

APRALO Newsletter Mar - Apr 2025

A brief update for the period of March - April 2025, from the APRALO perspective



Content:

- Message
- From APRALO Chair
- From APRALO Vice Chair
- ICANN Updates
- Updates from ICANN 82
- Monthly Call
- APRALO Policy Forum Update
- WG Updates
- Updates from APRALO Community



Message

From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury

Dear APRALO community,

While in this newsletter we will share updates on ICANN82, the community is now gearing up for the ICANN 83 Policy session in Prague.

In our endeavor for continuous improvement, the APRALO CIP-CCG small team will now work on implementation of the identified areas for improvement.

A small team has also been set up for drafting the response to the call for comments on “How We Meet”.

As you are aware, the APRALO elections are underway, a “meet the candidate” session was organised on 7 May at 6 UTC. In case you could not join and ask questions, do watch the recording to make an informed decision while voting in the interest of strengthening the APRALO and its diversity.

We hope to keep you updated with more information and opportunities to engage.

Thank you.

Regards,
Amrita



Messages

From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio



Hello and good day to all!

It's that exciting time of the year once again as we prepare for the ICANN83 Policy Forum, which will be held in **Prague, Czech Republic**, from June 9–12, 2025. This will be a hybrid event, giving you the flexibility to participate either onsite or online. To join, please register through this link: <https://events.icann.org/icann83/registration>. Registering will provide you access to session details and allow you to select the discussions you are interested in attending.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the organizers and participants of the Universal Acceptance (UA) Day events held across the APAC region! We look forward to even more vibrant engagements, especially as we gear up for UA Day 2025 on May 8, to be celebrated alongside the APAC DNS Forum.

Lastly, a reminder that the APRALO elections are currently underway. For more information on the election process and candidate profiles, please visit <https://icann-community.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/atlarge/pages/162169142/2025+APRALO+Regional+Selections>. We will also be hosting a call where you can hear directly from the candidates about their platforms — a valuable opportunity to make an informed choice on who will best represent our community.

I look forward to engaging with you all through these exciting activities! Happy to serve!

Yours truly,
Aris

ICANN Updates

Announced

- ICANN [announced](#) the ICANN Board's [resolution](#) recognizing the Universal Acceptance Steering Group's (UASG's) decade of contributions and directed ICANN org to evaluate and develop new strategies to support UA adoption, as the existing UASG group would be phased out.
- ICANN85 will be held at the [Jio World Convention Centre](#) in Mumbai from 7–12 March 2026 and ICANN88 will be held at the Lisbon Congress Center from 13–18 March 2027.

Published

[U.S. Tax Returns for Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2024](#)

Reminded

The [community that the pre-evaluation application submission period of the ICANN Registry Service Provider \(RSP\) Evaluation Program](#) for the New Generic Top-level Domains (gTLD) Program: Next Round will close on 20 May.

Issued

A [request for proposal \(RFP\)](#) to identify provider(s) to deliver internal audit services in alignment with industry best practices and ICANN's organizational objectives.

[Request for Proposal \(RFP\) to identify one or multiple Dispute Resolution Service Providers \(DRSPs\)](#) for the next round of new gTLD Program

Government Engagement

Released a [WSIS Factsheet: Internet Governance](#).

Opportunity

- [Applications are invited](#) for [NextGen@ICANN84 Program](#) until 9 May.
- [Call for Expressions of Interest for ICANN 2026 NomCom Chair and Chair-Elect](#) positions by 13 May.
- Applications are invited for [APIGA2025](#) to be held in Busan from 18-22 August, the deadline being 11 May.
- The [application submission period](#) for the Applicant Support Program (ASP), part of the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program: Next Round till 19 November 2025.

Events

- The [2025 Middle East Domain Name System \(DNS\) Forum](#) was held from 29–30 April 2025 in Manama, Bahrain, hosted in collaboration with Bahrain's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA).

