Middle East Strategy

- The strategy covers the 22 Arab States, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan
- Working group consists of 21 members hailing from 11 different countries from the region
- Kick-started its work in December 2012
- A 3-year strategy and a 1-year implementation plan
- Implementation is underway for FY14 (July 2013 – June 2014)
- Planning the FY15 Implementation Plan is almost concluded
Key Strategic Areas

- Domain name industry
- Capacity building
- Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance
What is the MESWG Up To?

- Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)
- Task Force on Capacity Building and Awareness (TF-CBA)
Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)

Looking into use of IDNs in Arabic script

- Arabic Script Label Generation Ruleset (LGR) for the Root Zone
- Second level LGRs for the Arabic script
- Arabic script Internationalized Registration Data Protocol and Practice
- Universal acceptability of Arabic script IDNs and variants
- Technical challenges around registration of Arabic script IDNs and variants
- Operational software for Arabic script IDN registry and registrar operations
- DNS security matters specifically related to Arabic script IDNs and variants
- Technical training material around Arabic script IDNs
... cont. (TF-AIDN)

- Announced during the Arab IGF in Algiers in early October 2013
- Consists of 26 volunteers from the region
  - Majority are fresh blood that have never been involved in regional discussions on Arabic IDNs, or the ICANN process
  - 5 new members were on-boarded recently
- Holding calls when needed to ensure timelines are attained and momentum is maintained
- First F2F meeting took place in Singapore during March 20-22
- Arabic Script Generation Panel, ICANN
TF-AIDN – Moving Forward

- Work underway on Arabic Email Support and Universal Acceptance of Arabic script IDNs
- The work on Label Generation Ruleset (LGR) is expected to end in December 2014
- Next F2F meeting on June 8-12 in Istanbul
  - June 8-10 for Arabic Script LGR
  - June 11-12 for Universal Acceptance
  - ICANN covering the costs of the meeting, and the travel costs of some task force members

Want to join the TF-AIDN? Please send your Resume/CV and Statement of Interest (SoI) to meswg@icann.org.
Task Force on Capacity Building and Awareness (TF-CBA)

- Call circulated on December 1, 2013
- The call was open for interested candidates from outside of the Middle East Strategy region
- 21 applications received
  - A Steering Committee was formed from within the MESWG to evaluate the applications and set the next steps
  - All applicants have been welcomed on board
- Train-the-Trainer Model
  - Ongoing discussions on how to implement this model in our region
  - Consensus that the TF-CBA is a building block for this model to move forward
Middle East DNS Forum

- Two-day meeting
  - Held in Dubai on 3-4 Feb
  - Co-organized by both ICANN and ISOC, and hosted by UAE TRA

- Main agenda topics
  - New gTLDs
  - Registry strategies for domain name growth
  - Role of ccTLDs in strengthening the domain name industry
  - Registrar accreditation
  - Registrar strategies in a competitive environment
  - Three breakout sessions (Policy, Technical, and Business tracks)
... cont. (Middle East DNS Forum)

- More than 100 attendees
  - Hailed from 36 different countries
  - 33% hailed from the Business Sector
  - 46% from within the UAE
- Some sessions had more than 30 remote participants
- Forum seen as an annual event hosted by the regional community
- Attended by APTLD GM, and reported on the event to members
Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on IG (MEAC-SIG)

- To take place in Kuwait during May 25-29
- Local host is Kuwaiti Information Technology Society (KITS)
- Agenda to cover 5 main broad topics over the course of 5 days
  - Day I – Introductory Day
  - Day II -- Internet Stakeholders Day
  - Day III – DNS Day
  - Day IV -- Internet Public Policy Day
  - Day V -- Community and Participation Day
- 42 fellowship applications received to attend the event
What are we up to now?

- Assessing FY14 Implementation Plan
  - Pros-and-cons and lessons learned
- Finalize FY15 Implementation Plan
  - The strategy document defines Recommendations and Actions for each fiscal year, and the implementation plan defines the Activities in coordination with the MESWG
Questions?

meswg@icann.org