Statement of interest for the position of NomCom representative from APRALO

Charles Mok

I would like to express my interest to serve as a member of the ICANN Nomination Committee (NomCom) as the representative from APRALO. ICANN's NomCom occupied an important role for the wellbeing of the entire organization, through nominating the right people to serve its multi-stakeholder mission for an equitable and sustainable Internet governance process, and I hope to have the opportunity to contribute to this important objective.

As an Internet citizen for over forty years, and having over thirty years of experience in Internet operation, governance and policy development, covering roles in the technical, business, civil society, government and academic sectors, I believe I have the background and skills for the position.

I co-founded one of the earliest Internet service providers (ISP) in Asia, **HKNet,** in Hong Kong in 1994, which was subsequently acquired by NTT Com Asia of Japan in 2000. I also co-founded the **Hong Kong Internet Service Providers Association** and served as its chair from 1998 to 2000. I also served as a director for Hong Kong's ccTLD registry, **Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Ltd.,** and its operational arm. **Hong Kong Domain Name Registration Co. Ltd.,** from 2002 to 2004.

In 2006, I co-founded the **Internet Society Hong Kong (ISOC HK),** and served as its chair until 2011. During that period of time, we launched Creative Commons Hong Kong (2008), APRICOT-APAN 2011, and Wikimedia Asia 2011, among many other local and regional activities. Between May 2011 to October 2012, I had the privileged of chairing **APRALO,** with ISOC HK serving as APRALO's secretariat since 2011 and continuing for many years after the end of my term as chair**.**

As I was elected to the **Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region** in September 2012, representing the Information Technology Functional Constituency, I had to resign from my APRALO chairmanship. I served as a member parliamentarian in the legislature for two terms, until December, 2020, after being re-elected in 2016. During my legislative tenure, I was the alternative chair and vice chair for the Information Technology and Broadcasting Panel, as well as a member of the Legislative Council Commission, which functions as the management board of the legislature.

After leaving politics, I decided to once again devote my time and energy to the cause of Internet governance and global policy development. I joined the Multi-stakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of the **Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF)** in 2021, and was elected by chapters to the Board of Trustees of the **Internet Society (ISOC)** in 2022. In addition, I also founded the **Tech for Good Asia** initiative in 2021 to foster collaboration among communities and businesses in Asia to positively adopt and apply digital technologies.

Currently, I am a Research Scholar at the Global Digital Policy Incubator (GDPi) of the Cyber Policy Center at **Stanford University,** focusing on cyber laws and policies in the Asia Pacific region. I am also a board director of the **International Centre for Trade Transparency and Monitoring (ICTTM),** which aims to offer trade data for global supply chain transparency, as a commercial spin-off from the International Trade Council (ITC).

With an extensive background and wide exposure in the Internet and technology sector, I believe I have the skills, experience and time commitment necessary to serve and contribute to

ICANN's NomCom. Having been in public service and a wide range of regional and global civil society and industry organizations, including serving in leadership as well as board and committee positions, I believe I have the communication and organizational skills required, and possess a clear understanding and appreciation for ICANN's ecosystem, its various groups and constituents, and its objectives. For example, currently at ISOC, for the past two years, I have chaired **ISOC's Governance Committee,** which oversees its Board governance systems and maintains all governing documents and policies, including the issuance of an annually updated guidance to ISOC's Nominations Committee. (It should be noted though that ISOC's NomCom, unlike ICANN's, only selects the two slates of candidates for chapters and organizational members to vote on in their respective elections.) In addition, I have also served for the past two years on **ISOC's PIR Nominations Committee,** which interviews and selects the candidates for the Board of Directors of the Public Interest Registry (PIR). It is important for us to uphold the integrity of the nomination process, to ensure its fairness and transparency, while supporting the organization to recruit and identify the best candidates to serve with the necessary skills and diversity required for the boards as a whole.

In addition, I am also currently a member of the Privacy Experts Advisory Group of the **American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI),** a member of the Advisory Committee of the **Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue (KITDP),** a member of the US Technology Policy Committee of the **Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)**, and a senior member of the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).** I graduated from **Purdue University,** West Lafayette, Indiana, USA, with a bachelor degree in Computer and Electrical Engineering in 1995, and a master degree in Electrical Engineering in 1987, and was named as member of the Outstanding Electrical and Computer Engineers Class of 2022.

Finally, let me say that it would be my honor and privilege to once again serve and contribute to the Asia, Australasia, Pacific Islands and global Internet community and the Internet governance process by working with ICANN and its various constituents. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions for me.