Webinar

Organised a [webinar](#) to provide an [overview of the ICANN and IANA FY26 Operating Plans and Budget](#)

ICANN Updates

Seeking Inputs

- [Proposal for Thaana script Root Zone Label Generation Rules](#) by 7 May.
- [Seeking feedback on FY26-FY30 Middle East Regional Plan](#) by 12 May
- [How we meet](#) initial report by [19 May](#)
- [Transfer Policy Final report](#) by 6 June
- [Customer Standing Committee \(CSC\) changes Process for Amending the IANA SLAs](#) by 2 June
- The ICANN Board seeks feedback on the [Transfer Policy Review Working Group Final Report](#), with submissions open from 28 April to 16 June 2025.
- ICANN seeks feedback on the [FY26–30 Africa Regional Plan](#), with the public comment period open from 25 April 2025 for 40 days.
- ICANN requests proposals for [Internal Audit Services](#), with submissions due by 19 May 2025.
- The ICANN Address Supporting Organization seeks input on its updated [governance document](#), by 27 May.

Closed for Inputs

- The [Proposed Language for Next Round Applicant Guidebook](#) by 2 April
- [Second IANA Naming Function Review - Initial Report](#) by [28 April](#)

Blogs of Interest

- [Universal Acceptance: Aligning Resources and the Path Forward](#)
- [Chair's Blog: Previewing the May Board Workshop](#)
- [PTI Board Adopts 2025–30 Strategic Plan and FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#)
- [ICANN 2030: Our New Strategic Plan](#)
- [WSIS+20: A Critical Juncture for the Internet's Future](#)
- [ICANN-EDP Capacity-Building Sessions: Empowering Puerto Rico's Future Leaders](#)
- [Transition to Our New Travel Management Company, AmTrav](#)
- [Recap of the March Board Workshop and ICANN82](#)
- [Remembering Nigel Hickson](#)

For more updates on ICANN read the [ICANN Blogs here](#).



- The ICANN82 Community Forum was held on 8-13 March in Seattle with 1,369 people participating in person and 548 virtually.
- This six-day meeting featured 176 public sessions, focusing on policy development, cross-community interaction, and plenary sessions on topics of community-wide interest. Key topics of discussion included DNS Abuse mitigation strategies, Universal Acceptance readiness, the New gTLD Program: Next Round and Applicant Support Program, Registration Data Services, and the WSIS+20 process.
- At the meeting, Stephen Deerhake was [awarded the 2025 ICANN Community Excellence Award](#).
- The Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process Working Group delivered its Final Report to the GNSO Council.
- At the DNS Women session, [Elizabeth "Jake" Feinler, the woman behind the WHOIS](#) shared her inspiring story.
- The GAC Communiqué for ICANN82 can be viewed [here](#).
- The ICANN82 Prep Week was organized online between 24-26 February, comprising of 12 sessions.
- Prior to the meeting the ICANN82 Policy Outlook Report was released

AtLarge @ICANN82

Atlarge community organised several sessions during ICANN82. These include two At-Large plenary sessions (one 'Core Internet Values: Evolution and Challenges for ICANN: and the other "The Promise of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process and the New gTLD Round") policy and operations sessions (CPWG, OFB, CIP) four joint sessions (GAC, SSAC, NCSG and ICANN Board), two sessions focused on community engagement (one being ACES) a cross RALO session, a welcome session, and a wrap-up session. There was sessions with the Fellows and NextGen participants. Beside the community participated in sessions from other communities too.

APRALO @ICANN82

APRALO was well represented in -person @ ICANN82 by its leadership and several community members, some of whom were fellows. The community and leadership actively participated in the sessions and contributed to the discussion.



