

APRALO Newsletter February 2024

A brief update for the period of Jan- Feb 2024, from the APRALO perspective



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Message

From APRALO Chair Amrita Choudhury

Dear APRALO community,

The first two months of the year have been busy for APRALO.

The APRALO Policy Forum (APF) has been super active with several discussions which you will read subsequently. If you are not part of APF, do subscribe and join it.

The small team working on updating APRALO Rules of Procedures (RoP) have completed their task and have not sent it to the ICANN legal for vetting.

With the ICANN79 Prep week held last week, we are now gearing up to attend the ICANN79 Community Forum at San Juan.

Do register, attend, participate and share your views at the meeting.

Regards,

Amrita



Messages

From APRALO Vice Chair Aris Ignacio

Hello and good day to all!

I cannot emphasise enough the significance of your commitment to our community, as each one of you plays a crucial role in shaping the impact of our cause. The APRALO Policy Forum is currently in full swing, providing numerous opportunities for active participation and meaningful contributions. I urge each and every one of you to join us monthly at the APRALO Policy Forum, where your voice matters and your input can truly make a difference. Your engagement is vital, and we encourage you to leave your mark on our shared objectives.



Excitingly, we are on the brink of ICANN79, set to take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from March 2-7, 2024. Whether you plan to attend onsite or participate online, whether you're a seasoned community member or new to the scene, your perspectives are invaluable. Take an active role in the meetings, share your insights, and contribute to the discussions that matter most to you.

I extend a warm invitation to all of you to actively participate in At-Large discussions, especially those related to APRALO. Your involvement will enhance the richness of these conversations and strengthen our collective impact. I express deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment. Together, let's continue to make a positive difference in our community.

Happy to serve!

Yours truly,

Aris

From APRALO Vice Chair Ali AIMeshal

Hello everyone!

We have an exciting opportunity in less than a month – the ICANN79 Community Forum in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Take advantage of this chance to learn and engage.

Your contributions are of utmost importance to us. We encourage you to participate in the APRALO and At-Large discussions as well as other sessions, to make a real impact. Your involvement can make a significant difference, and we value your support in building a brighter future for all of us.

We would like to make the most of this incredible chance to connect with one another, exchange knowledge, and work collaboratively toward common goals. Your participation is appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you in person or online.

All the best.

Ali AIMeshal



ICANN Updates

Announced

- [Launch of the Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group](#) to help in evolving the ICANN Organizational Reviews into a continuous improvement process to implement Recommendation 3.6 of the Third Accountability and Transparency Review (ATR3).
- [ICANN80 Fellows](#)

Published

- The [Second-Level Reference Label Generation Rules](#) (LGRs) for these scripts: Armenian, Cyrillic, Greek, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Myanmar.
- ICANN published the [ICANN FY24 Q2 management financial results](#) and [PTI FY24 Q2 management financial results](#).

Opportunities

- [Apply for the NomCom leadership positions](#) by 15 March . The positions open include: three members of the ICANN Board of Directors, two regional representatives to the ALAC (Europe and m North America); one member of the CCNSO Council; one member of the GNSO Council
- Applications [were invited for NextGen@ICANN Program for the ICANN80 Policy Forum](#) to be held at Kigali Rwanda by 23 Feb
- [Issued a request for proposal](#) to identify a supplier to manage the [ICANN Support Applicant Review Panel](#) by 8 April

Comments Invited

- The Name Collision Analysis Project Discussion Group (NCAP) is [seeking input](#) on its draft Study 2 report and responses to a series of questions from the ICANN Board regarding name collisions as outlined in resolution [2017.11.02.30](#) and reaffirmed in resolution [2021.03.25.13](#). by 28 February
- The [Phase 1 Final Recommendations](#) from the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) by 12 March
- [Proposed Top-Level Domain String for Private Use](#) by 21 March
- [Proposed Language for the Next Round Applicant Guidebook](#) by 19 March
- [String similarity guidelines](#) by 27 March
- [Input](#) on Next Round [draft of the Applicant Support Program \(ASP\) Handbook](#) by 2 April

