

---

BUENOS AIRES – Welcome Ceremony  
Monday, November 18, 2013 – 08:30 to 10:00  
ICANN – Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome board chair, ICANN, Dr. Stephen Crocker.

[ Applause ]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Good morning, everybody.

It's an absolute pleasure to be here in Buenos Aires. It's a joy that I hope we are able to repeat from time to time. This is obviously one of the most beautiful and inviting cities in the entire world.

We have a very packed program, so I'm going to try to move relatively quickly, but I have a number of things that I want to share with you this morning.

We celebrated ICANN's 15th anniversary last night, and I will say more about that a bit later in the program, but the celebration marks a period of -- or a point, if you will, of maturation, and in the spirit of that, we have a number of things that have improved along the way and we are facing a next series of challenges, and I will say quite a bit more about that and you will hear much more later.

---

*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

---

In terms of reaching important milestones, the first new gTLDs were delegated into the root, and with that comes a testament to our community and the process that made it happen. This is not just a success for ICANN and the staff, who worked diligently and valiantly and pulled off a major success, but is really a tribute to the entire community that has worked together over a very long period of time.

I was going to say eight years, but I have a feeling that enough time has passed I may be off by one, but as a programmer I'm always off by one, so...

[ Laughter ]

A couple of things that deserve mention as part of noting this point, this maturing process.

After a couple of years of hard work and persistence, the ALAC, the At-Large Advisory Committee, and the entire community that they're part of, has been successful in fostering the creation of the ICANN Academy, with the intent and actual success in serving not just ALAC but the -- all of us, and kicked off the academy with an intensive training on leadership and also on facilitation, and it was a major success. And that was just in the past couple of days, and I want to congratulate them and acknowledge that that is one of the markers of a maturing organization is that we can not only

sort of take care of the immediate business that's coming in, but we can look ahead particularly to training the next generation of leaders. Yeah.

[ Applause ]

We've also started an effort that I hope will bear fruit of taking a look at the way we handle technical advice from a whole variety of different channels and trying to raise the level of attention and coordination of that.

We had a kickoff meeting yesterday morning, bringing people together from the different segments, and I'm very hopeful that that will regularize and improve the level of attention, as I say, on technical advice.

The next challenges are actually going to focus a whole lot more, even more than we have, on the broader subject of Internet governance, and this is a bit of a delicate subject so I want to try to get this right.

In the last couple of months, we've had a very important meeting of the leaders of the Internet ecosystem. What's called the ISTAR community met in Montevideo and they've been meeting regularly for the past several years.

This is the first time that the leaders issued a statement following the meeting, the so-called Montevideo statement, followed in rapid order by an extraordinary announcement and initiative from Brazil, from the president of Brazil herself, and you will hear a great deal more about that.

In a few minutes, I am told there will be a formal announcement from the government of Brazil leading to the hosting of a high-level meeting in Brazil next April.

And there was, of course, the Internet Governance Forum in Bali just a couple of weeks ago.

All of these efforts -- all of these efforts -- have involved extraordinary work behind the scenes, both visible and quite a bit that has not been so visible, and I want to take a moment to recognize some of the leaders who were instrumental in making the IGF happen. It would not have happened without the concerted work of all of these.

Adiel Akplogan, the CEO of AfriNIC; John Curran, president and CEO of ARIN; Raul Echeberria, CEO of LACNIC; Russ Housley, chair of the Internet Architecture Board; Axel Pawlik, managing director of RIPE NCC; Lynn St. Amour, president and CEO of the Internet Society; Markus Kummer, Vice President for Public Policy, Internet Society; Paul Wilson, CEO of APNIC; and Jari Arkko, IETF chair.

---

If you would all stand up so that we can offer you a round of applause, please do.

[ Applause ]

I have the pleasure of having worked with and known each of these people for different lengths of time and I consider them individually friends and I take great appreciation. These are all extremely solid, conscientious, hard-working and very effective leaders around the world. It's a real source of strength in our community to have leaders like this.

