
BEIJING – APRALO Showcase
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ICANN – Beijing, People’s Republic of China

HEIDI ULLRICH: ALAC, and I’m sure all of you know what that stands for. Is everybody quiet? Good, thank you. Olivier.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Heidi, it’s a real pleasure to see you all here tonight. It’s another one of these showcases and showing what the different ALSes are doing, this time it is APRALO, the Asia, Australasia and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organizations. I’m not going to spend much time speaking to you tonight because we have a couple of guests who are here including our next guest coming up, but afterwards we also have a quick presentation of our local At-Large structures, the work they do, etc. and it’s really, really great to see again such a good turnout and to be able to in this country and in this part of the world which is I would guess the most vibrant as I am copying some other speeches which I heard today, the vibrant part of the world, we have vibrant ALSes as well, so it is really, really good to have such vibrant ALSes in this part of the world. And the other thing, this atmosphere here is electric, electric in a good way, although you will notice when you touch the microphones it does zap you from time to time. So, without taking any further time, let me introduce to you the President and CEO of ICANN Fadi Chehadé.

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FADI CHEHADÉ:

The only place where I don't read my speeches is with the RALOs, because last time I did the same thing, and my team wrote a nice little speech that I should read you but I will pass. I also understand I am one of the speeches that stand between you and the good wine waiting out there, so I will be very brief, but thank you for inviting me, it's an honor to be here. I think you know how much the RALOs have become a critical part of our mission of engagement. I made the first commitment to Olivier when he and I, as you recall, were walking late at night in Prague, I had just met him, and he gave me the Feet Theory. I don't know if you've all heard that many times, but Olivier has this theory that the At-Large and all of you in the RALOs and the ALSes are really the feet of the community. You are the people that really enable us to move forward but also you are the people that really give anyone who touches our community a real feel of what is happening on the ground by the users in the community. So from that day on, as best I can everywhere I go, I try to meet with the members of your ALSes. So it is a great honor for me here tonight to meet with the Asia-Pacific ALSes and I know that there is a lot for me to learn about your region. I spent a few days here earlier and I met many of you that I recognize now, I stopped in Tokyo and Seoul and Beijing and Singapore, but as I shared before I am after all an Asian, I was born in Asia and I grew up in Asia until I was 18, so this is my continent in many ways and I feel good to share this distinction with you here tonight. The number of ALSes in Asia is growing, and this is very encouraging because as Olivier said, you are the ones when we talk about engagement, when we talk about reaching really the users that really start this whole community dialogue, you are it, and the more we engage with you, the more we support you, the more we work with you, the more we truly are doing the listening that I

talked about earlier this morning. You bring us what's really happening at the user level, more than any other group. So I'm committed to this, ICANN is committed to this. We are looking for new ways to energize the ALSes. I met with Allan and with Olivier in my office in Los Angeles recently to discuss some ideas, and one of the ideas we discussed is the idea of an exchange program where we would work with the ALSes to provide opportunities for exchange where members of ALSes can spend time either at ICANN or at our sister organizations ISOC, the RIRs, or even beyond that. For example I spoke to the CEO of a big registrar called Godaddy, and I said Blake would you make available 5,6,7 exchange programs per year for people in the ALSes to come and learn maybe how a registrar works on the technical side or the business side, and he was very open to that idea, and I discussed the same with VeriSign and other players in the world. So we are actively looking for ways to support and provide opportunities for members of ALSes to engage with the DNS ecosystem in a more practical meaningful way. I am committed to that, ICANN is committed to that, and your leadership has been very vocal with me, so they do their job well, whether Sébastien on the board or Olivier when he visits with me, they make it very clear that there are some important things we need to do with you. Finally, I want to tell you in some strange way this is a big year for Asia, you know we have ICANN opening its first legal entity in Asia. We signed last week, as I mentioned this morning, the paperwork and we are now a legal entity in Singapore and I already have a team heading there to get the offices and to start getting people there, so we are going to very quickly start moving people into the Asia-Pacific region. Today you heard the announcement of the first Representation Engagement Centre here in Beijing. In Tokyo I made the commitment to do the same

in Tokyo, and frankly the more I learn about your diversity, culturally, from a language standpoint, and again having been born on the edge of Asia in Lebanon and watching the diversity up down all the way to the Pacific islands, Asia is a very rich place, and someone was saying today publicly why don't we divide the Asia region, and I said that's robbing it from its richness, this is what makes Asia fantastic. What we should do is be prepared to work with your diversity, cultural as well as geographical dispersion and embrace it and put more people and more resources here so that we can do the right thing for the people in Asia Pacific. So that's a commitment you have from us, I thank you again for the time and the investment you make to come and be part of this community. You are a very important part. Thank you.

