ICANN

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL REPORT
1 JULY 2018-30 JUNE 2019

ONE WORLD, ONE INTERNET

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

During FY19, the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team in the Middle East continued to build on the progress made in implementing the Middle East Regional Strategy (2016-2019), developed by the regional community.

One of the key community decisions was to extend the current regional strategy term for one more year, ending at the end of FY20, to align the regional strategy with ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025, where possible.

Key community outreach along with other engagement and capacity development activities, have helped ICANN org and the community in the region make significant progress towards achieving the following objectives outlined in the regional strategy:

- Supporting a secure, stable, and resilient Domain Name System infrastructure.

- Promoting a healthy and competitive domain name marketplace.

- Clarifying ICANN's role in an evolving Internet ecosystem.

We are immensely proud of what we have achieved together with our community. It has always been a collaborative effort, and we would like to thank everyone who has been part of this satisfying journey.
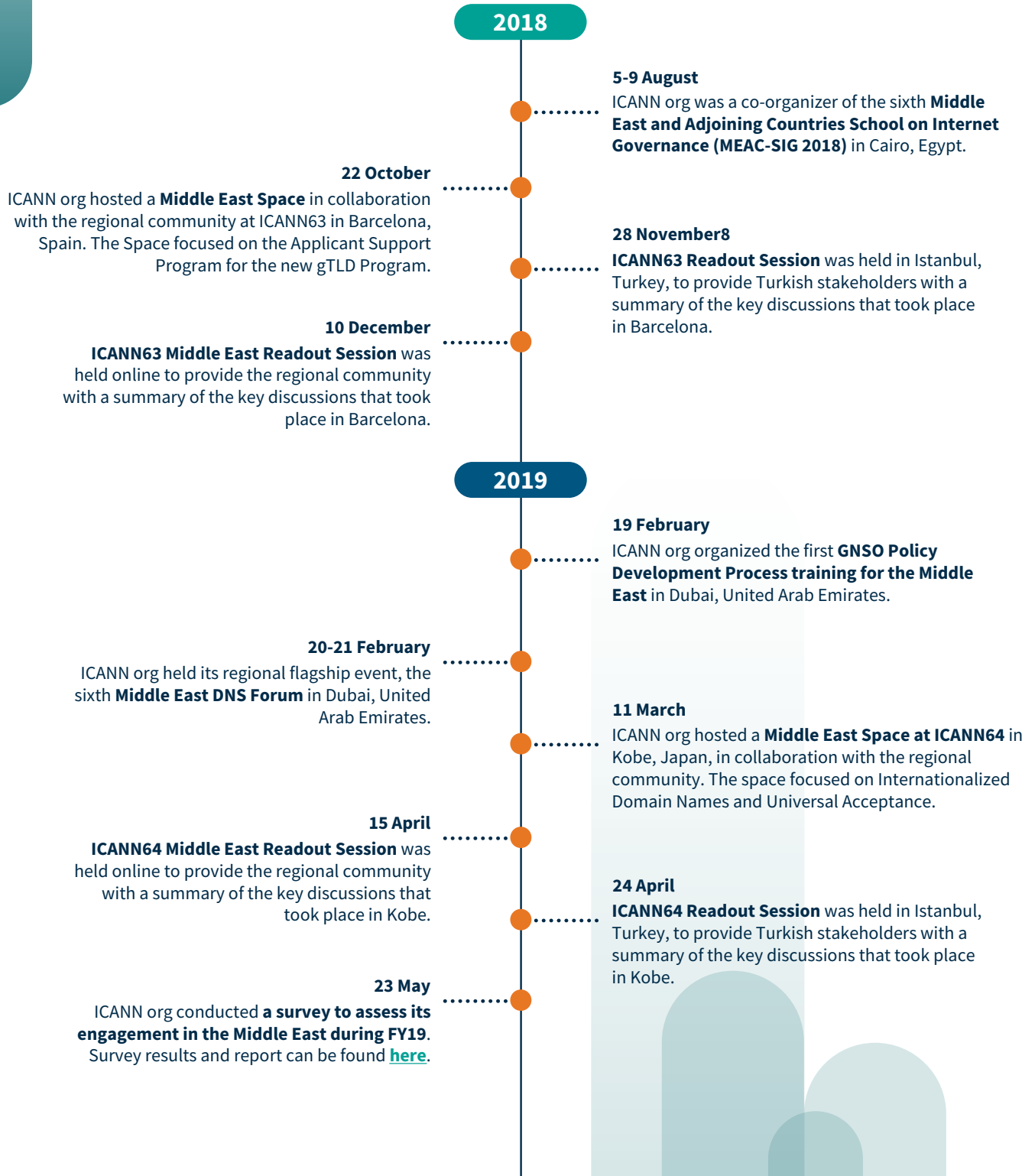
Sincerely,
Baher Esmat
Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Middle East

