

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to begin the second year of our regional newsletter as ICANN staff from the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. This will be a crucial year for all of us, the organization and the community, and as pointed out by Rodrigo de la Parra, regional Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, in his post "Internet Agenda for 2015" (see Press Highlights), 2015 will attract great attention to our region.



Editorial by Carlos Álvarez*

We began the year standing strong, with significant regional presence in Singapore, launching an ICANN community website for Latin America and the Caribbean, and important news from the region. We invite you to go through these first two months of 2015, and join us in the work that we will be doing in ten months ahead. For my part, I would particularly emphasize the Caribbean edition of LAC-i-Roadshow to be held in late April in St. Lucia within the Regional Strategic Plan framework. This second Caribbean edition of the series of workshops to raise awareness about critical Internet resources, and the Domain Name System will have a special focus on issues related to Security, Stability and Resiliency, and my team will be present.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Have a nice reading.

*Carlos Alvarez is ICANN SSR Technical Engagement Sr. Manager. Carlos comes from Colombia.

ICANN News



ICANN 52 comes to an end with 300 sessions delivered and more than 1600 participants

Undoubtedly, this has been the most important milestone since our last regional newsletter. Below we will list different resources of interest to those who have not had the opportunity to participate or who want to revive different aspects of the meeting. Without going too much into detail, we would like to highlight that the core of the meeting was around the debate on the IANA Functions Stewardship Transition. We invite you to learn more about what happened in Singapore in relation to this important process, by reading the Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) Chairs' Statement on the transition (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-4-2015-02-12-en>) and the ICANN Board Statement (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-3-2015-02-12-en>). Our region was very active in-situ as well as remotely, but we will expand on these activities in the Regional Strategic Plan session.

Other resources of interest about ICANN 52

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/icann/with/16481945816/>

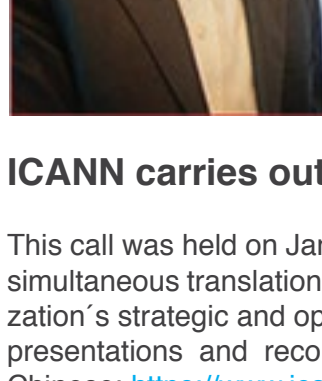
Opening Ceremony Video: <http://t.co/qq2q8FlnaJ>

Global Domains Division (GDD) update. <http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-gdd>

Full agenda with transcripts and recordings. <http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule-full>

Governmental Advisory Committee's (GAC) Communiqué: <https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2015-02-12-en>

Blog post: "Next stop Buenos Aires, Argentina" by Rodrigo de la Parra: <https://www.icann.org/news/blog/proxima-parada-buenos-aires-argentina>

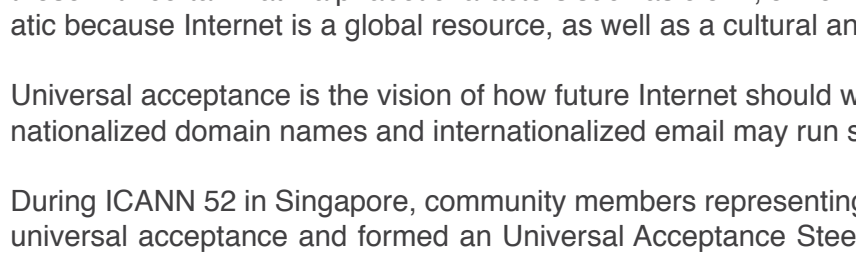


Adiel Akplogan will be the new ICANN Vice President for Technical Engagement

Adiel Akplogan, veteran Internet technology expert is joining ICANN in the newly created role of Vice President for Technical Engagement. His role is aimed at strengthening ties to the technical community. Read the full announcement here: <https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2015-02-07-es>

ICANN carries out its second open quarterly stakeholder call

This call was held on January 29 and, as the previous one, it was an open call to all stakeholders, and provided simultaneous translation in different languages. The purpose of these calls is to present advances in the Organization's strategic and operational plans. If you were not able to participate, the link below leads you to transcripts, presentations and recordings of the calls in English, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/quarterly-reports-2014-11-13-en>



ICANN community will lead the universal acceptance initiative

Some applications and services we use every day may not fully understand non-ASCII domain names, including those with certain Latin alphabet characters such as é or ñ, or new TLDs as .fútbol, .casa or .rio. This is problematic because Internet is a global resource, as well as a cultural and economic driver.