OLIVIER CRÉPIN-LEBLOND: Thank you very much Fadi. I saw a lot of nodding heads while you were saying a few things here, the diversity is really incredible in this region. And so next we have Steve Crocker, Chairman of the Board of ICANN. And Steve usually you get prizes after you speak but this time you will get a prize before you speak. Celebrating Diversity, first prize, it is all first prize here.

STEVE CROCKER: I've seen some of this around and the joke that's going around is that in mid America, in the mid west as we call it, at county fairs, red is always second prize, blue first prize and so it's just an in-joke there so if people see these things, "Oh, second prize," which is in a way totally appropriate because following Fadi is very, very difficult. So, this is one misfortune after another because I was preparing what I was going to

say and ICANN is the intersection of technology, business and people and the At-Large community is the epitome of the emphasis on people, and I walked into the room exactly when Fadi was trying to get you all into the business side of things and I'm thinking, "Well, that puts it all in a kind of odd perspective," but it's a good thing, anybody who is in a position to take up that offer to get involved certainly should do it. I've had the pleasure of watching the At-Large community, the At-Large structures develop from a very early stage and if I would have had to give odds about the maturation process I would have bet against the enormous growth and solidity and maturity that has evolved, it is really heartwarming and very impressive. So Fadi has said words of great substance, the diversity, the richness of the community which is absolutely important and the implicit offer which you've all taken actually, is to come, to get involved, to infiltrate, to get inside of our structures and become part of the structures and that's the way you get to affect things and make things happen. And, conversely, the organization benefits enormously from all of your involvement. The other thing that I was told is that I was given much less time than Fadi, and so I have to be very short. So it's really a pleasure to be here, this is one of the more fun aspects of the sort of forced pace of the representational duties that they lay on us on the board. I'd love to chat, but this is sort of an odd forum to try to do that but if there is any way that we can be helpful, we are eager to do that, I mean you are the future. Thank you.

HEIDI ULLRICH:

Soon those second prizes are going to be on eBay and you will be paying a fortune. This is a roll call and if you look at the badges that some of us

are wearing, our second prizes, it says Celebrating Diversity, and if you look at all of the members of APRALO, you make a very good case for that diversity. We are many different cultures, many languages, many countries, and we are nevertheless one pretty, happy family in APRALO. So let's just introduce ourselves. Matt is going to tell me to speak slowly, aren't you Matt? Thank you. Where is Anupam? Yay, Wohoo! Australia is overrepresented by the way. Dennis, where is Dennis? He is on his way, he missed it. Derjian? Yay. Now a special word for Edmond; Edmond and Dot Asia are behind the sponsorship of all of that gorgeous food and all of the wine, so could we have a big hand. Next, Armani? I saw Armani this morning, where'd you go? Yay! I know Fouad is around, where'd you go? Yeah! Just back there! Next, Izumi, we know he is here, he has asked too many questions any way. Next, Jerry, where is Jerry? There, hi Jerry. Joseph, Yay! This is KT, I can't pronounce it otherwise. Keith, I didn't see Keith, there, he is back there. Lingyi? Yay! There you are. Now another special round of applause, this has been organized unbelievably well, with so much hard work by Maureen, so if you enjoy the wine, the food and the company, we have got to thank Maureen. Maureen, thank you. Nirmal, where are you? Yay! Pawan is also another unsung hero, and I think he is out there eating? No? He is back there. Pua? Has she retrieved her luggage yet? Her luggage has gone from New Zealand to Sydney to here to back to Sydney; we are waiting. Now Rinalia is another hero; the session that she just arranged was absolutely brilliant, it was extremely interesting, thank you Rinalia. Next, Sala? Sam? Same place, yes, terrific. Satish, terrific! Sammy, he's hiding! Siranush? Over there! Shiva? Zuhaidi? Susan? She's here. I know Winthrop's around! Where are you? There he is! Yannis? Yay! Yashar? There you are, welcome! YJ? I know YJ is around, where is she? YJ? She's

disappeared again! She might be outside eating. That's it! Now that is the diverse group that we have. I suggest that all of you now adjourn to have some wine and eat; it looks delicious. And those of us who are members, keep your second prize!

[End of Transcript]