

December 30, 2013

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker, Chairman, ICANN Board of Directors

ICANN
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Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536
USA

C.C. Fadi Chehade, the President & CEO of ICANN
C.C. Cherine Chalaby, Chairman, ICANN Board's New gTLD Program Committee
C.C. Heather Dryden, Chair of ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee
C.C. Cyrus K. Namazi, Vice President, DNS Industry Engagement
C.C. Allen R. Grogan, Chief Contracting Counsel

**RE: DECEMBER 19, 2013 LETTER FROM ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION TO
ICANN BOARD CHAIR**

Dear Dr. Crocker,

I am writing with regards to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) letter dated December 19, 2013 and addressed to you¹. This letter references a resolution recently adopted by the OIC and states that this organization, purportedly as the sole official representative of the Muslim world, has decided to file an objection to ICANN for the use of the gTLDs .Islam and .Halal.

In my letter to you dated December 4, 2013², I outlined the arduous process followed by AGIT to apply for the aforementioned TLDs. At every step, we have conformed to ICANN's requirements as laid out in its 338-page Applicant Guidebook and supplemental supporting documentation.

Our applications were scrutinized by the Independent Objector, who did not object to them but instead found that they would likely be beneficial to Muslims³. The new gTLD program's official Community Objection process was used by one of the OIC Member States to oppose our applications for .Islam and .Halal on the grounds that they did not have community

¹ Ref OIC/SG-01/2013 006754

² <http://www.icann.org/en/news/correspondence/abbasnia-to-crocker-04dec13-en>

³ <http://www.independent-objector-newgtlds.org/home/the-independent-objector-s-comments-on-controversial-applications/islam-general-comment/>

support. In both case we prevailed⁴ and the expert arbitrator determined that there is no substantial community opposition and there is no likelihood of material detriment to any Muslim community.

Then, despite being heavily lobbied by the OIC and several of its Member States, the GAC did not reach consensus against our applications, and closed its consideration of the matter⁵. Undeterred, opponents of .Islam and .Halal have now chosen to go completely outside the new gTLD process in their attempts to continue putting pressure on ICANN to block our applications.

Yet such efforts only serve to prevent Muslims the world over from claiming their own space on the Internet. The OIC is a political and governmental organization, it is not a multi-stakeholder body where voices from the user, business, scientific, academic and civil society communities are heard. Further, contrary to its assertions, the OIC does not speak for all Muslims. Non-OIC countries account for in excess of 321 million Muslims. A country like India for example, which is said to have been blocked from membership by the OIC⁶, has an estimated 177 million Muslims, or 10% of the world's Muslim population.

Many other Muslim organizations support our applications, including the Islamic Chamber Research & Information Center (ICRIC)⁷ and Halal World Institute (responsible for development and proper implementation of OIC Halal Food Standards⁸ which were approved by OIC in 2010⁹). Letters of support from those two organizations are attached for your reference.

Further, our proposed policies for .Islam and .Halal include a multi-stakeholder governance "Policy Advisory Council" for each TLD that would be made up of leaders from those Muslim communities that are invited, and wish to participate. We have sent out invitations to participate to many of them, including the OIC. As proposed by AGIT, .Islam and .Halal would therefore be inclusive of all Muslim communities, not just those governments that have gained OIC membership. Thus, we intend for our company, through the PACs, to be exactly the type of entity sought by OIC to run these TLDs as, in their own words: "reflecting the collective voice of the Muslim people."

⁴ <http://newgtlds.icann.org/sites/default/files/drsp/04nov13/determination-1-1-2131-60793-en.pdf> and <http://newgtlds.icann.org/sites/default/files/drsp/04nov13/determination-1-1-2130-23450-en.pdf>

⁵ <https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Meeting+46%3A+Beijing%2C+People%27s+Republic+of+China+7-11+April+2013>

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Organisation_of_Islamic_Cooperation#Dispute_with_India

⁷ <http://www.icric.org/about/4> and <http://www.icric.org/project/detail/53>

⁸ <http://www.halalworld.org/about/2?lang=en#.UsEfsdIW3HA> and <http://halalworld.ca/about-us>

⁹ <http://www.halalworld.org/standard?lang=en#.UsEfvIw3HA>

I also believe blocking our applications at this late stage, and after we have conformed to every one of the new gTLD program's rules, would damage the program's credibility, and indeed that of ICANN as a multi-stakeholder governance organization. The program's objection period closed on March 13, 2013. Its operation and avenues for submitting objections are extremely well documented¹⁰. It was designed to allow objections, but also to protect applicants from the risk of endless objections filed as attempts to continuously block applications.

The OIC itself was well aware of the deadline, as it notified its Member States of these applications at that time, and left it for any Member State to oppose the applications¹¹. Only one Member State opposed, and their Community Objections were dismissed. Allowing this organization to object in any fashion now, so far outside the process and its timeline, would be severely detrimental to ICANN's bottom-up, multi-stakeholder, policy development process.

