

# APRALO Newsletter Nov -Dec 2024

A brief update for the period of November - December 2024, from the APRALO perspective



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# Message

**From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury**

Dear APRALO community,

Happy New Year!

Thanks to all our community members, APRALO had a very engaging year. We adopted our new Rules of Procedure, organised our first Hybrid Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024, and adopted the Annual report.

Our community was engaged actively in outreach and engagement activities. Our small teams such as the CIP-CCG, have been working to create the APRALO position. We had the APRALO Register of Skills and Interests Project pilot 1 & 2 rolled out to name a few.

We plan to further enhance our work in 2025 with your inputs and continued engagement in APRALO.

Thank you.

Regards,

Amrita



### From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio



Hello and good day to all!

Happy New Year, APRALO community!

As we step into 2025, we reflect on the incredible journey we've shared and the milestones we've achieved together. This year, let's continue to foster collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity within our community. Your dedication and passion have been the driving force behind our success, and we look forward to building on this momentum.

May this year bring new opportunities, growth, and prosperity for all. Let's embrace the challenges ahead with optimism and determination, knowing that together, we can make a positive impact on the global internet community.

Wishing you all a year filled with joy, health, and success.

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,  
Aris

From APRALO Vice Chair Ali Almeshal

### **Strengthening E-Commerce Security: The Key Role of Effective DNS Management**

Effectively managing the Domain Name System (DNS) is vital for enhancing online visibility and fostering customer trust in e-commerce. However, the DNS has its vulnerabilities. A study by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) revealed that 91% of organizations experienced a DNS attack in 2021, underscoring the urgent need for improved security measures.

Implementing Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) is essential, as it digitally signs DNS data to verify its authenticity. According to a Ponemon Institute survey, implementing DNSSEC can result in a 62% reduction in data breaches. Artificial intelligence (AI) is crucial in monitoring DNS traffic and detecting unusual patterns that may signify potential threats.

By adopting DNSSEC, utilizing cloud services, leveraging AI tools, performing audits, and training personnel, e-commerce businesses can significantly enhance their DNS management, bolster security, and build enduring customer trust in a competitive online environment.

Ali AlMeshal



## ICANN81 Update

[ICANN81 Annual General Meeting](#) was held in Istanbul, Türkiye from 9 to 14 November. In terms of [participants](#), 1,982 people attended the meeting in person, while 722 participated virtually. Key topics of discussion included: the New Generic Top-Level Domains Program; ICANN's next five-year Strategic Plan; the World Summit on the Information Society+20 Review besides other discussions. During the meeting [Rodrigue Guiguemde was announced as the recipient of Dr. Tarek Kamel Award for Capacity Building](#). The [ICANN81 GAC Communique can be viewed here](#). The ICANN Policy and Advice outcomes can be viewed [here](#). The APAC Hub had a meeting @ICANN81.



Pic: APAC Hub Meeting @ICANN81

## APRALO @ICANN81

Since the meeting was in the APAC region, APRALO had a busy ICANN 81. Apart from participating in the At Large and other So/AC sessions, we had our Annual General Meeting, where the Annual Report was presented and there was a discussion on enhancing outreach and engagement. We met the fellows and members in Istanbul over dinner and invited some local organisations. We supported organising the DNS women session and led the RALO Coordination meeting that discussed enhancing engagement with GSE and also with ALAC. We helped organize the two Plenary sessions one on Next Round and ASP and the other on Strategic Priorities for Atlarge. Both the sessions were well attended.



Pic: From APRALO AGM



Pic: APRALO @ ICANN 81

# ICANN Updates

## Announced

The [2025 Middle East Domain Name System \(DNS\) Forum will be held on 29-30 April](#) in Bahrain and co-hosted with Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The [NextGen participants for ICANN82](#)

## Opened

The [application submission period](#) for the Applicant Support Program (ASP), part of the New Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLD) Program: Next Round till 19 November 2025.

