APRALO Newsletter April 2023

A brief update for the period of Mar – Apr 2023, from the APRALO perspective

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Curated by: Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI with support of APRALO Members

From APRALO Chair, Amrita Choudhury

Dear APRALO Community,

Greetings!

With ICANN76 over, we are now gearing up for ICANN77 in Washington DC (USA) in June & more importantly the APRALO General Assembly which will be organised in Hybrid mode in Istanbul, Türkiye on 12 & 13 September 2023.

Preparations for the GA have started. In that context, a survey form has been emailed to the registered primary representative of your At-Large Structure, in the APRALO database. Please fill the same up at the earliest and send back. In case the primary representative of your ALS has changed, please let At- Large staff know at the earliest.

At the GA, apart for the official business, there will be an opportunity for in-depth discussion on policy-related, outreach and engagement, and operational issues. There will be an opportunity to meet with members of the ICANN Board, other ICANN communities and ICANN Org. More information will be shared on the GA.

We look forward to your active engagement and for easy communication, we now have a WhatsApp group. Do ping any of us and we will add you in ☺.

Warm Regards,

Amrita

From APRALO Vice Chair, Gunela Astbrink

Diversity, equity and inclusion

Hello everyone!

APRALO represents the most diverse region globally. ICANN's commitment to diversity and inclusion is important for us in this region and is recognised across all ICANN communities. Diversity, equity and inclusion ensures comprehensive representation of the global Internet community to bring an extensive range of skills and expertise across ICANN.

Under ICANN's Enhancing Accountability, the Workstream 2 Community Coordination Group has developed a survey on diversity of representation as well as perceptions of diversity in the ICANN community.

The diversity elements are:
- geographic representation   - language   - gender   - age
- disability   - diverse skills   - stakeholder group

When the surveys are sent out in future, we welcome everyone's assistance in completing them. This will help to measure and identify diversity elements and find ways to encourage participation from under-represented parts of the community.

Warm wishes,
Gunela

From APRALO Vice Chair, Aris Ignacio

Hello and good day to everyone!

Glad to know that a lot of the ALSes have been active for the past few months with several activities. The Universal Acceptance (UA) Days were held across the region in late March and it was a very successful event to those who conducted it.

This serves as an invitation to everyone to participate at ICANN77 Policy Forum which will be held in Washington, D.C. from June 12-15, 2023. Onsite participation is encouraged if you happen to be in the area. Online participation will still be possible for those who are in other parts of the world and would not be able to come in person.

Also preparations for the APRALO General Assembly, which will be held in Istanbul, Türkiye on September 12 and 13, is currently ongoing. ALSes' primary representatives are encouraged to fill up the survey form sent by ICANN staff. Kindly inform staff if there are changes on the representatives and other concerns. Several activities are lined up for all the onsite and online participants during the event.

Hope to meet you in the events mentioned and continue your involvement and engagement in our community.

If you have any concerns or questions, feel free to message or post in our newly created WhatsApp group.

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,
Aris

ICANN76 Highlights

ICANN76 was a Community Forum organized as a hybrid meeting in Cancún, Mexico from 11–16 March 2023.

- Prior to the meeting, the ICANN76 Prep Week materials & Policy Outlook Report were released.

- Meeting was attended by 1168 people in person and 799 registered to attend virtually.

- Universal Acceptance, Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), and the next round of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), the challenges ICANN is facing such as Domain Name Abuse and future of technical internet governance were discussed.

- ICANN Board adopted 98 recommendations from the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Final Report and directing ICANN org to deliver a comprehensive implementation plan by 1 August.

- The contracted parties approved proposed contract amendments to improve the WHOIS system by which will now be tabled to the Board to consider the proposed amendments.

- For more details read the ICANN76 Policy Outcome Report.

196 Public Sessions

33 Fellows participating in person and **4** remotely

1,168 On-Site participants

799 registered virtual participants

all represent **164** Countries or Territories

6 Mayan Dancers

12 NextGen@ICANN participating in person and **4** remotely

3 NextGen@ICANN Community Appointed Mentors
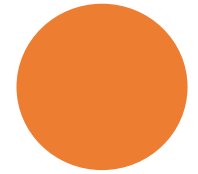
At-Large @ICANN76

- At-Large held 12 sessions @ ICANN76 under the three At-Large work streams of: policy, outreach and engagement, and operations.

