
KOBE – NomCom ICANN64 (4 of 7)
Monday, March 11, 2019 – 13:30 to 15:00 JST
ICANN64 | Kobe, Japan

DAMON ASHCRAFT: Welcome, everybody. If we can all grab a seat, it is 1:30, so we'll go ahead and start. I would ask, Jia, when you have a second, if you could upload the presentation and we will get started. I'm sorry, who's ... Excellent. Who's the gentleman running my presentation today? Alright. Give us just a second as we kind of work through the technical details to get the presentation uploaded. In the interim, let's go ahead and introduce ourselves. I want to thank everybody. This is the 2019 NomCom public meeting.

As an initial disclaimer, I do have to state that at 2:46, if we are still meeting at 2:46, we are going to be stopping everything and I will stop you before then to observe a moment of silence to observe the earthquake that happened on March 11, 2011 at 2:46 to honor all of the victims of that earthquake. So, we will be stopping and I'll be reading a short description about that and that is something that our host has asked us to do. So, I would appreciate all your respect as we go through that process.

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Damon Ashcraft and I am the current chair of the Nominating Committee. It is my

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privilege and honor to be with you today. I want to welcome our guests that are in the room with us. You can rest assured that the folks on this committee are all doing a very good job. They're working very, very hard and I'd like to go ahead and go around the room, give everybody a chance on the Nominating Committee to introduce themselves. We'll start with Anriette, so if you want to go ahead and start, we'll just work our way around the table.

ANRIETTE ESTERHUYSEN: Thank you, Damon. Anriette Esterhuysen from South Africa from civil society, appointed to NomCom by the Non-Commercial User Constituency. This is my second term.

PAUL MITCHELL: Paul Mitchell from the Business Constituency, the At-Large seat. I work for Microsoft and I am from Seattle.

ERICH SCHWEIGHOFER: Hi, my name is Erich Schweighofer. I am an academic at the Vienna University. I was nominated by EURALO, the At-Large of Europe. Thank you.

AZIZ HILALI: Hello, everyone. I am Aziz Hilali from AFRALO, African At-Large. I am from Morocco and I am also a professor at the University [inaudible].

JONATHAN COHEN: First, let me thank the few of you who are brave enough to attend this. I was [inaudible] for a crowd out into the hall but it seems we're good. I am Jonathan Cohen. I am from Canada now living in the US, second-year victim, and I am from the IPC.

NADIRA AL ARAJ: Hello. Welcome [inaudible] this session. My name is Nadira Al Araj. I am the Nominating Committee delegate from the At-Large Advisory Council.

ALAIN BIDRON: Hello. My name is Alain Bidron. I am from France based in Paris. I was appointed to the committee by the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers. I am happy to be here.

CAROLINE GREER: My name is Caroline Greer. I am Irish, but based in Brussels, Belgium. I work for Cloudflare registrar and so appointed by the Registrar Constituency Group. This is my first time.

OLE JACOBSON: Ole Jacobson. I'm the IETF representative, second term. I am based in San Francisco.

LAWRENCE OLAWALE-ROBERTS: My name is Lawrence Olawale-Roberts. I am in Nigeria. I am here from the Business Constituency [small seat]. Thank you.

MICHAELA QUINZY: Hello. I'm Michaela Quinzy, ICANN Org.

JIA KIMOTO: Hi, I'm Jia Kimoto, ICANN Org.

BRENDA BREWER: Good day, everyone. Brenda Brewer, ICANN Organization.

BRAJESH JAIN: Good afternoon. This is Brajesh Jain from ASO AC. I live in New Delhi, India. This is my second term. Thank you.

TRACY HACKSHAW: Good afternoon. My name is Tracy Hackshaw from Trinidad and Tobago and I represent the Latin America and Caribbean At-Large RALO. Thank you. First time NomCom.

