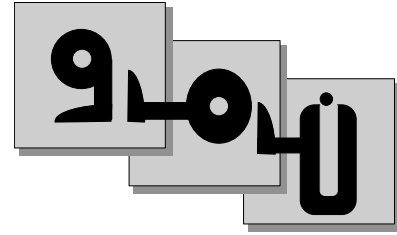




National Information
Technology Center

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ICANN Meeting, 30th, Los Angeles, 26/10-2/11/2007

NITC participated in the 30th ICANN meeting in Los Angeles. The Director General was personally invited to attend. ICANN is the Internet Corporation for assigned Names and Numbers. It is responsible for IP (Internet Protocol) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignments, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top Level Domain name system management, and root server system management, services originally performed by the Internet assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities. The meeting was attended by the father of the Internet, Vint Cerf, the man who invented the TCP/IP Protocol. The number of participants exceeded 1100 specialist from 132 countries. The main subject revolved around IDNs (Internationalized domain names). A new CEO was elected in the meeting. His name is Peter Dungle Thrush, a lawyer from New Zealand.



ISOC and Talal Abu Ghazaleh Technical Workshop, Amman, 26-29/11/2007

The Middle East Network Operators (MENOG) conducted a technical training workshop for ccTLD managers organized by ISOC and NSRC and hosted by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business in Amman, Jordan on 26-29 Nov. The aim was to get the techies of this region together so they could exchange views, share knowledge, and learn from experts as well as from each other's experiences. The ccTLD training in Amman was one in a series of similar programs that ISOC has been organizing together with NSRC, and aiming specifically at ccTLD managers to learn about latest technologies and tools that help make their registry operations more stable and secure. The training was run over 4 days, and attended by 15 participants representing 8 ccTLDs (.ae, .eg, .jo, .lb, .ly, .sa, .sd, .tn), and provided presentations as well as hands-on exercises on various topics ranging from FreeBSD and DNS fundamentals, to DNSSEC and Cryptography.

For more details of the program agenda material delivered during the training you may check the link <http://ws.edu.isoc.org/workshops/2007/cctld-amman/>



Dubai Regional Outreach Meeting, 1-3 April 2008

ICANN opened its regional outreach meeting in Dubai on Tuesday April 1st 2008. The meeting was attended by more than 80 participants representing governments, ccTLD managers, and businesses. Paul Twomey President and CEO of ICANN opened the meeting.

Opening sessions discussed ICANN multi-stakeholder model and means of participation in this model. Discussions on IDNs started by a presentation from SaudiNIC (.sa) highlighting Arabic language versus Arabic script in domain names. Comments were raised as regards the timing of introduction of IDNs in the “cc” as well as the “g” space, as well as other aspects in relation to confusingly similar characters, phishing, etc.

Intensive discussions highlighted the use of the Arabic script across several languages like Arabic, Persian, Urdu and many others. There was also a report on the Arabic Script IDN WG’s first meeting which was facilitated by UN ESCWA, PIR and Afiliias, and held on 30-31 March shortly prior to this meeting. The proposed model is composed of IDNA protocol, unified Arabic script, Registry/Language/Policy and application/user. There was a suggestion of inserting a middle Registrar level.

The ccTLD fast track, a process aiming at the introduction of a limited number of IDN ccTLDs within a short time frame, was discussed.

The last presentation was on new gTLDs in which ICANN informed participants about the applicant, application steps/rules, RFP, evaluation and objection processes, and the way forward.

NITC Local Activities

- NITC has continued to develop its relationship with government institutions. It has built successful relations with institutes involved in Information Technology. The Director General of NITC visited a number of government institutions inside the IT sector and outside it to strengthen ties. He also gave two lectures entitled “the E-government, Network Security” and “Towards Mature political and strategic thinking”
- NITC concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Information Communication Technology and the Civil Service Bureau to hold an ICT Competence Test (Kafaa) for government employees to be used for employment and promotion purposes.
- NITC participated in the strategic and technical committees of the Government Financial Management Information System (GFMS). The main job of the committees is to assess the system and its requirements.
- NITC executed a project to provide ministers with Blackberry mobile connection by hosting the service on special servers at NITC.
- Two invitations to two tenders were advertised for the Data center and for the civil works.

- The third stage of the Knowledge Stations Program was launched in cooperation with TAG and Sabeq Program.
- Microsoft products license was upgraded in MoICT and other government organizations.
- Groups from Zarqa University and the Public Security department visited the Center.
- NITC participated in WEBIT 2008 from 14-16/4/2008 in the Meridian Hotel and JITC Exhibition from 15-17/4/2008 in Hyatt Amman.
- The National TV broadcasted a special program on NITC on Friday 25/4/2008 about the future of IT in Jordan and the Knowledge Stations.



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