# At-Large Advisory Committee Activity Report

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At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

ICANN Meeting

Capetown, South Africa

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# The At Large Advisory Committee

- ICANN created Interim At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) last year
  - Framework of local, regional groups to promote <u>structured involvement</u> and <u>informed participation</u> of world's individual Internet user community ("At-Large")
  - Outreach activities to encourage groups worldwide to join ICANN At-Large
  - Advocacy activities to advance user interests in ICANN on critical issues

| At-Large Structures | → | Regional At-Large Organizations | → | At-Large Advisory Committee |
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# Committee Activities (since Kuala Lumpur, July 2004)

- **At-Large Organizing**
  - Regional organizing meetings held in Latin America, Asia-Aust-Pacific
  - At-Large outreach events held in Europe and Africa (here in Capetown)
  - ALAC members also participated in various user events in regions
  - Outreach/involvement also advanced by ALAC website, forum, mailing lists, monthly newsletter
  - At-Large Structure applications (24 received to date) and At-Large Structure accreditation process (19 certified) continues
  - Expanding "on the field" outreach/organizing work in all regions
  - Seeking coordination/support from other constituencies (eg. ccTLDs)

# Committee Activities (since Kuala Lumpur, July 2004)

- Policy Development and Related Activities
  - ALAC involved in numerous issues of interest to end users and ALAC members are serving as liaisons/members in many policy-related groups
  - Draft positions/recommendations posted and public input solicited to guide ALAC work
  - ALAC members participating in 3 WHOIS task forces, Registry Services task force, and involved in many other activities, including new TLDs, WIPO2, transfers, etc.)
  - ALAC co-organized WSIS Workshop in Capetown
  - ALAC participated in IDN Workshop in Capetown
  - ALAC held public meeting in Capetown
  - ALAC waiting to receive proposals for comment on auctioning expired domain names

# At-Large Organizing

- Africa
  - At-Large event will be held in Accra in February in conjunction with WSIS Prep-Com
  - Additional At-Large events planned for North Africa, East Africa, and South Africa
  - Plans proceeding for website, email and mailing lists and increased outreach activities
  - Temporary staff support helping with information sharing, outreach, and supporting RALO formation
- Europe
  - Since Kuala Lumpur, At-Large outreach has been conducted at:
    - EGENI 2004  - July - French Chamber of Commerce
    - CENTR meeting in Yerevan - September - contacts with ccTLDs
    - ISOC-UK conference in London - September
    - WGIG Consultations in Geneva – September and November
    - UN ICT Task Force meeting in Berlin - November
  - Planned tighter collaboration with ICANN Brussels office and in-region support

# At-Large Organizing

- ## Asia/Australia/Pacific
  - ALAC sponsored "Asia-Pacific At-Large Meeting" in Korea in October in conjunction with Internet governance symposium to advance At-Large
  - More At-Large meetings planned for Taiwan, China, Japan
  - "At-Large Committee" formed in APNG helping with outreach and coordination

- ## Latin America
  - ALAC organized several events to advance At-Large organizing in this region
  - ALAC co-sponsored with UNICT a "Latin-American Workshop on Internet Governance," in Peru, and co-sponsored with UNICT & UNECLAC a "Caribbean Forum on the Information Society" in Trinidad and Tobago
  - At-Large meetings held at "V Iberoamerican Independent Congress of Domain Names III" in Venezuela, and "Seminario-Taller Sobre Nombres de Dominio" Panama
  - A regional event focused on creation of a "Latin America Regional At-Large Organization" being planned to coincide with the ICANN meeting in Argentina in April 2005

- ## North America
  - Two applications for At-Large Structure certification are pending
  - Planned collaboration with WSIS civil society groups

# At-Large Organizing

- On-going processing of At-Large Structure applications
  - Voting to certify more groups as At-Large Structures every couple of months
  - Possible need to simplify/streamline certification process; proposals to be submitted to the Board soon
- Encouraging At-Large Structure involvement
  - Prepared "welcome package" for certified groups, and use "ALS" discussion list to help inform/engage groups
  - At-Large Structures provided individuals to serve as NomCom delegates and volunteers to replace outgoing ALAC members
- Currently 19 groups certified as At-Large Structures + 4 applications under due diligence