So the -- and of course all of us share a commitment to the multistakeholder model, which sometimes I think we make too much of and in other times I think we still have quite a bit of work to do to get the word out and make it clear why it's important, how it works. It is, of course, absolutely central to the way the Internet was built and to the way the Internet has grown and to its success that we have the openness and participation of every segment of the community and opportunities for entrants from all quarters.

That model, the multistakeholder model, is under challenge, particularly from some set of governments, and this raises the question of where we go from here.

It is not an either/or situation. Governments absolutely have to have a voice in policy formation and in a number of other aspects that governments are particularly appropriate for, but they should not be the only voice.

We have to have a more inclusive framework. We have to have the participation from everybody -- civil society, academia, business, et cetera.

And if we don't preserve that and we don't preserve that inclusiveness, then we will redefine -- which is a very polite word for "do enormous damage to" -- the most inclusive communication systems that man has ever devised.

The intense activity that we've had over the past two months will continue. As we look to the future, it will be important to know that, speaking from my vantage point as chair of the board of ICANN, that the board is completely informed and supportive of the efforts that Fadi and his team have been carrying out, and that it's been a point not just of casual involvement but one that we've been very thoughtful about.

We passed a resolution at the end of September making it very clear that we wanted Fadi to help build a coalition, and with a certain amount of care we decided that it was important to keep that resolution quiet for a short period of time because we

wanted the work to be done and we did not want to make a big issue of it publicly. We did not want to make it look like ICANN was trying hard to get out in front or to take over or to be the leading light. Much more important to attempt, as best we could, to lead from behind.

We passed a further resolution yesterday, and also published the prior resolution, making it very clear that we are continuing to be very supportive, we continue to be very pleased with the activities, and I must say that the results in the past two months have been absolutely extraordinary, better than any of us would have dared to hope, and it has really changed the course of the dialogue across the world.

That said, we are keenly aware that ICANN has a very specific and constrained mission and we are sticking to that, and at the end of the day, what we want to emerge is a framework of Internet governance, an environment in which that takes place in an appropriate way that involves all of the stakeholders. We don't know exactly what that's going to be, but we do know that where we want ICANN to be is a comfortable member within that community. Not the whole of it for sure, but just a small comfortable part of the ecosystems.

So Fadi's efforts to join with other Internet organizations to form a coalition that will review the issue of cooperations moving

forward has indeed been remarkable, and as I said, there will be an announcement very shortly, I'm told, that there will be a high-level meeting in Brazil -- in São Paulo, I believe -- set for April, and the details will start to emerge very shortly.

I need to complete my thoughts, lest you all start listening to the news to see it come out.

So with that, let me end these initial remarks and let's move on with some very impressive set of speakers and activities.

We'll start with Dr. Juan Manuel Abal-Medina, and I would like to welcome him to the stage. Please come on up.

It's my pleasure to introduce him.

[ Applause ]

It's my pleasure to introduce him.

He's the Chief of the Cabinet of Ministers of Argentina and has held that position for the past two years.

In 2011, President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner appointed him as Communication Secretary. He is an academic, a political scientist, and an author. He's served -- his many years of government experience speak to his strong desire to serve the Argentinian people. Dr. Medina, welcome. Thank you.



---

DR. JUAN MANUEL ABAL MEDINA, JR.: Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

Mr. Chairman of the ICANN board, Dr. Stephen Crocker, Vice Chair and CEO of ICANN, Fadi Chehade, members of the ICANN board, members of the ICANN community, I welcome you all, ladies and gentlemen, to Argentina.

I feel very proud to host ICANN 48 and to be able to actively engage in this meeting and also have the chance to show the ICANN community and the world the tremendous progress in terms of information technologies and communication technologies in our country.

First of all, I would like to tell you about the public policies implemented in 2003, that we have been implementing since 2003, which are testament to the high investment in connectivity and in order to give access to Internet or Internet access to our entire population.