These include:

- Two policy sessions (SubPro Session and Unfinished Business and the Role of the ODP)

- Two outreach and engagement sessions (At-Large Loop and ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement)

- Three joint session with the ICANN Board, Supporting Organizations and other Advisory Committees (ALAC & GAC discussed DNS Abuse and ways to improve accessibility to ICANN documents for ICANN community members and newcomers ; ALAC & SSAC discussed DNS Abuse; ALAC & ICANN Board discussed ALAC letter to the ICANN Board on the SubPro ODA and previous ALAC advice on the New gTLD SubPro ODP)

- Two RALO sessions (RALO Coordination)

- An At-Large Welcome Session

- At-Large Wrap-Up Session.

- During the meeting, over two days the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Organization (LACRALO) held its General Assembly.

APRALO @ICANN76

APRALO was represented by Maureen Hilyard, Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Justine Chew, Ali Almeshal, Naveed Bin Rais, Satish Babu and Amrita Choudhury.

ICANN Updates

Announced

- The [schedule to generate New Keys for KSK Key Rollover](#)

- Appointment of Linda Mainville as the [new Adjunct Ombuds](#)

- A [request for Information: The Grant Program](#) till 5 May

- [NextGen@ICANN77 Participants](#)

- Call [for Volunteers for the New gTLD Program Next Round Implementation Review Team](#) by 14 May

Published

- [Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Annual Report 2022](#)

- [Universal Acceptance (UA) Readiness Survey Report – Contracted Parties and Registry Service Providers](#)

- [Universal Acceptance (UA) Readiness Survey Report – ccTLDs](#).

- [The Proposed for Adoption FY24 Plans for Board Consideration](#)

- Nominated committee [published an update](#) on numbers of applications received.

UA Day

ICANN supported the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) in holding the first-ever [UA Day](#), which was celebrated across 40 countries with nearly 50 events. The inaugural global UA Day event was celebrated in New Delhi India under the aegis of NIXI and Ministry of Electronics and IT, Government of India.

ICANN Updates

Opportunities

- [For Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy 2023](#) by 24 May

- [For NextGen@ICANN Applications for ICANN78](#) by 19 June.

Event Announced

- The [Middle East Domain Name System (DNS) Forum](#) will be held on 9 and 10 May in Istanbul, Republic of Türkiye.

- The [APAC DNS Forum 2023](#) will be organised in Hong Kong between 4 and 5 July.

Blog

- [Chair's Blog: April Board Workshop Preview](#)

- A [new project by ICANN called Inferential Analysis of Maliciously Registered Domains (INFERMAL) explores the Drivers of Malicious Domain Name Registrations](#)

Public Consultations

Open

- The Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC) seeking comments and input on [its findings and proposed amendments to the RZERC Charter](#), as included in the Initial Report by 8 May

- [Seeks Input on the Proposed Renewal of the .NET Registry Agreement](#) by 25 May

- [Bylaws Amendments and Documents to Implement the NomCom2 Review](#) by 29 May

- [Phase1 Initial Report on the Internationalized Domain Names EPDP](#) by 5 June

Closed

- Published [Seven Additional Script-Based Reference Label Generation Rules](#) by 3 March

- The [proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws that define IANA Naming Function Reviews](#) by 18 April.

Contribute to the ICANN & ALAC Policy Proceedings

Visit the At-Large Policy Advice Development Page or contact At-Large Staff for more information.

To **contribute to ALAC policy activity**, on the At-Large workspace or volunteer as penholder and join the weekly At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) meetings.

APRALO Community can participate in selected policy-related discussions being taken up from a regional perspective through the APRALO Policy Forum. For more information, please visit the APRALO Policy Forum workspace or contact At-Large Staff.