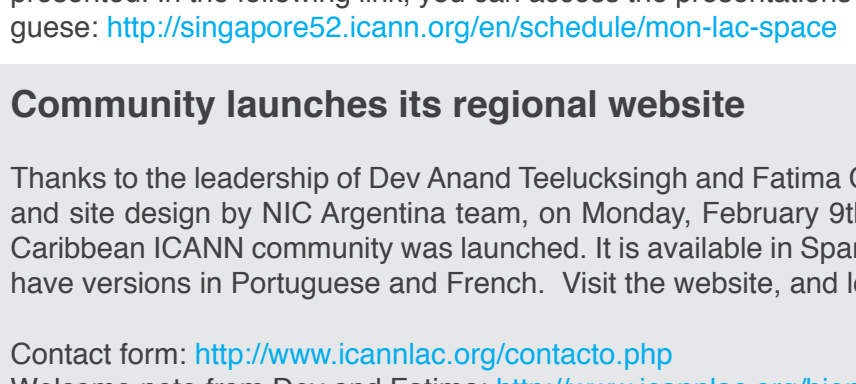
Universal acceptance is the vision of how future Internet should work. This means that top-level domains, internationalized domain names and internationalized email may run smoothly in all applications and services.

During ICANN 52 in Singapore, community members representing various groups joined around the initiative of universal acceptance and formed an Universal Acceptance Steering Group to guide the identification of main issues and develop outreach strategies, as well as to propose solutions to improve the situation. Read more and get involved: <https://www.icann.org/universalsacceptance>

Policy development update

Access the latest update on ICANN policy development (January): <https://www.icann.org/resources/newsletter/policy-update-2015-01-27-en>

LAC Strategic Plan News



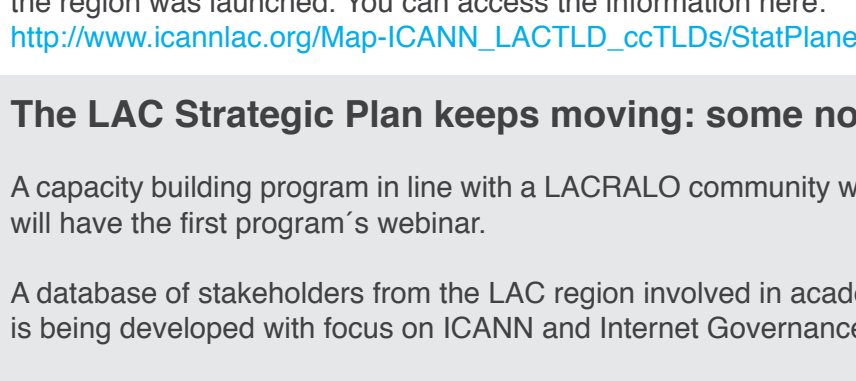
LAC Space in Singapore

The "Space LAC" session held in Singapore in the framework of ICANN 52 had 35 in-situ participants, and 31 remote participants. During the meeting, the progress of the Regional Strategic Plan was discussed. Among other topics, the regional website, an effort by the LAC community with the great support of NIC Argentina and the Caribbean Working Group were presented. In the following link, you can access the presentations and audio files in Spanish, English and Portuguese: <http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/mon-lac-space>

Community launches its regional website

Thanks to the leadership of Dev Anand Teelucksingh and Fatima Cambroneo, and the work in the development and site design by NIC Argentina team, on Monday, February 9th, the website for the Latin American and the Caribbean ICANN community was launched. It is available in Spanish and English, but work is underway to also have versions in Portuguese and French. Visit the website, and let us know how we can improve it!

Contact form: <http://www.icannlac.org/contacto.php>
Welcome note from Dev and Fatima: <http://www.icannlac.org/bienvenidos.php>



Strong Caribbean participation

In addition, under ICANN 52 in Singapore, the classic Caribbean working lunch with the participation of community members in that region of the world and representatives of regional organizations such as LACNIC, ARIN and LACTLD was developed. Even our colleague Albert Daniels participated remotely in this meeting.

It should be noted that Saint-Lucia had a remote participation hub that allowed members of the Caribbean Community to follow the Opening Ceremony despite the significant time difference.