We have invested more than 8 billion pesos and we have a national telecommunications plan called Argentina Connected or Equal Connect aimed at expanding high-band access and connectivity countrywide, with the object of -- or whose objective is to grant access to digital technologies.

We have a federal fiberoptic network, and we have implemented this technology in places where fiberoptic had never been before.

Argentina Connected or Equal Connect guarantees social inclusion by means of having federal communication services. This public policy has a national scope in terms of deployment, but it also touches upon other areas such as technological, cultural, and productive development of several communities, higher competitiveness levels, and better public policies, as well as employment creation, entertainment, and culture.

Along these lines, the growth of the total Internet users has been really significant in the last 10 years. We went from 3.7 million users in 2001 to having 31 million users nowadays.

This means that Internet penetration in our country is 75%, or stands at 75%.

This means that we rank first in the Latin American and Caribbean region and far above the average -- the worldwide average of Internet use.

I would also like to mention highlights about software and information technology services.

---

In 2003, employment in this sector amounted to 19,000 job positions and today we employ more than 77,000 people in this sector.

Let me say that we have a human resource deficit. This is a global issue. We must design -- and we are working on it -- we must design public policies that will help us overcome these obstacles in terms of growth.

In the year 2003, sales in the software sector amounted to \$830 million. And this year we are -- or this represents \$3.6 billion. We expect \$970 million income in the sector, and this represents more than a 500% increase in the last ten years.

This data clearly shows that our country is one of the many protagonists of the digital revolution. Therefore, we are very pleased to welcome ICANN in our country and we are very pleased to cooperate with Internet governance.

As you know, there are many stakeholders that have to be involved in these principles. But we, the national government, also have to participate because it is within our remit to protect the security of our citizens, the neutrality of the Web, and freedom of expression.

Our Congress several days ago has incorporated sexual harassment on the Web as part of our criminal code. And this

crime is on the part with the crime of sexual abuse. We are protecting our children so that they can surf the Web safely and benefit from learning and knowledge exchange and minimizing the risk they are exposed to.

Lastly, I want to let you know that we are -- we want to be compatible with IPv6. We have tested the compatibility with IPv6 and the tests have been successful. And this is a major breakthrough to us all.

We have created a national directory of domain name registrations, and we are modernizing our systems seeking to increase cyber security and decrease cybersquatting. We want to leverage our presence in the social media, and we want to be part of the most significant events worldwide, such as this one, of course.

I wish that the coming days that this meeting are going to be very productive and will be one more step towards the consolidation of a safe, open and universal Internet. Thank you very much for your attention.

[ Applause ]

---

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Thank you very much, Juan Manuel Abal Medina. And let me congratulate you on the major advances in Web safety, the investment in the infrastructure, particularly IPv6, and the tremendous growth overall in Argentina. 75% is a very striking number. I think that puts you way up on the curve compared to other countries.

It is my pleasure to introduce you to Dr. Gustavo Justich, the man who's responsible for us being here in Buenos Aires. Please come on up.

Dr. Justich is national director o NIC Argentina. Please join me in welcoming him to ICANN 48.

[ Applause ]

DR. GUSTAVO JUSTICH: Thank you.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to thank Dr. Abal Medina for being with us today. We know that he's quite busy in the government, but he took the time to come to join us and share the experience of Argentina with all of you.

I would like to thank ICANN and all the rest of the members of this enormous family of the Internet for having chosen Argentina for

---

organizing this meeting which for us is extremely important. We are really proud of hosting these sessions.

I think that this also heightens the role of Argentina and of the entire Latin American/Caribbean community. We are working very hard with LACNIC, with LacTLD to strengthen the image of Latin America, the Caribbean in particular.

It is important to note in this regard that the growth of Internet and the growth of everything that is related to the Internet in our region has come forward significantly over the last few years. And we should all pay a lot of attention to this sector.

