# SOP Working Group Meeting Singapore
*19 June 2011*

**Attendees**

Fahd Batayneh (.jo)
Sabine Dolderer (.de)
Roelof Meijer (.nl), Chair
Debbie Monahan (.nz)
Atsushi Endo (.jp)
Byron Holland (.ca)
Staffan Jonson (.se)
Paulos Nyirenda (.mw)
Kathryn Reynolds (.ca)
Giovanni Seppia (.eu)
Leonid Todorov (.ru)
Mathieu Weill, (.fr); (telephone)


**Staff**

Bart Boswinkel
Kristina Nordström
Gabriella Schittek

**Apologies**

Lesley Cowley, .uk
Peter Van Roste, CENTR


- *Carole Cornell* (ICANN Project Director) joined the meeting and presented the timeline for input to the Strategic Plan Development Process, as posted on 30 May (http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-30may11-en.htm).

  It was asked whether the timeline is still in a proposal phase, or already fixed. Carole clarified that it has been approved, however, minor things could still be refined.

  It was pointed out that it would be preferable not having the comment period during July, as Europe and North America have holiday season then and it is hard interacting during this time period. It was furthermore noted that fixed dates are easier to work with, as everyone knows when input is expected to be submitted.

- The Strategic Plan was then discussed.

  The Working Group members highlighted that no measurable goals are included in the Strategic Plan and that words such as "improve" or "enhance" are not sufficient. The group called for more solid objectives, such as dates and times of projects and metrics on how to move the organisation forward. It

was also noted that other organisations and countries are challenging ICANN's role and position, and that setting and realising such goals would help ICANN in confirming its function.

Concern was expressed on how the CEO and Board can judge the progress of the organisation without clear qualitative and quantitative objectives and metrics.

It was furthermore asked why the Working Group still hadn't received any feedback on why some of the Working Group's feedback had been excluded.

This was acknowledged and the Working Group was promised to receive a letter with explanations within one month.

Carole also said that the feedback received during the meeting will be taken back and incorporated into the Strategic Plan and that she will try to do some adjustments to the timeline.

• The Working Group Chair then asked the members of how they think the process of submitting input to the Operational plan went and whether the group would like to stick to the current methodology.

The Working Group members were happy with the current way of working. It was only requested that emails directed to the group leaders also should be sent to the leaders directly, in addition to the email list.

• *Juan Ojeda* (ICANN Controller) then joined the meeting to run through the Operational plan. He admitted that a particular project, which was cancelled, had been allocated to the ccNSO and had then accidentally not been taken out of the Expense Allocation Group (EAG) system, which caused about 2 million US$ incorrectly allocated to the ccTLDs. This would now be corrected to reflect the new correct sum – 10 444 000 US$. This is representing a 7.79% increase from last year's budget.

Juan expressed his apologies and explained that the mistake had happened due to the fact that the EAG had not been as a significant component and has not been elevated, as it should have been. He also explained that a new reporting system will be introduced in July 2011, which will make it easier to give more detailed reports and each department will be held more accountable. He furthermore underlined that the other numbers and data provided in the budget are correct.

The Working Group members showed concern that other similar elements might appear in future and that the faith in the process might be flawed. It was called for greater transparency and more information, as it was felt there was too much confidentiality involved.

Juan explained that certain personal information, such as salaries, cannot be disclosed. However, the new reporting system would make it easier to provide more information in other areas.

It was asked where the US$ 2 million now were allocated. Juan explained that they went to ATRT implementation recommendations as well as the GAC.

The Working Group showed interest in receiving more details, which Juan said he would send after the conclusion of the meeting.

The Working Group furthermore asked what ICANN is going to do to highlight this to the community, so that they are aware that the money is no longer allocated against the ccTLDs.

Juan said that at a minimum, this would be mentioned in the summary of the public comments.

- The Working Group members further asked how it is possible that the ccTLDs still have the second largest financial allocations in the ICANN budget. It was pointed out that many ICANN services, such as compliances, are not used by ccTLDs.

  Juan replied that areas including IANA, Policy, Global Participations, Security, Travel Support, Fellowship Programme and Shared Resources are all partly allocated against the ccTLDs. He agreed on sending information with a more detailed cost breakdown.

- The group asked Juan to explained why the overall budget, including compensations had increased so dramatically.

  Juan explained that a compensation analysis is done every year, which ICANN is adjusting compensations to. A significant component to the budget increase is the ATRT implementations, as well as the IDN variant and WHOIS study.

- It was asked why some of the SOP Working Group's input into the ICANN Operational Plan had not been taken into consideration, or only partly.

  Juan said he would need to speak to Akkram Atallah first about the details, but that the ccTLDs would receive information on that on the following Tuesday (21 June), at the latest.

- It was also asked whether ICANN has any strategies to optimise, or reduce costs of the various departments.

Juan explained that the new reporting system will keep the departments more accountable than before.