Regional ccTLD Interactive Map

Thanks to a collaborative effort with LACTLD, an interactive map with relevant and current data on ccTLDs in the region was launched. You can access the information here: http://www.icannlac.org/Map-ICANN_LACTLD_ccTLDs/StatPlanet.html

The LAC Strategic Plan keeps moving: some notes by Rodrigo Saucedo

A capacity building program in line with a LACRALO community working group is being developed. In March we will have the first program's webinar.

A database of stakeholders for the LAC region involved in academic activities and capacity building initiatives is being developed with focus on ICANN and Internet Governance.

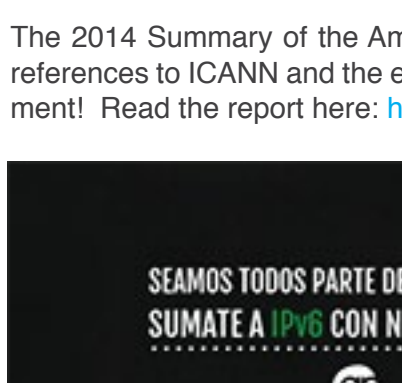
Soon, a regional IXP, ISP and Telecom database will begin to be developed. This information will be released in interactive maps, and they can be accessed through the regions' web site.

The advisor to conduct the study to develop a vision for the registry business has already been selected according to each of the ccTLD needs.

Details are being defined to begin an internship program for ccTLDs staff to receive training in larger ccTLDs. Finally, a series of webinars are being developed to inform the community about the various tools available for remote participation in ICANN meetings, and other regional and international meetings.

As of March, there will be a monthly seminar for the LAC community on the details of the progress of all projects being implemented during the first period.

Regional News



Oscar Robles was appointed new LACNIC CEO

It is with great pleasure that we celebrate the arrival of a prominent regional community member taking the lead of this important organization. Meet Oscar Robles, and read the article posted by LACNIC: <http://goo.gl/ygWpqi>

eInstituto annual summary

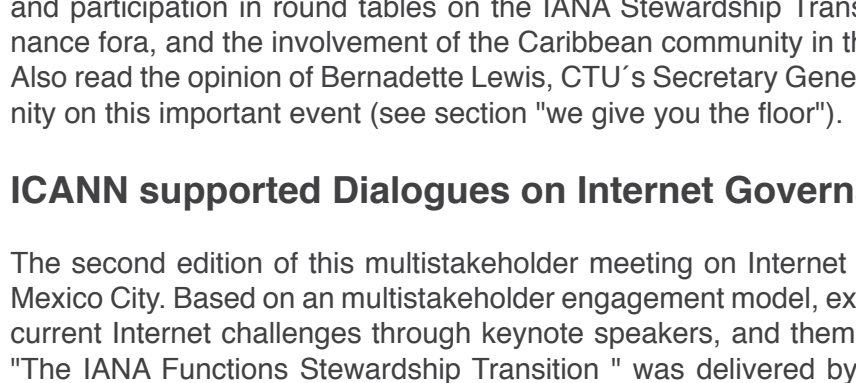
The 2014 Summary of the American Institute of Electronic Commerce (eInstituto) was published with several references to ICANN and the endless work of its regional community. Congratulations on this important achievement! Read the report here: <http://goo.gl/5ZDSR>



NIC Argentina deploys IPv6

In February, NIC Argentina deployed IPv6 in its system. This is version 6 of the Internet Protocol, designed to replace its predecessor, version 4 (IPv4). Congratulations to our colleagues in Argentina for joining the new Internet generation!