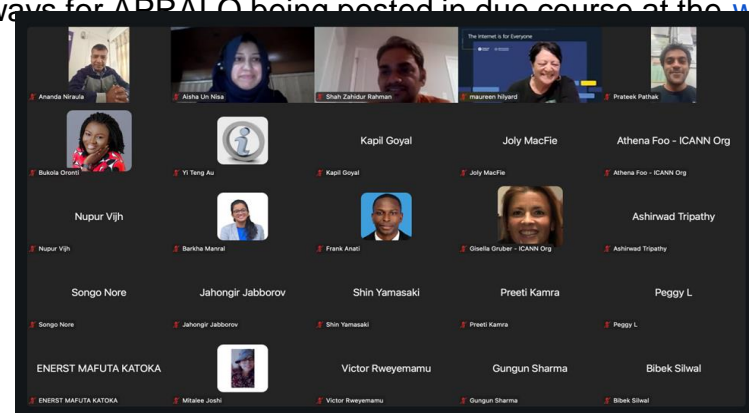
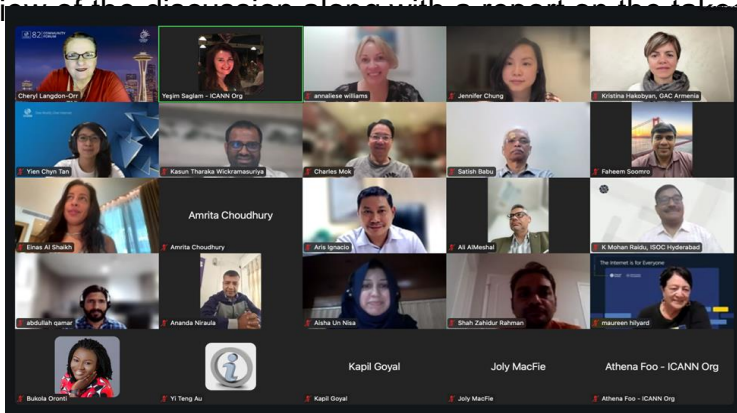
APRALO ICANN82 Readout

APRALO ICANN82 Readout By Shah Zahidur Rahman

Organized by the APRALO Policy Forum, the APRALO ICANN82 Readout saw moderator Cheryl Langdon-Orr joined by panelists Satish Babu, APRALO, based in India, Einas Al Shaikh, ICANN82 Fellow, based in Oman, Jennifer Chung, GNSO Councillor, Registry Stakeholder Group, based in Hong Kong, Kristina Hakobyan, representing GAC, based in Armenia, Annaliese Williams, ccNSO, based in Australia, and Yien Chyn Tan, APAC-GSC based in Singapore

Panelists discussed their respective key takeaways from ICANN82 and briefly shared with participants their next steps to those takeaways towards ICANN83. Panelists also shared how they saw individual end-users playing a role in the ICANN mission. Forty-six participants in attendance actively engaged with the panelists throughout the discussions.

An overview of the discussions along with a report on the takeaways for APRALO being posted in due course at the [wiki page](#).



Contribute to the ICANN Public Comments Proceedings



Visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact At-Large Staff for more information.



To **contribute to ALAC policy activity**, on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as penholder and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.



APRALO Community can participate in selected policy-related discussions being taken up from a regional perspective through the APRALO Policy Forum. For more information, please visit the [APRALO Policy Forum workspace](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

Important Links to Visit

See: [At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice](#)

See: [Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice](#)

See: [Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)

See: [At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group \(OFB-WG\)](#)

April Call

The [APRALO April Monthly](#) call was moderated by Vice Chair Aris Ignacio. Apart from the membership update and Stock taking of [Outreach and Engagement Initiatives](#), Pranav Tiwari presented an update on the Continuous Improvement Program, Jasmine Ko updated on the ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee (ACES) activities. Justine Chew updated on the APRALO Register of Skills & Interests (ROSI) Pilot.

Justine Chew presented an overview of the "[How We Meet: Reviewing the Implementation of the ICANN Public Meetings Strategy](#)" and asked people to volunteer to be part of small team to draft a response on behalf of APRALO.

ICANN staff updated the community on the ongoing [2025 APRALO Regional Selections](#) while Charles Mok provided a brief [NomCom Update](#).

ACES Update - By Jasmine Ko

The ACES has been working on a draft charter to demonstrate their purpose, goals, objectives, scope of work, responsibilities, and deliverables. It will then proceed to finalization. This team is on track of biweekly meetings now.

