

# APRALO Newsletter Jan -Feb 2025

A brief update for the period of January - February 2025, from the APRALO perspective



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## Message

**From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury**

Dear APRALO community,

Most of us are now geared up for the ICANN82 Community Forum which will be held from 8-12 March in Seattle.

While the time of the sessions may not be very convenient for the APAC region, if possible, do register and attend the sessions of your interest or view the recording at your convenience.

As you are aware, applications are being invited for the [Application Support Program \(ASP\)](#) for the next round till 19 November 2025. Till now ICANN has received [31 applications](#). We hope you can spread the word of this initiative and criteria in your communities. Please feel free to reach out to the APRALO Leadership or the APAC GSE team to know more about the program.

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

Thank you.

Regards,

Amrita



**From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio**



Hello and good day to all!

The ICANN82 Community Forum will take place from March 8-13, 2025 at the Hyatt Regency in Seattle, bringing together stakeholders from around the world to engage in crucial discussions on Internet governance, policy development, and the future of the domain name system.

As an integral part of the ICANN ecosystem, APRALO encourages active participation from the Asia-Pacific community to ensure our voices and regional perspectives are well represented. Stay tuned for updates on sessions, policy discussions, and networking opportunities especially in the website found in this link: <https://meetings.icann.org/en/meetings/icann82> .

Finally, if you or your ALSes have events that align with our outreach and engagement efforts, feel free to include them in the shared document. Please check your respective emails for the link.

Let's make an impact as an APRALO community through these engagements!

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,  
Aris

### From APRALO Vice Chair Ali Almeshal

Dear APRALO Members,

Warmest wishes as we embrace 2025! 🎉 This new year is a canvas of possibilities; together, we will shape its narrative. As we reflect on our achievements, let us prepare for the exciting journey ahead.

**\*\*ICANN82 Community Forum – March 8–12, Seattle\*\***

While time zones may challenge some in our Asia-Pacific region, we encourage you to engage in every way you can! Register to:

- Participate in inspiring sessions
- Network with global peers
- Access recordings post-event for flexible viewing

Your energy and expertise are the heartbeat of APRALO. Every contribution, whether it tackles challenges or seizes opportunities, fuels our collective impact.

With gratitude and excitement,

Ali AlMeshal



# ICANN Updates

## Announced

- Announced the [NextGen@ICANN83 participants](#) and the [ICANN83 Fellows](#)
- The [main UA Day 2025 celebrations](#) will be held on 8 May in Hanoi, Vietnam, during the [APAC DNS Forum](#). The event will be organized in collaboration with UNESCO and the ICANN community, including the UASG.
- From 28 January 2025, the [Registration Data Access Protocol \(RDAP\) will be the e source for delivering gTLD registration information](#), with the WHOIS services sunsetted.

## Appointment

[Russ Weinstein was appointed ICANN Senior Vice President, Policy Development Support](#)

## Published

- The results of the [Annual Internet Assigned Numbers Authority \(IANA\) Functions Customer Engagement Survey](#),
- The [ICANN FY25 Q2 management financial results](#) and the [PTI FY25 Q2 management financial results](#).
- [Analysis of Internationalized Domain Names in Reputation Block List Data for the period of October 2022–September 2024](#).

## Webinar

Organised a webinar to discuss INFERMAL, a Project Focused on Malicious Domain Registrations

## Opportunity

- Application open for [ICANN84 fellowship round](#) till 25 March
- There is a [call for expressions of Interest for 2025 ICANN Nominating Committee Standing Committee Members](#) by 14 March
- NomCom is [inviting applications](#) by **28 March 2025** for the following positions:
  - Three members of the ICANN Board of Directors.
  - One member of the Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) Board of Directors.
  - Three regional representatives to the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) – one each from: the Africa region; the Asia, Australia and Pacific region; and the Latin America and Caribbean region.
  - One member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council.
  - Two members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council.

- 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.

