

Report on #ICANN57

By: Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola

I recently had the privilege of attending the #ICANN57 which took place in Hyderabad, India, 3-9 November 2016 as a "Fellow" under the auspices of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Business Constituency (BC).

The fellowship program was a wonderful and eye opening, albeit hectic, experience and I would like to thank the BC and ICANN for their willingness to invest trust and resources in me to ensure my attendance. I also wish to express profound gratitude to Ms. Siranush Vardanyan for her tireless efforts, positive composure, and patience. I ask that my heartfelt appreciation be conveyed to all the unsung heroes' and heroines who made conference work and associated processes run smoothly.

Each of us needs to undertake a postmortem of our participation in #ICANN57. In my case I have asked myself two basic questions, among others, with summary of answers below, namely:

1. What did I do right?
 - a. I came to ICANN with an open mind.
 - b. I was, and remain, curious.
 - c. I quickly shared my insights with colleagues and associates in Nigeria, as they occurred.
 - d. I decided to join the Business Constituency (BC) and look at areas with a view towards making modest voluntary initial forays in the #ICANN ecosystem.
2. What can I do better?
 - a. I need to be better prepared and read more about ICANN, its aspirations, composition and processes.
 - b. I need to enhance my focus on my core areas of interest.
 - c. Be more disciplined about deciding on which sessions to attend.
 - d. I missed the visits to the T-Incubator as well as that to the Indian School of Business.
 - e. Sleep early so I will be more alert during sessions.

#ICANN57 has been a learning experience and I highlight the following take-aways:

1. During the #ICANN57 opening ceremony the Terengganu (Hyderabad) State ICT Minister said that they are laying 150,000 km of fiber cable alongside new water pipes to all homes in the state. The Union (National) of Justice & ICT & Minister said that India added more mobile phones in the last year than the total mobile phones in France and Italy combined. He went on to outline India's plans to link 19 million homes to broadband in next 18 months. Impressive. In subsequent discussions with colleagues we concluded that it was preferable to bury the fibre cable below the water pipes as local communities have greater inclination to protect water pipes, or report damaged water pipes. I intend to pass these insights to the Nigerian Minister of Communications as well as the Governor of Kaduna State (already done), Nigeria.
2. I was also able to share several videos, materials and ideas with my colleagues both in the office and in the wider Nigerian ICT community, during the various presentations and lectures. I am struggling to download the audio files so that my colleagues can listen and learn. I also met several smart and good people whom I will endeavor to keep in touch with.
3. The skit at the beginning of the "DNSSEC For Everybody: A Beginner's Guide", that took place on Friday, 04 November 2016 impressed me. I look forward to implementing similar skits in my future presentation on DNSSEC and cybersecurity.
4. The adjacent picture exemplifies my perception of the #ICANN family and spirit of [#ICANN57](#) because how many technology oriented conferences are there where empowered Native Americans (American Indian) ladies take pictures with Asian Indians and an African. More can be found on <https://www.facebook.com/CS2Nigeria/>
5. I have already submitted an application to formally join the BC.