I liked what Steve said a few minutes ago, that he would like to come back to Buenos Aires to hold another ICANN meeting. So I will take your word for that, and we will be really happy to host another ICANN meeting here.

I would like to especially thank the people who are responsible for the organization of ICANN. There are many people behind the scenes, the whole team making sure that everything is perfect in these meetings. There is an extraordinary team of people with whom I have the pleasure to work for the last few days until today. I'm not going to mention them all. But Nick, Nancy, Melanie, they are really an extraordinary team of people. It has

been our pleasure to work with them on a daily basis. So let's give them a round of applause because they really deserve it.

[ Applause ]

Finally, I would like to especially thank you all because in these meetings, we realize that you are important and not the speakers who are today here on the stage. So enjoy Buenos Aires. Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER:

Thank you very much, Dr. Justich. As I said earlier, it has been a very unusually intense few months for ICANN and for the entire Internet community. Probably no one has had -- been involved more intensely than our President and CEO, Fadi Chehade. For those of you who like to brag about how much travel you've done in the course of a year, don't even try.

[ Laughter ]

Fadi's first year -- and it is remarkable to think it has only been one year -- has been marked by real and successful efforts to make our organization a truly international one like the Internet itself.

Fadi's defined by his drive, his energy, and unmatched commitment to both ICANN and its community.

Fadi, the floor is yours.

[ Applause ]

MR. FADI CHEHADE:

Buenos dias. Mr. Medina, Dr. Justich, all of you, welcome to ICANN.

I think it is appropriate that start by doing a little history. In August 1998, in this very city, Buenos Aires, a very important seminal meeting in the history of ICANN happened here. It actually caused the creation of ICANN. Many of you in this room, I know, were here, and we thank you for that because today we are reaping the fruit of the hard work that people started in this city.

So it is very important that we start our day and our week by recognizing the Latin American and Argentinian contributions to the creation of ICANN that get us here today. So we will start with a short video of some of the pioneers that actually led us here today from this great region. But before I do that, I want to recognize the people who are in this room from this region.

May I ask all the Latin Americans to stand up.

[ Applause ]



---

Gracias. Muchas gracias. Obrigado. Let's watch the video.

(Video).

>> Many of us have lived abroad. And when we came back -- I came back in 1987 -- we felt the need to keep in touch with the places where we had worked, the places where we had studied. And the Internet was a really important factor to all of us.

>> (inaudible) -- a project sponsored by the organization of American states, the OAS.

(Music).

>> And from then onwards, we started using the name NIC Chile which was the one that appeared everywhere. The development of the Internet in Chile meant a higher interest in domain names.

>> It is essential that the Internet should remain a multistakeholder initiative, that is, a multi-participative effort of all the sectors of society and it may not have a specific owner.

>> Another point we were interested in, and had agreed on, was to actively engage in Internet governance. The discussions focused on which entity could arise to take care of Internet governance decentralization.

>> In parallel to ICANN's prehistory, we were engaged in our own coordination efforts within the region, creating all these structures and organizations, and LacTLD was one of them.

>> Over the years, I had the opportunity of being elected as member of the first board of directors in 1999. I served as a member of the ICANN board of directors for eight years, six of them as vice chair.

---

I was there when the Governance Committee was created, when several Internet developments occurred.

>> And we were the victims of our own success because people were so happy, so excited about the approval of this regional registry because it was the first time something like this happened, that we ended up hosting about 100 people.

>> I was carried away with all the energy and I thought "I want to be part of this group, I want to be part of this community."

>> A key moment, because this was a place where, on the one hand, the significance of Internet governance was recognized and, on the other hand, I believe that was the most significant value of the summit, governments from developing countries began to increase their understanding of the need to engage in and better understand the future of the Internet.

>> At that time, it was raining in Sao Paulo and the election had to be carried out with fewer representatives. That act of God, the rain in Sao Paulo, the flood, meant that, in the end, the person elected is the one now speaking to you as regional representative.