ALEJANDRO ACOSTA: Hello. My name is Alejandro Acosta. I represent RSSAC. I work for LACNIC and based in Venezuela.

DAMON ASHCRAFT: And last, but certainly not least, I would like to introduce my associate chair, Mr. Zahid Jamil. Zahid, do you want to introduce yourself, too?

ZAHID JAMIL: Just made it. Zahid Jamil, I'm the associate chair for this year. I was chair last year. Thank you.

DAMON ASHCRAFT: Alright. Well, we'll go ahead and we're going to start. The format for our meeting will be fairly casual. We're going to go through a presentation and then we'll open up the floor for questions. The main goal and objective of this meeting is to allow folks in our community to come out to learn more about what the NomCom is doing and give you a chance to interact with you.

First slide is a lovely picture of us in the Barcelona meeting. So, those are obviously the NomCom members. We'll go ahead and advance the slides.

So, what are we doing this year that we haven't done in previous years? Well, absolutely nothing. What we want to do is want to

improve upon all the momentum and stuff, the things that we've been doing in previous years.

Last year I think was a seminal year for the NomCom. We changed several things for the better and that's at the direction of this gentleman over here who's done a fantastic job at that. This year, what I really wanted to focus on was transparency. There's a reputation in the community that NomCom is sort of a black box, we're not accountable to anybody, and nobody really knows what's going on.

Part of that is we do need to keep candidate information confidential. We need to keep our internal deliberations confidential. But other things we do not want to keep confidential. For example, we want to provide information about our processes, our operating procedures. Those are all online and I really would encourage you, if you haven't had the opportunity, please visit our website. Take a look at it. The link is up there. That will have a lot of information about us. But also information about recruitment and recruitment is the name of the game right now. Our application period closes on March 22, so we are in heavy recruitment mode. We are here to assist you. If you know of any candidates or prospective candidates, please contact us so that we can work with you, get our pool as big as possible and then go out and find the best individuals for ICANN to lead the organization forward.

What we are doing this year is we've always used – shouldn't say always. In recent years, we have used a professional recruiting firm. This year, for some reasons I'll explain as we get further down in the presentation, we have expanded that into three firms. We've done that because there are some special recruiting needs for a couple of our geographic regions, namely Africa and Asia, so we have hired an additional two firms and their names are up there. They are assisting. They're taking a very targeted role, finding individuals from their specific regions. Advance the deck, please.

Let's talk a little bit about geographic diversity. This is something that I think some people are aware of and a lot of people are not aware of. Yes, it's the goal of the NomCom to ensure a diverse candidate pool. But with respect to geographic diversity, it goes beyond an aspiration and it actually becomes a mandate. It's within ICANN's bylaws.

What the bylaws state in a nutshell is that when you look at the total pool of the board of directors – and this includes NomCom appointees and appointees that come from the community as well. The entire board. You cannot have ... You have to have at least one member from all the geographic regions on the board and you cannot have more than five. That's written into the bylaws, so that's something we must observe.

So, let's take a look at the next item, look at some practical ... We'll discuss some practical considerations of that. With respect to what that means this year with our geographic diversity requirements is that North America is full because we have five directors. The other regions are all open. Europe has four directors. We could place another person from Europe there. The Latin America and Caribbean region, the Asia-Pacific region, and the African region only have two directors, so those are regions that we're going to be giving special focus to.

What are the positions that we are filling this year? We've got three seats on the board of directors. We've got two seats on the GNSO. And if you cannot read the very small print up there, I will go ahead and help you out with that.

We're appointing one person to the non-contracted party house and one person as a voting member to the contracted party house. Then we're appointing three people to the ALAC and those are geographically specific. We've got one person we're appointing from Asia, Australia, and Pacific; one person from Africa; and one candidate from Latin America and the Caribbean region. We also have a seat on the ccNSO as well. Go ahead and advance the deck.