Three key focus areas were identified with follow-up actions:

- **DNS Abuse/Phishing:** A dedicated subgroup has been formed to develop a script for presentation slides that will serve as capacity-building material on identifying and addressing DNS abuse and phishing threats.
- **Universal Acceptance (UA):** The team is in the process of identifying target organizations for outreach, building on recent updates and discussions from the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG).
- **New gTLD Program—Next Round:** Progress is being made on designing a graphic to communicate the concept of “Language on Demand” as part of preparations for the upcoming round of new gTLDs.

CIP-CCG Group - Pranav Bhaskar Tiwari

The CIP-CCG meeting on April 23, 2025, focused on reviewing public comments, particularly on Question 2a, and discussing how to incorporate this feedback into the CIP Framework. Key discussion points included the flexibility of the 3-year assessment period for different ICANN structures and the potential for a dashboard or tracking tool to enhance transparency and collaboration, which ALAC supported as a crucial element for CIP progress. ICANN org will now update the CIP Framework and Wiki with the discussed responses and share the revised framework for the CIP-CCG's review by May 7, with further updates to the Wiki and Public Comment proceedings by May 28. Overall, the meeting progressed in addressing public feedback and outlining the next steps for refining the CIP Framework.

For more details, of the work done by the small team please refer to the [APRALO CIP-CCG page](#)

APIGA Taiwan 2025

- By Justine Chew

The [2025 Local APIGA Taiwan](#) was held on 19-20 April 2025 in Taipei. Supported by ICANN and hosted by the National Information Infrastructure Enterprise Promotion Association (NIIIEPA), this Local APIGA Taiwan hosted about 20 selected youths from Chinese Taipei to learn more about Internet governance, ICANN, and APNIC. **Justine Chew**, ALAC Co-Vice Chair and APRALO ALAC Member was invited to speak about ALAC and how it participates in ICANN Policy Development Processes on 19 April.

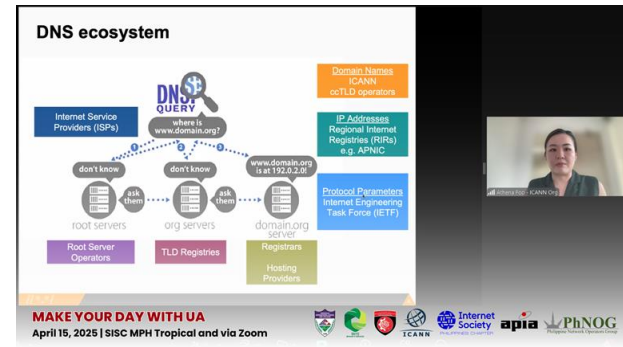


Pic: From Local APIGA Taiwan 2025

Make Your Day with UA (UA Day 2025 Philippines)

By Aris Ignacio and Dean Mark Molde

The "Make Your Day with UA" event, held on April 15, 2025, at Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), was a half-day hybrid gathering promoting Universal Acceptance (UA)—the principle that all domain names and email addresses should be treated equally online. Organized with ICANN, UASG, ISOC PH and other partners, the event featured both onsite and virtual participation.



Pic: From Make Your Day with UA
(UA Day 2025 Philippines) 2025

Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2025 for APAC Youth

On April 10, 2025, the Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2025 for APAC Youth was successfully held virtually by the NetMission APRALO Study Group. Led by Coordinator Phyo Thiri Lwin and moderated by Au Yi Teng, the session was supported by Jasmine Ko, Nawal Munir, and Barkha Manral (technical support), with rapporteurs Aviral Kaintura and Saima Nisar. The event gathered 26 attendees, including youth, organizers, and speakers. Key speakers—Samiran Gupta (ICANN), Jian-Chuan Zhang (ICANN), and Edmon Chung (DotAsia)—emphasized the importance of UA and digital inclusivity. ICANN Fellows Socheata Sokhachan and Sana Nisar, along with NextGen participants Aviral Kaintura and Rida Ashfaq, shared inspiring experiences, promoting youth engagement in Internet governance. The session encouraged dialogue and highlighted the role of youth in creating a more inclusive Internet.