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL REPORT

YEAR AT A GLANCE - TIMELINE

2018

5-9 August
ICANN org was a co-organizer of the sixth **Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG 2018)** in Cairo, Egypt.

22 October
ICANN org hosted a **Middle East Space** in collaboration with the regional community at ICANN63 in Barcelona, Spain. The Space focused on the Applicant Support Program for the new gTLD Program.

28 November8
ICANN63 Readout Session was held in Istanbul, Turkey, to provide Turkish stakeholders with a summary of the key discussions that took place in Barcelona.

10 December
ICANN63 Middle East Readout Session was held online to provide the regional community with a summary of the key discussions that took place in Barcelona.

2019

19 February
ICANN org organized the first **GNSO Policy Development Process training for the Middle East** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

20-21 February
ICANN org held its regional flagship event, the sixth **Middle East DNS Forum** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

11 March
ICANN org hosted a **Middle East Space at ICANN64** in Kobe, Japan, in collaboration with the regional community. The space focused on Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance.

15 April
ICANN64 Middle East Readout Session was held online to provide the regional community with a summary of the key discussions that took place in Kobe.

24 April
ICANN64 Readout Session was held in Istanbul, Turkey, to provide Turkish stakeholders with a summary of the key discussions that took place in Kobe.

23 May
ICANN org conducted **a survey to assess its engagement in the Middle East during FY19**. Survey results and report can be found **here**.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

MIDDLE EAST DNS FORUM IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

For the first time, the Middle East DNS Forum (MEDNSF) was held in conjunction with another Internet-related event, the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association Annual General Meeting, APTLD75. The event took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 20-21 February 2019.

This stemmed from recommendations resulting from the **"Middle East DNS Forum 5-Year Assessment Survey"** distributed to the regional community in May 2018. The community suggested the Forum be organized in conjunction with similar events to add value and maximize attendance.

As customary, a survey on this specific edition of the Forum was also distributed to get participant feedback. Seventy-nine percent of the respondents rated the Forum as either excellent or very good. Survey results can be found **here**.

MIDDLE EAST COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON REGIONAL WORK

As part of ICANN org's commitment to engagement with the stakeholders in the Middle East, a survey was conducted to assess the satisfaction levels of ICANN org's engagement efforts across the region. Initial highlights of the responses were as follows:

- 70% found regional engagement efforts to be either effective or extremely effective.

- 74% showed satisfaction or extreme satisfaction with the engagement efforts during FY19.

The activities that attracted the highest participation rate from the region included the Middle East Space at ICANN Public Meetings, the Middle East DNS Forum, webinars, capacity-development activities, and the Middle East and Adjoining Countries Strategy Working Group (MEAC-SWG).

Overall, the survey showed satisfaction with the work undertaken, the professionalism of ICANN org members, and an eagerness to continue working on regional priorities. For more on this survey, **click here**.

