
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – APRALO Meets NextGen@ICANN and APAC Fellows
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 – 15:00 to 16:00 IST

YESIM SAGLAM

Hello and welcome to the APRALO meets NextGen@ICANN and APAC fellows. My name is Yesim Saglam and I'm the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod.

Interpretation for this session will include English, Chinese, and Hindi. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand in Zoom, and when called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute in Zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak, if speaking a language other than English, and speak at a reasonable pace. Thank you all for joining, and I will now hand the floor over to Amrita Choudhury, APRALO Chair.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, Yesim, and welcome everyone to this discussion and we will have a very informal discussion. All our fellows from APAC region and NextGen, and NextGen obviously is from APAC, are in

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the room. So, I would request if you can go laptop, mobile down. We want an interaction.

We do have participants online, but they are community members. But since all of you are in the room, we would like to have a conversation with you. So, laptop down, and I'm a bad taskmaster in these things.

So, my name is Amrita. I am the chair of APRALO, which is the Asia-Pacific Regional At-Large Organization. I'm sure you must have met Jonathan and the ALAC team who has spoken about it and with me, we have the leadership team. we have Aris Ignacio, can you wave your hand, who is one of the vice chairs. We have Priyatosh Jana online, and then we have Satish Babu here. He is an ALAC member. We have Sheetha somewhere down the line. Sheetha represents the individual members.

We have Charles Mok, who is our representative in the nominating committee. We have Justin Chu, who is our ALAC member. Unfortunately, she is in another meeting and we don't have Aftab here. He is also our ALAC member. So, this is our team, but we are pretty informal. I think we consider ourselves informal.

So, what we would do is very quickly tell us your name and where you come from and that should not take more than 10 minutes. We don't want long stories. We'll get to know each other when we break out into groups. We'll have a few of our young team community members out here who will introduce themselves and share a bit about what APRALO is, how you can engage. Then we'll

have some open conversations. We'll move around the room, getting to know each other. You can ask questions. People will ask you questions. Then we will come back here together and we'll have some updates coming from you all and we'll see how we can engage or help you in your journey.

Now let me tell you that if you come for the APRALO meeting doesn't mean you have to join APRALO. We just want to make your journey into ICANN a bit more comfortable so that while you navigate through things, you can explore what are the different avenues possible and based upon your interest participate in things which is of your interest because that is important also.

With that I will start from this end. If you can introduce yourself. Aris has waved, they will speak to you, so yes, you.

SUDIP DHUNGANA

Good afternoon and namaste. I am Sudip Dhungana from Nepal. I am NextGen in this ICANN85. I have been engaged in the Internet Society Nepal Chapter.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Yeah. Just your name and where you come from because we just have 10 minutes and we've got to go around. Sorry.

RUPAM BARUI

Hi, all, my name is Rupam Barui and I come from West Bengal, India.

TARUNA KAUR BAMRAH	Hi, Taruna Kaur Bamrah, NextGen for the record, and I come from Northern India, state Punjab, and basically Amritsar. Thank you.
PRAMOD DHUNGANA	Hi, my name is Pramod Dhungana. I am from Kathmandu, as ICANN85 fellow.
PURNIKA KHANAL	Hello, everyone. I am Purnika Khanal from Nepal and I am a NextGen at ICANN85.
IHITA GANGAVARAPU	Hi, everyone, I am Ihita Gangavarapu for the record. I am a former NextGen and NextGen ambassador from India.
KUSHAGRA SINGH	Hi, everyone, this is Kushagra Singh. I am a former NextGen and this time as a NIXI mentor from India.
JOYSA KAUSHIK	Hi, everyone, my name is Joysa Kaushik. I am from New Delhi, India. This is my first ICANN meeting in person.

SILVIA VIVANCO	Hello, everyone, my name is Silvia Vivanco. I am At-Large staff from Lima, Peru.
MOHAMMAD ATIF ALEEM	Hello, everyone, my name is Mohamed Atif Aleem. I am a former ICANN fellow. I come from India, Lucknow, from the state of Uttar Pradesh and I'm an APRALO volunteer as well. Thank you.
BIBEK SILWAL	Good afternoon, everyone. Atif said former fellow, but I think we always are fellows because once a fellow always a fellow. So great to see everyone here.
SHITA LAKSMI	Hello, my name is Shita Laksmi from Indonesia. I'm an independent member representative. Thank you.
UNKNOWN SPEAKER	Hi, everyone. [inaudible - 00:06:40] from India. I'm an APRALO volunteer.
BARKHA MANRAL	Hello, everyone. I'm Barkha Manral from India. I'm a part of APRALO as well as ISOC Delhi Chapter ALS. Thanks.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN	Siranush Vardanyan, always a fellow from Armenia.