[New gTLD Registry Service Provider Evaluation Program.](#)

## Published

- New Registry Service Provider [handbook](#) update. This version covers questions related to Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) key signing key (KSK) rollover (one regarding Proxy RSP reporting; and other on inclusion of a missing ICANN org service-level target (SLT)).
- [Fiscal Year 2025 First-Quarter Management Financial Results](#)
- [Second-Level LGRs with Full Variant Set](#)
- [Three Additional Second-Level Reference Label Generation Rules](#)
- Six-month report on [ICANN's Enforcement of DNS Abuse Mitigation Requirements](#),

## Renewed

[.COM Registry Agreement with Verisign](#)

### Requested

[Information for Dispute Resolution Service Providers for the Next Round](#)

### Opportunity

Applications invited for [ICANN82 Community Childcare Grants Program](#) by 24 January

### Upcoming Meeting

The [IANA 2030 Strategy: PTI 2025–2030 Draft Strategic Plan Webinar](#) to be held on 14 January

### Government Engagement Team Update

Submitted comments to [Quadrennial Report to ECOSOC](#)

## Public Comments

### Closed for inputs

[Feedback](#) on Proposed [Revisions to Community Anti-Harassment Policy](#) by 20 December

There is a call to the SOs/Acs to [nominate fellowship mentors and selection committee members](#) by 31 January; [call for EOI for the 2025 ICANN Nominating Committee Standing Committee Members](#) by 23 December

### Seeking inputs

- [Draft PTI FY26 Operating Plan and Budget](#) by 17 February
- [ICANN FY26–30 Operating & Financial Plan, ICANN/IANA FY26 Op Plans & Budgets](#) by 14 February
- [Third Proceeding for Proposed Language for Draft Sections of Next Round Applicant Guide Book](#) by 7 February
- [Proposed Updates to the Operating Standards for Specific Reviews](#) by 10 February
- [Phase 2 Final Report](#) on the EPDP-IDNs for ICANN Board Consideration by 3 February
- Draft [PTI Strategic Plan Covering 2025 to 2030](#) by 29 January
- Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) is seeking [feedback](#) on [Continuous Improvement Program Framework](#) by 17 January 2025

## Blogs of Interest

- [Reflections on 2024 and a New Chapter for ICANN](#)
- [A Year of Progress: The New gTLD Program in 2024](#)
- [Global Digital Compact Endorsement: ICANN's Position](#)
- [Building Better Tools: ICANN81 Updates on ICANN Domain Metrics and INFERMAL](#)
- [ICANN's DNS Abuse Mitigation Program: Key Updates from 2024](#)
- [Input Sought on Principles for Updated Criteria to Establish and Maintain RIRs](#)
- [Chair's Blog: November Board Workshop and ICANN81 Preview](#)
- [ICANN Resources Available to Prepare Applicant Support Candidates](#)
- [How ICANN Registration Data Disclosure Requirements May Apply to RDRS Requests](#)
- [Empowering Global Voices: ICANN's Internet Governance Initiative](#)

For more updates on ICANN read the [ICANN Blogs here](#).

## Contribute to the ICANN & ALAC Policy Proceedings



Visit the [At-Large Policy Advice Development Page](#) or contact At-Large Staff for more information.



To **contribute to ALAC policy activity**, on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as penholder and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.