Webinars

- Organised webinar to [provide First RDRS Metrics Report Findings and Gather Feedback](#) on 24 & 25 Jan

Blogs

- ICANN [Launched](#) the [Grant Program Applicant Guide](#). The grant platform opens for application submission on 25 March, closes on 24 May
- Chair's Blog: [January Board Workshop Preview](#)
- [Registration Data Request Service \(RDRS\), releases First Metrics Report](#)
- [ICANN and Local Partners Expand DNS Technical Knowledge in Indonesia](#)
- [Chair's Blog on January Board Workshop Recap](#)
- [ICANN is Building Awareness to Support the New gTLD Program: Next Round](#)

ICANN79 Prep Week Update - Ashrafur Rahman Piaus

ICANN79 Prep Week was organised 20 - 22 February online. There were 12 sessions and the day wise session details are listed below:



- 20 February - Universal Acceptance (UA) Community Update, Contractual Compliance Update, Finance and Planning Update & Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 Update
- 21 February - Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Updates, ICANN Board Engagement with the ICANN Community, New gTLD Program: Next Round Implementation Status Update & What to Expect During ICANN79: A Guide for Newcomers
- 22 February - Policy and Advice Update, Registrant Program Update, Implementation of Specific Reviews, Work Stream 2 Recommendations, and ICANN Reviews Updates & GNSO New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process: Supplemental Recommendations Community Update.

ICANN79 community forum will be held 02 - 07 March at San Juan, Puerto Rico. This six-day meeting will be focused on outreach, capacity building, and showcasing ICANN's work to a broader global audience.

View the ICANN79 [schedule](#) and register for [ICANN79 Community Forum](#).

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 \(OFB-WG\)](#)

January Call

The [January](#) APRALO monthly call was held on 18 January. At the call Giovanni Seppia, VP Implementation Operations, ICANN provided an overview of the [ICANN Grants Program](#). In terms of updates from the working Groups, Shah provided an brief update on the current discussions in the OFB WG; Satish on the CPWG; Cheryl on work being done at the ROP WG and next steps; Shah provided an update on APRALO Policy Forum and upcoming programs and Maureen spoke on the current NomCom positions, encouraging community members to spread the word.

February Call

The [February](#) APRALO monthly call was held on 15 February. Shah gave an overview of [ICANN79 Prep week](#), Gisella highlighted on what to expect [@ICANN79 San Juan](#), and the [At-Large Schedule](#). This wa followed by an update from the various working groups: APRALO Rules of Procedures (ROP) WG by Cheryl, [APRALO Policy Forum](#) by Justine, Consolidated Policy WG - [CPWG](#) by Satish and Justine, [CCIP-CCG](#), RALO Coordination, & At Large Small team on Travel by Amrita At-Large Operations, Finance and Budget WG by Shah, [SMWG](#) Update by Adarsh and [NomCom Update](#) by Maureen. There was a discussion and request to members to update the [APRALO Outreach & Engagement Plan Status](#) followed by a discussion on engaging [ICANN79 Fellows](#).

APRALO Policy Forum Update

By Justine Chew

The APRALO Policy Forum (APF) began the new year with a call to refresh its membership so as to tap the interest of existing and new members in our region to participate in activities related to policy issues within ICANN's remit. As of 1 February, we have 31 members [subscribed](#) to the APF mailing list.

Since toward the end of 2023, the APRALO Leadership Team has been busy developing the [APRALO Policy Forum \(APF\) calendar of activities](#) for January and February 2024. As a result, we have delivered 3 key activities, with one more activity planned for late February, right before travel to ICANN79 begins.

[APF Call on the Expedited Policy Development Process on Internationalized Domain Names \(IDNs-EPDP\) Phase 2 work](#), 25 January 2024

Satish Babu, APRALO ALAC Member and ALAC-appointed representative to the IDNs-EPDP, [provided](#) an overview of the work of the IDNs-EPDP which focuses on developing policy recommendations for variant management at the top-level and the second-level. He took the 21 participants through the concept of variants, and explained how the EPDP's Phase 1 work resulted in 4 key principles for top-level variant management and 69 policy recommendations impacting New gTLDs for the Next Round. He also explained the bifurcation of the EPDP's work by comparing how Phase 1 and Phase 2 related to each other, and talked about the EPDP's charter questions for Phase 2 as well as those related to the IDN Implementation Guidelines. For a more in-depth understanding, please refer to the resources below.

