

ICANN EMEA NEWSLETTER

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Welcome!

Welcome to ICANN's Europe, Middle East and Africa newsletter. It has been exciting times in the world of the Internet and ICANN. So much has happened, with much more ahead. We are seeing the start of the IANA Functions Stewardship Transition, and the first phase of new generic top level domains being launched globally. All issues discussed during our historic ICANN50 meeting in London

Our first issue of the newsletter has been tailored to give you a quick glimpse into ICANN's outreach in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and the journey embarked toward becoming increasingly global in terms of our outlook, people, tools, and policies.

In the long run, our newsletter aspires to give you an understanding of what's happening in the EMEA region and how far we have come and what to expect in ahead.

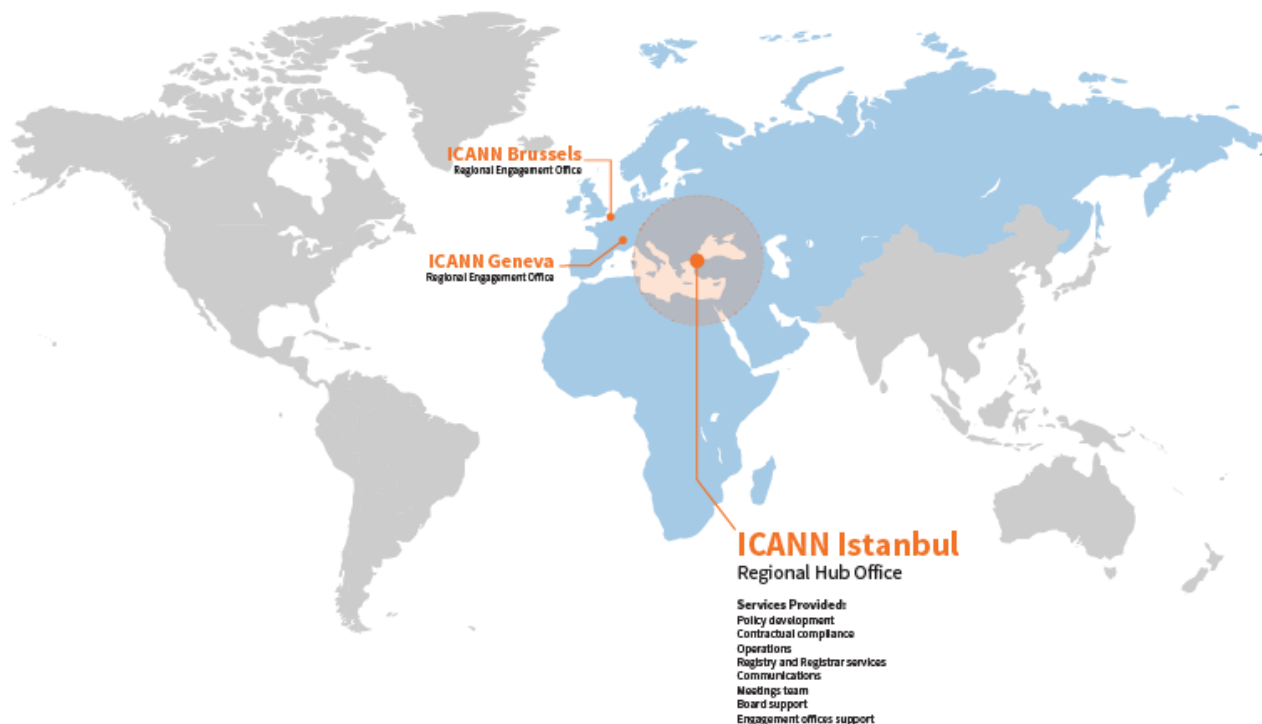
Luna Madi

EMEA, Communications Director

@L_Madi



ICANN EMEA Hub in Turkey is now operational



On April 25, 2013, ICANN CEO and President Fadi Chehade announced that ICANN would open its first hub office in Istanbul, Turkey. The announcement marked a significant moment in the evolution of ICANN, as it prepared to spread its operational functions across three global headquarters: Los Angeles, Istanbul and Singapore.

