APTLD’s Capacity Building Efforts: Lessons Learned and Outlook

A Discussion Policy Presentation for APTLD71
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The Background: Challenges

• Rapidly changing industry landscape and growing competition on the part of new GTLDs;

• Different level of members’ institutional, technical and administrative maturity;

• Smaller, more vulnerable APTLD members in an urgent need for best current practices (BCPs) and technical assistance (TA), and capacity-building assistance.
The Background: APTLD’s Capacity-Building Activities

- APTLD Fellowship Policy and Renewal of the APTLD Fellowship Program - 2015
- Joint fellowships with ISOC:
- Capacity-building workshop Fellowships policy (sponsorships of travels for up to 5 APTLD members annually) - 2016
- APTLD-funded Fellowship to participate in IETF - 2016
- Fellowships to participate in Asia Pacific School on IG (up to 2 members, in the making);
- Pre-APTLD Meeting training sessions for members (resumed in 2015);
- Helping Members to apply for ICANN, IGF, CCNSO fellowships
- Webinars – 2017
- Helping form partnerships with an external consultant to apply for a third party’s grant
- Sub-regional Workshops- 2016
- Some bilateral peer projects by APTLD members

**NB: Capacity building has organically emerged as a major avenue of APTLD’s activities**
The activities have:

- Been patchy rather than systemic and cohesive;
- Involved very few members as potential recipients, but almost no potential sponsors from the APTLD community;
- Been mostly opportunistic (either on request, or by accident) rather than pro-active;
- Dispersed rather than focused
- Provided no performance monitoring and/or post-implementation evaluation
Suggestion

- To establish a group of potential sponsors out of the APTLD community
- To have the group focus on an individual member’s capacity building
- To have APTLD as a facilitator and back-office (secretarial, logistics and communication functions)
- If a success, to scale up and replicate the exercise across the region
- NB: during the Executive Call with CEOs, some favored the idea
Win-Win Solution

• Stronger members and the community
• Cemented, APTLD is re-positioned as a truly regional industry association and a leading “clearing house” for BCPs and TA initiatives in the region
• Stronger incentives for non-members to join APTLD
• With new strategic partners willing to piggyback - opportunities for synergies and economies of scale.
• Good rationale for becoming an APTLD’s major direction of future operation