[See or comment on the event wiki](#), or review the [presentation](#) or [call recording](#).

[APF Call on APRALO Statement to the ICANN Board Call for Public Comments to the IDNs-EPDP Phase 1 Final Report](#), 13 February 2024

Satish Babu, APRALO ALAC Member and ALAC-appointed representative to the IDNs-EPDP led this APF call to discuss whether there was a need for an APRALO Statement in response to the ICANN Board's call for public comments to the IDNs-EPDP Phase 1 Final Report. Satish [brought up 3 issues](#) for the 18 participants' consideration, which were discussed at length. The call concluded with 2 of the issues not needing a statement, while the third issue of the potential need for greater community involvement in the development of Label Generation Rulesets (LGRs) and their integration into the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR) would be an issue better broached with ICANN org through a preliminary conversation with the At-Large selected Board Member, Leon Sanchez.

[See or comment on the event wiki](#), or review the [presentation](#) or [call recording](#).

APF Call on ICANN Board Consultation on Public Interest Commitments (PICs) and Registry Voluntary Commitments (RVCs), 31 January 2024

In late December 2023, the ICANN Board initiated a community consultation to gather input on their [Draft Implementation Framework for Content-Related Registry Commitments](#) which was prefaced with a [Community Webinar](#) held on 18 December 2023.

Justine Chew, in her capacity as the ALAC-appointed Representative to the Subsequent Procedures (New gTLD Program Next Round) Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT), led a discussion with 25 participants, explaining the context of the ICANN Board's proposed framework and questions for which it sought answers from the Community. In brief, the Board wanted input around the use of PICs and RVCs for the Next Round of New gTLDs, especially where registry commitments potentially touch on content are concerned, whether those would have limitations in terms of monitoring and enforcement by ICANN org in light of the ICANN Bylaw provision which frowns on regulation of content served through the DNS. This APF was to help facilitate APF members' participation at the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) calls where ALAC/At-Large positions/responses were being formulated. This issue will be further discussed by the ICANN Board at an [ICANN79 plenary session](#).

[See or comment on the event wiki](#), or review the [presentation](#) or [call recording](#). See also: [At-Large Workspace: Community Consultation on PICs/RVCs](#).

Upcoming APRALO Policy Forum Announcements

Look out for announcements!

For upcoming APF activities including the APRALO ICANN79 Readout, please watch out

Click [here to get more details](#) on the APRALO Policy Forum's activities, or click [here to check and/or comment on the APF Planning Calendar for H2 of 2023](#)

APRALO WG UPDATES

APRALO RoP - Cheryl Langdon- Orr

Update regarding the now [FINAL draft of the updated APRALO Rules of Procedure \(AP-RoP\)](#); after extensive review and drafting work, including that carried out by the APRALO Community in the 2023 AP-GA held in Istanbul, the now 43 page document along with 9 new or substantially updated Adjunct Documents were bundled and forwarded on 14 Feb 2024 to ICANN Legal to check that we have not created any inconsistencies or unintended consequences in relation to the ICANN Bylaws etc.

Once this cross-checking has occurred the APRALO Leadership Team (AP-LT) will set up an online poll/ballot or vote to seek endorsement and adoption of these new Rules, which once carried by affirmative vote, will come into force. As per the CURRENT RoP 23 Amendment of the Rules of Procedure paragraph 23.1, approval of any modification of the APRALO Rules of Procedure requires a Supermajority vote of the APRALO. As APRALO currently has 65 ALSes and the UIM Representative is +1 for an electorate of 66, therefore, 3/5ths (60%) or more of this will constitute the required Supermajority i.e. we require 40 affirmative votes for the adoption. So if you are a voting representative in our community it is extremely important that you cast your vote (Hopefully for or at worst an abstain ;-)). Failure by Representatives of ALSes and the UIMs to cast a vote in this poll/ballot will also count negatively in the performance metrics for those who hold these roles, so issues such as technical or connection issues need to be brought to the attention of At-Large Staff as soon as possible once the poll/ballot commences. Until then we trust that a small cadre of motivated APRALO Members will put themselves forward to be the shepherds on these new RoP to then act as facilitators and supporters for our Community as we use and are bound by the amended version.