Important Links to Visit

At-Large Website on Public Comments and Policy Advice
Executive Summaries: ALAC Public Comments and Advice
Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG)
At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG)

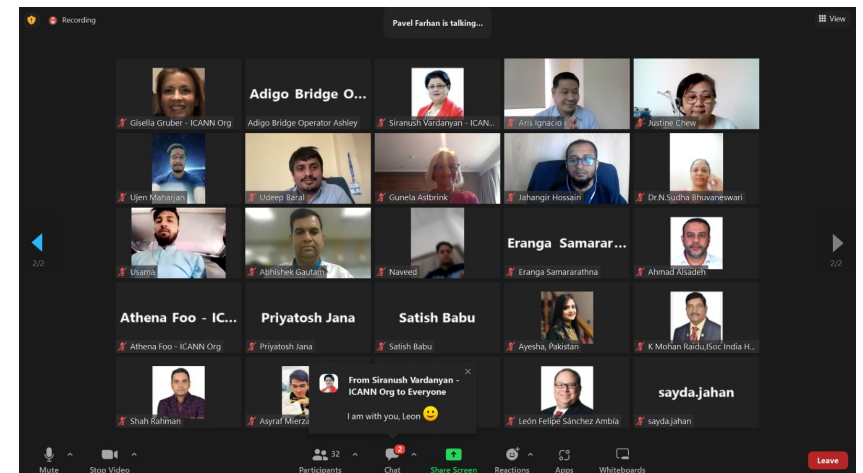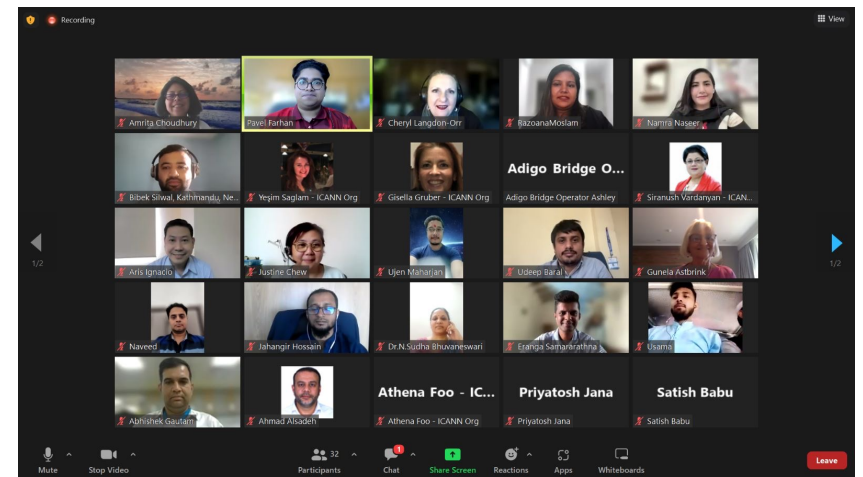**There was no APRALO Monthly call in March owing to ICANN76.**

In the April Call:

An Overview of ICANN76 was made by the ICANN Fellows & APRALO Young brigade. The discussion was moderated by Aris Ignacio .

- Razoana Moslam provided an overview of ICANN76
- Ananya Singh updated on the Plenaries at ICANN76
- Namra Naseer updated on the Policy discussion during ICANN76
- And Bibek Silwal updated on the At Large Discussions
- The fellows also share their impression of ICANN76

An update on the General Assembly and steps being taken was shared by Heidi and Amrita.

Gisella provided an update on the 2023 ALAC and RALO Elections, Selections and Appointments and especially the 2023 APRALO Regional Selections.

The presentation of the fellows and Young brigade was greatly appreciated by the community!

APRALO Policy Forum Update

The APRALO Policy Forum is having monthly meetings.

April

During the April meeting of the APRALO Policy Forum, Satish Babu presented a general update and on EPDP on IDNs, Holly Raiche presented on the Policy forum and its practice and Maureen Hilyard provided an update on the DNS course.

March

At the March call, an Overview of the EPDP on IDNs was provided by Justine Chew Satish Babu provided and update on CPWG activities and UA Day and an update on the APRALO Policy Forum Activities was provided by Shreedeep Rayamajhi.

Click here to get more details on the APRALO Policy Forum's work.

Click here to get more details on the past APRALO Policy Forum's work.

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach and Engagement

By Aris Ignacio

APRALO is actively engaging in outreach and engagement initiatives. Recently, different ALSes across the Asia Pacific region held Universal Acceptance (UA) Days in March 2023.

Additionally, on May 26, 2023, IN2ITION 2023: 2nd Philippine Youth Internet Governance Forum (PhYIGF), will take place at the Luxembourg Hall of Southville International School and Colleges in Las Piñas City, Philippines. The event will feature local speakers and facilitators from the technology and internet governance field, and students and youth from across the country are expected to participate. This year's theme is "Emerging Technologies in the New Normal".