>> I am still emotionally and conceptually connected to the needs of Internet users in the Latin America and Caribbean particularly with the vision expressed by the organizations in the ecosystem.

>> The multistakeholder model really proves that decisions on the Internet cannot be made by only one party; really proves that decisions on the Internet cannot be made only by one party. On the contrary, they have to involve all stakeholders.

---

>> Since El Salvador is a Central American country, I believe both the country and myself would like to thank our Latin American brothers and sisters and our colleagues for their friendship and support throughout all these years. Since the creation of LacTLD, RedClara, LACNIC, ICANN, ISOC, and other organizations that are together in the casa de Internet of Latin America and the Caribbean.

>> It seemed something Titanic. At the beginning, it was somewhat depressing. We thought we were about to finish when this was actually just beginning. But it was a really interesting adventure because it was rewarding to make this work and to see our progress and how we turned all those discussions in different parts of the region, many hours devoted in different parts and among many people into concrete actions.

(Music).

[ Applause ]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: It is a pleasure to see so many friends honored and vocal in that video.

The people in the video, the pioneers, are some of the people who helped define the Internet as it is today. 15 years ago when we began ICANN, it was an experiment framed in hope and hope that this unusual experience in governance that included all voices would somehow work.

---

We're now a decade and a half later and we can say quite safely that it not only worked but it has prospered. We've come a very long way in 15 years. And we're continuing to mature the organization at a dramatic rate. I mentioned a couple of specific points, and there are many, many more that occur on a regular basis.

Every now and then we need to take a breath and remember where we began and to think about where it is we want to go in the future and figure how we want to define ourselves as we go forward.

Some of us, like myself, are from a technical background. Others serve in government. Others are simply unaffiliated Internet users. I think they are probably the most important group in the sense that they're not a group at all; they're everybody.

We care very deeply about the Internet. We sincerely hope that we also care about one another. And sometimes in the hectic craziness to arrival of our goals, to reach our goals, we forget about the people with whom we are traveling.

So it's my sincere hope that empathy and compassion will not be forgotten as we collectively take the journey to Internet's future.

And let me drill down just a little bit in that. We are actively and vigorously creating institutions. And I don't know about you, but

to me the word "institution" carries a number of connotations, not all of which are warm and friendly.

You know, one of the sayings in the U.S. as kind of a joke is "I'm from the government and I'm here to help you."

[ Laughter ]

So in a very real sense, we have the unusual opportunity to try to build institutions that are not so institutional. And trying to build in a sense of warmth and compassion and, indeed, empathy while we also build in strong processes, strong execution, proper management of resources -- oops -- and all of the other things that need to go into making the system work and to work robustly for all of us are important. But at the same time, we need to take not just a moment but multiple moments along the way to see where it is that we can shape what we're doing so that we retain the humanness and the involvement of each other and a strong sense that we're all in this together as opposed to "This is what we do" and everybody else is kind of on the outside.

It's been said repeatedly that nothing man has ever created has brought us together as much as the Internet. And I only hope that the community people that we recognize -- as a community people, we recognize the ultimate value of the human element

and that our interactions will also -- will always be framed with respect, courtesy, collaboration, compassion and empathy.

To that end, we are launching a pilot program to recognize those ICANN participants who have deeply invested in consensus-based solutions and demonstrated community service as a whole.

I would like to call on my colleague Sebastien Bachollet -- come on up, Sebastien -- who will tell you a bit more about a program that we are initiating to acknowledge community members who have done so much.

Sebastien?

SEBASTIEN BACHOLLET:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hello. I have been in Buenos Aires for one week, but I haven't had much time to sightsee, to do some sightseeing in the city.

On Wednesday, we had the launch of a program that involved the different parts of the organization.

At the beginning of his speech, Dr. Stephen Crocker talked about the ICANN Academy. I was fortunate to be one of the students in this academy.

This morning, I was in the fellowship program, an extraordinary program that welcomes new members into the community.

