**Submissions to the ALAC**

The ALAC has asserted the need to prioritize IDN gTLD Applications. APRALO has continued to express explicit support for the prioritization of gTLDs.

In terms of suggestions that there may be confusion in relation to the string, I am satisfied that it is readily accepted amongst the Chinese speaking community that characters can hold more than one literal meaning.

Upon feeding the term into two search engines, these were some of the top results:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WEBSITES IN CHINESE CHARACTER** | **TRANSLATION** |
| [***健康*\_女性*健康*、*健康*小常识分享\_太平洋女性网*健康*频道**](http://health.pclady.com.cn/) | [Health.pclady.com.cn](http://Health.pclady.com.cn) |
| [***健康*频道\_环球网**](http://health.huanqiu.com/) | [Health.huanqiu.com](http://Health.huanqiu.com) |
| [***健康*频道-搜狐**](http://health.sohu.com/) | [*health.sohu.com*](http://health.sohu.com) |
| [**99*健康*网\_99相伴*健康*一生**](http://www.99.com.cn/) | [*99.com.cn/*](http://99.com.cn/) |
| [***健康*卫生频道--人民网**](http://health.people.com.cn/) | [*health.people.com.cn*](http://health.people.com.cn) |
| Non existent | [*http://www.39.net/*](http://www.39.net/) |
| Non existent | [*http://www.jk3721.com*](http://www.jk3721.com) |

China’s population in 2011 according to the World Bank is 1,344,130,000. Asia makes up 44.8% of the world’s internet users[[1]](#footnote-2). China’s population continues to grow at phenomenal rates. By June, 2012, the number of Internet users in China had risen to 538,000,000 from 22,500,000 in 2000.

In March 7, 2013, the number of Internet users in China is 565,994,158[[2]](#footnote-3).

There is a 40.1% penetration rate of Internet users in China[[3]](#footnote-4). China’s users also contribute to 50% of Asia’s Internet users. The Chinese market is a growing market.

The Chinese Diaspora is also one of the largest in the world. Given that the decision made in relation to the issue of “.健康” will affect so large a percentage of the world’s ordinary internet users, it becomes necessary to discuss considerations for global public interest. One of the considerations would be looking at how such an infrastructure could potentially serve the interests of the public within China and beyond.

Infrastructure is meant to create opportunities for growth and development. There are some obvious advantages to having **“**.健康”and these include:

1. Providing a medium for centralizing information making access to information and resources on matters affecting “wellness”, “health”;
2. Information management in a vastly populous country is a challenge and having such a gTLD could have benefits.

China’s 2009-2011 Implementation Plan for the Recent Priorities of the Health Care System Reform[[4]](#footnote-5) highlighted the need to improve the situation of “difficult and costly access to health care”. The China Health Profile reported that emerging health threats are emerging in relation to the environment, workplace and lifestyle[[5]](#footnote-6).

It has been reported that air pollution and water contamination by industrial and municipal waste as well as overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides cost China over 400,000 lives per year[[6]](#footnote-7)

***“The major health threats in underdeveloped areas of rural China include unsafe water, lack of sanitation, under nutrition, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and indoor pollution. Many people, especially in the remote and poor areas in the western and interior regions, still have consumption levels below a dollar a day, often without access***

***to clean water, arable land, or adequate health and educational services. Efforts to move from a fee for service to a prepaid system with a comprehensive benefits package are underway. However, ill health continues to be a contributor to poverty, and out of pocket medical expenses remain high.***

***Country Health Information Profile 2010”***

It is worthwhile noting that if granted the gTLD that it would:-

1. Ensure working only with accredited ICANN Registrars that are party to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement;
2. Ensure compliance with the Public Interest Commitment Dispute Resolution Process and to be bound by its determinations.

It would also be worthwhile to standardize Whois information from the beginning should the gTLD be granted.

I am pleased that Stable Tone Limited, the Applicant for .健康 has published its Public Interest Commitments which if granted the gTLD would ensure that it complies with the same.

It is also worth noting that APRALO believes[[7]](#footnote-8) that specific policy support for IDNs from ICANN should be pursued:

1. To prioritize the processing of IDN gTLD applications not only just in this first round but for subsequent rounds as well;
2. Financial support and assistance be also prioritized for IDN gTLD development and related activities;
3. Prioritize the completion and implementation of critical and relevant policies for IDN TLDs, including IDN variant TLDs, similar TLD strings issues pertaining IDN TLDs, single character IDN TLDs, Internationalized Registration Data (WHOIS), etc.; and,
4. Take the lead in coordinating with the industry to promote the universal acceptance of IDN TLDs, including their use in email addresses and other Internet applications and services.

1. Internet World Stats http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. http://bgp.potaroo.net/iso3166/v4cc.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. China National Health Plan in  <http://www.wpro.who.int/health_services/china_nationalhealthplan.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. China Statistical Yearbook 2010. National Bureau of Statistics of China. <http://www.stats.gov.cn/tjsj/ndsj/2010/indexeh.htm> as quoted in <http://www.wpro.who.int/countries/chn/5CHNpro2011_finaldraft.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. https://community.icann.org/x/sYEoAg [↑](#footnote-ref-8)