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
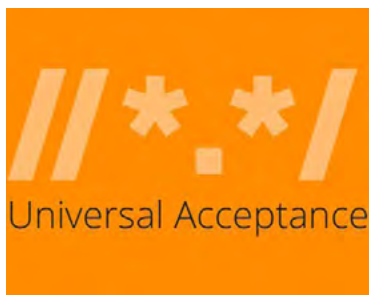
Universal Acceptance (UA) is a foundational requirement for a truly multilingual Internet, one in which users around the world can navigate entirely in their local languages. It is a very important topic in the Middle East as most of the countries and territories in the region have an Internationalized Domain Name country code top-level domain (IDN ccTLD). UA is expected to ensure better utilization of such TLDs.

Several meetings and talks were held to raise awareness on UA in the following countries across the region: In Pakistan with the Pakistan Software Export Board; in Egypt at the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC); in Turkey as part of the Hosting Talk event; and in Lebanon as part of the 2019 Middle East Network Operators Group and Peering Forum (MENOG19).

The UA Program Ambassador in the region, Abdalmonem Galila, conducted many awareness sessions on IDNs, Email Address Internationalization (EAI), and UA in Egypt and across the Middle East and Africa:

- In Egypt, workshops were held in the following cities: Assuit, Cairo, Fayoum, Ismailia, Madinat, Mansoura, Menofeya, Nasr, and Tanta. These workshops attracted around 650 participants.

- Across the Middle East and Africa, workshops and talks were held in the following cities: Baghdad, Iraq; Amman, Jordan; Beirut, Lebanon; Marrakech, Morocco; Khartoum, Sudan; Kampala, Uganda; and Tashkent, Uzbekistan (for the .af registry team from Afghanistan).

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION : SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ICANN|ASO

ADDRESS SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION

2 *out of* **15**
Address councilors are from the Middle East

ICANN|ccNSO

COUNTRY CODE NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION

21 *out of* **172**
ccTLD members are from the Middle East

ICANN|GNSO

GENERIC NAMES SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION

GNSO COUNCIL

3 *out of* **23**
councilors are from the Middle East

NONCOMMERCIAL USERS CONSTITUENCY (NCUC)

9 *out of* **151**
organizational members are from the Middle East

66 *out of* **604**
individual members are from the Middle East

NOT-FOR-PROFIT OPERATIONAL CONCERNS CONSTITUENCY (NPOC)

5 *out of* **96**
members are from the Middle East

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CONNECTIVITY PROVIDERS CONSTITUENCY (ISPCP)

3 *out of* **62**
members are from the Middle East

BUSINESS CONSTITUENCY (BC)

4 *out of* **71**
members are from the Middle East

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONSTITUENCY (IPC)

1 *out of* **55**
members is from the Middle East

Regional SO leaders

Rafik Dammak
GNSO Council Vice Chair

Syed Ismail Shah
GNSO councilor

Elsa Saade
GNSO councilor

Wafa Dahmani
ASO Address councilor

Rafik is originally Tunisian but has been residing in Japan. He contributes to both the Middle East and APAC ICANN communities.

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION : ADVISORY COMMITTEES

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I C A N N   AT-LARGE

2 *out of* **19**
members

11 At-Large Structures and **7** individual members across 8 countries and territories in Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO).

11 At-Large Structures and **1** individual member across 7 countries and territories in African At-Large Organization (AFRALO).

I C A N N | G A C

GOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

21 *out of* **26**
from countries and territories are members from the Middle East

2
observers are from the Middle East

I C A N N | R S S A C

ROOT SERVER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8 *out of* **112**
are members from the Middle East

Regional AC leaders

Manal Ismail
GAC Chair

Ali Almeshal
APRALO Vice Chair

Mohamed Elbashir
AFRALO Chair

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION : OTHERS

ICANN|NOMCOM

ICANN NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 *out of* **21**
delegates are from the Middle East

Community Leadership

Zahid Jamil
NomCom Associate
Chair

Nadira Alaraj
NomCom delegate

Aziz Hilali
NomCom delegate

POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES (PDP)

