CCAOI Newsletter	July, 2015

Prime Minister launches the Digital India Program

On the 1st of July, Prime Minister launched the Digital India Program, which aims to transform the country into a digitally empowered knowledge economy. During the launch the Prime Minister emphasized that a digital nation would not only have empowered citizens but usher in transparency, better governance by reducing corruption and getting all citizens connected. This in turn would enhance innovation thereby providing employment. During his speech the Prime Minister specially emphasized the need for cyber security to become an integral part of our national security.

The Prime Ministers speech can be viewed from the following link: http://www.narendramodi.in/text-of-pm-s-remarks-at-the-launch-of-digital-india-week

First Informal Preparatory Meeting with stakeholders to review the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes

The first informal interactive preparatory consultation with stakeholders on the review of implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) was held at the United Nations Secretariat, New York, on 1st and 2nd July, 2015. The objective of the meeting was to provide member states and other stakeholders to share their preliminary inputs and expectations on issues that need to be addressed by the review.

On the first day statements were issued by member nations such as Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

In his statement, the Indian representative suggested that while areas of cooperation in the WSIS+10 Review Process are being identified, "we should keep the modalities resolutioned as contingent of the Tunis Agenda to utilize ICTs for development and for the benefit of the developing countries". He further mentioned the need to take stock of the implementation of the WSIS action lines till date, review the existing mechanisms, update them and provide the necessary course correction to make them relevant for the times ahead. He also stated the need to address capacity building and transfer of technology and cautioned on the growing digital divide between developed and developing nations and genders, suggesting that it needs to be factored into the review agenda. For inclusive growth and development of internet, the focus he suggested should be on affordability and multilingualism. He reiterated India's commitment to multistakeholder processes, Net Neutrality and need to encourage participation from the developing world in this process. On the issue of enhanced cooperation, he mentioned "India recognizes the need for identifying issues, which have a direct impact on national security and call for enhanced role for governments in dealing with such issues." For better protection of all citizens in the online environment, he suggested the need to strike a balance between national security and internationally recognized human rights and to create frameworks so that internet surveillance practices motivated by security concerns are conducted with a truly transparent and accountable framework. He also stated the importance to synergize and link the different UN meetings with the WSIS+10 Review so that they reflect them appropriately in the outcome document.

On the second day the review, the other stakeholders who shared their views included:

- Mr. Lenni Montiel, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs on behalf of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the UN General Assembly
- Ms. Anne Miroux, Director, Division on Technology and Logistics and Head of the CSTD Secretariat, UNCTAD
- Ms. Constance Bommelaer, The Internet Society
- Ms. Mai-Huong (Carolyn) Nguyen, Microsoft
- H.E. Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations
- Mr. Akinori Maemura, Japan Network Information Center (JPNIC)
- Ms. Deniz Duru Aydin, Access
- Ms. Cheryl Miller, Verizon
- Mr. Marek Michalewski, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations
- Mr. Joseph Alhadeff, Oracle
- Ms. Divina Frau-Meigs, International Association for Media and Communication Research
- Ms. Valeria Betancourt, Association for Progressive Communications
- Mr. Ninoslav Marina, University of Information Science and Technology
- Mr. Maurice Ali, International Association of Independent Journalists Inc.
- H.E. Mr. Einar Gunnarsson, Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations on behalf of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa, President of the UN General Assembly

For further details visit: http://unpan3.un.org/wsis10/

DOT releases Committee report on Net Neutrality

The Department of Telecommunications (DOT) released the committee report on Net Neutrality.

In the report DOT suggests that Internet services dealing with messaging should not be interfered with regulatory instruments. However, they added that regulation for communication services which use VoIP needs to be deliberated as there is a regulatory arbitrage, where such services bypass the existing licensing and regulatory regime creating a non-level playing field between telecom operators and Internet services which compete for the same service provision.

On the subject of Zero rating while on one hand the report suggests that Trai look into it on a case to case basis, on the other hand on the subject of Internet.org, the report mentions that content and application providers cannot be permitted to act as gatekeepers.

The report mentions that apps including messaging apps do not require any licensing and suggests government to take a liberal approach to international calling via VoIP. However domestic VoIP services from regulatory perspective, should be treated like TSP services and licensing is recommended. The committee recommends legitimate traffic management but is against app specific traffic management. The report also suggests that managed and enterprises services can be exempt from Net neutrality requirements.