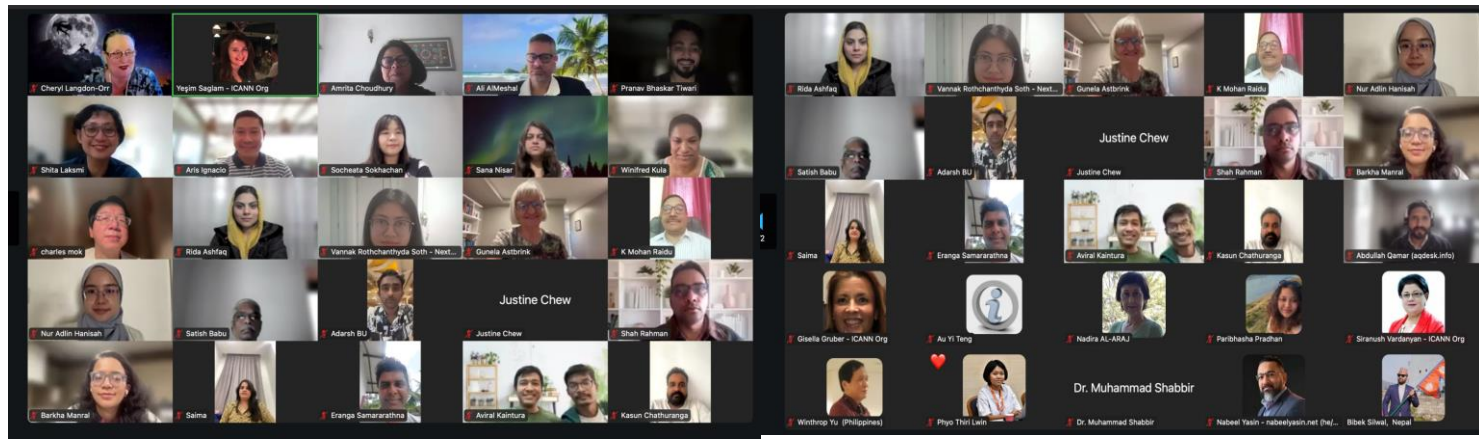
APRALO Community can participate in selected policy-related discussions being taken up from a regional perspective through the APRALO Policy Forum. For more information, please visit the [APRALO Policy Forum workspace](#) or contact At-Large Staff.

### Important Links to Visit

[At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice](#)  
[Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice](#)  
[Consolidated Policy Working Group \(CPWG\)](#)  
[At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group \(OFB-WG\)](#)

## December Call

In the [December](#) monthly call apart from providing updates on RALO matters the [APRALO FY2024 Annual Report](#) was adopted. The community was informed of the submission made by APRALO [on the Proposed Internet Coordination Policy 2 \(ICP-2\) Version 2 Principles](#). On behalf of the APRALO CIP small team Pranav Tiwari provided an overview of [CIP-CCG Call for Public Comments](#). Justine provided a brief Overview of [Approach to Next Round & Applicant Support Program](#). We had the ICANN81 Fellows Rida Ashfaq, Vannakrothchanthyda Soth and Yug Yug Desai & NextGen Sana Nisar, Socheata Sokhachan and Winifred Kula shared their what they plan to do next.



Pic: From APRALO December Monthly Call

# APRALO Policy Forum Update

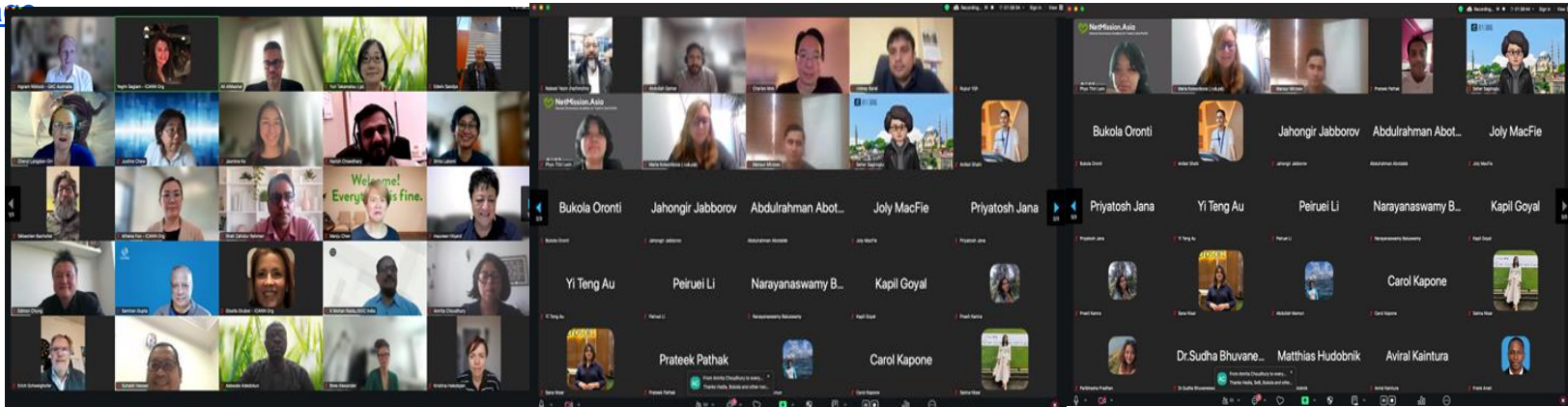
## APRALO ICANN81 Readout By Shah Zahidur Rahman

