

Finance Working Group Meeting Singapore

19 June 2011

Attendees

Henry Chan, .hk
Keith Davidson, .nz
Lise Fuhr, .dk
Byron Holland, .ca (Chair)
Roelof Meijer, .nl
Vika Mpisane, .za
Juan Ojeda, ICANN Controller
Min-Jung Park, .kr
Kathryn Reynolds, .ca
Eduardo Santoyo, .co
Sieger Springer, .nl

Support Staff

Bart Boswinkel
Kristina Nordström
Gabiella Schitteck

Apologies

Lesley Cowley, .uk
Peter Van Roste, CENTR
Mathieu Weill, .fr

- *Juan Ojeda* informed the Working Group members that an analysis on the budget allocation to the ccTLDs had recently been performed and resulted in a decreased budget for ccTLDs. A project, which had originally been tributed to the ccTLDs for FY 2012, had in fact been cancelled, however, this had not been updated in the operating budget. The current budget for the ccTLDs was now 10 444 000 US\$ - an increase of 7.8% compared to FY 2011, but about 2 million less than originally calculated. Juan apologised for the misallocation and thanked the ccNSO for bringing this up to his attention. He furthermore assured that the adopted budget will reflect the accurate numbers.
- Juan also informed the group that he was in the process of drafting responses to the comments made to the draft budget and that they would be posted by the end of the following day, at the latest.
- The Working Group Chair informed Juan that the ccTLDs are especially interested in gaining more information on how areas get allocated to the ccTLDs. He asked whether there is a process or written procedure that ICANN is following for this.

Juan explained that there is a written paper on this, which Kevin Wilson had posted in 2009. He offered to forward it to the Working Group.

Juan also informed the group that the current financial system will be changed on 1st July 2011, which will make it easier to provide more details.

- It was asked why ICANN constantly is increasing its budget, even in the times of the financial crisis.

Juan explained that ICANN receives continuous requests for various projects, such as the ATRT Recommendation Implementation project, IDN Variant Analysis project or WHOIS Studies Project. He also said that some people think ICANN should avoid running on a deficit budget, whilst others are reluctant cutting down on specific projects.

- A tentative timeline for the work of the Working Group was then presented. It was explained that the end goal was to have a final report, including recommendations, ready in 2012, with each ICANN meeting up until then as a milestone. It was, however, clarified, that the milestones were just there for benchmarking reasons, whilst the output and “getting it right” was more important than keeping the timeline.

The Working Group members agreed on the proposed timeline.

- The list of various contribution models was then presented and the group was asked whether there were any models they would wish to add to the list.

The Working Group members had nothing to add.

- The Chair then suggested that the next step would be to form sub-groups, which would be responsible for analysing 2-3 contribution models each. Each group would need a coordinator, which would be responsible for managing the internal process of each team.

The working group members agreed to move forward in the suggested way.

- It was also pointed out that one of the items, which need further analysis, is how ICANN is distributing its money. It was suggested that once all sub-groups had done their work on analysing the contribution models, the entire Working Group would make the analysis on the allocation issue together.
- The Chair said he would define each team and team leader and also allocate the financial models to each team before the end of the week.

He asked the Working Group members to inform him in case they happen to have a particular understanding of a special model, to ensure they would be in the right group.

- The Working Group members then had a brainstorming session on elements with which ccTLDs contribute to ICANN, beyond any direct financial contributions:

- Time used for commenting on ICANN material
- Time spent by volunteers on various Working Groups
- Costs of hosting an ICANN meeting

It was suggested to check if there has been any ICANN meeting, which was not hosted by a ccTLD.

The Working Group members were encouraged to continue thinking of similar contributions to ICANN and to inform the Chair if any further ideas came up.

AOB

- The Chair informed the Working Group members that the sub-working groups were to be set up as soon as possible and the models were to be allocated to the groups, so that an analysis can be performed by September. Some telephone conferences would also need to be kept prior to the Dakar meeting.