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| FERNANDA IUNES | Fernanda Iunes, I was not a fellow, I am ICANN staff from the D.C. area. |
| ERGYS RAMAJ | Hello, everyone, Ergys Ramaj with ICANN org and I am from Washington DC. |
| SUSHANTA SINHA | My name is Sushanta Sinha. I'm part of the APRALO and currently the chair for ISOC India Kolkata chapters. |
| UDEEP BARAL | Hi, my name is Udeep Baral. I'm from Nepal and I'm also a former ICANN fellow. |
| CHARLES MOK | Hi, I'm Charles Mok. I was from Hong Kong and I'm now in Northern California. I don't even remember if I ever was a fellow. |
| SIRANUSH VARDANYAN | I know you're not. |
| ROHAN SACHDEVA | Hi, everyone, I am Rohan Sachdeva from Chandigarh, Punjab and I'm currently based in Melbourne. |

- SELUVAIA KAUVAKA Hi, everyone, Selu from Tonga, Pacific and nice to meet you all.
- NANCY KANASA Hello, everyone, Nancy Kanasa from Papua New Guinea, Pacific, ICANN85 fellow.
- BERNHART FARRAS SUKANDAR Hello, everyone, nice to meet you. I am Bernhart Farras from Bandung, Indonesia. Thank you.
- AUNG SI KYAW Hello, everyone, nice to meet you. I'm Aung Si Kyaw from Myanmar and I'm currently based in Japan. I'm a NextGen.
- SRIJAN RAI Hi, everyone, I'm Srijan. I'm a NextGen. I'm from India, but currently studying in Singapore.
- DEEKSHA AGARWAL Hello, everyone, I'm Deeksha Agarwal and I'm a NIXI Fellow and I'm from India.

ILHAM SUTOYO	Good afternoon, everyone, [inaudible - 00:09:00]. My name is Ilham, I was born and raised in Indonesia, but currently based in Australia. Thank you.
SURYA V S	Hello, everyone, my name is Surya, I'm a NextGen at ICANN85 and I am from Delhi and Kerala, India. Thank you.
HUY NHAT NGUYEN	Hello, everyone, my name is Nguyen and I'm from Vietnam, I am the NextGen.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Thank you, everyone. Is there any NextGen or fellow who have not introduced themselves, now is the chance. Yes, you were late.
ANUPAM AGRAWAL	Hello, everyone; Anupam Agrawal, long time back fellow.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Always a fellow.
ANUPAM AGRAWAL	Always a fellow. Good evening, everyone.
SIRANUSH VARDANYAN	And current PTI board member.

JASBINDAR SINGH Hi, good afternoon, everyone. I'm Jasbindar Singh from Fiji, first time fellow at ICANN85. Thank you.

RICHA SINHA Hello, everyone, I'm Richa Sinha. I'm a NIXI fellow over here.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY Thank you. So I think we've done with our introduction. If anyone has been shy, we can't do anything about it. Aris, you can introduce yourself if you want.

ARIS IGNACIO Hello, I'm Aris. The only Filipino here in the room and always a fellow.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY Thank you so much. So, what we would do is we will have our shiny stars here speak a bit about what APRALO is, what are the engaging opportunities so over to you guys.

BARKHA MANRAL Okay. So, my co-members say that ladies first. They abide by that. So let me lead this show. Yeah. So, let it start. So, before talking about the APRALO, it is very important and I guess and estimate

that and expect as well that you are most aware about what is At-Large community.

Briefing it again, so At-Large is essentially the home of internet end users within ICANN. And when we say internet end users, we include everybody, each one of us. So, first through organizations such as the Internet Society Chapter, consumer groups, academic institutions. We say that we are home of each one of you, but we should have the agenda in our mind in a correct way. Okay?

So, to organize this global community, the At-Large community is divided geographically into five regional At-Large organizations, which we also call RALOs. You must have heard about AFRALO, APRALO, EURALO, LACRALO, NARALO.

So here we are in the Asia-Pacific region. Our region is -- Sorry, louder? No, no, no, I'm talking about the RALO. So, it's APRALO, correct. So, APRALO represent internet end users from Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Islands, bringing together the civil society organizations and individual interested in internet governance and ICANN policy processes. So that's what is brief about the APRALO.

