# ICANN

# ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL REPORT

## 1 JULY 2021–30 JUNE 2022

ONE WORLD, ONE INTERNET

# REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## Launch of the Asia Pacific Domain Name System Forum



The inaugural APAC DNS Forum was held from 30 March to 1 April 2022. Themed "Beyond Technology: The Revolution of DNS," the event gathered regional stakeholders to exchange information, share views, and explore collaboration on addressing upcoming challenges and opportunities for the DNS. The forum premiered successfully with more than 1,000 registrations from 84 economies. The APAC DNS Forum will continue as an annual event, and develop into a "platform" with regular sessions throughout the year to foster sustained community discussion and collaboration.

## Progress in UA and IDN

The APAC region has made significant progress in Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) outreach and engagement efforts. Several local governments have demonstrated support: China's 14th Five Year Plan includes a goal to "improve the use environment of Chinese domain names, and further promote popularization and application of Chinese domain names"; the Indian government tasked a committee to guide work on UA locally. Further, UA Local Initiatives in China, Thailand, and India continue to engage with key stakeholders, and regularly conduct events and technical training on IDNs, UA, and Email Address Internationalization topics.

## APIGA Alumni Participation in Internet Governance Events



Since 2016, one in four Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy (APIGA) alumni continue to participate in various Internet governance forums locally, regionally, and even globally. Although APIGA was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program returned in 2021 in its first fully virtual edition. The six-week program was well-received, with alumni progressing to be speakers at the inaugural APAC DNS Forum and the ICANN72 Japan Readout, among other events. Alumni from Malaysia were also appointed to key positions in the Internet Society's Malaysia chapter, an At-Large Structure to ICANN's APRALO.

# EVENTS AND PROJECTS

This table lists ICANN org's events and projects in the Asia Pacific region throughout FY22, organized by how the activities furthered ICANN's strategic objectives and goals.

| EVENTS | PROJECTS |
|---|---|
| **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE DNS AND THE DNS ROOT SERVER SYSTEM** | |
| *Goal 1.1: Improve the shared responsibility for upholding the security and stability of the DNS by strengthening DNS coordination in partnership with relevant stakeholders* | |
| <ul><li>Raised awareness about the Domain Abuse Activity Reporting project at three regional events.</li><li>Co-hosted the hybrid **Third ICANN APAC-TWNIC Engagement Forum** with the Taiwan Network Information Centre.<ul><li>» ICANN Board members and ICANN org staff spoke across multiple sessions covering different topics such as DNS resolver best practices and youth capacity-building programs.</li></ul></li></ul> | <ul><li>India Internet Foundation joined the Identifier Technologies Health Indicators project.</li><li>Signed Memorandums of Understanding with the following entities to establish technical partnerships:<ul><li>» **Computer Network Information Center of Chinese Academy of Sciences**</li><li>» **TsingHua University-Qi Anxin Joint Research Center**</li></ul></li><li>Following the successful "train-the-trainer" program, continued partnership with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (India) to conduct a DNS over HTTPS/DNS over TLS (DoH/DoT) workshop.</li><li>Partnered with India's National Association of Software and Services Companies Centre of Excellence–IoT and AI in hosting a "**DNS Project Competition**". The competition was geared toward college students to develop research projects related to the DNS. It received 26 proposals from 16 colleges. The top four teams were awarded financial stipends to further develop their projects.</li></ul> |
| *Goal 1.2: Strengthen DNS root server operations governance in coordination with the DNS root server operators* | |
| Raised awareness about DNS root server-related topics; e.g., at the Beijing Cybersecurity Conference 2021, ICANN org staff spoke on the criteria for considering rogue root server operator activities. | |