## Government Engagement

Made a submission [for UN CSTD Twenty years in the implementation of outcomes of the World Summit of the Information Society \(WSIS\)](#)

## Public Comments

### Closed for inputs

- [Draft PTI FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#) by 17 February
- [ICANN FY26–30 Operating & Financial Plan, ICANN/IANA FY26 Op Plans & Budgets](#) by 14 February
- [Third Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of Next Round Applicant Guide Book](#) by 7 February
- [Proposed Updates to the Operating Standards for Specific Reviews](#) by 10 February
- [Phase 2 Final Report](#) on the EPDP-IDNs for ICANN Board Consideration by 3 February
- Draft [PTI Strategic Plan Covering 2025 to 2030](#) by 29 January
- Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) is seeking [feedback](#) on [Continuous Improvement Program Framework](#) by 17 January 2025

### Seeking inputs

- ICANN is seeking input on the [Proposed Language for Next Round Applicant Guidebook](#) by 2 April

## Blogs of Interest

- [A Preview of ICANN82 and Upgrades to the ICANN Community Wiki](#)
- [First Quarter Update on the New gTLD Program: Next Round](#)
- [One Year Highlighting the ICANN Registration Data Request Service Pilot Program](#)
- [Community Feedback Shapes the Revised Draft of ICANN's Next Strategic Plan](#)
- [ICANN Domain Metrica Release Update: Access Now Open to All Users](#)
- [ICANN Announces the Support Applicant Review Panel Provider for ASP](#)
- [ICANN's Commitment to WSIS+20: Progress and Opportunities](#)
- [ICANN Grant Program Reaches Major Milestone](#)
- [The ICANN MEA Region: 2024 Highlights and 2025 Road Map](#)
- [Chair's Blog: January Board Workshop Preview](#)
- [SSAC in 2025: Open, Engaged, and Accessible](#)
- [Reflecting on 2024: A Year of Progress in Technical Engagement Across the World](#)
- [Ombuds Office Blog: ICANN81 and the Power of Connection](#)
- [Introducing Enhanced Security and Access Tools for Root Zone Management](#)

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



## By Shah Zahidur Rahman

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), Regional At-Large Organizations (RALO) leaders, At-Large liaisons, and other At-Large community members will hold 20 sessions. The sessions will include two At-Large plenary sessions, policy and operations sessions, four joint sessions, two sessions focused on community engagement, five RALO sessions, a welcome session, and a wrap-up session.

Two key At-Large Plenary Sessions are titled: 1) “Core Internet Values: Evolution and Challenges for ICANN: and 2) “The Promise of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process and the New gTLD Round”. Moreover, At-Large will host a session highlighting policy topics that are of interest to the At-Large community. This session will include an overview of At-Large policy initiatives and ongoing policy topics of importance to end users, as well as topics currently discussed within the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG), such as the next round of new gTLDs, gTLD registration data, and DNS Abuse.



Among the four joint sessions, ALAC will meet with the ICANN Board to discuss issues of mutual interest and hold a session with the GAC, which will include discussions about the Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains Report, DNS Abuse, and the joint priorities of the GAC and ALAC related to the WSIS+20 review. In addition, the rest of the two joint sessions between ALAC-SSAC and ALAC-NCSG will bring fruits for thoughts.

At the Community Engagement Sessions, ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee (ACES) is going to address the 2025 roadmap highlighting how the Subcommittee works with the broader At-Large Community to ensure the successful implementation of its strategy.

At the RALO sessions, the five RALOs have several priority activities for ICANN82. The RALO leaders will host a RALO Coordination Meeting. Topics include issues which require joint RALO strategies and actions. Additionally, the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) will hold its meeting on the theme of “Advancing African Digital Identity in the Next Round of New gTLDs: Overcoming Barriers and Leveraging Support Opportunities”.