---

Now I'll switch to English.

The new ICANN multistakeholder ethos award is also looking for candidates who recognize and demonstrate the actual spirit of collaboration and show, through empathy, a sincere desire to engage with those who are from other backgrounds, cultures, and interests.

These people will have demonstrated, time and again, their willingness to reach out to new people, to listen and respectfully engage others who don't have the same viewpoints or interests.

We will be searching for people who value dialogue as a vehicle that will carry us to consensus. That's a very important word in our organization.

But like everything at ICANN, you, the community, we will ask you to help us to define this award.

We will soon post a draft criteria for public comments.

It's our hope you will weigh in and participate for the establishment of criteria that we seek in defining our collective ethos.

We are asking the chair of each of the advisory committees and supporting organizations to serve as the first evaluation panel of

---

the multistakeholder ethos award to be presented at the next meeting, ICANN 49, in Singapore.

Please help make this pilot program a success, and in the process, let's reinforce a system of human interaction that will help make our bottom-up, multicultural, equal, multistakeholder implementation a success.

Last, some words in French.

French is my mother tongue and it is easier for me to speak in French.

Languages are essential, yes. English is the majority language. But let's make an effort to make ourselves understood, and sometimes to make ourselves understood implies making the effort to use other languages, and that is why I started in Spanish. That is not my mother tongue or the majority language in this organization.

I would like to thank you for your profound, informed commitment in this community. I would like to welcome all new participants. I'm sure that all participants who have been participating here for 15 years, all of you who have been here in ICANN for 15 years, will welcome new participants in order to create this ethos.



Thank you, Stephen, for giving me the opportunity to present this program.

Thank you to all of you.

[ Applause ]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Sebastien, merci, gracias, thank you.

[ Applause ]

It's my honor now to again introduce you to Fadi Chehade, who will acknowledge yet another valued friend, major contributor to the ICANN community.

Fadi?

MR. FADI CHEHADE: Awards are good to celebrate the great community we have. You just heard that we are launching the ethos award, which is really for all of us, for our community, for our volunteers to be recognized, and I hope that we work together, bottom-up, to pick together the awardees in the years to come.

But today, I also want to introduce another award. This is a yearly award. We will call it the ICANN Leadership Award.

This award will be given to outstanding individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary generosity of time, energy, knowledge, and most of all, leadership in our community.

Leadership to protect ICANN's multistakeholder model.

We look for people who remain true to that model while running their day jobs and their professional interests, and we will pick people who work very closely and collegially in partnership with the ICANN leadership team and staff to promote innovation in the evolution of the Internet.

This award recipient, once a year, will be determined by the ICANN leadership team, and I believe that we are in a unique position to do that.

The only requirement is that we have to unanimously agree on the person. And for this year, for the very first ICANN Leadership Award, the ICANN team has unanimously agreed that Lesley Cowley will be our first ICANN Leadership Awardee.

[ Applause ]

Lesley Cowley, as many of you know, is the CEO of Nominet, the United Kingdom's ccTLD manager, and she's also a ccNSO councillor.

---

As if leading Nominet wasn't enough, you all know how much Lesley has put in, into this community. She has showed tirelessly her commitment to our model, her commitment to the multistakeholder success of ICANN.

She has been very instrumental in improving the relationship between ICANN and the various SOs and ACs, as well as building tremendous trust with the ccTLD community.

And finally, as you all know, Lesley has had a big role as a member of the DNS Women. I've never met -- I've never been invited to the DNS Women --

[ Laughter ]

-- but I understand there's a nice group that meets secretly --

[ Laughter ]

-- or not so secretly. Secretly from men, I guess --

[ Laughter ]

-- called the DNS Women. And I actually saw a picture of your meeting this morning that looked lovely.

But thank you, Lesley, for being such a leader.

And this award is a specially created glass sculpture that you see there to my left. It was sent to Lesley. Lesley, unfortunately,

couldn't be here today, but we will hear from her now. Let's hear Lesley.