AGIT is willing to work with the OIC and other stakeholders to manage the .Islam and .Halal TLDs through a multi-stakeholder approach that would serve the best interests of Muslims all over the world and truly showcase the merits of ICANN's own multi-stakeholder, community-driven approach.

I therefore reiterate my request that the Board's New gTLD Program Committee direct ICANN staff to approve our applications for .Islam and .Halal and allow us to proceed to the contracting phase without further delay.

Sincerely yours,



Mehdi Abbasnia

Chairman & Managing Director

Appendix 1: Letter of support for Asia Green IT System's TLD application from the Islamic Chamber Research & Information Center for **.islam new gTLD**.

Appendix 2: Letter of support for Asia Green IT System's TLD application from the Islamic Chamber Research & Information Center for **.halal new gTLD**.

Appendix 3: Letter of support for Asia Green IT System's TLD application from the Halal World Institute for **.halal new gTLD**.

¹⁰ <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/odr>

¹¹ This correspondence was addressed by the expert arbitrator in the Community Objection process, and has previously been provided to you



**ISLAMIC
CHAMBER
RESEARCH &
INFORMATION
CENTER**

18/2/2013

I/10/3/ICRIC/6

To: ICANN

Suite 330, 4676 Admiralty Way

Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Attention: New gTLD Evaluation Process

Subject: Letter for support for .ISLAM new gTLD

This letter is to confirm that the **Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC)** fully supports the application for .ISLAM submitted to ICANN by Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti in the New gTLD Program.

As the Director General of the Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC), I confirm that I have the authority of this center to be writing to you on this matter.

Therefore, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has been established as an economic wing for the OIC since 1977.

Islamic Chamber Research and Information Center (ICRIC) affiliated to the **Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI)** which is under the umbrella of the **Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** was established in 2003. ICRIC has a Board of directors consisting of 9 members from Malaysia, Jordan, Iran and Egypt; plus Secretary General of ICCI and acts within the framework of its articles of association approved by the Islamic Chamber and with regard to 16 strategic principles included in its mandate for elevation of trade and economic ties among Islamic Countries.

As a subsidiary of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), I declare that we believe that .ISLAM gTLD will be used to Principles of rounding i.e. the march of rapprochement among Muslim community on the general principles.

This application is being submitted as community-based application, and as such it is understood that the Registry Agreement will reflect the community restrictions proposed in the applications. In the event that we believe the registry is not complying with these restrictions, possible avenues of recourse include the Registry Restrictions Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application.

Yours sincerely

Mehdi Fakheri

Director General



To: ICANN
Suite 330, 4676 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Attention: New gTLD Evaluation Process
Subject: Letter for support for .HALAL

In the name of God

Dear Sirs

This letter is to confirm that **Islamic Chamber Research & Information Center (ICRIC)** fully supports the application for .HALAL submitted to ICANN by Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti in the New gTLD Program.

As **the President**, I confirm that I have the authority of the ICRIC to be writing to you on this matter.

The gTLDs will be used to promote the concept of Halal productions and development of Halal standards.

This application is being submitted as community-based application, and as such it is understood that the Registry Agreement will reflect the community restrictions proposed in the applications. In the event that we believe the registry is not complying with these restrictions, possible avenues of recourse include the Registry Restrictions Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application.

Yours sincerely

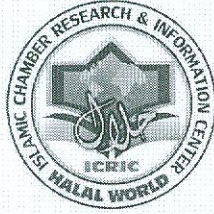
Mohammad Nahavandian

President

www.icric.org

info@icric.org

www.HalalWorld.org



HALAL WORLD

Islamic Chamber Research
& Information Center

No. 15-2012

Date: Apr 24, 2012

To: ICANN
Suite 330, 4676 Admiralty Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Attention: New gTLD Evaluation Process
Subject: Letter for support for .HALAL

This letter is to confirm that the **HalalWorld Center** fully supports the application for .HALAL submitted to ICANN by Asia Green IT System Bilgisayar San. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti in the New gTLD Program.

As the General Secretary of the HalalWorld Center, I confirm that I have the authority of this center to be writing to you on this matter.

Islamic Chamber research & Information Center (ICRIC), affiliated to Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and a member of the family of Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has embarked to study and research on the subject to meet the need in Muslim World, and as a result embarked to adopt a monitoring system in "Halal Product" including "Halal Food" and proceeded to research, development, information and support in this ground, under the supervision of the HalalWorld Center.

As a member of the **HALAL Industry Service Providers Community**, I declare that we believe that .HALAL gTLD will be used to promote the concept of Halal productions, and development of Halal standards.

This application is being submitted as community-based application, and as such it is understood that the Registry Agreement will reflect the community restrictions proposed in the applications. In the event that we believe the registry is not complying with these restrictions, possible avenues of recourse include the Registry Restrictions Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this application.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Abd-ul-Hussain Fakhari

General Secretary



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