To plan for the upcoming APRALO General Assembly, primary representatives from ALSes are reminded to complete a survey that will determine the number of onsite and online participants. The GA is scheduled for September 12 and 13 in Istanbul, Türkiye.

In addition, the APAC DNS Forum 2023 will take place on July 4 and 5 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, located in downtown Hong Kong. The event will be in hybrid mode, allowing attendees to participate either onsite or online. Interested parties are encouraged to visit https://apacdnsforum.asia/events/apac-dns-forum-2023/ for more details about the forum, program schedule, and registration.

UA Day Celebration by RALOs

UA Day Armenia

On March 28, 2023, Armenia joined the International UA Day and held a Regional Conference on IDN and EAI in Yerevan, Armenia (https://uaday.am/en/). The event was co-organized by the .am/.հայ ccTLD manager and the ISOC Armenia Chapter and supported by the Ministry of the High-tech Industry. It brought together around 100 participants from 7 countries.

The conference program included a plenary session where representatives of the key international Internet organizations discussed the issues of increasing inclusiveness and development of multilingualism in the global Internet; a marketing section for the promotion of internationalized domain names; a technical section on implementation features: the five universal acceptance criteria in software and successful examples in this field, as well as the EAI manual for configuring mail systems.

Participants and representatives of international Internet organizations (ICANN, ISOC, APTLD, etc.) discussed the prospects for the development of the global network as a multilingual environment , the technical aspects of implementing the IDNA and EAI standards.

The conference ended with a training on configuring mail systems with full support for the EAI standard.

Also, within the framework of the conference the Working Group of the Regional Coordination Group on Universal Acceptance of the CIS countries and Eastern Europe held a meeting.

UA Day Celebration by RALOs

DAV College Amritsar -Volunteers of ISOC Delhi Chapter

ISOC Delhi volunteers at DAV College Amritsar organised "**Universal Acceptance Day 2023 -Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion**". Apart from creating awareness and training on Universal Acceptance there was a Quiz and Poster Competition. The event was attended by over 50 participants

Awareness was created among students on the use of data mail application software to create EMAIL IDs in their native language. During the open-house session students ideated and deliberated on Universal acceptance best practices. Stakeholders voiced their queries related to safe and secure cyber space in a multilingual world.

A technical session was also Web Streamed in technical collaboration with NIXI and ICANN to train the students about practical demonstrations about UA principles and procedures.

Prof. Kapil Goyal, Fellow ICANN and Prof. Preeti Kamra , Fellow VSIG conducted a laboratory session to create awareness about the use of the Internet for all . At the end of the session students were awarded with certificates and mementos.

The team also organised an ICANN LEARN Training Workshop post which stakeholders were encouraged to take the online course on Introduction to Universal Acceptance (UA).

ISOC Bangladesh Dhaka Chapter celebrated Universal Acceptance (UA) Day

Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter celebrated Universal Acceptance (UA) Day on 28 March 2023, through a Digital Platform (Google Meet). Because of limited funds, we are unable to arrange the physical program. It was a 3 (three) hours program, where we discussed the awareness & Promotional activities about Universal Acceptance, Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), ICANN Ecosystem, etc. The key speakers of the Program were Professor Dr. Hafiz Md Hasan Babu, President of the Executive Committee, Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter; Dr. Mohammed Nadir Bin Ali, Vice Chair, Executive Committee, Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter; Mr. Mohammad Kawsar Uddin, General Secretary, Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter; Mr. Md. Jahangir Hossain, Member, Board of Trustee, Internet Society Bangladesh and Mr. Shah Zahidur Rahman, Community Member, Internet Society Bangladesh Chapter.

Members of the ISOC Bangladesh Chapter participated in the event and also showed interest to join this kind of future program. In the open discussion session, speakers try to answer the different questions of the participants regarding ICANN activities.