Read the full article: <http://goo.gl/0FbsVE>



25th Anniversary of the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

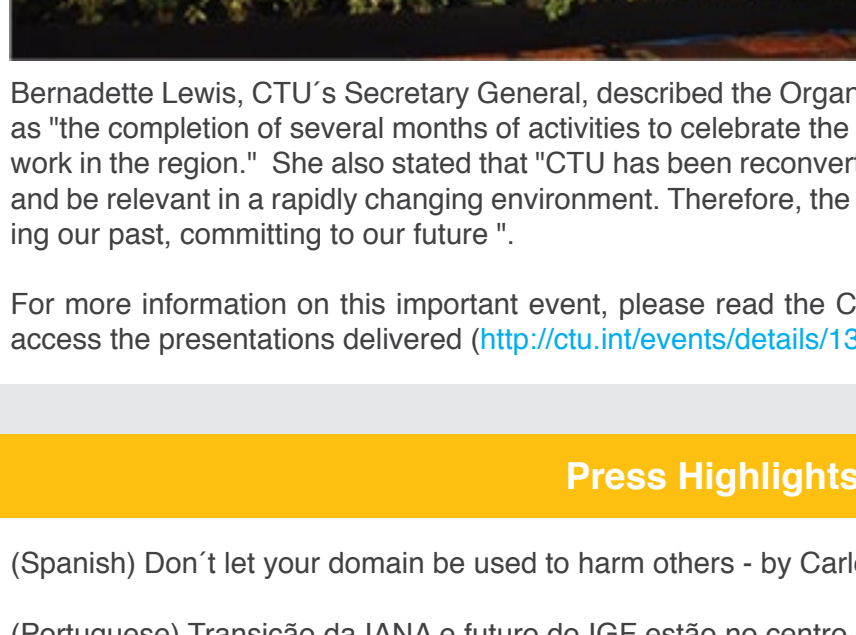
The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with a week of activities related to ICTs and Internet Governance in Trinidad and Tobago. It was a high-profile regional event with approximately 200 attendees, including heads of state, ministers of telecommunications, senior telcos executives and Internet service providers, the executive management of regional organizations such as CARICOM, and representatives of all stakeholders. ICANN, through the leadership of Albert Daniels, stakeholder engagement manager for the Caribbean, was a key participant in the activities of the week with plenary presentations, and participation in round tables on the IANA Stewardship Transition, the creation of national Internet governance fora, and the involvement of the Caribbean community in the different LAC Strategic Plan projects. Also read the opinion of Bernadette Lewis, CTU's Secretary General, leading member of the Caribbean community on this important event (see section "we give you the floor").

ICANN supported Dialogues on Internet Governance

The second edition of this multistakeholder meeting on Internet governance took place on February 17-18 in Mexico City. Based on an multistakeholder engagement model, experts from several involved sectors addressed current Internet challenges through keynote speakers, and thematic round tables. The keynote presentation "The IANA Functions Stewardship Transition" was delivered by our regional Vice President Rodrigo de La Parra together with Leon Felipe Sanchez, member of the Enhancing ICANN Accountability Cross Community Working Group.

Further information: <http://goo.gl/kXZ9KD>

"We give you the floor"



Bernadette Lewis (CTU, Trinidad & Tobago)

Bernadette Lewis, CTU's Secretary General, described the Organization's 25th anniversary, and the ICT Week as "the completion of several months of activities to celebrate the organization's achievements and the ongoing work in the region." She also stated that "CTU has been reconverted to respond to the needs of its stakeholders and be relevant in a rapidly changing environment. Therefore, the theme for this 25th anniversary was "celebrating our past, committing to our future".

For more information on this important event, please read the CTU News section (<http://www.ctu.int/news>) or access the presentations delivered (<http://ctu.int/events/details/138-ctus-25th-anniversary>).

Press Highlights

(Spanish) Don't let your domain be used to harm others - by Carlos Alvarez, ICANN | <http://sco.lt/6THgdV>

(Portuguese) Transição da IANA e futuro do IGF estão no centro dos debates em 2015
Interview with Daniel Fink, ICANN | ABRANET: <http://sco.lt/6ucacl>

(Spanish) Internet Agenda for 2015 - by Rodrigo de la Parra, ICANN | AHCIET: <http://goo.gl/qO9UHL>

(Spanish) No government will monitor ICANN – Interview with Jean-Jacques Sahel, ICANN | Think Big: <http://goo.gl/GP1Luf>

Upcoming Events

31.03.2015: Opening Session of the NETmundial Initiative Coordination Council, San Jose, Costa Rica: <http://goo.gl/VZjOA2>

12-15.04.2015: ARIN 35, San Francisco, United States: <http://goo.gl/LWJhYd>

20-24.04.2015: Southern School on Internet Governance, San Jose, Costa Rica: <http://goo.gl/ORgmj>

27.04.2015 – 01.05.2015: Caribnog- LAC-i-Roadshow, Caribbean Edition, St-Lucia: <http://goo.gl/z2lVrn>