Our hope is our new hub strategy will take our globalization to an improved operational level. Our presence in Turkey, acting as a bridge between Europe, Asia and the Middle East, allows us to listen and respond to the needs of all three regions in the EMEA..

Since operations began in May, our team has grown to 11 members, working on engaging with our stakeholders in Turkey and the EMEA region, and holding various meetings with visitors.

Being a global organization means understanding the differing needs of each sector, and we are setting up our hub and interacting through it with our local ICANN communities to make sure those demands are being met.

Meet the EMEA Vice Presidents

Jean-Jacques Sahel

VP, Global Stakeholder Engagement - Europe



There has been tremendous interest and excitement about Internet Governance. Many of us are still buzzing with the excitement of having taken part in Netmundial, one of the

first ever-genuine global multi-stakeholder discussions on Internet Governance.

Organized over barely 6 months, Netmundial was a historic moment, which produced not just an acceptable document, but also a good text, the Sao Paulo Declaration.

And now with ICANN50 wrapped up, we had a multitude of occasions to engage with our community and a positive outcome overall. Moreover, the past month has provided a healthy platform of information exchange sessions organized at Eurodig, at the German IGF, communications during the Spanish IGF, the Italian IGF, etc.

Coming up this summer the new Italian Presidency of the EU plans a flagship 'Digital Venice' event on 8 July, which will gather ICT leaders from all over Europe and beyond, and where Internet Governance will be a key discussion topic. Beside a number of conferences touching, we will also have the UK IGF on 2 July, in the run-up to the IGF 2014 in Istanbul, a crucial step in building on the recommendations of Netmundial. That will be the start of a busy autumn season, where from Copenhagen (Danish IGF 15 September) to Brussels or Warsaw, we can expect a hive of activity and discussions around ICANN and more widely, the evolution of Internet Governance. They will all be occasions where all Stakeholder voices can be heard: civil society, business, academia, governments and users – generally now is a crucial moment where your input and suggestions are needed, on topics ranging from the Netmundial and high Level Panel recommendations to the NTIA transition and the ICANN Accountability Review.

My first couple of months at ICANN, have been incredible – fast paced, demanding, and so exhilarating. Join me over coming weeks and months as we take our Internet to the next stage.

Baher Esmat

VP, Global Stakeholder Engagement - Middle East
@baheresmat



The last couple of months have been quite eventful for ICANN in the Middle East. A dozen of ICANN related events and outreach activities have taken place in various places around the region. And as we approach the end of the

fiscal year 2014 (FY14), which also marks the end of year-one of the implementation plan of ICANN's Middle East Strategy, we have been in full swing striving to fulfill our commitments, assess the work done over the past year, and finalize the plan for the coming year.

At ICANN, we believe that stakeholder engagement is a journey that takes us to new horizons and connects us to those who share our goals and values. Engagement cannot work one-way; it has to be two-way, and it goes hand in hand with trust that we build with our stakeholders. In the Middle East, we focus on fostering engagement and working closely with our stakeholders to address their needs and concerns. We are cognizant that much more work needs to be done in two main areas: The first area is the domain name industry; there is an urgent need for developing and growing this industry, and we have been seeking partnerships with experts from around the world to support the development of this industry in the region. The second area is Internet Governance; it is a topical issue in the Middle East, and one that attracts a lot of political attention. In addition to promoting the multi-stakeholder Internet governance approach, ICANN has also been supporting several capacity building efforts in this area.

In this edition, we highlight some of the recent ICANN-related activities in the Middle East, and shed light on key discussions and news.