APRALO WG UPDATES

ALAC Subcommittee on Outreach & Engagement – Aris Ignacio

We are thrilled to share exciting updates on the forthcoming Outreach and Engagement (O&E) events throughout the Asia Pacific region. To ensure comprehensive coverage of these activities, we encourage APRALO members to submit event details promptly to ICANN Staff, senior community members, or the leadership team. This ensures the timely updating of the calendar on our wiki page.

For a deeper understanding of the O&E Subcommittee and its ongoing engagements, please visit this [link](#).

As part of this year's O&E Plan, APRALO has set goals to achieve the following outcomes:

Raise community awareness and knowledge about DNS safety and security, with a particular focus on DNSSEC implementation.

Actively attract new ALSes and UIMs to strengthen our community.

Re-engage existing ALSes and UIMs, fostering stronger connections and collaboration within our diverse community.

Monitor and document ALS/UIM initiated activities that contribute to and enhance broader community participation in ICANN.

Elevate community understanding and awareness of IDNs and UA at the local, national, and regional levels

We invite you to actively participate in these initiatives, contributing to the growth and strength of our community. Your involvement is crucial in achieving these ambitious outcomes.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the success of APRALO's outreach and engagement efforts.

Operations Finance and Budget Working Group Update - Shah Zahidur Rahman

The Operations, Finance and Budget Working Group (OFB-WG) reviewed a number of ICANN operating and financial plans put out for public comment, namely: (1) the [Draft ICANN FY25 Plans](#) (which comprises the ICANN FY25-29 Operating and Financial Plan, the Draft ICANN FY25 Operating Plan and Budget, and the Draft IANA FY25 Operating Plan and Budget), as well as (2) the [Draft PTI FY25 Operating Plan and Budget](#).

The OFB-WG discussed draft statements for the 2 public comments on its calls held on 11 January 2024, 18 January 2024, 25 January 2024 and 1 February 2024. On 31 January 2024, the CPWG discussed the final draft statements. On 12 February 2024, staff confirmed that the ALAC unanimously endorsed the [Draft ICANN FY25 Plan statement](#) and the [Draft PTI FY25 Operating Plan and Budget statement](#).

As part of its development of the Draft ICANN FY25 Plan statement, the OFB-WG revised its approach to the development, review, and implementation of approved At-Large Funding Requests (AFRs) (noting that the previous Additional Budget Requests (ABRs) process was retired). The OFB-WG received [ten At-Large Community AFR proposals](#), which were then reviewed against the [FY25 ALAC Criteria for AFRs](#) also developed by the OFB-WG. Of the ten AFRs received, two were approved by the ALAC for submission for ICANN's budgetary planning. These two approved AFRs were for an annual At-Large Leadership Strategic Meeting, and a periodic Global End User Survey. The remaining eight AFRs were proposed to be taken up by respective RALOs in discussion with their respective regional Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) group.

Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) - Amrita Choudury

The Continuous Improvement Program Community Coordination Group (CIP-CCG) has been set up based on the [ATRT 3 recommendation 3.6](#) (to evolve the organisational review of ICANN into a continuous improvement process).

At the first call a presentation of ICANN orgs research overview of the principle based approach to the CIP program was shared and all the SO/ ACs, along with the timelines of the WG. All were asked to share back what we are doing as a part of our continuous improvement efforts.

The ALAC and APRALO efforts have been updated in [this document](#). In the second and third call all the SO/ACs shared their efforts to continuous improvement.

At the third [meeting](#) there was a discussion on the next steps related to what should be the principles, criteria and indicators for the framework for continuous improvement.

As a next step the group would meet in San Juan on 6 March to work on deliberating on the Principles, criterias and indicators the group together and SO/ACs individually would be working on.

