Since all these languages have official status in India, some thought limitations in the number of TLD strings should be tailored to the needs of each country or territory.

The next step is to clearly describe the criteria for determining readiness to launch IDN TLDs, a part of the suggested fast-track process. The first public comment period on a draft initial report on fast-track implementation of IDN ccTLDs ended 26 February 2008. This work is being led by an IDNC working group composed of ICANN supporting organization and advisory committee members.

The Board approved frameworks and principles on accountability and transparency. These outline ICANN's accountability as a California-based, not-for-profit corporation with its own bylaw requirements and legal and corporate accountabilities. A copy of these frameworks is included in the appendixes to this annual report.

The Joint Project Agreement (JPA) between the United States Government and ICANN has as its purpose the transition of the Internet Domain Name System (DNS) to private sector multi-stakeholder leadership. This agreement underwent a mid-term review for which the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) received comments.

The Board of ICANN believes the JPA has helped ICANN become a stable organization and that ICANN is meeting its responsibilities. Concluding the JPA in September 2009 is the next logical step in transition of the DNS to private sector management. Those comments are available at <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/domainname/jpamidtermreview.html>.

A consultation on the JPA was held in New Delhi. Most participants agreed on the need to have a discussion about the final ICANN model in the lead-up to the conclusion of the JPA.

Along with many others in the Internet community, ICANN is acting to enable IPv6 services throughout the DNS, including encouraging all providers of domain name services to implement IPv6 capability. At the time of the New Delhi meeting, five root name server operators had added IPv6 addresses to their root zone records, enabling IPv6 DNS resolution.

The Board directed ICANN staff to deploy IPv6 across its own infrastructure and give regular feedback to the community on progress and lessons learned.

The first draft of a Translation Programme for ICANN, based on agreed translation principles, was presented and discussed in New Delhi at a public meeting. The program outlines how ICANN can reach non-English speakers and give them equitable access to and influence on ICANN processes. Feedback is to be incorporated into a final report to be presented to the ICANN Board for approval.

More about the 31st International Public Meeting in New Delhi can be found at <http://delhi.icann.org/node/99>.

In addition, ICANN hosts two regional outreach meetings each year to address the concerns and issues facing local policy makers, managers of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and Internet businesses. All these meetings are vital to ICANN's model of bottom-up, consensus driven policy making in action.



2008 ICANN MEETINGS

Paris, France 22–26 June 2008

Over 1,670 participants from 166 countries, including 250 participants from the host country, took part in ICANN's 32nd international public meeting in Paris for four days of discussions, workshops and public forums that helped ICANN make great progress in several key areas that will shape the future of the Internet.

Eric Besson, State Secretary for Prospectives and Evaluation of Public Policies for France, opened the meeting. The State Secretary is responsible for forward planning, assessment of public policies and development of the digital economy.

The Paris meeting saw the introduction of a specific business access agenda and a series of targeted meetings and discussions to engage business leaders more effectively in ICANN's processes. Business participants attended briefings on the most significant topics facing ICANN at the moment, including new gTLDs, IDNs and IPv6, and a meeting with the Board of Directors. It was organized in cooperation with the E-Business, IT and Telecoms Commission of the International Chamber of Commerce.

ICANN's Board of Directors took a significant step forward on the introduction of new generic top-level domains. New gTLDs are extensions to the domain name system in addition to, for example, .com or .info at the top level. The Board approved the policy recommendations on new gTLDs developed by the GNSO, ICANN's policy development arm for the generic name space. ICANN staff was asked to further develop and complete a detailed implementation plan.

New generic top-level domains were a featured topic of

conversation during the meeting. The week began with a dedicated interactive session in which experts from different industries and sectors around the world shared diverse views about the potential changes to the Internet as the New gTLD Program is launched. The workshop was presented with MARQUES, the Association of European trademark owners, which represents trademark owners' interests before the European Union and other international bodies.