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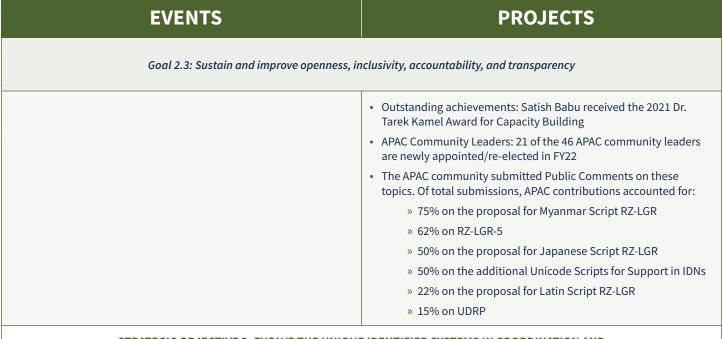| EVENTS | PROJECTS |
|---|---|
| *Goal 1.3: Identify and mitigate security threats to the DNS through greater engagement with relevant hardware, software, and service vendors* | |
| • Engaged on DNS security-related topics at 11 local and regional events, and three Network Operator Group (NOG) events. Also, held four technical training sessions across the region:<br><br>» At the 2022 Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association Business Forum and Exposition, ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby delivered a keynote speech emphasizing the need to continue building close relationships, especially with service providers, to ensure the Internet is secure, stable, and interoperable.<br><br>» At the 2021 Wuzhen Summit, ICANN Chief Technology Officer John Crain spoke on the technical aspects contributing to a secure, stable, and resilient Internet.<br><br>» At the APAC DNS Forum 2022, multiple sessions were held on DNS security threats and mitigation.<br><br>» Partnered with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission to conduct a DNS security threat and mitigation technical training for law enforcement agencies.<br><br>• Raised awareness of DNSSEC at four regional conferences. Conducted DNSSEC trainings:<br><br>» At PacNOG29, ICANN org conducted a DNSSEC tutorial and encouraged DNSSEC implementation across the Pacific Islands ccTLDs.<br><br>» ccTLDs training on DNSSEC for .lk and .pg. | • Two IMRS instances were activated in China:<br><br>» One in Changsha, Hunan Province by the China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)<br><br>» One in Haikou, Hainan Province, by CNNIC |
| **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ICANN'S MULTISTAKEHOLDER MODEL OF GOVERNANCE** | |
| *Goal 2.2: Support and grow active, informed, and effective stakeholder participation* | |
| • Held five APAC Space webinars, covering policy topics, regional and global ICANN updates, as well as ICANN Public Meeting readouts.<br><br>• Supported three regional Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) – APrIGF2021, PacIGF2021, and SEA-IGF 2021 – as well as eight local IGFs. A wide range of topics were discussed, including introduction to Internet governance (IG), ICANN's technical role, the multistakeholder model, and IDNs and UA.<br><br>• In addition, supported seven other IG regional and local events and conferences, as well as six youth IGFs, Schools on IG (SIGs), and youth capacity-building events.<br><br>• Conducted the first-ever virtual Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy. The APIGA2021 program included new elements, ensuring robust participant engagement in the virtual setting. 26 youths from 14 APAC economies completed the program. | • Launched China Space, a platform for industry-related discussions for the Chinese community. Five sessions were held, discussing a variety of topics including industry developments, technical topics, and potential impacts of local regulation and legislation.<br><br>• Launched the inaugural APAC DNS Forum. The APAC DNS Forum 2022 was co-hosted with MYNIC Berhad. Six pre-event webinars were held from September 2021 to March 2022, laying the groundwork for deeper discussion at the forum. A hybrid pre-event opening ceremony was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. |