Community members are encouraged to share their suggestion on enhancing the improvement in APRALO.

NOMCOM update - Maureen Hilyard (APRALO delegate)

REMEMBER March 15, 2024 at 23:59. This is the deadline for NOMCOM applications for anyone who might still be interested in being one of a new group of ICANN leaders for the next two (or three) years. PLEASE, if you know of anyone who you would consider suitable for one of these positions, encourage them to apply. Over one hundred and thirty prospects have started, but still have to complete, their applications online. Yet, there has already been a steady flow of early applicants who have forwarded their completed applications for one of the following vacancies:

- 3 x ICANN Board,
- 2 x ALAC (for EU and NA),
- 1 x GNSO Council, and
- 1 x ccNSO Council.

As one of the Outreach team, I will be also be giving last minute reminders to members at the AP* Retreat (on 26 Feb) prior to the APRICOT meeting in Bangkok. I will also be at the APAC@ICANN session on March 5 as well as the ICANN Fellows session on March 7, at ICANN79. Hope to see you there :))

By Pavel Farhan

On January 31st, 2024, a significant collaborative effort unfolded as the Philippines-based FMA, Malaysia's TIOF, and the UK-based Global Partners Digital came together for a pivotal roundtable discussion on Internet Fragmentation and Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific region. With a shared vision, the collaboration aimed to combat internet fragmentation via a dual-pronged strategy:

1. Enable civil society to engage with and influence technical standards-setting bodies strategically and sustainably.
2. Promote stronger coordination among stakeholders to reverse the growing trend towards internet fragmentation.

The roundtable, which targeted key organizations including the ITU, WTSA, IETF, and APT, underscored the critical role of a globally accessible and secure internet in safeguarding human rights. Amidst the challenges posed by evolving spatial dynamics and a prevailing lack of understanding, particularly in regions like the global south, the initiative prioritized inclusivity. Through insightful discussions led by a distinguished panel featuring APRALO Chair **Amrita Choudhury**, **Pablo Hinojosa** from APNIC, and **KS Park** from Korea University, alongside a keynote address by APNIC's Director General **Paul Wilson**, the roundtable sought to identify region-specific risks, elevate awareness, and uncover collaborative pathways toward fostering a more cohesive and inclusive internet ecosystem.

Updates From Our ALSes

NetMission.Asia - Phyo Thiri Lwin

ALS representative, Phyo Thiri Lwin organized and moderated the "Safeguarding the Digital Future: A Multi-Stakeholder Panel Discussion on Enhancing Online Safety for Children and Youth in Asia Pacific" session at USAID PCYDH on Feb 6, 2024.

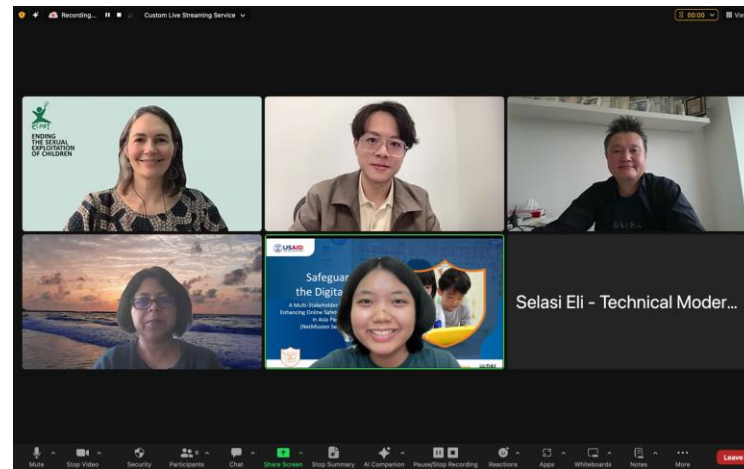
The speakers of the sessions were:

Edmon Chung (Director Representative, DotKids Foundation)

Amrita Choudhury (APRALO Chair, ICANN)

Kenneth Leung (NetMission APPO Member)

Amy Crocker (Head of Child Protection and Technology, ECPAT International)



Relevant Documents

- NetMission Blog Post: <https://netmission.asia/2024/02/15/safeguarding-the-digital-future-insights-from-the-2024-usaid-symposium/>
- Find more information about [USAID the 2024 Protecting Children and Youth from Digital Harm Virtual Symposium](#).