TEMPORARY SPECIFICATION FOR GTLD REGISTRATION DATA EXPEDITED PDP - PHASE 1

3
members are from the Middle East

TEMPORARY SPECIFICATION FOR GTLD REGISTRATION DATA EXPEDITED PDP - PHASE 2

4
members are from the Middle East

NEW GTLD SUBSEQUENT PROCEDURES

6
members from the Middle East

REVIEW OF ALL RIGHTS PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN ALL GTLD'S

6
members are from the Middle East

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION–INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (IGO-INGO) ACCESS TO CURATIVE RIGHTS PROTECTION MECHANISMS IN ALL GTLDS

1
member is from the Middle East

CROSS-COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

NEW GTLD AUCTION PROCEEDS

1 *out of* **25**
members is from the Middle East

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION : REVIEWS

REVIEWS

SPECIFIC REVIEWS
SECOND SECURITY, STABILITY, AND RESILIENCY OF THE DNS REVIEW (SSR2)

1 *out of* **15**
members is from the Middle East

ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEWS
CCNSO ORGANIZATIONAL REVIEW

1 *out of* **10**
members of the ccNSO Review Working Party is from the Middle East

REGIONAL LEADERS

RAFIK DAMMAK
EPDP PHASE 1 VICE CHAIR
Rafik is originally Tunisian but has been residing in Japan. He contributes to both the Middle East and APAC ICANN communities.

REGIONAL PARTICIPATION: UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE AND INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN NAMES

Universal Acceptance
The efforts to raise awareness on Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names across the Middle East were among the key activities in FY19.

Regional UA Ambassador

Abdalmonem Galila - Egypt

Regional IDN Leader

Ahmed Bakhat Masood – Chair of the TF-AIDN

Internationalized Domain Names
The work on the Arabic Script, carried out by Task Force on Arabic Script Internationalized Domain Names (TF-AIDN) was completed and the Arabic script was integrated into the root zone in March 2016. Arabic script was released in the first Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR-1). **Read here** for more information.

Forming	Working	Finalizing	Integrated
			Arabic

CAPACITY-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

TRAINING FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNITY

As part of ICANN's mission to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems, ICANN org provided workshops on DNS operations, DNSSEC, and DNS abuse.

Total number of workshops:
6

Number of participants:
87

TRAINING FOR NON-TECHNICAL COMMUNITY

ICANN org also regularly helps to build capacity for non-technical community such as accredited registrars and registry operators, and reaches out to the larger community to help stakeholders better understand ICANN policies and processes.

Total number of workshops:
13

Number of participants:
416

TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In the region, ICANN org helps support law enforcement with workshops on DNS security.

Total number of workshops:
4

Number of participants:
39

LOOKING AHEAD

In FY20, the ICANN org team in the Middle East will build on the progress regarding community participation in ICANN and capacity development. The commitment to enhancing the engagement efforts, while seeking feedback from the regional community and reviewing the regional activities accordingly, will also be continued. In particular, the regional team will be working with the community to take the feedback and suggestions received in the FY19 community survey into consideration when planning the next steps.

The current regional engagement strategy is in its last year, thus still in progress, and the regional goals remain focused on fulfilling the regional strategic objectives, with increased efforts to:

• Diversify engagement and outreach to new communities and stakeholders particularly from countries and territories that are less engaged in ICANN.

• Develop more DNS and DNS security technical capacity building.

• Raise awareness about Universal Acceptance and encourage more participation from the community in the UA-related work.

A new community working group will be put together to develop the regional engagement strategy beyond FY20. The consensus among community members has been to align the regional strategy with ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025. This is one of the top priorities in the upcoming period, and the commitment to support the community throughout this process and working closely with them on the implementation of the new strategy will underline the upcoming period.

MIDDLE EAST LOCATION

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One World, One Internet

ICANN