
PRAGUE – Welcome to Newcomers' Track

Sunday, June 24, 2012 – 10:30 to 11:00

ICANN - Prague, Czech Republic

Janice Douma Lange: Hi everybody, and thank you for joining us. We're going to get started in just one minute.

[background conversation]

Filiz Yilmaz: Okay, I think we are getting settled nicely. We have a full schedule so I will start now. My name is Filiz Yilmaz. I'm the Senior Director of Participation and Engagement on ICANN staff, and welcome to the ICANN meeting. I think this is one of the first real public sessions, other than group sessions, that anybody can come here and get together.

I will quickly go through some very basic logistics first and then we will get more into our introductory sessions. I can speak Turkish, a bit of Dutch and my common language with the rest of the people is English, but if you can speak French or Spanish and would like to hear what I say in those translated languages you can use the headsets. We have my colleague translators at the back who are going to be helping us throughout the whole day so and if you want to raise your questions in your own language, I will be reading those. So make use of them if you would like to.

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One small request as is any common meeting, please put the mobiles off or on silence and [checking line], sort of as the example here; and please do not take calls while you are in the room. These sessions are going to be interactive so we would like to hear your questions on the spot. However, at the end of each presentation and session there will be a time for questions and answers. So it is your decision if you want to raise your hand and raise your question immediately or if you would like to wait till the end in asking that. We may also say "Well, we will cover that in a few slides so could you please wait?"

So "What is this? Why am I here?" If you are asking these questions we hope to answer these questions with these sessions. This is the Newcomers' Program. I hope you will be using the day effectively. This is something that we created recently. If you are a newcomer, a first-time attendee of an ICANN meeting you should have been given green badges already as an extension to your digest, other than the green participant part. If you haven't been given that I would advise you to go and ask for it again at the registration desk, maybe there was an oversight. We use these badges to identify you. Yes, it is kind of like receiving attention and I know some people don't like it but it is a useful addition because then you will be identified not only by ICANN staff but also committee members, too, so we can have a dialog to pay some extra attention to you guys to provide you with the most effective help and information providing at the time, the value needed.

We will have the Newcomers' Track today, this is what it is, and I will touch upon the agenda in a minute. And we also have a Newcomers' Lounge. You should have been directed towards there as soon as you got your green badges at the registration desk, and if you haven't again

please check the signs. It's by the registration, behind the registration – we tried to design it quite effectively but you know, if you have missed it it was open already yesterday. And we will serve you there until Wednesday.

We have a meeting greeting team there and this is an interesting combination of people. We have there ICANN staff together with some people who are now Fellowship alumni – so those people who really know what it means to be a first-time attendee or a second-time, and they've been through that and now they want to help others. So this is a very good marriage we have going on there for you guys. Please go and meet the staff. It is also a meeting point for all of you as newcomers as well as old-timers, because now it's turning into an information hub for everybody. When you drop by there you will also see some other people dropping by there asking questions, so it's a good meeting point.

Why are we doing this? Now more into the content. I introduced myself at the beginning as ICANN staff but I was not once, and my first ever ICANN meeting happened when I was not an ICANN staff. I'd been working in the communications industry for a while, I'm not going to reveal my age but it's been a while, and I attended my first ICANN meeting in 2009 already as part of the community working in a related organization but never being to an ICANN meeting before – it was Seoul. And I stood there and looked at the capacity of the meeting, all these people – 1500 people coming through the corridors and I didn't know the acronyms and I didn't know which session to go to, which door to go in and who to talk to really. So I felt lost.

And now we hope that we have you with these feelings, possible feelings of being lost and of trying to catch up with this massive information flow because ICANN meetings involve some very complex issues and it takes time to really catch up on what people are discussing in order to follow it; as well as building social relationships as well. So we want to make that process for you a little easier, a bit more effective so that we can help you understand ICANN and the ICANN community, how it works, the structures, the processes better. We want to mentor and guide you, providing this kind of information in an effective way so that your first ICANN meeting can result in an effective engagement. I want you guys to leave this meeting hopefully willing to come back and stay as a part of the ICANN community. This is our goal so please use us, ICANN staff – myself, Janice, the staff and Fellowship alumni who will serve at the Newcomers' Lounge. We are here for you.

So the tracks, as we said there's a Newcomers' Lounge – you can drop by there whenever you want. We will be staffing it according to the opening and closing times of the registration desk and you can ask anything there, whatever you need. Today is a bit more structured training in terms of the very fundamental ICANN issues, and this will be our agenda. After me I will leave the mic to my colleague Janice to talk about ICANN and the community and how it works together, and then in the afternoon, after a break we will talk about engagement tools, the role of the Ombudsman – “Ombudsman 101” will be a session to talk about our Ombudsman, how he works with the community and where his role stays within that overall picture.