Pierre Danjinou

VP, Global Stakeholder Engagement - Africa
@pdandjinou

ICANN in Africa, 2 years later

In August 2012 ICANN announced a [new approach to Africa](#) by

Michael Yakushev
 VP, Global Stakeholder Engagement - Russia, CIS,
 Eastern Europe
 @ICANN_ru



The region of Eastern Europe, Russia and C.I.S. is very diverse geographically and politically, but its countries are still very interrelated for historical and cultural reasons. Internet came to our region slightly later than

to another parts of the world, but the speed of its development and penetration rate is really impressive. Our region has a very promising intellectual potential, and technical experts from Russia and other post-Soviet countries have been respected for their professionalism in different topics related to the Internet Governance.

ICANN also was a relatively late visitor to our corner of the world □ - but it is now very active in engaging local communities in provision of the security, stability and resiliency of the global network. Russia and Ukraine are known for the fast growth of their ccTLDs, different IDN's are rapidly developing as well. Overall Internet-related business becomes much more substantial sector of the local economies, and that is why we all are interested in making the local infrastructure of the Internet as mature and reliable as possible.

Given the criticism towards ICANN that could have been heard throughout the Region, the issue of the highest importance is to assess the Statement of the US Department of Commerce on the transition of the IANA stewardship role. All regional stakeholders, including governments, private sector, civil society, academia and technical experts, can now work on the possible solutions on transforming the role of the current regulators into more trusted and efficient system. Apart from that, there is much work for all of us in the area of IPv6 transition, in the implementation of the new generic TLD's, in the universal acceptance of IDN technologies, etc. There is no doubt altogether we are able to make voice of our Region not only well-persuasive, but also better heard within ICANN ecosystem.

Recent Activities

Europe

- Michael Yakushev was a keynote speaker at ENOG (RIPE NCC) conference in Moscow on 26 May 2014: <http://www.enog.org/meetings/enog-7/programme>
- President and CEO Fadi Chehade Opening plenary speaker at EuroDig: <http://www.eurodig.org/eurodig-2014/programme-overview>
- Jean-Jacques Sahel - ICANN workshop and participation at EuroDig 11-13 June 2014
- Breakfast Discussion organised by ICANN and Boston Consultancy Group on "Greasing the Wheel of the Internet Economy" in Berlin, Germany 12th June, 2014



the development of the Africa Strategy. This was the first ICANN regional Strategy document developed in a truly bottom up process through consultation with the [community](#).

This document has been the cornerstone of ICANN's engagement in Africa. Implementation of the strategy started in 2013, with the recruitment of the VP for Africa and with a few key flagship projects. The Africa team has now grown with further recruitment of two more managers. The approach of the Africa team has been to coin relevant projects based on the strategic plan and implement them year on year based on the availability of funds.

We are glad to report that tremendous progress has been realized in the last 2 years in regards to ICANN and the wider Internet ecosystem in Africa. These projects are focused on reviving the DNS industry in Africa and capacity building while promoting active participation in the wider Internet governance space in Africa. From 8 DNSSEC trainings to date in 8 countries to holding topical workshops, increased outreach activities by the team as well as communication channels with our stakeholders in Africa, ICANN's profile has surely been improved in [Africa](#).

But as highlighted in the [BCG report](#), Africa is not short of e-friction challenges. From high cost of Internet connectivity, low Internet penetration and low level of awareness relative to the west. This plus the recent developments in the NTIA, presents challenges and a huge opportunity for Africa. We strongly believe that with renewed energy and commitment from all Stakeholders and ICANN's leadership, Africa will rise to occupy her rightful place in the Internet ecosystem.

We are just starting this journey!

Thank you!

Merci!

Karibu!

Seya Bonga!