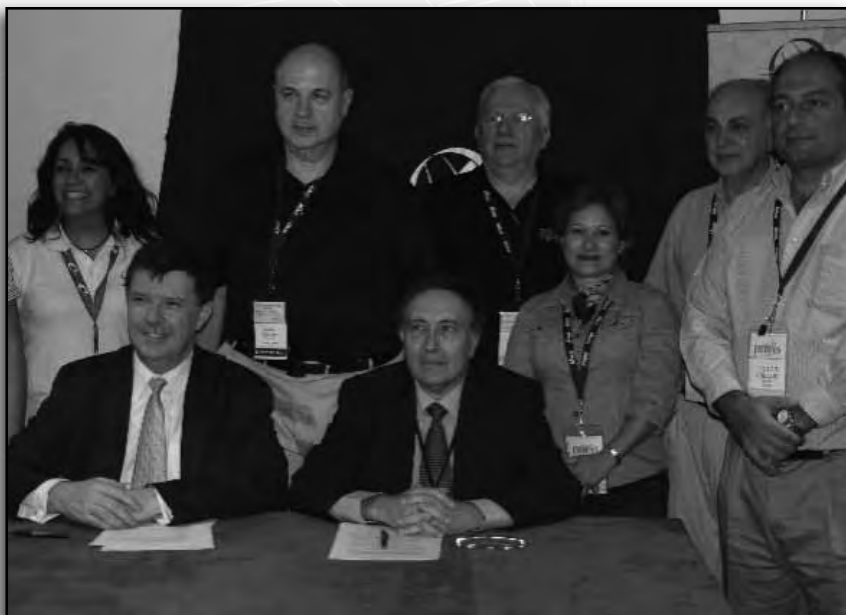
ICANN staff updated the community on how new gTLDs might be implemented, including a timeline and recent steps taken to address potential disputes.

The discussions on new gTLDs were the subject of worldwide and widespread press coverage including by BBC, CNN, NBC, *Les Echos*, *Business Week*, *Le Monde*, *Liberation*, *The Times of London*, *Financial Times*, and other media outlets all over the world.

The Board approved the policy recommendations on new gTLDs drawn



Eric Besson, State Secretary for Prospectives and Evaluation of Public Policies for France, opened the meeting.



The Paris meeting saw the signing of an accountability framework agreement with the ccTLD operator for Costa Rica, the 41st such agreement between a ccTLD operator and ICANN. Seated at left is ICANN CEO Paul Twomey, with Guy de Téramond, administrative contact for .cr. Standing (left to right) are Margarita Valdes of NIC-Chile; Steve Goldstein of the ICANN Board; Hartmut Glasser of NIC-br; Edna Samudio of NIC-pa; Oscar Messano of LACNIC; and Víctor Abboud of NIC-ec. Clara Collado, of the Dominican Republic, also was present.

up by the GNSO, and directed ICANN staff to develop and complete a detailed implementation plan.

Much of the discussion about IDNs during the Paris meeting centered on the work of the IDNC working group, which was chartered by the Board at its November 2007 meeting. The working group's participants were appointed by ICANN's ccNSO, GNSO, GAC, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).

The group's focus before the Paris meeting was the issue of an accelerated introduction of IDNs, called the fast track, where specific, noncontroversial country-code top-level domains in non-Latin scripts could be approved and added to the Internet's root without having to wait for the full approval process to be finalized.

The working group's draft final report on the feasibility of this approach, published for public comment two weeks before the Paris meeting, provided several high-level recommendations and received broad approval from the ccNSO and the GAC.

The supporting organizations and advisory committees also received updates on progress on technical and other IDN implementation issues. IDNs were discussed at the public forum, and a progress update was also given on the final day of the meeting. Of particular interest was how finalization of the IDNA protocol revision would impact top-level IDN domains, in particular when and how they will be introduced.

The Board asked that the working group's final report be posted for public comment and that staff produce a detailed report on implementation issues, following consultation with the community, for the Cairo meeting in November 2008.

This extremely successful meeting was a milestone in the development of the Internet. Expanding new gTLDs and introducing IDNs will open up the Internet and make it as diverse as the people who use it.

The Paris meeting saw the release of three documents outlining a new Improving Institutional Confidence (IIC) public consultation. The documents were out for public comment until 31 July.