# APRALO Policy Forum Update

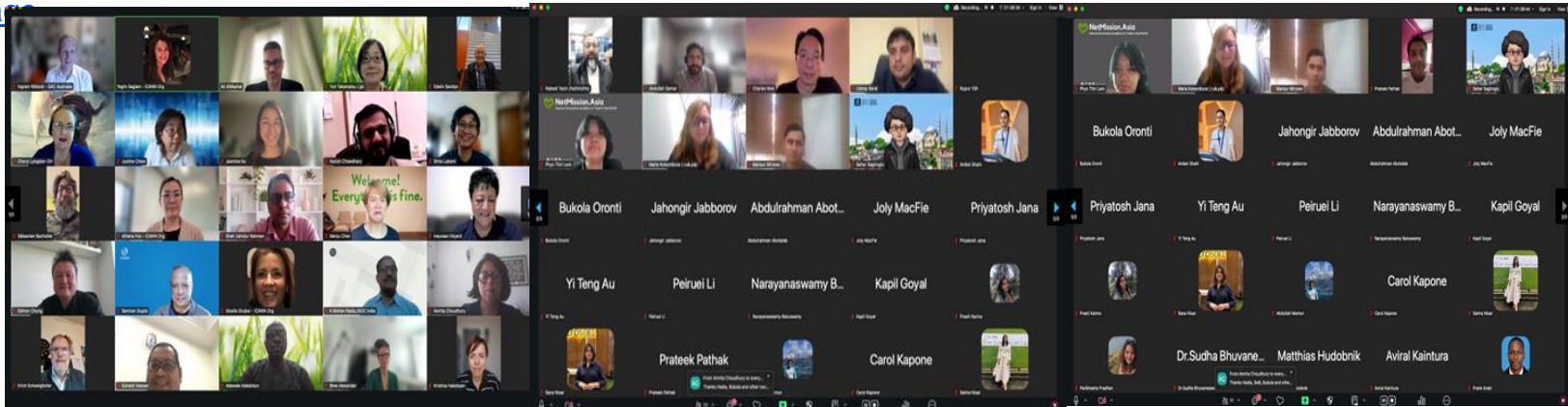
## APRALO ICANN81 Readout By Shah Zahidur Rahman

Organized by the APRALO Policy Forum, the APRALO ICANN81 Readout saw moderator Ali Almeshal joined by panelists Jasmine Ko, APRALO, based in HongKong, Edwin Sandys, ICANN81 Fellow, based in Fiji, Manju Chen, GNSO, based in Taiwan, Ingram Niblock, representing GAC, based in Australia and Yuri Takamatsu, ccNSO, based in Japan.

Panelists discussed their respective key takeaways from ICANN81 and briefly shared with participants their next steps to those takeaways towards ICANN82. Panelists also shared how they saw individual end-users playing a role in the ICANN mission. Sixty-six participants in attendance actively engaged with the panelists throughout the discussions.

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

[pa](#)



