

## Notes SOP Working Group Telephone Conference

7 May 2012

### Attendees:

Atsushi Endo, .jp  
Byron Holland, .ca  
Roelof Meijer, .nl (Chair)  
Debbie Monahan, .nz  
Peter Van Roste, CENTR  
Mathieu Weill, .fr  
Hong Xue, ccNSO Councillor

### Apologies:

Fahd Batayneh, .jo  
Giovanni Seppia, .eu  
Leonid Todorov, .ru

- It was felt that the time frame was too short for delivering proper input to the Operational plan and Budget. Instead, a placeholder document will be drafted in order to meet the deadline, which will then be followed up by more elaborated input.

The placeholder document is to be drafted by Bart Boswinkel and Roelof Meijer within the next weeks, whilst the sub-teams are expected to start looking into drafting in parallel. It was emphasized that the input should only be high-level input without going into details.

- It was noted that the Budget was structured in a different way than previous years, and that the working teams therefore also had to be adjusted:

- 1) Financial
- 2) Core Operations
- 3) New gTLDs
- 4) FY-13 Priorities, strategic overviews, projects, community requests

It was decided to stick to the same setup of the teams as previously and to try to link them according to the new division.

Hong Xue was assigned to be part of the New gTLDs group, taking Debbie Monahan's seat. Debbie Monahan will stay part of Core Operations team and will join the Finance team, in addition.

Bart Boswinkel and Roelof will post an email on the setup of the sub-groups to the Working Group email list.

- It was noted that the document is structured both by activities and projects. To ensure that no project is left out or commented upon twice, it was suggested and decided to go through the Proposed FY13 Project Work list on page 53 to assign projects to the teams appropriately. The editing of the consolidated paper would also ensure that no overlap would happen.
- Support staff is trying to find a suitable date and time for a briefing call with Xavier Calvez within the next two weeks. At least one member per team should participate one the calls, if possible. A date will be set shortly and the Working Group members will be informed.
- The Working Group members spontaneous impressions of the Operational Plan and Budget were:
  - Heavy and detailed with an overload of information, which makes it hard to digest;
  - Lacking measurable matrixes, goals, commitments;
  - Many comments made by the SOP Working Group on the Framework and previous occasions have been ignored;
  - The plan needs to be updated to reflect the actual number of new gTLD applications and the incomes deriving from that;
  - The breakdown of foreseen costs were in many cases surprising, such as the huge increase of Operational costs (to 74 million US\$), the 5.8 million US\$ foreseen for “professional services”, the increase of administration costs and the amount spent on professional services for “leadership support”;
- It was considered whether the diplomatic tone of passing on ccNSO input so far should be replaced with a more aggressive tenor, given that most input had been ignored. It was felt that a strong message should be given at least on the fact that the previous year’s comments on how the Operational Plan and Budget process was unacceptable, had been ignored.