Organized by the APRALO Policy Forum, the APRALO ICANN81 Readout saw moderator Ali Almeshal joined by panelists Jasmine Ko, APRALO, based in HongKong, Edwin Sandys, ICANN81 Fellow, based in Fiji, Manju Chen, GNSO, based in Taiwan, Ingram Niblock, representing GAC, based in Australia and Yuri Takamatsu, ccNSO, based in Japan.

Panelists discussed their respective key takeaways from ICANN81 and briefly shared with participants their next steps to those takeaways towards ICANN82. Panelists also shared how they saw individual end-users playing a role in the ICANN mission. Sixty-six participants in attendance actively engaged with the panelists throughout the discussions.

An overview of the discussion along with a report on the takeaways for APRALO being posted in due course at the event [wiki](#)

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Pic: APRALO ICANN81 Readout

## By Charles Mok

In November, the 2025 ICANN NomCom held its orientation and first meeting at ICANN81 in Istanbul, Turkiye. As the "At-Large Community (ALAC) -- Asia Pacific" delegate to the 2025 NomCom,

I am also serving as the co-chair for the Application Subcommittee, and the work of the subcommittee and the NomCom as a whole to prepare for upcoming applications has commenced in November, 2024, right after ICANN81.

The open leadership positions in 2025 will be from the following bodies: ICANN Board of Directors (3), PTI Board (1), ALAC (1 each for Africa; Asia, Australia, and Pacific Islands; Latin America and Caribbean), ccNSO Council (1), and GNSO Council (1 each for Contracted Parties House and Non-Contracted Parties House).

NomCom will convene in person again in ICANN82 in Seattle, USA, in March, 2025, and in the meantime, please watch out for further announcements and application information. If there is any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

### **CIP-CCG Group – By Amrita Choudhury**

The Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) has been set up to evolve the ICANN Bylaw-mandated organisational review of ICANN components into a continuous improvement process.

Lead by Shita lakshmi and Pranav Tiwari the APRALO CIP Small Team is working to make the submission

For more details, of the work done by the small team please refer to the [APRALO CIP-CCG page](#)

### **ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement - By Aris Ignacio**

The ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement is transitioning to the new ALAC Community Engagement Subcommittee (ACES). The APRALO community will be represented by Shreedeeep Rayamajhi as the AP Lead and Jasmine Ko as the AP Lead Alternative. Let's support this new endeavor from ALAC as we continue to engage our community in all of APRALO's initiatives. For more information, feel free to visit the [ACES page](#).

### India IGF2024

The Fourth edition of India Internet Governance Forum (IIGF2024) was held on 9 and 10 December in New Delhi in hybrid mode. The overarching theme was “Innovating Internet Governance for India” and the five sub themes were: Empowering Connections: Access, Inclusion and Rights; Legal and Regulatory Frameworks; Responsible AI; Trust and Safety; and Building Green and Sustainable Internet. Apart from the inaugural and closing, there were four main sessions and twelve community workshops.