This consultation's aim was for the community to discuss possible changes to ICANN in the lead-up to the completion of the JPA in September 2009. This work has been led by the President's Strategy Committee, which advises the President.

The three documents—Improving Institutional Confidence in ICANN, Transition Action Plan and Frequently Asked Questions—were the basis for a discussion session. During a public meeting, it was explained how the consultation would work and how people could find out more information at each stage.

At the end of the first public comment period, the documents were revised and put out for additional comment in September 2008 in preparation for further discussions at the Cairo meeting in November. These revised documents are available at <http://icann.org/en/jpa/iic/>.

A number of information sessions on the new IPv6 Internet Protocol were held to make the community more aware of support issues and to outline ways forward.

2008 ICANN MEETINGS

The ALAC and ccNSO and the registry and registrar constituencies were also addressed by experts on this topic during their own meetings. Business leaders were given an overview as part of the business access agenda. IPv6 was also discussed during the public forum.

The GAC heard from several individuals and organizations, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Name Resource Organization (NRO) about current trends and the challenges to IPv6 deployment worldwide.

A factsheet prepared earlier in 2007 in plain and clear language, *IPv6 – The Internet’s vital expansion – October 2007*, explains the protocol upgrade to a nontechnical audience and is available at <http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/factsheet-ipv6-26oct07.pdf>

More progress was made on improvements to protections for registrants provided through the Registrar Accreditation Agreement. The RAA is the contract ICANN holds with companies that register domain names on behalf of registrants.

Fifteen revised changes and amendments encompassing four major categories were published in a report posted for public comment until 4 August 2008.

- Enforcement tools, including graduated sanctions, liability and audit provisions.
- Protections for registrants, including possible improvements to data escrow and the ability to make resellers comply with RAA obligations.
- A more stable registrar marketplace, including training for registrar operators.
- Modernizing the agreement, bringing it up to date with changes in the use and reuse of domain names.

The amendments were outlined in meetings with supporting organizations and advisory committees, and at an dedicated public workshop. Possible changes to the RAA were also discussed during the public forum, and were further outlined at the final day’s report session. The amendments were revised following input from public comments and shared with the Board to determine the next steps.

A paper covering possible changes to ICANN meetings themselves was released to the community in a number of different sessions, including several supporting organization and advisory committee meetings, the opening day public forum, mid-week public forum, and the closing-day reports session. There were two main recommendations in the paper:

- That ICANN move from three to two meetings a year.
- That one of those meetings be held in a hub city.

There was a broad range of views and discussion on both points, as well as discussion of the change to the Paris schedule which saw the meeting end a day early.

More about the 32nd International Public Meeting in Paris can be found at <http://par.icann.org/en/schedule>.

Cairo, Egypt 2–7 November 2008

ICANN's 33rd international public meeting, and its annual general meeting, was opened by Dr. Tarek Mohamed Kamel, Egypt's Minister of Communications and Information Technology. The 1,028 attendees from 144 different countries engaged in a wide range of discussions about the Internet's Domain Name System and related issues.

Two special guests attended the Cairo meeting. Dr. Hamadoun Touré is Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and Meredith Attwell Baker is Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information at the U.S. Department of Commerce. Both gave speeches and Dr. Touré answered questions from the audience. They then held a number of separate sessions with various members of the ICANN community.

For the second time, a specific agenda and a series of targeted meetings and discussions were held to engage business leaders more effectively in ICANN's processes. The agenda included briefings on the most significant topics currently facing ICANN, especially new gTLDs and IDNs.

Several key issues and themes evolved over the course of the meeting.

Before the meeting a draft Applicant Guidebook was presented for prospective applicants for new generic top-level domains, and several meetings and workshops were dedicated to explaining the guidebook and receiving input and feedback from the community on its contents. The draft guidebook, published in English and five additional languages, was also posted for a 45-day public comment period on ICANN's website just before the Cairo meeting. There will be a second 45-day public comment period on the next version of the Applicant Guidebook.

Discussions and updates were also presented to different parts of the community, including the GNSO constituencies, the ccNSO and the GAC. Additional public forums were taken up with comments and questions on the guidebook specifically and the new gTLD process generally.