Pic: UA DAY 2025 for APAC Youth

UA and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

On March 26, 2025, Path Finder Solutions (Private) Limited hosted UA Day 2025 at the National Incubation Center in Islamabad under the theme “Connecting the Dots: UA and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities.” The event, held in collaboration with ICANN, MoITT, UNESCO, and ISOC Pakistan Islamabad Chapter, explored how Universal Acceptance (UA) supports digital inclusion, particularly for persons with disabilities. With over 70 diverse participants, including policymakers, developers, educators, and disability rights advocates, the event featured expert presentations, a UA awareness video, and a Q&A discussion. Key themes included the integration of UA with accessibility standards, the impact of non-UA-compliant systems on users of assistive technologies and the need for policy and technical reforms. The event concluded with a networking Iftar, reinforcing cross-sector collaboration and setting the stage for future actions to promote a more inclusive and multilingual internet in Pakistan.

<https://pfsols.net/event/uaday2025/>



Pic: Group Picture from Pakistan ISOC Islamabad

DNS Assembly - Sub-Theme: Internet Resilience

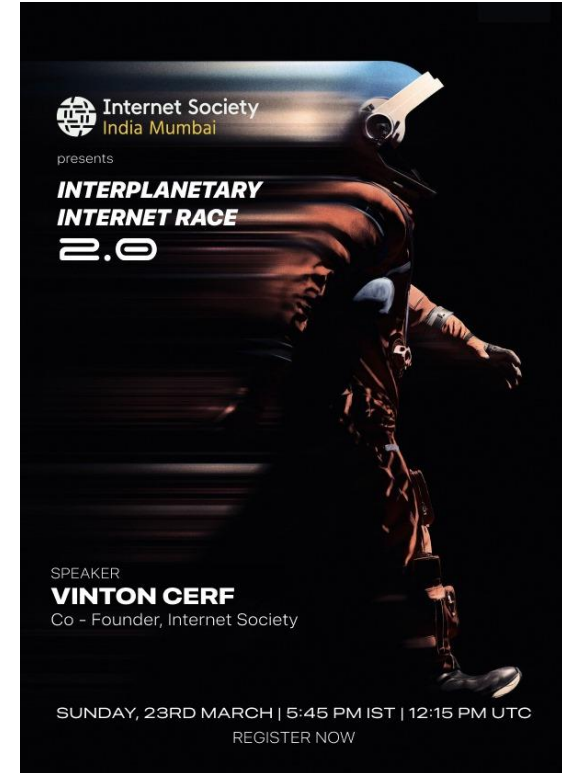
The three-day DNS Assembly at DAV College, Amritsar, engaged 100 stakeholders through open house session from 16-18 March focused on DNS governance and internet resilience. The Learning and Management Cell of the College organized a DNS Forum Workshop for academia and civil society. The workshop aimed to empower undergraduate and postgraduate students technically on ICANN's role within the ICT ecosystem, DNS architecture governance, root zone management and policy formulation. Leveraging the ICANN Learn Platform, participants accessed structured e-learning modules and video tutorials to explore DNS resolution, domain lifecycle, and multistakeholder models, fostering informed debate on DNS stability and security frameworks. Around 30 participants were awarded the curriculum for 102.1 Introduction to ICANN Course completion certificates.



Pic: DNS Assembly

Fifty-Second ISOC India Mumbai Event- Interplanetary Internet Race 2.0 with Dr. Vinton Cerf

The Interplanetary Internet Race 2.0, was hosted on 23 March hosted by ISOC India Mumbai, featured a landmark session with Internet pioneer and ISOC co-founder, Dr. Vinton Cerf. Dr. Cerf shared groundbreaking insights on the evolution of deep-space communication, highlighting the limitations of traditional TCP/IP and introducing Delay and Disruption Tolerant Networking (DTN) as the key to interplanetary connectivity. He traced decades of testing on Mars rovers, the ISS, and lunar missions, while also addressing critical policy, legal, and security challenges in space governance. The session energized young minds and emphasized the need for global collaboration, innovation, and inclusive leadership to build a secure and sustainable Internet on Earth and beyond.