Africa & the Middle East

- ICANN Workshop on Domain Names, Trademarks and User Rights Protection: <http://blog.icann.org/2014/05/curtains-fall-on-the-domain-names-trademarks-and-user-rights-protection-workshop-benin-africa/>
- ICANN participation in the 3rd Africa Internet Summit (AIS 2014) on 2-7 June 2014
- ICANN organized the inaugural *Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG)* in Kuwait on May 25-29, 2014
<https://www.icann.org/news/blog/icann-middle-east-strategy-fulfills-another-milestone>
- President and CEO Fadi Chehade met with Internet community and business leaders in Beirut on 3 June, 2014 and witnessed the launch of Lebanon Internet Center (LINC) that aims to serve as a national multi-stakeholder platform for Internet Governance: <http://www.berytech.org/content/view/full/1168/223/lang,en/>

Key News



ICANN 50 in London

ICANN's historic 50th took place in London, 22-26 June 2014, with an unprecedented attendance of over 3000 participants sharing and exchanging ideas and dialogue on some of the most important issues relating to the internet's future, and working on solidifying roadmaps for its sustainable growth and expansion.

<https://www.icann.org/resources/press-material/release-2014-06-23-en>

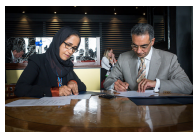
You can find all transcripts and videos for the ICANN50 online on the meeting website at <http://london50.icann.org/en/>



ICANN and CATR Signs Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Collaboration Between ICANN and Chinese Stakeholders

Closer Collaboration on Engagement Efforts in China

<https://www.icann.org/resources/press-material/release-2014-06-24-en>



ICANN signs agreements with Qatar and Egypt promoting the DNS Industry and IG multi-stakeholder approach in the Middle East and Africa

Establishment of a regional DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)

<https://www.icann.org/resources/press-material/release-2-2014-06-23-en>



Engaging Future Generations @ ICANN

NextGen@ICANN was a project first conceived by DotAsia in anticipation of the Singapore meeting. After its great success, the initiative is being replicated in London at the ICANN50 meeting, and it is the plan to do so for future meetings as well. The goal of NextGen@ICANN is to engage and educate individuals with an interest in Internet Governance, domain management, and the many other topics covered at ICANN Meetings. The program is designed to reach groups that are currently not engaged with the community or multi-stakeholder process. These are the groups whose work will truly shape the future of

the Internet.

Upcoming Events

Africa DNS Forum, Abuja, Nigeria, on 7-9 July 2014

Africa IGF, Abuja, Nigeria, on 10-12 July 2014

Digital Venice, Italian presidency of the EU event, 8 July: <http://digitalvenice.eu/>

Global IGF Istanbul 2- 5 September, 2014 <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Key Blogs

The first Multistakeholder Ethos award to be given out at ICANN 50

<https://www.icann.org/news/blog/awe-and-gratitude>

Transition from U.S. Government has Four Work Tracks

<https://www.icann.org/news/blog/transition-from-u-s-government-has-four-work-tracks>

The High Level Panel on Global Internet and Governance Mechanisms was held in Dubai, UAE last month

<https://www.icann.org/news/blog/panel-on-global-internet-cooperation-and-governance-mechanisms-builds-on-netmundial-momentum>.

ICANN's Accountability in the Wake of the IANA Functions Stewardship Transition

<http://blog.icann.org/?s=accountability>

Good Background Information to Have:

We have a new website out and ready for you to explore: www.icann.org. Here are a few quick links to help you get started:

- What does ICANN do exactly? This should explain it nicely <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/what-2012-02-25-en>.
 - And to get you started in the world of ICANN, look no further: <https://www.icann.org/get-started>
 - Lastly, you probably need this link to help you sift through all the acronyms that shall come your way... This compiled glossary should make things a lot simpler: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/acronyms.html>
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Stay in touch!

We live at a time when new technology has greatly assisted ways of interaction across the world. Wherever you are you may like to contact us. This is our first of many newsletters to the global community, specifically focusing on Europe, the Middle East and Africa. We would love to hear your feedback, queries, thoughts and ideas.

For more information, please send an email to emea.newsletter@icann.org.

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