**APrIGF Seoul 2013**

**Workshop Summary Reports**

**Date:** 4 September 2013

**Time:** 1630-1800

**Track:** Multi-stakeholder Enhanced Cooperation/Openess/Security/Access

**Workshop Title:** ICANN Engagement with the Asia Pacific community

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**Moderators:**

**Panelists:** Fadi Chehadé, Kuo Wei Wu, Yu-Chuang Kuek, Save Vocea

**A brief summary of presentations (If any)**

1. **ICANN in APAC, The Path Forward.**

A presentation by Kuek, new VP for Asia on unveiling plans to formulate an Asia Pacific regional engagement plan. This provided an opportunity to discuss with community members present at APrIGF proposed timelines to work towards a plan and also to receive comments and feedback on way forward.

1. **ICANN Engagements in the Oceania sub region**.

Save shared the sub-regions coverage area and various engagements that ICANN staff attend to. Also shared Oceania volunteer community engaged and numbers of SO/AC and fellows currently engaged in in ICANN space. This may not be sufficient engagement and certainly a regional plan to better engage the community may be something to be worked on. Plans now underway to formulate an Oceania sub-regional working group.

Audience participation was sought to openly comment and discuss these plans by ICANN seeking community input into its AP engagement plans.

**A substantive summary and the main issues that were raised:**

Many views were offered from the floor to help ICANN engage effectively in the region. Key points discussed during the session include:

* Language localisation is an acute need for the diverse region to remove 'barriers' for Asian participation. ICANN can leverage on regional organisations (e.g. regional NICs) on language localisation projects.
* ICANN could also leverage on well-established processes/groupings in the region for training and engagement. Need to partner existing regional groupings/forums (APTLD, APNIC, APRICOT, etc) to harmonize training calendars, as well as use them as platforms to discuss issues and feed Asian input into the ICANN PDP process (given that Asians tend to not speak up at meetings).
* ICANN is still not well-understood in the region. In ICANN's communications with the region, ICANN should work on building a simple, 'no fuss' message to tell people who they are and what they do.
* There was a suggestion for smaller ICANN meetings in the APAC region. Smaller sessions within the APAC community – rather than an international community where Western participants appear to be more aggressive – would lead to greater participation. This applied for participation of capacity building programmes as well.
* On enhancing government participation, to work with GAC representatives to advocate for increased participation by governments at ICANN meetings.
* As Asia Hub is in listening mode, also do share with stakeholders what ICANN have heard, so that it can be a continuous dialogue to evolve and build our engagement based on collaborative activities. In this regard, Kuek suggested that he will collate all the inputs, and arrange them thematically to be discussed at a session at the Bali IGF.

**Conclusion & Further Comments:**

In closing the workshop, Fadi said that to get more people involved in ICANN's processes, apart from 'broad engagement' (through tools such as ICANN labs), ICANN will work on 'sustainable engagement' by working on building an inclusive; community based engagement model rather than a 'top-down' or 'bottom-up' one.