  (in Kuala Lumpur: 16 + 5)

# At-Large Organizing

- Current list of certified At-Large Structures:
    - Società Internet (ISOC Italy) (Europe)
    - Arab Knowledge Management Society (Asia/Aust./Pac.)
    - Alfa-Redi (Latin America/Caribbean Islands)
    - FITUG (Europe)
    - Internet Society Luxembourg A.S.B.L. (Europe)
    - Internet Society Bulgaria (Europe)
    - Moroccan Internet Society (Africa)
    - Anais.AC (Africa)
    - Sudan Internet Society (Africa)
    - Internet Society - Finland (Europe)

# At-Large Organizing cont.

- Current list of certified At-Large Structures:
    - Catalan Chapter of the Internet Society (Europe)
    - Asoc. Costarricense de Derecho Info. (Latin America-Carib.)
    - Internet Society Vasudhay Kutumbhkum (Asia-Aus.-Pac.)
    - ISOC Taiwan Chapter (Asia-Aus.-Pac.)
    - At Large@China (Asia-Aus.-Pac.)
    - Natl. Info. Infra. Enterprise Promotion Assoc. (Asia-Aus.-Pac.)
    - Internet Users Network (Japan) (Asia-Aus.-Pac.)
    - ISOC DRC (Congo) (Africa)
    - Internet Society Belgium (Europe)

# At-Large Organizing

- Current list of applications under due diligence:
    - Communications and Multimedia Consumer Forum of Malaysia (CfM) (Asia/Aust./Pacific)
    - America@Large (North America)
    - Intellectual Property & Technology Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association (North America)
    - African Youth Foundation (Africa)

# Policy activities: Whois

- Continuing work in the task forces
  - Data publication should be registrant-driven
  - Privacy is a fundamental right for individuals
  - There can't be accuracy without privacy
  - Accuracy should be increased by cooperation, not by force
  - Make it easier to keep data updated
  - Extremely worried by proposed accuracy mechanisms (mostly useless to prevent fraud, but really damaging for less experienced users)

# Policy Activities: IDN

- Draft statement under discussion
  - Need for more attention to the cultural / social impact of IDNs
  - Need for global coordination of work
  - Linguistic tables should be agreed by the affected communities and shared globally
  - Existing "romanized" registrations should be protected
  - Registrants should not pay N times to reserve N equivalent versions of their domain names
  - Need for further work on internationalized TLDs and fully internationalized URIs (with other organizations, e.g. W3C)

# More activities: WSIS

- WSIS workshop co-organized here in Capetown

- Informal participation by several ALAC members in WSIS and in related events

- ALAC Chairman appointed on WGIG
  - Significant recognition for the At-Large effort, both among broader civil society community and among international diplomatic community

- Very important that the ICANN community participates in the WGIG process

# Additonal ALAC Activities

- In the process of replacing 2 resigning ALAC members – Esther Dyson (North America), Thomas Roessler (Europe)

- Solicited At-Large community volunteers/ recommendations, especially from At-Large Structures

- ALAC reviewing statements of interest from impressive group of volunteers; will recommend candidates to Board soon and would appreciate swift appointments by Board

# Challenges

- At a critical junction
  - Organizing proved much harder than initially thought
  - We think we have to succeed in the next year
- Problems
  - Most work done on a volunteer basis
    - people wear out quickly
    - hard to cope with everything
    - hard to do proper outreach
  - Users participate in ICANN in spare time, not as part of their jobs
  - Unclear value proposition to applicants
  - Widespread feeling that participating in ICANN is useless since there is no actual power for users
  - Too complex model?

# Who needs the At Large?

- Initial idea: the self-sustaining At Large
    - "If you really want, here's a room for you"
- But openness is not just opening the door
    - Less powerful stakeholders (civil society, developing countries) need active encouraging and support, not just passive acceptance
    - But without these stakeholders, ICANN will not be legitimate and will not survive long

We think that all the community needs the At Large, and all the community should support it

# Thank you

**For further information:**

**ALAC Website: www.alac.icann.org**

ALS questions/forms: als@alac.icann.org

Email: committee@alac.icann.org

FIFA www.fifa.com

Football (the one with the round ball) Tournament in Mar del Plata