Coming to the engagement part, I will like to give a brief about myself. How I started my journey when I was a first-time fellow at ICANN78. So, I got introduced with a lot of acronyms. I will say overwhelmed by the acronyms. So, APRALO is one of the places where I found that, okay, I can fit myself, I can speak my voice out

there. So, APRALO was the place where I joined, APRALO team guided us there.

So, coming to the engagement part, I started my journey from there and also include myself in different working groups there. So currently I am a part of CIP CCG, which is Continuous Improvement Program, where we talk about the principle, indicators, different criteria, how we can align ourselves in that. Is APRALO actually making efforts or bringing out the results which talks about the end users or not? So, we are learning, growing and improvising all together.

So, moving on to the more engagement part or more what you can do, I will like to pass on the mic to my co-members so that they can enlighten more.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

And do note, all of you together have 10 minutes.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

Thanks for the reminder, Amrita, and thank you, Barkha. Hi everyone, [inaudible - 00:13:44] for the record. As you would have caught the vibe here, at APRALO, we are a quite close-knit community, and like Barkha said, it's home to the end-users and other people who are you -- everyone's welcome here.

My structured engagement with APRALO began only this year, where I started working with Satish on hot topic issues. Before this, I've been largely active in the IG space and this is my third meeting.

I would encourage all of you to first of all recognize the people in this room. It's very important that you know each other and also know the leadership team here.

Everyone, Amrita, Aris, Satish, Siranush, Shita, Charles, everyone's very warm, very welcoming. They would love to speak with you, tell you more. And if you have any questions, feel free to ask any of them and also, us, the community facilitators here. I see many experienced faces here also who have been here earlier. This is a session to welcome you guys, also tell you how and who all you can reach out to. Thanks.

BIBEK SILWAL

Good afternoon, everyone, this is Bibek again. So, I want to ask, to start with the questions. How many of you is this the first ICANN meeting? This is a lot in the room. So, you know, there's a point we always start and it's really great that we now have a group of people who are passionate about, we're going to make changes to the internet. And I think that's all we in our senior community leaders, even we started that way.

So, my journey with ICANN began in as an ICANN NextGen and ICANN75. So, you have a veto power being an ICANN NextGen or even an ICANN fellow, you have an opportunity to ask a question. I'm an ICANN fellow, I don't know about these things, can you please rectify? And the community is so supportive that they are going to tell you about the step in a very rudimentary level. You can

ask anything you want. So always be very confident to ask questions.

And then gradually, it's always starting somewhere. Because if you think about contributing in the days to come, it's not always about you have to be in a policy VDP process. You start subscribing to newsletters. You start subscribing to mailing lists. You stay informed. So, any contribution in ICANN, either you are working in a policy or you are working just in a meeting and having your opinion representing the people behind you, that's a contribution to ICANN. So, it's always starting somewhere. So please be engaged.

And the other thing I want to have gratitude is to the APRALO leadership, Amrita, Satish, Charles, Aris, they're always supportive. So, I think APRALO has incubated a lot of leaders then, although in my opinion, because I have always been here, it's like family. You can ask and they have always been supportive. You need to do this. This is how you come forward and that's stepwise process.

So, you learn it, you contribute it and that is what APRALO is all about. And if you want to know more, please subscribe to the newsletters. Please come into the APRALO meetings. Listen things. It's the simplest one. I think it's the very easiest one where you can start in ICANN community. So yeah, that's my take. Thank you.

MOHAMMAD ATIF ALEEM

I think my colleagues here have covered much of the points, so I don't really have much to say. So, I would rather share my experience of how I got engaged with APRALO. So, my first interaction with the internet ecosystem was in SIG, like India School on Internet Governance. And it was there where I got introduced to the world of ICANN, and there were so many acronyms. I was confused just like you people are and I really didn't know where to go.

There was so many different advisory groups, member groups. So, what you do is that there's a saying in Hindi, but I'll translate it in English so that everyone knows that, unless and until you don't get your hand burned, you don't learn the cooking. So, every chef has got his hand burned somewhere and that's when their best dish comes out. So that's how you have to be engaged with it.

And the best way to engage yourself in APRALO is to get involved in working groups, make public comments. There are calls for volunteers. Make sure you give your time as a volunteer and you will extract a lot of food out of it. I have leveraged APRALO network to shape where I've been working and thankfully, I've been working with well MNCs. And this experience always distinguishes you.