ISOC Delhi- Kapil Goyal

DAV College Amritsar, in partnership with Internet Society Delhi Chapter organized Safer Internet Day 2024 to address the escalating cyber security challenges worldwide. A key highlight was the **ICANN LEARN 400.1 Cybersecurity Basics certification workshop**, which trained approximately 50 stakeholders from the Cybersecurity COHORT. Participants gained insights into fundamental cyber security practices and were awarded certificates upon completion.

The event also featured parallel sessions led by Dr. Preeti Kamra and Prof. Kapil Goyal. Bhavik Mahajan of WebCooks Inc. adeptly moderated the proceedings.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

February 6, 2024



ICANN | LEARN

400.1 Cybersecurity Basics

ISOC Delhi Chapter Volunteers
Organized

Open Mic Competition on
Capacity Building Orientation Programme

400.1 Cyber Security Certified Digital Defenders COHORT

Bhavik Mahajan [Moderator]

“Safety of the people shall be the highest
law to protect digital planet”

TEAM 1

Mansi Raj, Sharishty Kaur, Shivam Mehra

“ICANN Learn provide me a platform to
protect my assets from cyber threats”

TEAM 2

Navroj Kaur, Radhika Sharma, Mehak Khanna

“Block malicious cyber files with appropriate
antivirus software”

TEAM 3

Raman Batth, Neha Sharma, Harshjot Singh

“Assessing and Mitigating risk is the first step
to handle Cyber Security Threats ”

Cyberpeace- Harish Chowdhary

To support ICANN's vision of a Trusted, safe and secure Internet, along with Initiatives of Government of India for Cybersecurity Capacity building, CyberPeace, as an at large organization, has conducted numerous workshops/conferences/collaborations.

CyberPeace has undertaken several initiatives to improve cybersecurity and promote digital peace. They've partnered with organizations like NIELIT and Resecurity to enhance cybersecurity education and resilience through training programs and joint research efforts. Collaborations with institutions like Chandigarh University and Rashtriya Raksha University aim to bolster India's cyber talent pool and strengthen cyber defense capabilities. CyberPeace has also conducted awareness sessions and workshops nationwide, including on topics like child safety online and cyber hygiene for students. Their participation in conferences and seminars underscores their commitment to staying abreast of the latest developments in the field of cybersecurity, as seen in their engagement at the IFIP WG 11.9 International Conference on Digital Forensics. These efforts collectively contribute to building a safer and more secure digital environment for individuals and organizations alike.



Nepal Internet Foundation- Bikram Shrestha

The Nepal Internet Foundation (NIF) has been dedicated to making the internet a safer space in Nepal. In line with this mission, NIF organized two significant events.

Firstly, it hosted the screening of the documentary film "From the Shadows" in Kathmandu, shedding light on the issue of human trafficking and raising awareness.

Secondly, NIF facilitated the establishment of a freelancer association in Nepal, aiming to support and empower freelancers in the country. These initiatives align with NIF's goal of fostering a safer and more inclusive online environment while addressing pressing societal issues.



ISOC India Bengaluru Chapter- Adarsh BU

Data Privacy Day

The ISOC India Bengaluru Chapter celebrated "Data Privacy Day" with a webinar section on January 24, 2024. It was a deep dive into India's new Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) from a data principal's perspective. The session was very interactive and brought a lot of awareness to the community.

ISOC India Bengaluru Chapter – Academic Hub

The ISOC India Bengaluru Chapter has started the Academic Hub and successfully made an MoU on February 23, 2024, with the Bangalore Institute of Technology (BIT). The main aim of the academic hub is to initiate multiple activities, including community networks, universal acceptance, etc.

The chapter hosted a stall for two days at the BIT campus to reach a larger audience from industry and academia. During these two days, the chapter was able to raise more awareness about the community network.



Thank You

Thank You for reading the Newsletter!

Do send you feedback and comments to:

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