Many of our ALSes (CCAOI, ISOC Trivandrum, ISOC Mumbai, ISOC Hyderabad, ISOC Delhi, ISOC Chennai and ISOC Bangalore) were actively involved in India IGF. ISOC Chennai organised a remote hub.

The session recording and event report will be released soon.



### Internet Bahrain Day - By Ali Almeshal

The Bahrain ISOC chapter and Global ISOC team organised the Internet Day in Bahrain event on 5 December. The theme was ;Emerging Technologies: Challenges and Opportunities. Highlights of the event included:

- IIAT Training Session
- Introduction to the Internet Society (ISOC) Overview
- Presentation of the 2025 Strategic Plan
- Intermediary Liability: Report and Study Introduction
- Emerging Digital Technologies and Their Impact on Policy and Regulation in the MENA Region.

The event was attended by local community members and government officials. It was a unique platform to discuss the Internet Impact Assessment Toolkit (IIAT) and its significance in shaping Internet governance.

Attendees expressed positive feedback, underscoring the events impact on enriching their understanding of the digital landscape and supporting informed decision-making in the realm of responsible internet policy development.



### Nepal Internet Foundation: Empowering rural schools with IoT – By Bikram Shrestha

In a groundbreaking initiative to bridge the digital divide in rural Nepal, Nepal Internet Foundation and APNIC Foundation have successfully established [Hi-Tech Smart Classrooms](#) in two schools of Kathekhola Rural Municipality, Ward-2, Baglung District. This joint effort aims to empower Shree Janapriya Basic School and Shree Bhimadarbar Basic School with modern ICT tools that will significantly enhance the educational experience for both students and teachers.

This initiative, powered by the combined resources and expertise of both Nepal Internet Foundation and APNIC Foundation, provided essential tools like Internet connectivity, smart boards, computers, solar panels, and solar-powered batteries—critical resources for promoting digital learning in these rural schools.



### Path Finders Solution organises a workshop - By Dr. Md. Shabbir Awan

Dr. Muhammad Shabbir Awan, CEO of Path Finder Solutions, recently led a transformative workshop in Kathmandu, Nepal, focused on Internet Governance and Digital Rights for Persons with Disabilities. Organized by the ISOC Accessibility Standing Group and the Digital Freedom Coalition, the event was held on December 2–3, 2024, coinciding with Nepal Digital Forum and Nepal School on Internet Governance.

The workshop delivered valuable insights into accessibility principles, inclusive policy-making, and leadership skills.

With 14 diverse participants representing various disabilities, discussions underscored the importance of inclusive Internet practices in Nepal. Digital rights and internet governance experts delivered lectures in the training ensuring an engaging and impactful experience.

Building on prior workshops in Dhaka and Islamabad, this initiative strengthens South Asia's network of disability advocates. Dr. Shabbir emphasized actionable learning and practical application, setting the stage for sustainable advocacy and inclusive digital transformation in Nepal and in the region.



### ICANN Learn Workshop –By Kapil Goyal, ISOC Delhi Member

Post graduate department of computer science and IT, Guru Nanak Dev University College, Patti, (Taran Taran), organized ICANN Training program for post graduate students and research fellows In Computer Science .The learning outcome of this training series is to know about ICANN Ecosystem at large, Internet protocols, identify SOs and ACs, Registries and Registrars, learn business model that sell domain names (DNS) to individuals and organizations, Next Gen Fellowship programs, how next generation leaders can get involved in shaping DNS for building Trust and Resilience. The stakeholders actively engaged, exchanged and learned about their regional community forum (APRALO) and successfully completed the curriculum for 102.1 Introduction to ICANN non accredited course offered by ICANN and awarded Certificates.



# Thank You

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

[amritachoudhury@ccaai.in](mailto:amritachoudhury@ccaai.in)