So, leverage this network, be more engaged with APRALO, read its newsletter, get your hands burnt, like make mistakes. Don't make blunders, but make mistakes. Yeah, blunder is, if you make the same mistake the another time, but first-time mistakes, you can do that. And Siranush also has given you the liberty to ask people. If

you ask Amrita, follow her, she will handhold you to someone in your area of interest. That's how all of us have learned in this space. And reach out to us if you need anything and during the deliberations, let's talk more about it. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you, everyone. So, what we would do next is we have four corners in the room and we will all be walking and going to the corners. But our facilitators here will tell you what has to be done and we want interaction. We don't want you to sleep here because even we don't want to sleep. So, we'll do some work. Yes, and what we also encourage is we have a WhatsApp group because in our region, we've seen WhatsApp works for whatever reason. And you can always send your request to be added to the WhatsApp group, but please subsequently message or have your name in your, what do you call it, profile, so that we know who it is.

Many times, we get some spam requests that's why we had to close the, you know, Bitcoin and I don't know what not and then we had to kind of close the group. So that's the easiest way to get all information. And I think many of you are there, right? I know of a few who are there. How many of you are there in the APRALO WhatsApp group? No, no, you are there, you. Amongst the fellows or NextGen, okay, Rohan's there. Okay, so we'll have you added. Kushagra, you're not there? Yeah, you're there. Okay, right. Fair enough. So, what are we going to do?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

So, for this section, we'll divide ourselves into four groups. What I want you to do is start from there and say one, two, three, four and then again, one, two, three, four. Let's go quickly. Start with you. Just say one. Just say one. People there, let's start from there. Nice so now you know your groups. Group one there, two, three, and four here. Please start moving.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Everyone who is one, go there. Two out here. Three out here. Four out here. Whoever said whichever number, please move there. One, two. You can leave your bags here. No one's going to steal your bags. Okay, one, two, three, four, and after six minutes everyone will move. Aris has a timer. Aris, is time up, or no?

ARIS IGNACIO

Okay, guys, time is up. Let's move to the next station. Yeah, go. Let's move to the next station, going to your right. Okay, guys, let's move. Here. Okay, so everyone is settled already?

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Move to the next group. You cannot sit down. You have to move to the next group.

ARIS IGNACIO	Okay, so we're going to start the time. Okay, time is up, guys. We need to move to the next station.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Please move to the next.
ARIS IGNACIO	Next station, please.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Next station.
ARIS IGNACIO	Next station.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Next station.
ARIS IGNACIO	Right. Okay, I'll start the timer. Okay, time is up. Let's move to the last station and don't forget to nominate any members of the group, any member of the group who would be reporting the output that each and every station had accumulated. So, let's move to the last station. Yeah, excuse me. Let's move to the last station. Okay, so I'm going to start the timer ready. Thank you.

Thank you. A gentle reminder to everyone to nominate one person in the group who would be doing the one-minute reporting for each station. Thank you.

We have a couple of seconds left. Kindly round up the discussions.

Okay, time is up. Okay, time is up. I already turned it off. Okay, guys, time is up and kindly settle down. And we will start the one-minute presentation for each station. Thank you. Excuse me, time is up. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Fellows, please come down to your seat. We don't have much time. We would like to hear from you. Barkha, could you send your team out here? Community leads, if you can come down with your fellows. Can we settle down, please? Barkha, if you can settle down. Anupam. Okay, are we settled and which group is going to present first? Number one. And do you want to link to the Menti meter or are we good? Okay, please go ahead. Group one, you have one minute to present.

Who's going to present for group one? Group one, who's going to present?

ARIS IGNACIO

Yeah, Bibek, group one.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Bibek, please go ahead and present it.

ARIS IGNACIO

Yes.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Who's group one? You just presented. Please go ahead. One minute. What was the key summary? Discussions? Yes, if you've not nominated someone, then go. Okay, go ahead.

JOYSA KAUSHIK

Hi, everyone. So, I'll be summarizing the discussions of group two. And I think Rohan will follow. So firstly, beginning with the first one, we all described how we got to know about ICANN and what got us here. And the interesting thing is that we got to know about each other also and we could relate with them.

For example, I come from a cybersecurity background and I could find two more people within the same group who are from the same background so we can connect later. Then we moved around the room and then we discussed about what we have learned so far.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Okay. No, I wanted just to present for group one.

