

## Comments on the Fellowship Program Application Process

Dear ICANN, Dear DPRD,

Thanks very much for this opportunity to allow me to comment on the Fellowship Program Application Process. I am Fellow for ICANN 49 and ICANN 56 and submitting this comment in my personal capacity.

There is no denying that the Fellowship Program has been proved to be such a successful and productive initiative that helps bring in many many stakeholders to ICANN who are participating in multi-stakeholder model with enthusiasm and persistence.

Below is my comments:

1. It is mentioned in the projected improvements that “[p]riority given to: participants living in regions/countries that are less present in ICANN Community; those who represent diversity of gender, sector, region, experience, interest, expertise (e.g. indigenous status is an add value); **Gov’t or ccTLD representatives who did not receive travel funding from respective ICANN community and express financial need**, while in terms of the objective, it is stated that “[p]aying special attention to maintaining diversity: -knowledge, region, gender, culture, interests, capabilities/ expertise, etc”.

I could not see the reason why **Gov’t or ccTLD** should be listed as preferred applicants while stressing diversity. Applications should be treated on equal footing.

2. It is noted that the submitted applications have not ever been published. For the sake of transparency, could ICANN publish the names and ranking of applications when the selection results of each round are announced?

3. I would like to highlight a problem that is not mentioned in the projected improvements.

As is known, ICANN Fellowship follows a 3x participation guideline. In the Questions that Fellowship applicants have to answer, it is mentioned that “[a]s a previous recipient of an ICANN Fellowship, please tell us **how you have further participated in the Internet Space and in the ICANN community after your first and/or second fellowship, what activities are you now engaged in that you were not before the fellowship program, how have you impacted your work environment,**

**region and community”.** Here it deserves attention that the logic behind this Question is that the Fellowship Selection Committee would assess a second or third time application based on the applicant’s previous Fellowship experience, however, there are cases that an applicant may apply and be selected for two or three consecutive ICANN meetings. It is under this circumstance that there are problems.

I would like to refer to the following table to state my rationale.

Meeting	Fellowship Application Round open	Fellowship Application Round close	Selected Fellows Announcement	Meeting Date
ICANN 58	9 September 2016 at 23:59 UTC	21 October 2016 at 23:59 UTC	12 December 2016	11-16 Mar 2017
ICANN 59	16 December 2016 at 23:59 UTC	27 January 2017 at 23:59 UTC	24 March 2017	26-29 Jun 2017
ICANN 60	14 April 2017 at 23:59 UTC	26 May 2017 at 23:59 UTC	28 July 2017	28 Oct - 3 Nov 2017

If an applicant tries to apply for Fellowship of ICANN 58 and in case he/she submits the application just before the moment the time window closes on 21<sup>st</sup>, October, 2016, he/she may get the selection result on 12<sup>th</sup>, December, 2016, which is about 50 days later after he/she submitted the application, while ICANN 58 will be held on 11<sup>th</sup>, March, 2017.

Then likewise, if the same applicant tries to apply for Fellowship of ICANN 59 and in case he/she submits the application just before the moment the time window closes on 27<sup>th</sup>, January, 2017, he/she may get the selection result on 24<sup>th</sup>, March, 2017, which is about 57 days later after he/she submitted the application, while ICANN 59 will be held on 26<sup>th</sup>, June, 2017.

The problem is that, if the applicant is lucky to be selected for Fellowship of ICANN 58 on 12<sup>th</sup>, December, 2016 and would like to consider applying for Fellowship of ICANN 59, he/she may consider doing so only five days later after he/she was selected for ICANN 58. Even though the applicant wishes to submit his or her application on 27<sup>th</sup>, January, 2017, which is 45 days later after he or she was selected for ICANN 58. There are problems here.

Firstly, it deserves attention that the logic behind the Fellowship Program is that the Fellowship Selection Committee would assess a second or third time applicant based on his or her previous Fellowship experience. How could an applicant apply for the second consecutive Fellowship (say, of ICANN 59) without even attending the meeting that he or she applies for the first time Fellowship (say, of ICANN 58)? , to put it another way, how could he or she state his/her previous Fellowship

experience without attending the first meeting and then applying for Fellowship of the second or third consecutive meeting?

Secondly, it is not good and practical for an applicant to apply and be selected for two or three consecutive ICANN meetings because they could not better make plans for the second or third consecutive ICANN meeting without even attending the meeting they applied for the first-time Fellowship. To better consume an ICANN meeting, it is more productive to apply for Fellowship for a targeted meeting.

Moreover, it is mentioned in the projected improvements that ICANN will be “selecting from among **new applicants** who best articulate what they would like to learn from ICANN experience”, awarding Fellowship for an applicant for two or three consecutive meetings may lower the chance for more new applicants to be selected.

Based on the above rationale, I would suggest that DPRD would consider that the Fellowship would not be awarded to an applicant for two or three consecutive meetings.

Thanks very much for Janice.

Best Regards

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