Pic: APRALO ICANN81 Readout

## Contribute to the ICANN & ALAC Policy 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.

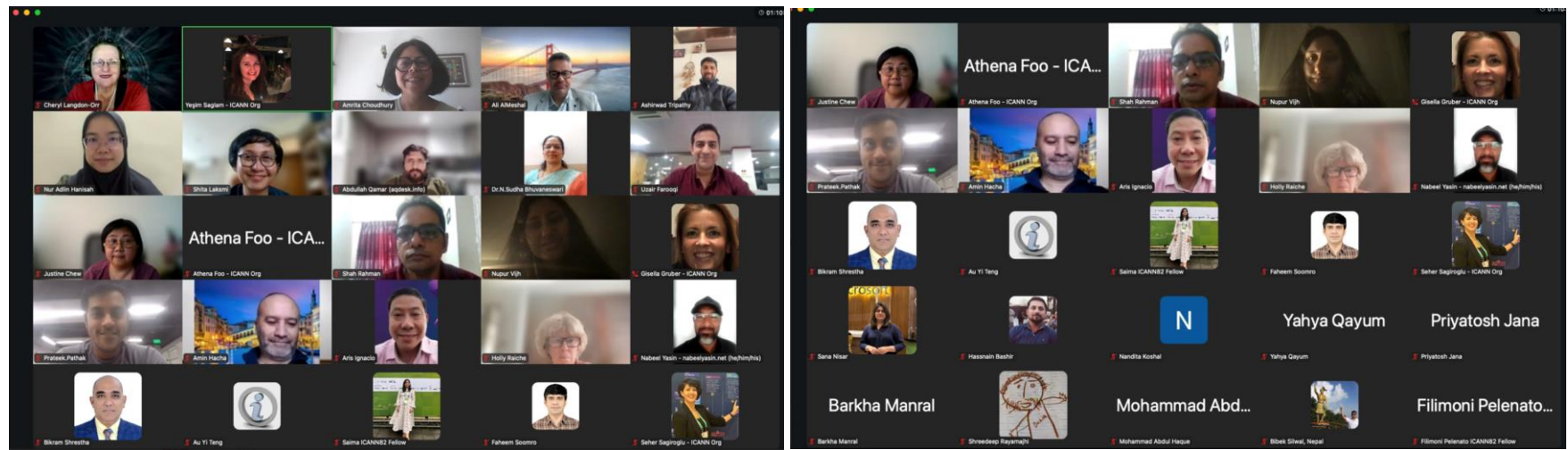
### Important Links to Visit

[At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice](#)  
[Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice](#)  
[Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)  
[At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group \(OFB-WG\)](#)

## January & February Call

In the [January monthly](#) call, Shita Lakshmi gave a presentation on the APRALO submission for the CIP Framework public comment proceeding. Justine provided a high level report on ROSI Cycle 1. After stock taking of Outreach and Engagement initiatives untill December 2024, there was a discussion on the community engagement in IGF2024.

In the [APRALO February monthly](#) call, Shah provided an update on what can be expected at ICANN82. Ali Almeshal provided an update on NomCom. Justine provided an update on her engagement in APIGA Malaysia. After a discussion on updating the outreach and engagement sheet, community members shared on the activities they had conducted in January and February.



Pic: From APRALO February Monthly Call

### **ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement - By Aris Ignacio**

The At-Large Community Engagement Subcommittee (ACES) is an initiative under the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) of ICANN, dedicated to enhancing community participation and outreach. ACES focuses on strengthening engagement among At-Large Structures (ALSes), individual members, and regional stakeholders by fostering awareness, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing.

Through capacity-building sessions, policy discussions, and strategic outreach activities, ACES ensures that end-user voices are actively represented in ICANN's policy-making processes. Key focus areas include Internet governance, Universal Acceptance (UA), DNS security, and digital inclusion, in pursuit of reinforcing the role of the At-Large community in shaping a more accessible and inclusive Internet.

The ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement is transitioning to ACES. The APRALO community will be represented by Shreedeeep Rayamajhi as the AP Lead and Jasmine Ko as the AP Lead Alternative.

### **CIP-CCG Group - Amrita Choudhury**

The Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) has been set up to evolve the ICANN Bylaw-mandated organisational review of ICANN components into a continuous improvement process.

As the next steps, the small team will review and prioritize the implementation plan to achieve the criteria and smart indicators.

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

## MYAPIGA2025

[Courtesy of the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission \(MCMC\)](#), as edited by Justine Chew

MCMC successfully organised the Local Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy – Malaysia (MyAPIGA) 2025, which took place from 16-18 February 2025. Opened by MCMC Director Zulkarnain Mohd Yasin, the program brought together future leaders in Internet governance for an enriching and transformative experience, equipping them with valuable insights and skills for the evolving Internet governance space.



Pic: From MY APIGA 2025

Designed to equip young professionals in Malaysia with a strong foundation in Internet governance, MyAPIGA 2025 covered key topics such as DNS and IP address policies, their role in cybersecurity, and the fundamentals of Internet governance. Participants also explored the multistakeholder governance model, a crucial framework for shaping inclusive and collaborative Internet policies at local, regional, and global levels.

## MYAPIGA2025 contd.

In addition, participants gained valuable knowledge, engaged in thought-provoking discussions, and connected with industry experts to shape the future of Internet governance. As a highlight, Muhammad Irfan Ismail and Lee Suke Mune were awarded the Most Outstanding Participants and will participate at the Regional APIGA in South Korea later in the year.