Comments received during the public comment period and at the Cairo meeting will be reviewed and analyzed for revisions to the implementation model. ICANN will then procure evaluation services for certain aspects of the process, embark on a global communications plan to make as many people as possible aware of the new process and then launch the introduction of new gTLDs in 2009.

The draft Implementation Plan for IDN Fast Track was published on ICANN's website just before the Cairo meeting to gather comments from the public over a 45-day period. The fast track would allow a limited number of IDN ccTLDs to be introduced before the formal policy development process becomes final. IDN ccTLDs are country code, as opposed to generic, Internationalized Domain Names at the top level of the Internet.



Dr. Tarek Mohamed Kamel, Minister of Communications and Technology for Egypt, formally opened the Cairo meeting.



Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union, was a guest speaker at the Cairo meeting.

2008 ICANN MEETINGS

In Cairo, the fast track document was the focus of much of the discussion related to IDNs. The issue of IDNs that may be applied for through the new gTLD process, rather than through the fast track or the later ccTLD policy development process, was also a main topic of conversation. Some discussion surrounded the timing and possible crossover of the two different tracks for IDN top-level domain applications.

The issues of the fast track and the introduction of IDNs were also covered in two joint sessions of the chairs of the supporting organizations and advisory committees. Updates on both, as well as progress by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) on the IDNA protocol revision, an important step for the process, were provided to ICANN's many bodies and constituencies during the meeting.

An IETF working group continued finalizing the IDNA protocol that ICANN hopes to see completed before the introduction of IDN top-level domains.

A number of outstanding issues remain with regard to the introduction of IDNs, including the relationship between an IDN ccTLD operator and ICANN, both in the type of agreement or framework entered into and the provision of funds; contention between existing top-level domains and domains applied for through the new gTLD process; and a few technical requirements. Staff will provide proposed solutions based on comments received before the March 2009 meeting in Mexico City. There will be further community consultations around those proposals at that meeting.

The Improving Institutional Confidence (IIC) consultation was formally launched at the ICANN meeting in Paris and continued through the Cairo meeting. Its three documents, Improving Institutional Confidence at ICANN, Transition Action Plan, and Frequently Asked Questions, were updated to reflect community input from Paris, two further public comment periods and series of five public meetings in Montevideo, Christchurch, Geneva, Washington, DC, and Dakar between August and October 2008. The community received an update of the process at the Cairo meeting and was asked for further feedback on the issues that had been raised.

A special joint session of the chairs of the different supporting organizations and advisory committees considered the IIC documents early in the week. A session dedicated to the consultation was also held. The consultation was also one of the main topics discussed by the GAC over the course of the week.

In the meantime, two further outreach meetings, at AfriNIC in Mauritius in November 2008 and at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Hyderabad, India in December took place to build more awareness and gather feedback on improving institutional Confidence.

Following the issue of an exploit in the DNS discovered by a noted security researcher, a number of security briefings on this issue and other related issues were given to ICANN's various supporting organizations and advisory committees.

In particular, the DNSSEC protocol—long discussed by ICANN's SSAC—was explained and its use in closing down the hole outlined, alongside other short-term measures.

The SSAC meeting was also used for an experiment in improving remote participation. Through Adobe Connect software, participants were able to see and hear the meeting in progress (as well as view the live scribe feed), see the presentation slides as the presenters went through them, and ask questions in a dedicated chatroom.

ICANN signed an exchange of letters with the Egyptian ccTLD managers of .eg. This is the forty-fourth such agreement between ICANN and a ccTLD operator, and discussions are being held with many others. A majority of registrants are now covered by such agreements.

The .mobi and .coop registries were authorized to make single-letter domains available under their particular registries, for example, www.c.mobi.

The Board of Directors unanimously returned Peter Dengate Thrush as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Roberto Gaetano as Vice Chair for another term. The Board of Directors also welcomed two new members. Steve Crocker has long been involved in guiding ICANN's activities. He also serves as chair of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee, and his expertise in Internet matters is most welcome. He is also on the board of the Internet Society.

Dr. Crocker has been involved in the Internet since its inception. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, while he was a graduate student at UCLA, he was part of the team that developed the protocols for the Arpanet and laid the foundation for today's Internet.

