

Communiqué from the APTLD Meeting in Taipei - February 25 & 26 2008

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APTLD celebrated 10 years of service at the Taipei 2008 meeting. More than 55 attendees from more than 20 organisations attended.

The members' meeting engaged in presentations and discussions on key agenda items including IDNs, Cyber security (including DNSSEC & DDOS issues) and commercial operational issues.

In addition, at the AGM, the meeting ratified the recent online election of APTLD Directors, and the Board subsequently elected new Officers for the organisation for the coming year.

ICT in Taiwan

The meeting began with an update from Tien-Lai Teng of the Taiwan Ministry of Transportation and Communications who gave an overview of ICT policy and development that has transformed Taiwan into an ICT powerhouse. APTLD members learned of the change of technology industry from the 1950s to the present, covering the economic, cultural and social impact of the new technologies. Members learned how Taiwan is bridging the digital divide with government support and satellite, wireless and fibre based technologies.



We also heard from TWNIC chair Feipei Lai of the leading role that his organisation is playing in Taiwan's achievements – not least their development of a model house that makes use of IPv6 technologies.

Mr. George C. Chou of Taiwan Mobile spoke of the achievements at a competitive environment coupled with technological innovation can achieve – though he noted that the traditional, copper based networks were still dominated by the incumbent service provider.

Taiwan's major players, including the private sector, an empowered regulator, government policies and actions, and TWNIC have combined to put Taiwan as a very experienced player in leveraging the capabilities of new technologies – and being willing to export not just the new technologies, but the know how too!

IDNs



IDNs were a major item of the meeting. Edmon Chung (DotAsia) spoke on issues and concerns around IDNs for the gTLD community. IDN language management models were looked at through The Chinese Domain Name Consortium (CDNC) and the Arabic Domain Name Pilot Project (ADNPP). IDN ccTLDs were encouraged to share information on IDN testing by joining the APTLD mailing list.

Hiro Hotta (.jp) led a discussion on behalf of ICANN's FastTrack IDN ccTLD program (IDNC), sharing information and possible

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solutions for the process ahead. Members pointed out the importance of taking into account local circumstances and to maintain meaningful representation of the territorial name without crossing into a gTLD. Members were encouraged to engage directly with the IDNC committee members – including Hiro Hotta.

Cyber security

Jonathan Shea (.hk) spoke on the ccTLD's role in Internet security and .hk's approach. 'Spamvertising' and phishing are a common and growing example of cybercrime. They are most effective in the first few hours and this requires prompt action. HKIRC is being proactive in shutting down domain names that are suspected of being used for malicious purposes.

While no other members were yet replicating .HK's approach, there were others that were actively sympathetic to the objectives and have used other policy restrictions to more actively and quickly address suspected names.

Members heard from Yoshiro Yoneya (.jp) on WPAD as a security treat and from Chris Horsley (JPCERT) on CERTs role in security. The most important tool for cyber attackers are domains, shutting down the domain is the only immediate and effective response for CERTs. No ccTLDs present, except .hk, will take down a domain name for phishing or spamvertising without a court order or subpoena – however some will actively scrutinise a suspected Domain Name's adherence to its policies. It was also noted that those names that were involved often ended up paying with bogus credit cards!

Paul Kane from Community DNS spoke on DNS look-up infrastructure and how to reduce the opportunity for attacks – by creating a resilient community with diversity by having DNS servers in many locations.

DNSSEC was another main topic; Ann-Marie Eklund-Lowinder (.se) gave a presentation via video conference called DNSSEC – experiences from the real world. She spoke about Sweden's entry into the DNSSEC space and their experiences leading up to the innovation and in the time subsequent to its introduction. When asked given what .se has been through, would you do it again - yes! Bill Manning (.um) gave members an overview of the new protocols for DNSSEC as well as an indication of the financial benefits to the registry for its early adoption. Nai-Wen Hsu (.tw) spoke on their lab experiences in Taipei and Jay Daley (.uk) spoke on their position on signing. Ed Lewis, who has been involved in DNSSEC for a long time, suggested that the security holes it was created to address may have already been addressed. There was no clear conclusion from the discussion, though most members felt that DNSSEC would be applied more quickly once the root was signed.



Don Hollander, APTLD's General Manager, announced a series of training workshops to better prepare members for DDOS and other such attacks. The program will include a workshop in Attack & Disaster Planning Response and a technical training workshop in securing networks for robust response to DDOS Attacks. APTLD will also be facilitating engagement between members and Anycast service providers.

ccTLDs, ICANN and other organisations

Members heard from Barbara Roseman on the IANA root zone management process and the introduction of e-IANA. The process will speed up communications with the requester and VeriSign

when submitting a change request. In many ways, e-IANA is taking a similar route to DNSSEC – the issues it set out to address – speed and accuracy – have been addressed in the meantime.

Save Vocea updated members on ICANNs activities, and called for comment from members on: Translation Programme; New gTLDs and DNS Stability; and Initial report on ccIDN fast-track.

Don Hollander presented an update on activities at the ccNSO – including a joint initiative between the ccNSO and the Regional Organisations to work together to both gain new members and provide comprehensive services.

Wit Hmone gave a presentation on APNG and its camp activities and encouraged members to find out more on the www.apng.org website.

PIR, operators of .org, provided an introduction to the organization – a recently joined Associate Member of APTLD. PIR noted two initiatives:

- 1) PIR's forthcoming announcement of a consortium of industry players who will work together to share information on spammers and phishers and other 'bad guys' in the Internet space.
- 2) PIR's active engagement with .mx for the promotion of .org and .org.mx.

Lance Wolak extended an open invitation for APTLD members to join PIR in either program.

We also heard that .asia is just about ready to go into full and open operation. The last early entry period, which started just before the meeting, had already gained more than 300,000 names!

Domain names

Choon Sai Lim (.sg) spoke on .sg's introduction of numbers as names – with relatively low response. June Seo (Verisign) gave a presentation on state of names. Debbie Monahan (.nz) spoke on .nz's monthly domain name registration system and its particular popularity with the Phone Company registrars and those who offer a name as part of a bundled service with monthly subscription. Yeo Yee Ling (.my) spoke on domain names as property rights giving examples of domain name disputes around the world.

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As at the meeting date, APTLD had 26 paid ordinary members, with others having payment on the way. India was also welcomed into the membership during the meeting. There are also four Associate members who have paid their subscription, with others also underway.

APTLD's mailing lists – including Member, APTLD Announce, IDN-COM, Tamil and Training were noted and members were invited to subscribe to what they want by letting Don know.

The members asked that some basic remote participation facility be made available for future meetings. Members were also advised of the next meetings in Kuala Lumpur, which will have two special seminars included as part of the program – plus MYNIC is running a security seminar and members are invited to attend this also.

APTLD is also going through a review of the constitution and by-laws to ensure that they remain appropriate for an organisation that's growing.

Finally, the Board elected Jonathan Shea (.hk) as Chair, Keith Davidson (.nz) Vice Chair, Yumi Ohashi (.jp) as Secretary and Ai-Chin Lu (.tw) as Treasurer.



NB: Presentations, where they are available, are published on www.aptd.org

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