LESLEY COWLEY:

Good morning, and I'm so sorry that I'm not able to be there with you in person this morning. This will be the first of many, many ICANN meetings that I've not been able to attend in person, and though I was planning to participate remotely, it does seem that my plan for my attendance to go unnoticed has suffered a major glitch.

I understand that Fadi will have said some very kind and flattering words just now, for which I'd like to say a sincere thank you.

It is a great honor to me to receive this very first ICANN award for leadership.

At a time when the sector is under the spotlight and going through huge change and challenge, and some opportunities too, it's good to talk about leadership. And leadership, in my experience, in this sector can often be a challenge. There's no shortage of commentators and critics, together with the odd troll or two thrown in for good measure. But leaders are important in terms of setting direction and in terms of getting the right people on the bus for the journey we're embarking upon.

---

And I have to say it's been a privilege and a pleasure for me to have a leadership role in this sector. I've had the great opportunity to lead some fantastic teams, both at Nominet and at ICANN and in the ccNSO, and I've led some teams of incredibly professional and dedicated people who are hugely committed to the multistakeholder model and to serving the many stakeholders we serve and making a positive difference to the Internet.

Today, I'd like to dedicate this award to them because leadership would not have been possible without those great people and the great teams. Thank you.

[ Applause ]

MR. FADI CHEHADE:

Congratulations to Lesley, and we miss her here today, but as you know, Lesley hasn't missed many of these meetings. This was a special reason she had to stay back in the U.K. for. Congratulations.

Many of you have been hearing about our internationalization plans, making ICANN a global community, a global organization. There's a lot of work that goes on into that. You've seen me recently in India announce an initiative with our friends there. Today, however, I'm here to announce another important milestone in internationalizing ICANN.

---

We have been working very closely with Korea, with the Korean Internet and Security Agency, as many of you know it as KISA.

We have looked for ways to collaborate more closely with KISA, and I'm happy to tell you today that here in Buenos Aires, we have just signed an MoU which will formalize our collaborative relationship with Korea.

The MoU is a testament to the close relationship between ICANN and Korea, a global leader in the ICT field.

Just to give you an idea, this relationship will produce some important projects. A flavor of these.

First of all, we will start an exchange program with KISA that will help set up ICANN engagement efforts in Korea.

Secondly, ICANN will have a presence in Seoul where we will establish a customer service channel, working with KISA, in the Korean language to service the Korean community.

Thirdly, as you know, the Asia-Pacific region speaks many languages, so we will pilot a language localization project to promote local language access to ICANN's policy development work in the whole region. And we can further broaden this to include education and outreach efforts.

This is a tremendous step, and I hope we can continue to announce more collaborative efforts like this.

And to celebrate this important progress with Korea, I'd like to invite to the stage KISA's president Dr. Lee Ki-Joo. Dr. Lee?

[ Applause ]

DR. LEE KI-JOO:

I'm Ki-Joo Lee, President of KISA, as Chehade mentioned before.

Buenos dias. Good morning, everybody.

It is my great pleasure to be here in Buenos Aires, especially at this very beautiful time of the year.

While it is very encouraging to see ICANN increasing its engagement activity in the Asia-Pacific region, along with ICANN's activity, Korea has been trying hard to contribute to the region by actively participating in international fora such as APR-Asia, APTLD. I'm very grateful to be able to announce the establishment of (indiscernible) today by signing this MoU between ICANN and KISA. I'd like to highlight the efforts of ICANN towards internationalization, and I hope this Buenos Aires meeting to become a good foundation for ICANN to become a truly global and transnational organization to serve the global Internet community.

Korea, as the host country of 2014 ITU plenipotentiary conference, will continue to contribute and participate in the ICANN activities more actively than before.

Thank you again for having me here today, and please share the energy of porteños, the great port people of Buenos Aires. Muchas gracias. Thank you.

[ Applause ]