



**MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
SECRETARIAT GENERAL**

*Towards the Indonesian Information Society*

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Jakarta, 24 December 2013

**Mr. Cherine Chalaby**

Chairman of New gTLD Program Committee  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
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Our Ref. : B-1404 /SJ/KS.02.04/12/2013

Subject : Indonesia's Position regarding New gTLD Applications for .islam and .halal

Dear Sir,


With reference to recommendations arising from Islamic states regarding the management and implementation of new gTLD applications for .islam, and .halal by a private company/institution, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) on behalf of the government of Indonesia would like to convey its official views on the aforementioned matter, as follows:

1. Indonesia highly appreciates and supports ICANN's policies regarding new gTLD programs which we believe that it will bring about positive impacts for the global development of domain names, particularly its potential in escalating competition and innovation in the business sphere. However, it is inevitable to view that all newly proposed gTLDs will not receive approval from multi-stakeholders, specifically those that concern a certain religion. Thus, Indonesia is of the view that ICANN should be impartial, inclusive, neutral, and has multi stakeholder approach.
2. Besides, Indonesia is a multi-cultural, multi-racial, and multi-religious country, with its population predominantly Muslim (of the Islamic faith). Based on this fact, we indeed realize that domain name issues concerning a certain religion may be of sensitive nature and potentially provoke future conflicts.
3. Taking into consideration the aforementioned grounds, Indonesia's position on the new gTLD application of .islam are as follows:
  - a. Any domain name that uses a name of a particular religion may be the root cause of potential sensitive friction and future conflicts.
  - b. The entity/person who proposed new gTLD application does not represent the larger global muslim community.
  - c. Within Islam, there exists several different schools of thoughts that may have entirely different opinions and arguments which may cause conflicts.
  - d. Indonesia opposes any domain name that uses a name of any particular religion; and strongly objects the proposal of the domain name of .islam.
4. Indonesia's position on the new gTLD application of .halal:
  - a. In principle, Indonesia approves the proposal and use of domain name .halal, provided that it is managed properly and responsibly.

- b. Entities that register for the domain name .halal should be obliged to submit a halal certification for proof of halal products and/or services from a local government authority of the originating country.
- c. Ideally, the domain name .halal should be managed by an entity which resides in a country that represents the majority of muslim community.

Thank you for your kind attention, and cooperation.

Sincerely,



**Basuki Yusuf Iskandar**

Secretary General

Ministry of Communication and Information Technology  
Republic of Indonesia

CC:

H.E. Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Republic of Indonesia;  
Director General of ICT Applications.