Organizers MCMC's Ruzamri Ruwandi and Mohamad Afiq Ammar Tulos, who both partly make up the regular Malaysian GAC delegation, invited their colleagues Nur Amanina Che Azemi and Wan Rosmawarni Wan Sulaiman, as well as APRALO Members, ISOC Malaysia's Prof. Ts. Dr. Suhaidi Hassan, APRALO ALAC Member Justine Chew, and 2024 APIGA facilitator Ahmad Umair Suhaid as speakers, . facilitators, and trainers. Rounding out that list were APAC IPv6 Council's Prof. Dr. Sureswaran Ramadass, MYNIC's Yeo Yee Ling, DotAsia's Edmon Chung, ICANN APAC GSE's Athena Foo, and APNIC's Sunny Chendi.



Pic: From MY APIGA 2025

## APNIC 59

By Justine Chew

The APNIC 59 Conference took place from February 24-26, 2025 in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, culminating with the APNIC AGM on February 27, 2025. Organized as a partner event to [APRICOT 2025](https://2025.apricot.net/), which was hosted by the Malaysia Network Operators Group (MyNOG), APNIC 59 provided the IP numbers community participants the opportunity to join a large number of sessions including APNIC masterclasses, network automation and network security workshops, APIX meetings, as well as sessions of the APNIC Cooperation SIG, APNIC Routing Security SIG, APNIC NIR SIG, APNIC Policy SIG, and APNIC Open Policy Meeting (see [Report](#)).



Picture taken from <https://2025.apricot.net/>

In particular, 2 sessions were organized to encourage increased participation in global Internet policy development (namely ICANN and Regional Internet Registries) and global standards development (namely IETF). APRALO ALAC Member Justine Chew was invited to share her experience and perspective as a regular ICANN policy development participant at the “Policy development – let’s engage” session on February 24, 2025. Justine and APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury (remote participant) also participated in the APNIC Open Policy Meeting and APNIC Global Reports session on February 26, 2025, and the APNIC AGM on February 27, 2025.

## APNIC 59 contd..

During the APNIC Open Policy Meeting, APNIC Chief Scientist Geoff Huston presented on “[What happened with Addresses in 2024](#)”, followed by discussions of 2 policy proposals: were presented and discussed: [prop-162: WHOIS Privacy](#) by Jonathan Brewer ([presentation](#)), and [prop-163: Enhancing WHOIS Transparency and Efficiency Through Referral Server Implementation](#) by Steve Tsung ([presentation](#)). It was ultimately determined that both proposals should be discussed further by the community and re-presented at APNIC 60.

During the [APNIC AGM](#), various reports were presented, including by the APNIC Executive Council (EC) Chair Kenny Huang, chairs/co-chairs of the various SIGs, and the APNIC EC Election Chair Tommi Chen. The project to revise the Internet Coordination Policy 2 (ICP2 Review Project) was also presented by Herve Clement (ASO Chair) and discussed with the community. Begun in October 2023, the ICP 2 Review Project considers two tasks aimed at strengthening the Regional Internet Registry system:

- (1) ICP-2 Implementation Procedures: Review and advise the NRO EC on its draft procedures for validating and addressing ongoing RIR compliance with ICP-2 (“Implementation Procedures”)
- (2) Strengthen ICP-2: Revise ICP-2 to make the RIR system more accountable to the Internet community.

## AP\* Star Retreat

By Justine Chew

The annual [AP\\* Star Retreat](#) (a gathering of a [community of Asia Pacific Internet organizations](#)) preceded APNIC 59 on February 23, 2025 and comprised four segments. Segment 1 sought an overview of Capacity Building Programs in APAC while examining the need for capacity building from the wider Internet community. Segment 2 sought to understand participating organizations'/participants' knowledge and levels of involvement in the WSIS+20 Review Process and what more can be done to boost the same. Segment 3 saw presentations by participating members and Segment 4 started a discussion on the future of the AP\* Retreat. APRALO was represented by Justine (in-person) and Amrita (remotely).



