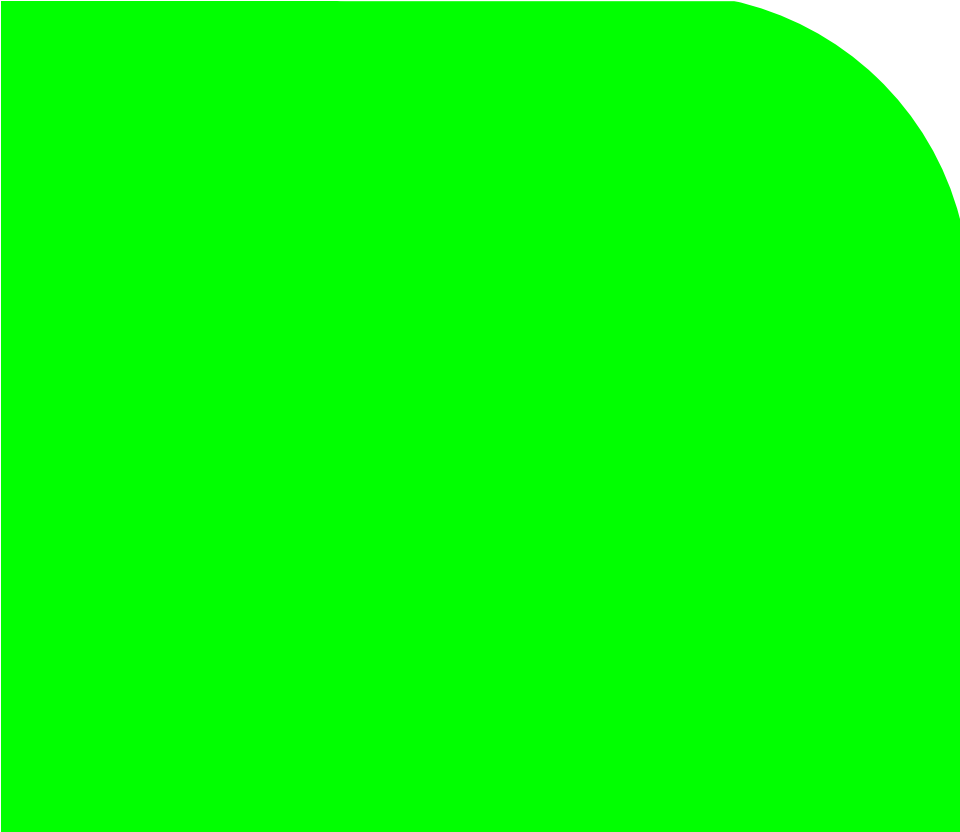


At-Large Advisory Committee Activity Report



Vittorio Bertola, Chair
At-Large Advisory Committee
(ALAC)

ICANN Meeting
Luxembourg, Luxembourg
13 July 2005

The At Large Advisory Committee

- ICANN created Interim At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) in 2003
 - Framework of local, regional groups to promote structured involvement and informed participation of world's individual Internet user community ("At-Large")
 - Outreach activities to encourage groups worldwide to join ICANN At-Large
 - Advocacy activities to advance user interests in ICANN on critical issues



Committee Activities (since Mar del Plata, April 2005)

- At-Large Organizing
 - Two regional At Large meetings in Luxembourg: Europe and Asia/Pacific
 - ALAC members participated in various user events in regions
 - Outreach/involvement also advanced by ALAC website, forum, mailing lists, monthly newsletter
 - Started work on a new website
 - At-Large Structure applications (32 received to date) and At-Large Structure accreditation process (20 certified) continues

Committee Activities (since Mar del Plata, April 2005)

- Policy Development and Related Activities
 - Involved in numerous issues of interest to end users and ALAC members are serving as liaisons/ members in many policy-related groups
 - ALAC members participating in WHOIS task force, and involved in other GNSO activities
 - Organized a “New gTLD Workshop” specifically targeted to domain name users
 - Co-organized WSIS/WGIG Workshop
 - Held public meetings
 - Participated in Strategic Plan session
 - Releasing statements on policy issues
 - Preparing comments on new gTLDs

At-Large Organizing

- Currently 20 groups certified as At-Large Structures + 6 applications under vote + 6 applications under due diligence (in Mar del Plata: 19 + 0 + 10)
- New accredited organizations:
 - ISOC Netherlands (Europe)
- Current list of applications under vote:
 - ISOC Australia (Asia/Pacific)
 - America@Large (North America)
 - Intellectual Property & Technology Section of the Hawaii State Bar Association (North America)
 - Web405 (North America)
 - Danny Younger (North America)
 - Asociación Internauta (Latin America)

Challenges

- At a critical junction
 - Organizing proved much harder than initially thought
 - New problems of “buy-in” (from WSIS) add to older ones
 - Initial interim members now been serving for 2 ½ years
 - We think the structure still deserves a try
 - But we have to succeed in the next year
- Problems
 - Most work done on a volunteer basis
 - Users participate in ICANN in spare time, not as part of their jobs
 - Unclear value proposition to applicants
 - Widespread feeling that participating in ICANN is useless (or even damaging) since there is no actual power for users
 - Too complex model? Too complex issues?

Who needs the At Large?

- Initial idea: the self-sustaining At Large
 - Thousands of people at the door
 - “If you really want, here’s a room for you”
- Assumption was wrong!
- But openness is not just opening the door
 - Less powerful stakeholders (civil society, developing countries) need active encouraging and support, not just passive acceptance
 - But without these stakeholders, ICANN will not be legitimate

We think that all the community needs the At Large,
and all the community should support it



Thank you

For further information:

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