Briefing Paper on APRALO

The following excerpts from ICANN by laws describe the framework of the formation of each regional at-large organization (RALO). The acronym ALAC refers to the At-Large Advisory Committee of ICANN.

XI.4(b) The ALAC shall consist of (i) two members selected by each of the Regional At-Large Organizations ("RALOs") established according to paragraph 4(g) of this Section, and (ii) five members selected by the Nominating Committee............

XI.4(g) There shall be one RALO for each Geographic Region established according to Section 5 of Article VI. Each RALO shall serve as the main forum and coordination point for public input to ICANN in its Geographic Region and shall be a non-profit organization certified by ICANN according to criteria and standards established by the Board based on recommendations of the At-Large Advisory Committee. An organization shall become the recognized RALO for its Geographic Region upon entering a Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN addressing the respective roles and responsibilities of ICANN and the RALO regarding the process for selecting ALAC members and requirements of openness, participatory opportunities, transparency, accountability, and diversity in the RALO's structure and procedures, as well as criteria and standards for the RALO's constituent At-Large Structures.

XI.4(h) Each RALO shall be comprised of self-supporting At-Large Structures within its Geographic Region that have been certified to meet the requirements of the RALO's Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN according to paragraph 4(i) of this Section. If so provided by its Memorandum of Understanding with ICANN, a RALO may also include individual Internet users who are citizens or residents of countries within the RALO's Geographic Region.

There are presently over 90 certified At Large Structures with 15 coming from the Asia/Australia/Pacific region. In fact AP ALSs were probably the first to form a nucleus for discussing the formation of a RALO and were the first to draft a set of by laws that was revised several times and finally renamed as the Operating Principles for the management of APRALO. This was accomplished at a telephone conference last spring following the New Zealand ICANN Meeting. After the early formation of ALSs in AP region especially in the Pacific area, the pace of expansion of At Large Structures in the region has slackened somewhat. Other than the Pacific area, there has been little activity in this direction underscoring the need for more intensive outreach and informational activity.

The formation of the first official ICANN RALO, the LACRALO representing Latin America and Caribbean Islands was celebrated at the recent ICANN Meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil. There is hope that the RALOs of Asia/Australia/Pacific, Europe and Africa will be ready for the formal signing of MoU with ICANN during the ICANN Meeting of Lisbon. During a recent telephone conference of the proto-APRALO, tentative agreement was reached on the basic tents of APRALO MoU. This has to be further discussed and ratified during an all-day meeting scheduled for 28 February 2007 in conjunction with APRICOT in Bali. Among other items to be discussed are possible changes in the Operating Principles, scheduling of elections for two ALAC representatives and the establishment of some kind of secretariat for APRALO.