Alright. Here is our slide that really shows the geographic diversity and where we're at right now. So, as of right now, we've got five

board members from North America, effectively meaning that North America we will not likely be able to appoint anybody from North America. Things could change with the makeup of the board, but as of right now, there are five. Four from Europe. Still have a seat open from Europe. Asia-Pacific is two. Three seats available. Africa has two, three seats available. Latin America and Caribbean Islands, two, three seats available. Advance the deck, please.

Alright. Let's talk a little bit about the description of the positions that the folks that we fill or the bodies that we fill to. The board of directors has the ultimate responsibility for the corporation or a fiduciary duty to the corporation. Basically, they control its property, direct its business, all the employees and CEOs are going to be subservient to the board. In addition to that, they're obviously expected to support the ICANN mission, pursue its core values.

We currently, as the NomCom, our mandate is we must select [inaudible] board. That's eight total members. We don't select eight members per year. It depends on what seats are open. This year, we'll be selecting three seats.

Then, we're also pointing to the ALAC. The ALAC considers and gives advice to ICANN activities related to individual Internet users and particularly end users of the Internet. They also may

represent individual requests for the interests of not-for-profit or for-profit entities depending on basically its users. So, it's a lot. It's a pretty large remit for the ALAC. We choose five ALAC members, one from each of the geographical regions. Advance the slide, please.

GNSO. GNSO is a policy body. It develops and recommends to the board substantive policies for gTLDs. The GNSO, as many of you are aware, consists of different constituencies. It represents particular groups such as business, intellectual property, non-commercial users, registrars, registries. The Nominating Committee, we choose three council members who serve staggered terms.

The ccNSO, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization, develops and recommends to the board policies, but for ccTLDs as opposed to gTLDs and other TLDs. ccNSO administers affairs and manages development and policy recommendations and we choose three ccNSO members who serve staggered terms.

Then the last one that we'll talk about today is the PTI board. I will say at the outset that the PTI board is a bit of a ... It's a new role for us to play, because as many of you know, PTI as a separate corporation is a relatively new creature within ICANN. We first appointed to the PTI board two years ago and last year we did not appoint to the PTI board because there were no open positions.

What is PTI? PTI is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation and it basically is designed to perform the IANA functions for ICANN. It came into existence and really got its legs after those functions were transferred back to IANA a few years ago.

Basically, the board of directors for the PTI has the same role for PTI as the ICANN board has for ICANN except PTI’s remit is much smaller than ICANN Org’s remit. Next slide, please.

So, where are we in the phases of the process? We started back in late October at ICANN 63 in Barcelona and basically had our first meeting as a group. We set our own policies. We approved contracts for vendors and we basically got the committee going.

Then, since October until March 22nd which is when the application period is going to close, we’ve been doing outreach and we’ve been working at identifying the best possible candidates for the ICANN board and for the other organizations that we fill seats to.

Currently, we’re obviously at the Kobe meeting, and at the Kobe meeting we’re preparing. We’re preparing for the selection phase. We’re preparing for the winnowing down, for the very busy months that are going to happen after this meeting.

On March 22, the applications are going to close, so we will have our applications by that date. We will then go through and all the

NomCom members will take a look at the applications we have received. We will be ranking them.

Then we're going to go to our second intersessional. An in-person intersessional was a meeting that was proposed and effectuated last year during last year's NomCom and it's been a huge policy improvement for us. What we do at the intersessional is we go through and we talk about each application. That means applications that were ranked very high by members. That means applications that were ranked very low by members. We look at everybody. We talk about everybody. That ensures frankly that nobody slips through the crack. So, that will happen at the intersessional. That's going to be in April and it's going to be in Los Angeles this year.

Then, what happens from that point? We will have a couple ... We're going to winnow down the list at the intersessional. We're going to have a couple probably extensive phone calls after the intersessional when we winnow down the list further. Then we're going to have our final selection meeting at ICANN 65 in Marrakech and that's going to be where we're selecting our candidates and we will also be ... We'll select our board candidates and for all the other candidates for the position that we're going to fill.

