



OCT 27 2008

Mr. Paul Twomey  
CEO and President  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330  
Marine del Ray, CA 90292

*Paul*  
Dear Mr. Twomey:

Thank you for your recent letter outlining the policy development process underway in the ICANN community regarding the introduction of internationalized domain name country code top level domains (IDN ccTLDs). I commend the approach that ICANN has adopted of seeking to forecast the number of countries and territories that are interested in applying for an IDN ccTLD using the "fast track" process, as a very practical planning tool to ensure the development of an efficient process to manage such new applications. I would also suggest that ICANN consider, in consultation with the ICANN community, how the "fast track" process can contribute effectively to the development of a definitive list of country and territory names in non-Latin scripts that complements the existing ISO-3166-1 list of two letter ccTLD codes.

At the present time, the Department does not anticipate directing NeuStar, which manages the .us domain on our behalf, to submit an application in the "fast track" process for .us in a non-Latin script. A determination whether to submit an application for an IDN ccTLD will be taken pending further consultations with the broad range of interests related to the .us top level domain. The Department does consider the protection of our country name and those territories affiliated with the United States in any language or script to be of utmost importance, and the absence of an application for an IDN ccTLD for .us in the "fast track" process should not be understood as a waiver of such national interests. The Department is also coordinating with colleagues involved in the management of top level domains in territories affiliated with the United States.

In closing, let me reiterate the Department's strong support for multilingualism in the domain name and addressing system and for the sustained technical and policy contributions from the ICANN community to advance the introduction of IDNs.

Sincerely,

Meredith Attwell Baker  
Acting Assistant Secretary  
for Communications and Information

cc: Keith Drazek, NeuStar