

Supporting the DNS Industry in Underserved Regions: A Submission from APTLD

*Prepared
29 May 2014*

APTLD supports the intent of ICANN's proposal to grow the Domain Name Industry in underserved regions through supporting the creation and expansion of local registrars.

1. APTLD suggests that ICANN also actively work with ccTLDs in underserved communities. The local ccTLDs will know their community and the local Domain Name Industry. The ccTLDs may also benefit from the growth of the local Domain Name Industry.
2. There are already a number of ICANN accredited registrars who focus on acting as a "clearing house" for other registrars and for resellers to engage with registries. Rather than have ICANN re-invent this "clearing house" role, nascent registrars should be encouraged to work with these "clearing house" registrars while they grow their businesses.
3. ICANN should, working with local communities – including ccTLDs and ALS, develop the Domain Name industry in underserved communities. This could include facilitating resellers in the first instance that, as they grow, become registrars. This will provide them the experience necessary to become a fully accredited registrar.
4. We support ICANN working with insurance companies around the world to help better understanding of the insurance requirements of the RAAs. ICANN could publish a list of insurers who understand the industry so that nascent registrars have choice.
5. We also support regular reviews of contract provisions to ensure that they remain useful and that each clause does indeed serve an important function. While the RAA does not directly affect ccTLDs, we are aware that there is concern within the Asia-Pacific region that certain clauses, including data retention, conflict with local laws. No doubt each of the clauses within the RAA, including Working Capital and Insurance clauses, were deemed important and set at a minimum acceptable level by the community.
6. We would be concerned if ICANN lowered any minimum standards required which would affect the ongoing security and stability of the Internet.
7. APTLD is aware of the work of the MENA Strategy group and also note that the ICANN Oceania working group has also identified the Domain Name Industry as one of four areas of focus during the medium term. APTLD works actively with the Domain Name Industry within our region and will continue to do so. Should opportunities to co-locate training or meetings arise, these should be pursued.
8. APTLD is currently working on a study of ccTLD Registrar Accreditation Criteria with an aim for ccTLDs to consider harmonization of their own criteria with that of others. No doubt a compare and contrast report from the new registries would be useful for all concerned.

APTLD is an association of ccTLD operators in the Asia Pacific region. The region is geographically wide, spreading from the tropical Pacific Islands to the Middle East. The Region is also home to many different cultures and languages. The economies in the region are also quite diverse.