Pic: From AP\* Retreat

## ISOC PH Joins Course on Community-Centered Connectivity and Social Entrepreneurship

By Aris Ignacio

The Internet Society Philippines Chapter (ISOC PH) participated in the introductory course on Community-Centered Connectivity Initiatives (CCCI) and Social Entrepreneurship on February 20. The event was hosted by the Institute for Social Entrepreneurship in Asia (ISEA), the Ateneo Center for Social Entrepreneurship, and the Association for Progressive Communications (APC). This course aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to develop sustainable connectivity solutions tailored to the unique needs of their communities.

ISOC PH's involvement underscores its commitment to promoting inclusive internet access across the Philippines. By engaging in this course, ISOC PH aims to foster the growth of CCCIs that not only bridge the digital divide but also empower local communities through social entrepreneurship. Such initiatives are vital in ensuring that underserved and remote areas gain reliable internet connectivity, thereby enhancing opportunities for education, economic development, and social inclusion.

This collaboration aligns with ISOC PH's ongoing efforts to support community networks and advocate for policies that facilitate grassroots connectivity projects. By partnering with organizations like ISEA and APC, ISOC PH continues to contribute to a more connected and equitable digital landscape in the Philippines.



Pic: From the event

### DNS and DNS Security Workshop by ISOC India Bengaluru Chapter

On February 7, 2025 the Internet Society (ISOC) India Bengaluru chapter, in collaboration with ICANN, Mitel, and Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering (DSCE), organized a two-day DNS and DNS Security Workshop in Bengaluru, bringing together over 100 participants both in-person and remotely.

The event featured discussions on DNS security, Universal Acceptance (UA), Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), and Email Address Internationalization (EAI), engaging corporate engineers, policymakers, researchers, and students. Experts Mr. Champika Wijayatunga (APNIC) and Yash Agarwal led sessions on DNS vulnerabilities, mitigation strategies, and the importance of DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC). The workshop also highlighted the significance of UA, IDNs, and EAI in fostering digital inclusivity.



### The Internet is For the Children - by Eak Abhiyan

On 8th February 2025, the Nepal Interent Foundation organised the "Eak Abhiyan" Campaign, in collaboration with Elrose Education, hosted an art exhibition and the interactive "Paint Your Canvas" activity during the 2nd National Abacus Championship. The event celebrated creativity alongside academic growth, featuring diverse student artworks and live painting. Special face painting added a colorful and playful touch.

The presence of key supporters emphasized the importance of fostering creativity. Proceeds from the exhibition supported providing internet access to foster homes. The event highlighted the power of combining art, education, and social responsibility, driving positive change and creating a brighter future for all.



## Update from the APRALO Community

### Three Day Faculty Development Programme at ISOC India Hyderabad on Universal Acceptance Curriculum

From 20-22 February, 2025 the ISOC India Hyderabad Chapter, in collaboration with ICANN, successfully organized a three-day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Universal Acceptance (UA) Curriculum. The program, attended by 22 faculty members from 11 institutions, was designed to equip educators with the knowledge to integrate UA principles into academic courses. Mr. Geraldo Ferreira (UA Technical Manager, ICANN Europe) and Mr. Yash Agarwal (Global Stakeholder Engagement Manager, ICANN Asia Pacific) led the sessions emphasizing the importance of multilingual internet accessibility, particularly in a diverse linguistic landscape like India.



At the closing ceremony, ISOC Hyderabad launched the ISOC UA Forum, an initiative to foster academic collaboration on UA research and implementation. The program received positive feedback, with faculty members now set to introduce UA education into their institutions' curricula. For those interested in joining the ISOC UA Forum, [Join Here](#).

### MoU Signing Between ISOC Bangladesh and BIGF

Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter (ISOC BD) and Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum (BIGF) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration on Internet governance, digital development, and emerging technologies in Bangladesh. The signing ceremony took place on February 24, 2025, with key representatives from both organizations present.