Universal Acceptance

UA Day
#Internet4All

28 March 2023

Celebrating Universal Acceptance Day
ভাষার সার্বজনীন গ্রহণযোগ্যতা

Virtual Event;
https://meet.google.com/dip-jcat-ues

Program Details;
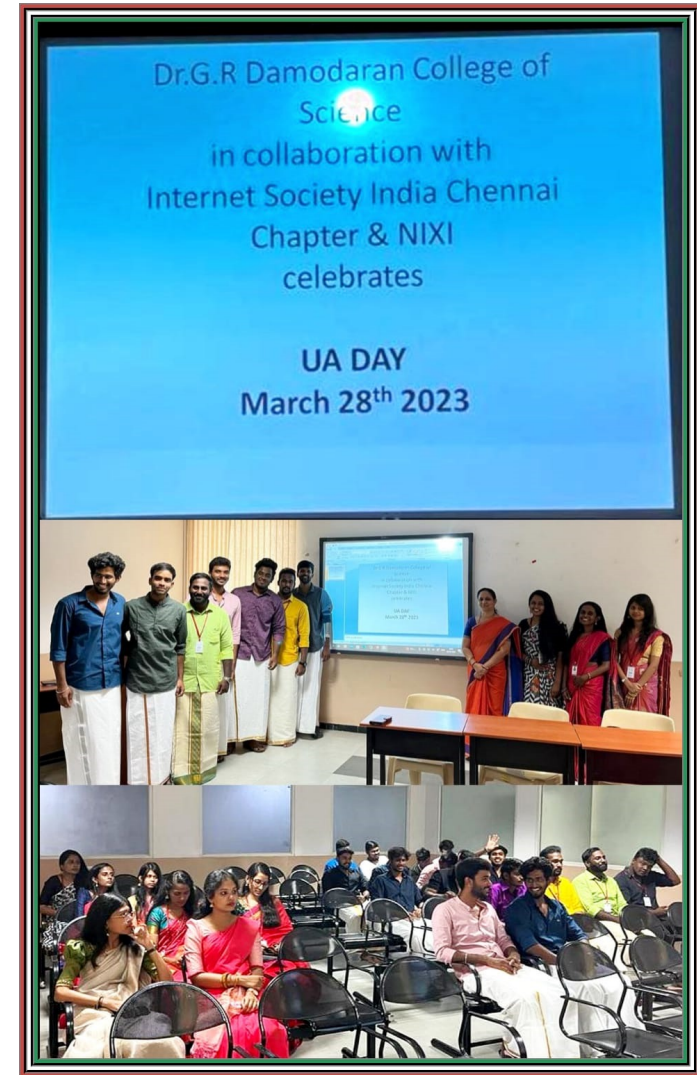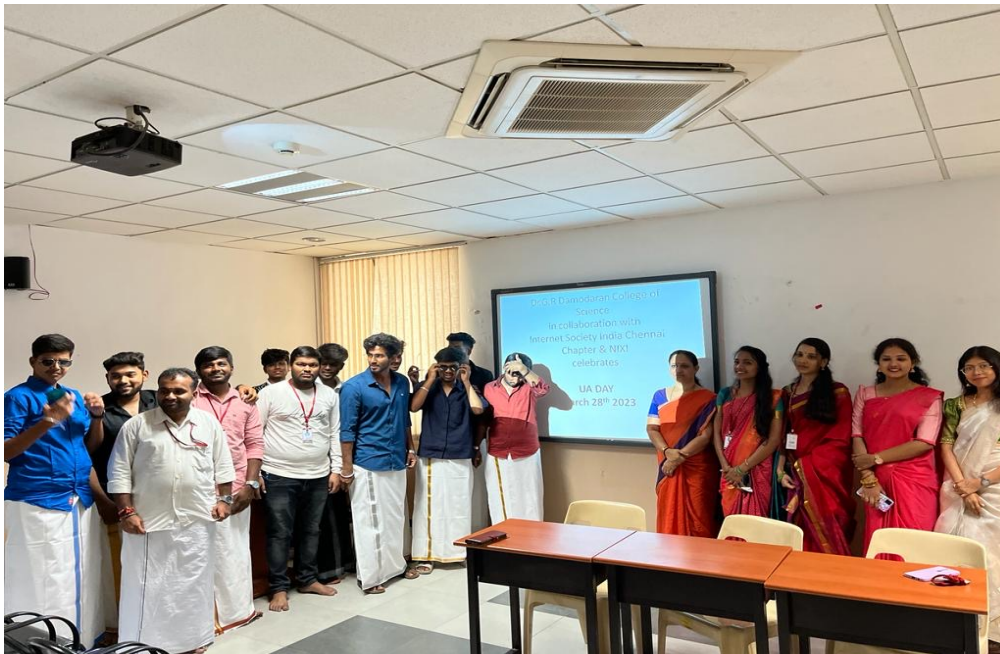https://internetsociety.org.bd/ua-day-2023

Organized by

Internet Society
Bangladesh Chapter

In Collaboration with Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG), ICANN

ISOC Chennai

As a part of UA celebrations ISOC India Chennai Chapter along with the students of Dr.G.R Damodaran College of Science celebrated UA day were a half day UA awareness programme, post that we also been a part of NIXI UA day celebrations on 27th and 28th April 2023 as virtual participants. Few pictures from the event.