While the report touches the issue of Search Neutrality, however says it cannot do anything about it. The report mentions that as security is paramount, there is a need to work out through inter ministerial consultations how to ensure security related compliance by content and service providers.

CCAOI's view on the DOT Committee Report on Net Neutrality

CCAOI who has always advocated offering everything for Free to the community - Internet, Digital literacy, Services, etc., is extremely disappointed that the DOT Committee report is against providing free services vide zero rental programs.

A nation where 70% people are not connected, 74.49% of rural population earn less than Rs. 5000 a month, and which aspires to connect each citizen digitally, CCAOI believes, we cannot afford to turn a blind eye and stop all free services which are helping the Indian users to adopt Internet, as it is being offered for free.

Free matters for the new adopter and giving free helps in adoption and is a fundamental part of the product lifecycle. Besides, economic principle of Customer Incentivisation is older than Internet and disturbing it over myths would be inappropriate and can have far-reaching implications for the users who need encouragement to adopt internet.

CCAOI believes that it is wrong to underestimate the intellect of Indian users and presume that he can be fooled by giving free. Moreover, the association firmly believes it is ultimately the user's choice whether he wants to use what is offered for free or not.

As every product and service has lifecycle stages and the "Choice" as a stage comes later than "Adoption", CCAOI suggests that the two should not be mixed as is currently being done . CCAOI further adds that availing Free or discounted services, is the right and vital for the new users who are at the bottom of pyramid. The association believes it is now the turn of the underprivileged class to enjoy these freebies and stopping it in the name of innovation or the protection for investors, is definitely neither economics nor social prudence. CCAOI believes it is now time for all to think and decide whether we actually have the right to stop these "would be new users" from rural Bharat from availing free services when we, the privileged, have reaped the benefits of Internet for so long!!

DeitY organizes a Round Table Discussion Update on WHOIS related issues

Department of Electronics & IT (DeitY) held a roundtable discussion on WHOIS related issues especially related to accuracy and privacy of the WHOIS data, on the 28th of July 2015. The event was chaired by Joint Secretary, Dr. Ajay Kumar.

The aim of the roundtable was be to seek inputs from stakeholders on issues related to WHOIS (domain name) which are currently being discussed at the Public Safety Working Group (PSWG), an internal working group of Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN and also to discuss WHOIS policy / implementation issues for .IN registry.

The meeting was attended by Registrars, Law Enforcement Agencies, Civil Society, Academia, Private sector experts as well as Government functionaries. CCAOI too participated in the round table.

The views expressed by stakeholders during the round table and through written comments (by First week of August'15) are expected to be assimilated into a report by DeitY for shaping India's policy w.r.t. its stand on WHOIS issues at ICANN / IETF, as well as for .IN Registry.

Update on the IANA Transition and ICANN Accountability

The IANA Stewardship Coordination Group (ICG) has published their First compiled draft proposal, combining the proposals submitted by the names, number and protocol community, for public comments on 31st July 2015. The 40 day public comment period ends on 8th September 2015. It may be mentioned here that the Cross-Community Working Group on Naming Related Functions (CWG) had submitted their final proposal to ICG at ICANNN 52, after getting the approval from its five chartering organizations, while the other two communities, namely the number and protocol community has already submitted their final proposal to ICG. "The public comment period presents an opportunity for the public to assess the transition proposal in its entirety and for the ICG to build a public record demonstrating how the proposal meets the expectations set out by the U.S. Government" mentions Alissa Cooper, Chair of the ICG and member of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) community.

The proposal can be viewed from the following link: https://www.ianacg.org/icg-files/documents/IANA-stewardship-transition-proposal-EN.pdf

The Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) met in Paris, mid July (17-18) to discussion on key outstanding issues and agree on next steps for finalizing its Work Stream 1 recommendations. The meeting was attended by group members, participants, several members of the ICANN Board of Directors, Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) representatives, external Advisors and local stakeholders, apart from remote participants.

The key issues discussed and agreed-upon include:

Community Empowerment Models: It was agreed to advance the Community Mechanism as Sole Member Model (CMSM) as part of Work Stream 1. In this model, the Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) would collectively participate together as the sole member of ICANN. This coordination of SOs and ACs would be empowered to take certain special actions within ICANN. However the community is still discussing on the details.

The Government Inputs/Concerns Received were reviewed and addressed. The discussions focused on identifying requirements such as the role of governments with regards to public policy and assuring that the ICANN Board of Directors does not act outside of ICANN's mission. The group also acknowledged the challenges for governments to make certain decisions regarding their participation into the new community model in time for ICANN54 in Dublin.