Pic: India ISOC Mumbai Event poster

Fifty-Third ISOC India Mumbai Event - Vision for Accessible Internet: Bridging the Digital Divide for the Visually Impaired

The Vision for Accessible Internet emphasized making the digital world inclusive for visually impaired individuals, particularly in India. The session held on 5 April, highlighted the importance of accessible tech—screen readers, AI tools, and audio formats—for education, jobs, and independence. Key issues included inaccessible government sites, poor connectivity, and the impact of Internet shutdowns on people with disabilities. Participants urged reforms like regional language support in assistive tech, enforcement of Section 42 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, and compliance with Anuradha Bhasin guidelines. SRCDA pledged to reach 50,000 people with disabilities by 2030 through hackathons, experience labs, and awareness campaigns. The event concluded with a shared message: Internet access must be a basic right, with inclusive tech for all.



Pic: Event Outreach for Event by India ISOC Mumbai

ISOC Mumbai: ICANN84 Mentor's Forum

The Internet Society India Mumbai Chapter hosted a session on 19 April, with Mr. Yash Agarwal, Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager (South Asia) at ICANN, who shared insights on Internet Governance and his journey through the NextGen@ICANN Fellowship. Aimed at prospective applicants for ICANN84 in Muscat, the session focused on clarifying the fellowship process and guiding participants on aligning their goals with ICANN's mission. Mr. Agarwal offered practical advice on crafting strong applications, meeting program expectations, and highlighting values like openness, inclusivity, and multistakeholderism. His structured guidance made the fellowship pathway more approachable, especially for first-time applicants.

The session reflected ISOC India Mumbai Chapter's commitment to empowering its community through awareness, mentorship, and support for global Internet governance participation.



Pic: Event Outreach by India ISOC Mumbai

ISOC Hyderabad ISOC UA Day Event

The Internet Society India Hyderabad Chapter, successfully hosted Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2025 on March 29 at Microsoft's campus in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. Themed "Enabling a Multilingual Internet through Universal Acceptance," the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 530 delegates, including technologists, policy leaders, academia, startups, and digital inclusion advocates.

Read the [ISOC UA Day 2025](#) report

Fundamentals of Designing and Deploying Computer Networks (DDCN) Bootcamp

- ISOC Bengaluru:

The Fundamentals of Designing and Deploying Computer Networks (DDCN) Bootcamp, organized by the Internet Society India Bengaluru Chapter, is a practical, hands-on training initiative designed to build essential networking skills among students, early-career professionals and working professionals. The bootcamp focuses on real-world application of core networking concepts such as IP addressing, Ethernet and Wi-Fi technologies, router and switch configuration, LAN design, and Internet connectivity.

The Bootcamp was held at GITAM Deemed University, Bengaluru, from 28th April to 2nd May and brought together enthusiastic learners from various colleges, IT industries and research organisations. It forms part of the Internet Society's broader mission to strengthen technical capacity and promote an open, globally connected, and secure Internet for everyone.



Pics from DDCN Bootcamp

Local APIGA India 2025

Local APIGA India 2025 was held for the first time at O.P. Jindal Global University between 21 and 22 March, marking the launch of India's first local chapter of the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy. Inspired by the regional model, this youth-led event focused on India's digital landscape and welcomed participants from diverse backgrounds.

Over two days, attendees explored core Internet governance topics such as ICANN, IGF, APNIC, multistakeholderism, data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital inclusion through interactive sessions, simulations, and mentorship. The event promoted youth engagement and dialogue with experts, building momentum for continued participation in national and global Internet governance efforts.



Pic from Local APIGA India

Events

- [APAC DNS](#) Forum is being held 8-9 May, Hanoi, Vietnam.
- ICANN83 Policy Forum in Prague, Czech Republic, 9–12 June.
- IGF2025 will be held in Oslo, Norway, 23-27 June.
- AI for Good Global Summit will be held from 8 - 11 July in Geneva, Switzerland
- [APIGA2025](#) will held in Busan 18-22 August
- [APNIC 60](#) will be held in Da Nang, Viet Nam from 4 to 11 September 2025.
- [Australian Internet Governance Forum \(aulGF\) 2025](#)

Thank You

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

amritachoudhury@ccaai.in