Then normally we would have a policy update, however we are experiencing a delayed flight of my colleague who was going to present

this. He's stranded in Frankfurt at the moment and I hope he will make it on time but we'll have to move him a little further. So we're not going to be following exactly this schedule but Policy Update will be after a few sessions. We will touch upon our registries and registrars and recent developments that are happening in the domain name space. It's very important – things are changing, I'm very sure you are aware of that. And we will complete with Contractual Compliance at ICANN.

So now to start on a few basics and also touch upon what we are going to be seeing throughout the day, like I said I didn't want to reveal my age but I quite know the history of the internet to some extent. And thirty years ago, or three decades ago almost when the industry started being out there – and it started as an academic tool mostly – it was very different, very different. Now you have it as a utility. You pay your electricity bills at home. You take it seriously if an organization or a business doesn't have websites while some time ago I was out there... I'm originally from Turkey and I worked with the team that brought internet to Turkey at the time, and our initial mission was to go up there and introduce this new thing to the people.

And I remember giving training sessions on “Oh look, this is an email – how cool is that? You press a button and then the information goes there.” And I would receive those questions – “Well, I have a fax, why would I need that?” or “A website?” comparing to leaflets for advertisements. Those were the days, yeah, and like I said now we are all paying electricity bills. So there has been some change over the technology and the way it's used and accepted and has got into our lives, and these are the numbers about it. If you like to look at graphs this is my single slide almost in this presentation – this is a report from

Verisign in their "Domain Name Industry Brief" which was published in March, 2012. And they looked at the end of 2011 and they saw 225 million domain names registered – and it's growing. So this is what you're dealing with.

As we are talking about we are working with internet, we are living with it. The question often comes "Well, who is in charge?" Not one single group is in governance of it, let's say. It is governed through a distributed system and several actors play crucial roles, and ICANN is part of that system – one of the organizations facilitating this internet ecosystem, and it is using a multi-stakeholder model. What is that multi-stakeholder model? Basically it is a unit form of governance in effect. There is a global reach and outlook involved in it and it is promoting bottom-up decision making. So it's not top-down but bottom-up, and the users, the people who are involved in this system are there to provide solutions and bring up discussions through the environment, which obviously results in some decentralized control.

It is there the multi-stakeholder model is coming from, then. It is inclusive and participative. You are the decision maker if you are going to put up an idea to the table or not. It is not somebody telling you "Okay, you can join," or not. And attention is given to the voices of the community as much as the voices of those that are linked to organizations and power, let's say.

So what is ICANN? We work with abbreviations you will find out throughout the week. When you look at the name ICANN it is Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers, so and we talked about the multi-stakeholder model – facilitating those multi-stakeholders.

ICANN is a global multi-stakeholder organization. We coordinate the internet system of unique identifiers which are the IP addresses and [autonomic] systems, domain names, and some protocol – port and perimeter numbers. These are very specific IANA functions but I'm sure you are very aware of the domain name part of it.

The operation and evaluation of the DNS root name server system is also coordinated by ICANN, and the very important other role which we will be talking about a lot today is the coordination of the policy development issues around these technical functions. So we are a coordinating body out there but we also facilitate the policy development environment for that, and this is why we are here. We are having ICANN meetings and we are having this multi-stakeholder model to talk about these policy issues.

ICANN works in certain principles. We work towards keeping address and root management stable and secure. That involves a community, obviously, why we say ICANN through our multi-stakeholder model – you have a responsibility to work towards that, too. We promote competition among domain name business sectors and like I said, we facilitate the model. It is a universal model. It is inclusive, like I said. It is very transparent. Transparency is the key, one of the principles. There is no domination of one single group and there is opportunity for all to influence the agenda. And consensus-based decision making processes are in place. Particularly we will see what they are throughout the day today.

So how it really works: this will be all recapped during the day, and there will be some amount of repetition but we keep that on purpose

because when you have these building blocks, sometimes having them overlapping slightly helps you to link the concepts so bear with us, please. So this is kind of a mapping of the ICANN structure on the screen as you see. If you see ICANN as an organization in the middle, you see from both sides there is feedback coming from certain organizations and committees.

Who are they? The main policymaking bodies are the ASO, GNSO and ccNSO. The ASO is the address part – we will go through the details of this. The GNSO is the Generic Name Supporting Organization; ccNSO is the Country Code Name Supporting Organization. These make policies; policy developments are done through these organizations, and when I say “organizations” it’s the community. This is not ICANN as an organization. ICANN as an organization is the circle in between, as you see, that’s separate with our Board of Directors and ICANN staff.