The **6 areas of dependencies between the CWG-Stewardship and CCWG-Accountability** were identified, which include:

- ICANN Budget: Community rights regarding development and consideration
- ICANN Board: Community rights, specifically to appoint/remove members, recall the entire Board
- IANA Function Review: Incorporated into the bylaws
- Customer Standing Committee: Incorporated into the bylaws
- Appeals Mechanism: Independent Review Panel should be made applicable to IANA Functions and accessible by TLD managers
- Fundamental bylaws: All foregoing mechanisms are to be provided for in the bylaws as "Fundamental bylaws"

The group agreed to continue coordinating their activities with the CWG-Stewardship in an effort to ensure that the recommendations put forth by the CCWG-Accountability fully meet the requirements) of the naming community.

Refinements of Independent Review Process (IRP) were broadly agreed upon, including diversity as a guideline for conformation and community-driven panel selection processes. Additionally, a subgroup will be formed to further develop IRP rules and procedures as well as fine tune the subject matter for IRP.

As a next step, the group is expected to publish their 2nd Draft Proposal for Public Comments on 31st July 2015. The public comment period would be open for 40 days.

The CCWG-Accountability group is aiming to submit the final Work Stream 1 proposal to its chartering organizations prior to ICANN54 in Dublin and NTIA by late October or early November.

For more details visit: https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-3-2015-07-20-en

CCAOI participates in ISOC Bangalore ICOMM15

As a part of the Global Conference InterCommunity (ICOMM15), ISOC Bangalore Chapter organised a panel discussion on Net Neutrality on the 8th of July, 2015. The panellists included Dr. Mahesh Uppal a Telecom expert, Parminder Jeet Singh from IT For Change, Rajesh Chharia from ISPAI, Kiran Jonalagadda from HasGeek, Vidushi Marda from CIS India and was moderated by Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI

The panel discussed on the subject of Net Neutrality in the India context, with each stakeholder sharing their perspective on the subject. The discussion also touched on the developments in EU, US, the Trai and DOT Consultations, issues which are specific to India, zero rating, the effect of technology proliferation and its implication for the next billion internet users.

Global Internet Report 2015 released

The Global Internet 2015 report, which focuses on the mobile Internet and how mobile has transformed Internet access and use, was released by ISOC.

This report examines the evolution of the mobile Internet, its advantages, impact on development and issues related to security and development and spectrum.

Few statistics and trends highlighted in the report include:
- 3 billion Internet users were likely by May 2015.
- Mobile Internet penetration is forecast to reach 71% by 2019.

- Usage per device is forecast to more than triple by 2019.
- 192 countries have active 3G mobile networks, which cover almost 50% of the global population.
- Smartphone sales are the majority of mobile handsets sold worldwide; tablet sales will soon exceed total PC sales.
- While there are at least five mobile platforms, Android has an 84% share of smart phones, and 72% of tablets.
- There are well over 1 million apps available, which have been downloaded more than 100 billion times.
- Time spent using apps exceeds time spent on mobile browsers, and in the US, at least, exceeds time spent on desktop and mobile browsers combined.

For more information visit: http://www.internetsociety.org/globalinternetreport/

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Written submissions are invited from stakeholders by 31st July 2015, as a part of the first phase of the General Assembly's World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) review. For further details visit: http://unpan3.un.org/wsis10/submissionguidelines

- The South Asian Network Operators Group (SANOG) workshop is being organized by NIXI and ISPAI at Hotel Trident, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai from 3rd – 11th August 2015.

- IT for Change, in partnership with Society for Knowledge Commons, Ideosync Media Combine and Digital Empowerment Foundation, is organizing a workshop on "Taking Internet to rural communities: Last Mile Models for the National Optical Fiber Network", at India International Centre, New Delhi, on 29th August, 2015.

- The Berkman Center for Internet and Society has announced a student writing competition to identify innovative multistakeholder governance groups and help them understand the conditions under which they are most effective. They are seeking original papers (8 to 12 pages, single spaced) from any student or post doctoral scholars, that help them better understand innovative, globally diverse governance groups. Submissions will be due September 15, 2015, and the full details about the competition and submission are available here: https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/node/98897. From the submitted case studies, top three would be selected. First place will receive a cash stipend of $ 4000; second place will receive $3000; and third place will receive $2000. Additional awards for honorable mentions may be given at the discretion of the Berkman Center. For further details contact : rbudish@cyber.law.harvard.edu

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