I too was surprised to hear the levels of anxiety being caused to our secretariat by these dinners.

I think the recommendation put forward by Gabi to have a "cocktails and snacks for the entire ccTLD community" is worth testing, and I would suggest we adopt this format for perhaps the first 2 ICANN meetings in 2013, and evaluate and compare and make a final decision at that point.

I think the opportunity to socialise with the broader group, and the transient nature of discussions over cocktails would enable us all to meet and chat with a broader cross section of our community. I do find the sit-down dinners a little restrictive on being able to meet and mingle, so this format is an improvement.

And I think the impact on the local host, on the sponsors, and the ability to continue to have the event close to or at the meeting venue will all be important pluses to this process

And finally, anything that can ease the burden and hassles on our secretariat must be good for us all...

Cheers

Keith