Then we have the Advisory Committees. These committees basically work and strive to promote the feedback, the At-Large community feedback, towards those policy developments. So we have the Government Advisory Committee, the Root Service System Advisory Committee, Security and Stability Advisory Committee and the At-Large Advisory Committee. They do not produce policies and they do not develop policies but they provide feedback on the policy development that is done by these supporting organizations on the right.

So this is what I’ve gone through initially. This policy development process has certain stages, and the transparency is coming from the fact that the process is quite well defined. They have their details of their own policy development process up online, but one thing that complies

with all or one detail that is common between these groups is that after they develop certain policies they bring it to a stage with the expertise they have, in their expertise field – say the ccNSO or GNSO or ASO. Before making any formal and final decision the topic is put out there for the community's view and comment, and that community is the entire ICANN community.

So you as somebody who is part of ALAC or an ICANN participant have the right to go and comment on what the GNSO has produced or proposed and put on the table. Before they make a decision or they recommend to the ICANN Board for it to be implemented, you will have the chance to say your word about it, and that will happen through the public comment processes. This is a separate system; we will talk about that. Policy development is done in smaller groups. They bring a proposal to the table, and once it is at the table then the entire ICANN community's input is sought on that proposal before an informal decision is made – that's the whole story.

I will not get into the details of these organizations just now. We have presentations following throughout the day and we will see more of this. But what I want to give you as a real example of this process is the New gTLDs. So the real story is the issue was raised by the GNSO. So one part of the community eight years ago, in 2004, they raised the issue of having new gTLDs in place. So they raised the recommendations and among themselves they adopted those recommendations in 2007. You see, up until that it is a group discussion within GNSO. And then in 2008 these recommendations were adopted by the ICANN Board to look for the implementation processes. And now

today, as you know, we have the applications in place since the 12th of January and those were open until the 13th of June.

So I'm not going to get into the details of this. In the afternoon one of the sessions, the "Recent Developments within the DNS World," that presentation will be touching on the issues and topics about new gTLDs, but this is one thing that was produced by the ICANN community as a whole. So that's just an example, and do you have any questions at this moment before we dive into more details? This was just an intro to tell you what we are going to do today, how this day is going to proceed. And you can be here if you're a newcomer or not, but these are the issues we're going to be covering today.

Any questions? No? Very clear, okay. Can you move to use this, sir? We need you at the microphone for everything to be recorded. If you can tell your name and association.

Male:

Yes, I am [Leon] from Mexico and if I understand well, the difference between the GNSO and the advisory committees is that the first one, the GNSO, they shape the policy and then submit it to the Board. And then the Board discusses it with the advisory committees or what are the differences between the advisory committee and the SOs?

Filiz Yilmaz:

Thank you for the question. GNSO, ccNSO and Address Support Organization, can I move back to.... Yes, this picture. So the one on the right is the ASO, GNSO and ccNSO are the main policymaking bodies. So if they want to bring a new policy to be implemented, they have an idea

– they work through the idea among themselves, through their policy development processes; and once they agree among themselves they are required to put it up for public comments. So the entire ICANN community's view is also taken, then it goes to the ICANN Board if it is relating to an ICANN Board adoption, by the way. The ICANN Board will review both the comments and the proposal and then make a decision.

In some cases, what you see in public comments are actually medium steps of this policy development process, too. So what you may be seeing – the GNSO, they work through their policy development process; they build a block of an issue and they say “Okay, stop for a moment. We will go and seek further and wider feedback from the ICANN community before we build more.” And then at that stage the ICANN Board may not be involved because it is their decision, what they get from the community and then they refine this building block or what they have penciled in. Then it goes back within their organization and they work through again. Alright? Thank you.

Male:

My name's [Alec Pakoshiv], I'm the President of [Names Systems Worldwide], the registries. Quick question on the Regional Internet Registries: can you describe what those do and how they are related to all that stuff in ICANN's operations?

Filiz Yilmaz:

We will go through the details of these a little but I think I can answer the question, Janice, if that's okay with you – you're not covering those details so much. The Address Supporting Organization is the link

between the regional internet registries and the ICANN community. We are all one big internet community. The Address Support Organization is talking to the regional internet registries who are the main registry of address space, so they are responsible for the registration of IP numbers and AS numbers. ICANN, under its IANA function is assigning blocks of these resources to regional internet registries and they work through the registration of that within their region.

Now, they are divided into five regions and they have their own policies, so anything address related is actually developed through those regions with the local community of that region; and then the advice comes back to the ICANN community and then there is a last [temperature] check through a public comment process to say "Okay, this is what that region needs and this policy will be made." And the ASO and NRO coordinates the global policies around them, so it's a link. But if you want to comment on the real substance on regional IP policies, internet protocol number policies, you should be going and discussing them within that region. Thank you.

Alright, thank you. Oh, you were helping, thank you. And I will leave it to Janice – I believe we are doing good on time, right?

[End of Transcript]