Dear sirs/madams,

Re: ICANN’s Call for Public Input: Draft Proposal, Based on Initial Community Feedback, of the Principles and Mechanisms and the Process to Develop a Proposal to Transition NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/iana/transition/draft-proposal-08apr14-en.htm

The Asia Cloud Computing Association (ACCA) thanks ICANN for the opportunity to comment on the process to transition NTIA's Stewardship of the IANA Functions. As an industry association formed in 2010 to represent the interests of Asia's cloud computing business community, the smooth transition of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) function is of primary concern to us as businesses, as well as our clients.

The ACCA congratulates ICANN and the rest of the Internet community for starting this process which an open and balanced discussion on the future of the IANA Function can be discussed and decided upon. We support and welcome this opportunity to comment on the formation of a steering group to steward the process moving ahead.

On the proposal development process outline mooted, we have the following comments:

1. That Asia Pacific’s diversity of culture, language, and economies be taken into consideration in the decisions about number of representatives

Our experience and expertise in Asia Pacific has often showed that international discussion processes tend to consider regions - such as "Asia Pacific" - a homogenous region. This is not so. Asia is a complex pastiche of heterogeneous cultures and languages which defy simplistic categorisation. And this heterogeneity is often underrepresented by a single "Asia/Asia Pacific" nominee in multinational fora.

Additionally, we would advise that a concerted effort be made by the Steering Committee and the ICANN Secretariat to ensure that discussions as well as the outcome documents of this process be made available in multiple languages.

2. We agree with the statement that "there should be appropriate community outreach and input as the proposal is drafted", and welcome the opportunity for businesses and for the ACCA to engage in this dialogue

All Internet stakeholders have to be part of this next stage of the Internet’s growth. We note that there have been an increasing number of stakeholders from the business community starting to engage in the discussions, which is a positive development.

As the ACCA works to ensure that the interests of the Asian cloud computing community is effectively represented in the public policy debate, we urge greater reach-out to the business community in these discussions, particularly regional and local businesses to whom the concept of “Internet governance” may be too esoteric or too far divorced from the realities of running their companies.
The ACCA is committed to accelerating the growth of cloud computing in Asia Pacific, which can only happen with a functional Internet. We look forward to continuing this dialogue with all other stakeholders, and further opportunities to engage with ICANN on this very important discussion.

Best regards,

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About the Asia Cloud Computing Association (ACCA)

The ACCA was established in 2010 as an industry association comprising the stakeholders of the cloud computing ecosystem in Asia. Our members include AT&T, Cazar, Cisco, Datapipe, Dimension Data, EMC, Equinix, eVantage Technology, Globe Telecoms, Hong Kong Cyberport, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks, Microsoft, NetApp, Parallels, Rackspace, ReedHamilton, PLDT, Telenor, Telstra Global, TrustSphere, Verizon. The ACCA works to ensure that the interests of the cloud computing community are effectively represented in the public policy debate. Our primary mission is to accelerate the growth of the cloud market in Asia, where we promote the growth and development of cloud computing in Asia Pacific through dialogue, training, and public education. Through regular meetings, we also provide a platform for members to discuss implementation and growth strategies, share ideas, and establish policies and best practices relating to the cloud computing ecosystem.

Contact us at info@asiacloudcomputing.org, visit us online at http://www.asiacloudcomputing.org. You can also join us on LinkedIn at http://is.gd/accacloud