JOYSA KAUSHIK	For group -- Oh, okay. So, one, actually, we asked so he said the entire thing.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	It's okay, we get it. We have one minute.
JOYSA KAUSHIK	Yeah. Okay, I've explained for this section. Anybody can go for the next one. Thanks.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Thank you. And group two who would be presenting for you? Okay, is it possible to --
CHARLES MOK	Amrita, we got a note to say, speak slowly.
AMRITA CHOUDHURY	Yes, please. Okay, even I will speak slowly and others also when presenting, please do speak slowly. Any group which is ready to present, I think group four, please go ahead, and then --
UNKNOWN SPEAKER	Hello, everyone. We are from group four and we all were asked that what we have learned so far. There are some keywords which I would like to present. The first one is APRALO. The second one is

DNS abuse, SO/ACs, ITU and IETF collaboration, UA, DNS abuse, ICANN, networking, FUN, and new gTLD round.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. And we come to group...

ROHAN SACHDEVA

This is Rohan from group three and we have people from diverse areas of interest and backgrounds and we found that a lot of interest areas was DNS abuse and cybersecurity. Also, there was a lot of interest in new gTLD round because we are in Bombay and the new gTLD round is starting very soon. So that's the prominence of this ICANN meeting and especially for me particularly I was interested in universal acceptance and the IDNs.

One of the fellows and I as well attended ICANN strategy session and we really got to know about what ICANN's priorities are and what issues they are the board is discussing so that were the interest areas. Thank you.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much. And the last group, if you could present.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER

So, our prompt was what brought you to ICANN and largely I think it's youth IGF, it's UIDA it's ISOG or CSO's, I think it's largely all

capacity building programs and also some people wrote FOMO and money.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

As in we all want money, right? So, there's nothing, but what I would request the group leads is you have your Menti meter diagrams, if you could share it later with staff and with us, we can have that pasted and circulated. So, we just wanted you to go around, get to know each other, because if you know each other, you get to know everyone's likes, dislikes.

There may be some common areas of interest and there may be people whom you know from the community who can help and guide you. Like this is the policy which is happening. This is the opportunity we want you to connect that with. We have a mailing list in APRALO in case you're interested. You can participate and I will have Gisella or Yesim mention it or you know speak it out.

We do have a WhatsApp group and the leads who had been around can share the link with you so you can join in or you can send a request to staff and with your number and we will get you added. Yes, anything else we are missing from the leadership? Anyone wants to add in anything? If not, Yesim, could you just share where they need to send a mail to join the mailing list? Yesim, would you like -- or Gisella, would it be possible for you to speak out?

GISELLA GRUBER

Yes, I hope you can all hear me. And we shall put, and thank you very much, Yesim. We have the email address in the Zoom chat. So, if you are not logged into Zoom, please do so. It is staff at at-large.icann.org. And we will explain to you the procedure to join the mailing list. Thank you very much and we hope to have many of you new ones on our mailing list and joining the AP community. Thank you very much.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, Gisella. And Gisella and Geshe-Mara are superstars who support us, have been supporting the APRALO team. I don't think we have anything more to add. I hope you had fun in this session. We wanted it to be as interactive as possible so that we don't snore together. And I think with that, we would be able to end. But Siranush, Fernanda, in case you have some quick words to share, you can.

SIRANUSH VARDANYAN

Just a quick point here, like try the way to continue your engagement. It's important. I had been in APRALO as an APRALO vice chair and chair and keep those connections. Build your network. This is where your route starts.

So even now, wherever I go, I'm coming back to APRALO because I started here and this is where I want to engage and continue this engagement. APRALO needs you, trust me. APRALO is a very big region and there are not ALSs in every country, but you are

ambassadors and take this from now. Take this from here and continue this engagement. That's all from my end.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you. And I do see Cheryl online. Just in case, Cheryl, you want to say a hi. You are our lifeline, our dragon lady so you can definitely say hi to all. Cheryl, are you available? I know she's multitasking. We can't hear you, Cheryl, if you're speaking. No, your audio isn't working.

CHERYL LANGDON-ORR

That would do it. I've got my boom microphone up. That's right. Sorry about that. Look, just so excited to see all of this fresh thinking and next generation opportunity coming into a region which obviously has the majority of the world's younger thinkers. So, you know, make your stand, develop your roots, do your networking and welcome aboard.

AMRITA CHOUDHURY

Thank you so much, everyone, and thank you, Cheryl. With this, I think we end this session, but we can always meet in the corridors, chat further. And thank you, everyone, for being here. We have a DNS Women, incidentally, in this room at 16:30, please be back. And it's not only women, we want men in the room too, thank you so much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]