UA Day Celebration by RALOs

UA Day in Nepal

"Celebrating Universal Acceptance Day: Promoting Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Name in Nepal"

The event was organized by the [Federation of Computer Association Nepal](#) & [Youth IGF Nepal](#)

The half-day event that brought together internet end users and technical community members to promote universal acceptance and learn about Internationalized Domain Names (IDN). This event gave attendees a comprehensive introduction to the concept of Universal Acceptance and the importance of IDNs.

UA Day in Pakistan

ISOC Pakistan Islamabad Chapter along with MOITT, PSEB, NIC and PTA organised **UA Day Event Pakistan #Internet4All** at NIC National Incubation Center Pakistan, Islamabad. Over 85 people from different stakeholder communities participated in the event.

The main goal and purpose of the event was to spread the awareness and importance of DNS and UA ensuring every person has the ability to navigate and communicate on the Internet using their chosen domain name and email address that best aligns with their interests, business, culture, language, and script.

For more details visit this link

.MY ICANN76 Readout

The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission ("MCMC") through the Numbering and Electronic Addressing Management Department ("NEAMD") organised its inaugural ICANN Readout on 29 March 2023.

A virtual event, the **.MY ICANN76 Readout Session** provided the 162 participants from various departments under the MCMC an account of proceedings from the ICANN76 Community Forum that was held in Cancun, Mexico from 11-16 March 2023. MCMC is the Malaysian government agency entrusted to promote and regulate the communications and multimedia industry and to enforce the communications and multimedia laws in Malaysia.

The four speakers who headlined the event are Mohamad Afiq Ammar Tulos, Deputy Director, Numbering and Electronic Addressing Management Department, Licensing and Monitoring Division of MCMC (representing GAC - Malaysia); Tan Yien Chyn, Stakeholder & Engagement Manager, ICANN APAC; Yeo Lee Ling, Legal Manager, MYNIC (the .MY ccTLD operator); and Justine Chew, ALAC Liaison to the GNSO (representing the ALAC and APRALO).

Justine spoke about the ALAC, the At-Large Community, and our work on Subsequent Procedures and DNS Abuse Mitigation, as well as APRALO's special interest in Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) - in particular, that APRALO members are actively promoting UA, and participating in policy development for IDN variant management through the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names (EPDP on IDNs).

Update from our ALS

Webinar organized by ISOC India Mumbai Chapter

ISOC India Mumbai Chapter organised its sixth women in technology webinar series on the theme " **The Future of Well-being: Role of the Internet**".

The speakers for the event Dr, Ananya Choudhury, a leading name in the field of Pyschiatry and Ms Pooja Sharma, founder of a mental well-being platform talked about how the definition of well-being has changed in the age of Internet and how the health and wellness are evolving with the age of meta. They also talked about the roles that civil society and organisations like ISOC can play in creating more awareness about the different facets physical and mental wellness and how one can leverage online resources and platforms to improve our well-being.

The recording of the event can be accessed [here](#)

Other Updates

Other Opportunities

- AprIGF is inviting workshop proposals for AprIGF2023 by 14 May.

- IGF is now inviting session proposals for **IGF 2023** by 19 May. The proposals should focus on the eight subthemes of the meeting, held under the overarching theme **The Internet We Want -Empowering All People.**

- Applications invited for the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Academy 2023 by 24 May

Upcoming Events

- ICANN77 Policy Forum will be held in Washington DC, USA from 12–15 June 2023
- APAC DNS Forum 2023 will be organised in Hong Kong between 4 and 5 July 2023
- AprIGF2023 will be hosted by auDA in Brisbane, Australia from 29 -31 August.
- APRALO GA will be held 12-13 September in Türkiye, Istanbul.

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to: amritachoudhury@ccaoi.in