The MoU was signed by Dr. Md. Nadir Bin Ali, President of the Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter, on behalf of ISOCBD and Mohammad Aminul Hakim, Chairperson of Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum, on behalf of BIGF.



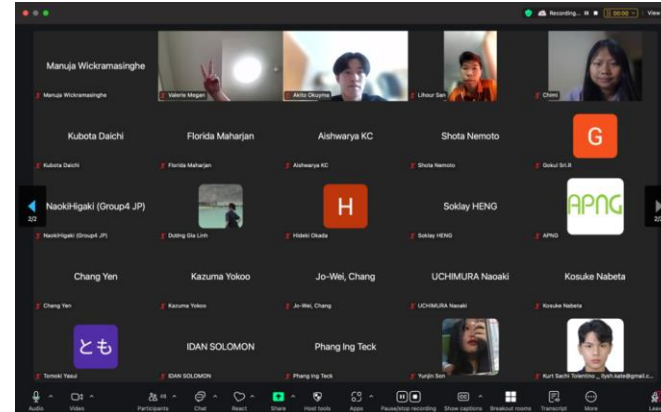
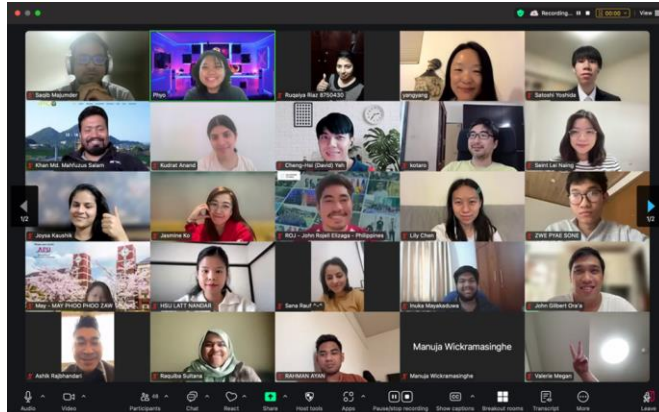
# Update from the APRALO Community

## 17th Camp Asia Pacific Next Generation (APNG) On-site Camp 2025 in Iizuka Campus, KyuTech, Fukuoka, Japan - By Phyo Thiri Lwin

The APNG Camp is a venue where future Internet leaders of the Asia Pacific region learn from and work with experts from different sectors. The camp fosters discussion, collaboration, and multidisciplinary research among participants and mentors centered on digital society and its opportunities from Asian perspectives.

### Theme: What Can We Trust Today? Fostering Trust Using AI, Blockchain, and Web3

A Pre-Camp Session for fellows was held on March 1, 2025 to provide foundational insights and prepare participants for the on-site camp activities. Please find more about 17th APNG Camp: <https://apngcamp.asia/17/>



## Upcoming Events

### You are invited to the Universal Acceptance Day for APAC Youth (Virtual Event) - By Phyo Thiri Lwin (NetMission APRALO Study Group Coordinator)

NetMission is excited to celebrate Universal Acceptance (UA) Day in the APAC region on April 10, 2025! If you're a young person aged 18-35, we invite you to join us in this special celebration. Come be a part of the movement towards a more inclusive and multilingual Internet!

- Date: 10 April 2025
- Time: 13:00 UTC
- Duration: 1.5 hr
- **Registration:**  
<https://forms.gle/j2RKMBxgctX7hLoe8>



**NETMISSION.asia**  
www.nma.asia



Universal Acceptance

UA Day  
*#Internet4All*

### Events

- [APAC DNS](#) Forum 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.
- [APNIC 60](#) will be held in Da Nang, Viet Nam from 4 to 11 September 2025.

### Opportunities

- The [application submission period](#) for the Applicant Support Program (ASP), part of the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program: Next Round at ICANN is open till 19 November 2025.

# Thank You

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

[amritachoudhury@ccaai.in](mailto:amritachoudhury@ccaai.in)