Then, pretty much what happens after that is then the candidates will be announced. I don't have an exact time on announcing candidates. They do have to go through some due diligence procedures but it will be within a couple of months of the meeting.

Then, we'll start the process again. Actually, we won't. There will be a new NomCom seated. That will happen in Montreal. Alright. Advance the slide deck please.

What are we doing here in Kobe? What's the big focus? Our big focus is outreach. We have an outreach committee. It is chaired by Pablo Rodrigues and Leah Symekher. I'm happy to report that neither of them is here today. The reason I'm happy to report that neither of them is here today now is they actually have other commitments where they're going out there and they're speaking at a meeting doing outreach. So, that's good. That's where we want them to be.

Please, for those of you that are in the audience, please work with us. If you have candidates, if you have people you think might be a good candidate for ICANN. Let us know. We are here to partner with you and help recruit those candidates. There is nothing that is ... If you're thinking, well, maybe not, please ask us. It's much better to ask and talk to us and have the conversation. Maybe you have a candidate that you think maybe isn't ready now but they

want to learn how to get more involved with ICANN, we're happy to talk to those folks as well. Our goal here is to develop leaders. Next slide, please.

Basically, that will be the end of the presentation. There's some contact information up there. Feel free to call me. You can e-mail me. I've got my e-mail up there. We also have the e-mail for NomCom operations and I also have both of my phone numbers up there. You can call me at any time and I'll be happy to discuss this with you.

So, that's the end of the formal presentation. I wanted to go ahead. We'll take questions. I wanted to allow my colleagues on the committee, if there's anything else, anybody on the Nominating Committee would like to say to the group, feel free to jump in the queue and we'll go ahead and we'll do that. If not, I'm going to open up the floor to questions. Alejandro?

ALEJANDRO ACOSTA:

Hello. Something that I would like to mention is the video that was uploaded to YouTube and everybody can watch in case they wanted to see what are the board responsibilities. The video explains a lot about the job that is done by them.

DAMON ASHCRAFT: Yes, thank you very much for reminding me of that, Alejandro. What he's talking about is that we created a video. There was a video created by ICANN where they interviewed current and former board members. It's from their perspective. What have they gained from being on the board? Why should you join the ICANN board? That's on YouTube. It's also conveniently linked on our website as well.

Other questions, other points from my colleagues? Caroline?

CAROLINE GREER: Yeah. Somewhat related to that, we should also mention that we do keep the NomCom webpage updated with as much information as we can find about the process and our transparency efforts. So, do keep an eye on that.

DAMON ASHCRAFT: Yeah. Another thing I'll add from our transparency efforts is we're doing a blog or a series of blogs this year and we just had an entry published today, so take a look at that if you haven't had an opportunity. Again, you can access that on the website. Nadira?

NADIRA AL ARAJ: In line to whatever has been said right now regarding the current position, I also advise who are interested in a certain position to

go, being in presence in this meeting to go to the leadership on all these positions if you are interested in the ALAC. Go and meet somebody from the ALAC who can see what the responsibilities are. Go and meet somebody from the GNSO Council and ask [inaudible]. It helps you to match with your own qualification effort, if the responsibility fits with your [inaudible]. Thank you.

DAMON ASHCRAFT:

Thank you, Nadira. Alright, I don't see anyone else in the queue from the Nominating Committee. To our guests, welcome again. We're very glad you're here. Do we have any questions from our guests today? Well, hearing no questions, we can go ahead and adjourn this meeting. If folks have questions at a later time, you have my contact information. Contact me, contact NomCom, Ops, contact anybody on this committee and we'll be happy to answer those questions.

I want to thank you. I'm glad this meeting was short and ahead of schedule. It doesn't happen all the time. I really appreciate everyone's time this afternoon. Thank you so much.

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