

APTLD Kuala Lumpur Meeting Communiqué 22-23 May 2008

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APTLD members and supporters met in Kuala Lumpur for a series of meetings in late May, with over 110 people from 27 ccTLDs and 27 other organisations participating in a range of workshops and seminars. Two days of APTLD members meetings were preceded by an Attack & Disaster Response Planning (ADRP) workshop and the MYNIC World Cyber Security Seminar, and followed by a day of APTLD organised workshops on ccTLD policy development, marketing and registry software options.

ICT in Malaysia



Mr Toh Swee Hoe, a Senior Director in the Malaysian Communications and Media Commission, opened the meeting with an outline of the ambitious and extensive ICT developments that have been a priority for Malaysian Government action in recent years. Rapid progress has been made and the Commission's work programme is a broad-based strategy to improve both infrastructure for access to telecommunications (particularly through investments in a phased rollout of very high speed broadband), and the capacity of Malaysia to make best use of ICT in its social and economic development.

Progress on Internationalised Domain Names

A major focus of the meeting was the ongoing process to develop a fast-track policy for use of Internationalised Domain Names by territories in the ICANN root (IDN ccTLD). The key difficulty has been coming up with a policy for the allocation of IDN ccTLDs without prejudicing future decisions on the final policy for their implementation.

Speakers included **Chris Disspain**, the ccNSO Chair, who outlined the methodology proposed for the allocation of IDN TLDs under the fast track policy proposal. He expressed his hopes that the policy will be able to be finalised at or soon after the Paris meetings next month.

Gihan Dias (.lk) discussed approaches to community consultation in choosing what IDN TLD to seek, from the Sri Lankan perspective of a trilingual community.

Abdulaziz Al-Zoman (.sa) gave a presentation dealing with the differences between languages and scripts, and what the issues arising from this are in writing domain names in the IDN space. A new working group, the ASIWG (Arabic Script IDN Working Group) has been formed, with APTLD as a supporter, to rationalise and harmonise the different approaches of various languages that make use of the Arabic script. The goal is to establish agreed rules among TLD operators to reduce confusion among end users.



The discussion after the presentations covered further issues, among them whether the inauguration of a new IDN TLD related to a particular territory is a generic TLD matter, or whether it is a country code TLD matter. The IDNC, which includes members from ccNSO, gNSO, GAC, ALAC & Security & Stability committee members is working on its report, and it will be up for discussion at the Paris ICANN meetings. If consensus can be found, then the ICANN Board should be able to approve the fast track at Paris or shortly after.

Anycast

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A focus on Anycast as a way to improve the reliability, resiliency and security of DNS services for ccTLDs was another key focus of the meeting. A range of presentations were made, with an unparalleled range of Anycast providers together in the room for the first time, for members to compare and ask questions of.



Mark Perkins (.za) introduced the topic, explaining what Anycast is and how it can benefit ccTLD managers. He was followed by **John Kane** (Afilias) & **June Seo** (Verisign) who outlined how their services benefited the TLD's they manage and by **Nurani Nimpuno** (Autonomica), **Bart Mackay** (Community DNS), **Fernando Espana** (NeuStar) and **Bill**

Woodcock (Packet Clearing House) who explained how their services operate and their philosophical underpinnings..

The general view in the discussion was that the different providers offered similar services but operate with different philosophies, which mean that ccTLDs which wish to implement Anycast should take care to scrutinise the offers in the market and choose a provider (if they wish to outsource) whose philosophies are close to their own.

Choosing a Registry Solution

Adrian Kinderis (AusRegistry) gave a comprehensive presentation on the issues to be considered in making a choice of registry software solutions. He covered a wide range of issues including the importance of an appropriate policy framework that meets the needs of the local Internet community, and an appropriate technical solution to implement that framework in the most effective possible way. Essentially he provided a useful checklist of things for ccTLD managers to consider if they are engaging in a choice of registry process.

This presentation was followed by two presentations on recent selection experiences, by **Stephen Deerhake** (.as) and **Choon Sai Lim** (.sg). Both speakers gave interesting insights into the different processes they followed, what worked and what did not work well in making their selections, and the factors they took into account in making a decision as to which providers to choose.

Six registry solutions were presented at the subsequent workshop. These included: Open Source locally hosted FRED (**Pavel Tuma** - .cz) and NZRS (**Nick Griffin** - .nz), Cocca's Open Source shared or self-serviced option (**Garth Miller** – Cocca) , Afilias' (**John Kane**) and Neustar's (**Fernando Espana**) outsourced solution, and proprietary self-service solution from Qinetics/WebCC (**TK Tan**).

IGF, ISOC, GKP

Three interesting speakers highlighted broader ICT issues to the meeting. **Markus Kummer** is the Secretariat for the UN's **Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**, and spoke live to the meeting via web-link from his Geneva home in the early morning. He explained what the Forum does and why ccTLDs should engage. He argued that the Forum provides a useful platform for information sharing, and to get governments to consider ideas they otherwise would have no way to know about.