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| *Goal 2.3: Sustain and improve openness, inclusivity, accountability, and transparency* ||
|  | • Outstanding achievements: Satish Babu received the 2021 Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building<br><br>• APAC Community Leaders: 21 of the 46 APAC community leaders are newly appointed/re-elected in FY22<br><br>• The APAC community submitted Public Comments on these topics. Of total submissions, APAC contributions accounted for:<br>&raquo; 75% on the proposal for Myanmar Script RZ-LGR<br>&raquo; 62% on RZ-LGR-5<br>&raquo; 50% on the proposal for Japanese Script RZ-LGR<br>&raquo; 50% on the additional Unicode Scripts for Support in IDNs<br>&raquo; 22% on the proposal for Latin Script RZ-LGR<br>&raquo; 15% on UDRP |
| **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: EVOLVE THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER SYSTEMS IN COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT PARTIES TO CONTINUE TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL INTERNET USER BASE** ||
| *Goal 3.1: Encourage readiness for Universal Acceptance (UA), IDN implementation and IPv6* ||
| • ICANN org staff organized sessions or spoke on IDN, UA, and EAI topics at nine local and regional events, and conducted one technical training on UA readiness. Highlights include:<br>&raquo; At Bhashanthara 2021, ICANN org staff spoke in the "Universal Acceptance – the Foundation of Multilingual and Inclusive Internet" session, which gathered over a thousand post-session views.<br>&raquo; At SEA-IGF2021, ICANN org staff conducted a workshop titled "Universal Acceptance of Domain Names and Email Addresses for a More Linguistically Inclusive and Diverse Internet."<br>&raquo; Helped organize a UA session at APTLD81, including speakers from various APAC ccTLDs (.in, .cn, .th, .la). | • Supported UA Local Initiatives activities in China, Thailand, and India.<br><br>• Engaged with local governments on IDN, UA, and EAI topics.<br><br>• Supported the UA Steering Group with outreach to the ICANN community (e.g., developed a Hindi-based end-user survey to gather data on IDNs and UA from the Indian community).<br><br>• Additionally, the following were achieved:<br>&raquo; In partnership with the APTLD, published a **white paper** on the role of ccTLDs in achieving UA, following the **APAC UA Training Program** training series.<br>&raquo; Engaged with various stakeholders to provide support toward achieving UA readiness (e.g., conducted surveys with registries and registrars for analyzing current gaps in their systems, and to develop next steps).<br>&raquo; **GNSO IDNs EPDP**: APAC community participation includes EPDP Chair and Vice-Chair, six out of 16 working group members, and eight out of 13 participants.<br>&raquo; The APAC IDNs team contributed to the first annual "**IDN Progress Report**".<br>&raquo; The fifth version of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules integrates 26 new scripts, 19 of which are from the APAC region. |

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| *Goal 3.2: Improve Assessment of, and responsiveness to new technologies which impact the Internet's unique identifier systems* | |
| Participated in regional dialogue on new technologies and their potential impact on the DNS at four local and regional events. At the APAC DNS Forum 2022, discussions covered hot topics such as the future of the DNS, and potential impacts of emerging technologies. | |
| **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: ADDRESS GEOPOLITICAL ISSUES IMPACTING ICANN'S MISSION TO ENSURE A SINGLE AND GLOBALLY INTEROPERABLE INTERNET** | |
| *Goal 4.1: Further Developing Early Warning Systems such as ICANN Organization's Legislative and Regulatory Development Reports* | |
| | • Engaged with key stakeholders on the following regulations and legislation:<br>» China's Personal Information Protection Law: ICANN org published a **blog** sharing key points for Chinese contracted parties and encouraged community discussion at a China Space session.<br>» India's IT Act 2000 (CERT-IN) Directions under Sub-section (6) of Section 70B: Engaged with community at the ICANN74 "Updates on Geopolitical, Legislative, and Regulatory Developments" session.<br>• Contributed to ICANN org's **Country Focus Report** on China's Internet-related policy initiatives and laws.<br>• Detected eight new or revised regulations or legislation that may have potential impacts on ICANN. |
| *Goal 4.2: Continue to Build Alliances with the Region's Internet Ecosystem and Beyond to Raise Awareness of and Engage with Global Stakeholders about ICANN's Mission and Policy Making* | |
| • Raised awareness about the Internet's unique identifier systems and ICANN's role in the Internet ecosystem at 16 local and regional speaking opportunities. Highlights include:<br>» At PacIGF2021 and APTLD80, ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby spoke on ICANN's technical role at a session titled "The Importance of Effective International and Regional Partnerships to Support Pacific Regionalism and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent."<br>» At the Global Cyberpeace Challenge 3.0, ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman stressed the need for a robust multistakeholder model to address the threats to an open, secure, and resilient Internet. | • Contributed an **article** for India's Voice and Data Magazine on ICANN's role in safeguarding the global, united Internet.<br>• ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby led a bilateral meeting with the Japan GAC representative, informing about ICANN's role vis-a-vis online content and piracy. |

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