Katim Touray is an independent development consultant based in The Gambia. A follower of the early Internet, he is a well-known advocate for the network and its uses across a range of media and to a wide variety of audiences for over 15 years.

He now serves as Chairman of the National Agricultural Development Agency. He has also conducted consultancies on the Millennium Development Goals, the media, strategic planning, project evaluations, HIV-AIDS, and other subjects for nongovernmental organizations as well as government and UN agencies.

To read more about ICANN's 33rd International Public Meeting and its annual general meeting in Cairo, go to <http://cai.icann.org/cai/schedule>.

Regional Outreach Meetings

In addition to its three international meetings each year, ICANN hosts regional meetings to engage regional Internet businesses and users in discussions and exchange of information about regional issues. This outreach activity is part of the ICANN Strategic Plan.

ICANN held its second regional meeting in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 1–3 April 2008.

A meeting was held with policy makers, managers of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and Internet businesses in



Hossam Fafim (left) General Manager of the Egyptian Universities Network (EUN), the .eg registry, shakes hands with Paul Twomey, ICANN President and CEO, during the signing of the exchange of letters with ICANN. Nashwa Abdelbaki, EUN Senior Technical Consultant, is at right.

the region. The agenda for the meeting addressed three main themes: a broad introduction to the ICANN multi-stakeholder model, challenges and opportunities in the registry and registrar businesses, and an introduction and discussion of Internationalized Domain Names. ICANN staff coordinated with regional organizations, including the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain (APTLD), regarding participation.

More information about the meeting in Dubai is available at <http://public.icann.org/dubai08>.

On 10–11 September 2008, ICANN hosted its third Asia–Pacific regional gathering in Seoul, Korea. The focus of this meeting was broadening participation in the ICANN process for gTLD registries and ICANN-accredited registrars.

The Seoul gathering was the largest to date with more than 68 participants representing 26 registrars and six registries. Of the 56 registrar participants, 54 percent reported that they had not previously attended an ICANN meeting. Also, for the first time since the inception of these gatherings, presentation materials were provided in Chinese, Japanese and Korean. Additionally, clean and red-lined versions of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement and proposed changes were provided in the same languages.

Discussion topics included a summary of the outcomes of the Paris meeting in June 2008, proposed amendments to the RAA, protection of registrants (registrar data escrow, the interim terminated registrar transition plan and registry failover), IDNs, new gTLDs, compliance and the UDRP, GNSO policy items, IPv4–IPv6 transition, and recent Board actions surrounding the Add Grace Period (AGP).

“Given that this is ICANN’s tenth year anniversary, I thought it was fitting to take a step back and to reflect on ICANN’s progress as well as offer my thoughts on some of the challenges that we will collectively face as ICANN moves forward.

“When NTIA issued the green paper and the white paper so many years ago, the world and the Internet was a very different place. It is a testament to the ICANN community that you all have worked so hard to evolve the DNS project as it was then called, which truly has been an experiment in private sector leadership and bottoms-up policy development.

“The fact that my own experience in ICANN represents half its entire life span indicates how relatively young this institution is given the enormously important work it is called upon to perform.

“While there have been inevitable growing pains, there has also been great progress in building ICANN as an institution.

“The progress should be acknowledged.

“A few highlights over the last ten years from my perspective include refining ICANN’s mission and restructuring its supporting organizations and Advisory Committees to meet its core technological purpose.

“Securing an agreement with the Regional Internet Registries to facilitate the development of global addressing policy.

“Developing accountability framework agreements with many country code top-level domain operators and establishing the Country Code Names Supporting Organization.

**Meredith Attwell Baker
Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce**

**ICANN 33rd international meeting, Cairo, Egypt,
6 November 2008**

This quote is from a speech by Acting Assistant Secretary Baker about her perspectives on a range of issues to do with ICANN. This being ICANN’s tenth anniversary year, the quote was selected to recognize ICANN’s ten years of progress, as were other quotes in the document. ICANN encourages readers to read the full text of this speech. Go to <http://cai.icann.org/files/meetings/cairo2008/baker-speech-06nov08.txt>.