Rinalia Abdul Rahim gave an energetic presentation on the **GKP, the Global Knowledge Partnership**, explaining that it is a multi-stakeholder, multinational forum to bring the widest possible range of ICT for development organisations together. GKP's mission is to improve global development prospects by allowing for the successful sharing of knowledge between all the organisations which have resources that could help development if they were able to work together effectively. GKP's members can provide a good partner for ccTLD, particularly those in developing economies, which are keen to grow the Internet

use within their communities.

Rajnish Singh presented briefly on the work of **ISOC, the Internet Society**, outlining the activities that ISOC undertakes, its work in the region and globally and also urged engagement from the ccTLDs and local internet communities with ISOC. He also outlined the extensive resources that ISOC has available for local education and training on Internet-related issues as well as their ongoing support for ccTLDs from developing countries.

Extensive updates from ICANN

Several sessions in the APTLD meetings dealt with recent happenings in **ICANN**. Former APTLD Chair and current Chair of ICANN, **Peter Dengate Thrush**, worked through the activity that the ICANN Board currently has on its agenda. Key issues are a consideration on how ICANN's public meetings can better incorporate input from the community; the adoption of the next year's ICANN Budget, the ongoing mandatory reviews of ICANN component organisations, and the implementation of the recommendations of the GNSO Improvements Report – particularly processes around new gTLDs, and IDN work. He finished by urging APTLD members to join ICANN's ccNSO.



Steve Crocker, the chair of **ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee**, gave an update on the Committee's recent work, noting that while it often focuses on gTLD issues much of its work has a strong relevance for ccTLD managers as well.

Chris Disspain, the chair of the **ccNSO**, gave a brief update too on the ccNSO's upcoming meeting in Paris, dealing with the IDN fast track in particular.

Adrian Kinderis, a member of the **gNSO Council**, gave a similar update on the issues facing the gTLD community, the largest of which are the IDN fast track, dealing with domain tasting, and the implementation process for new gTLDs.

Theresa Swinehart (ICANN's VP, Global and Strategic Partnerships) gave a briefing on the contents of ICANN's draft FY2008/2009 Budget, covering the bottom line for the organisation, sources of funding and areas of expenditure. The Budget remains open for submissions and will be adopted by the Board after further consideration at the ICANN meetings in Paris in June.

There was also a brief update from **Ching Chao** for the **APRALO**, highlighting the issues that the At-large structures are dealing with (which substantially crossover with the agendas of the ccNSO and gNSO at the current time).



Jayantha Fernando from Sri Lanka gave the meeting a briefing on ICANN's **Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)**, explaining their role in the ICANN system and advising what issues are currently on the GAC agenda. He highlighted in particular the gains that ccTLDs could achieve by encouraging their governments to participate in the GAC.

Member Updates

A number of APTLD members presented updates on their local ccTLD activities, including the host organisation **.my** (**Rahadhiah Halida**) and **.jp** (**Toshihiro Sasaki**).

Yee Ling Yeo (.my) reported on the results of a joint survey, organised with APTLD, which addressed Security issues – including issues around phishing, pharming, and registrant

information security. Yee Ling indicated that she would keep the survey open for another two weeks for any late response before preparing a final report.

Other presentations

A number of other presentations were included in the course of the meeting:

- DNSSEC – consideration in selection - **Lester Kum** from SGNIC presented on the technical issues.
- Fast Flux – **Adli Wahid** from MyCERT gave an outline presentation of the issue of Fast Flux, which is causing issues for cc and gTLD managers.
- Performance Handling – **Brent Lee** from WebCC gave a presentation on steps ccTLD managers could take to ensure the best possible performance for the registry.
- **Ching Chao** gave a presentation on the relief.asia efforts that .ASIA has been coordinating arising from the Myanmar cyclone and the Sichuan earthquake. **Jonathan Shea** indicated that .hk is also raising funds and **Jian Zhang** (.cn) indicated that CNNIC was extending registrants in the area extra time to renew names that are expiring. Members were encouraged to give generously through one of these options.
- **Jonathan Shea** (APTLD Chair) and **Don Hollander** (General Manager) reported to members on the recent activity and future plans of APTLD.



APTLD Workshops



The two days of APTLD meetings were preceded by a two day workshop on Attack & Disaster Response Planning organised by ICANN and delivered by Steve Conte and Chris Fogle. This very well received workshop focused on business response planning in the event of an attack or disaster (natural or otherwise). Participants will also participate in a follow-up on-line workshop to review specific templates for plans.

This workshop complements a more technical training session being offered by APNIC in August in Brisbane.

A further day of Workshops followed the members meeting and dealt with three broad areas: **Registry Software Solutions**, **ccTLD Marketing** – aimed at both the registrant and the registrar, and the **ccTLD Policy Development** process. All three subject areas attracted very good attendance and saw a free exchange of ideas and expertise between the members present.

APTLD offers its thanks to MYNIC, the local host for the meetings, who provided an excellent experience with well-organised venue arrangements, generous sponsorship and brilliant hospitality for lunches and dinners during the meetings. We are also grateful to Afilias, AusRegistry International, ICANN, Neustar and RegistryASP for their sponsorship of the workshops.



All available presentations are on the APTLD web site – www.aptd.org

The next Members' meeting of APTLD will be held in Hyderabad, India, at the start of December 2008 in conjunction with the IGF.

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