

NEXTGEN@ICANN87

Bridging Higher Education to Global Governance

Bringing ICANN into Academia

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The Curriculum Gap

124

Languages spoken in Nepal

0

Courses covering how the Internet handles them

- Never taught ICANN, DNS governance, or Universal Acceptance in any course.
- Conversations with peers at other institutions show the same gap across Nepal.
- Result: developers unprepared to build UA-compliant systems or support scripts like Devanagari.

The gap is not just local: only ~14% of websites are UA-enabled, and just 26–27% of email systems are UA-ready worldwide.

Source: ICANN83 Community Update, 2025



Learning Universal Acceptance by Building It

- Understanding of Universal Acceptance often comes not from a textbook or a lecture, but from hands-on building.
- Built at the UA Hackathon Nepal 2025, alongside ICANN, UNESCO, APNIC, and Nepal's wider Internet community.
- Building UA-ready platforms reveals exactly where real systems fail to recognize scripts beyond ASCII.

Learned by doing, not by reading a policy document.





Where the Implementation Gap Shows Up

Developers who were never taught about IDNs or new generic TLDs unknowingly build systems that exclude millions of users.

Sign-up forms

Reject email addresses that use Devanagari or Arabic scripts, or long new gTLDs, as “invalid.”

Validation logic

Is copy-pasted from tutorials written for ASCII-only, .com-only assumptions.

Testing

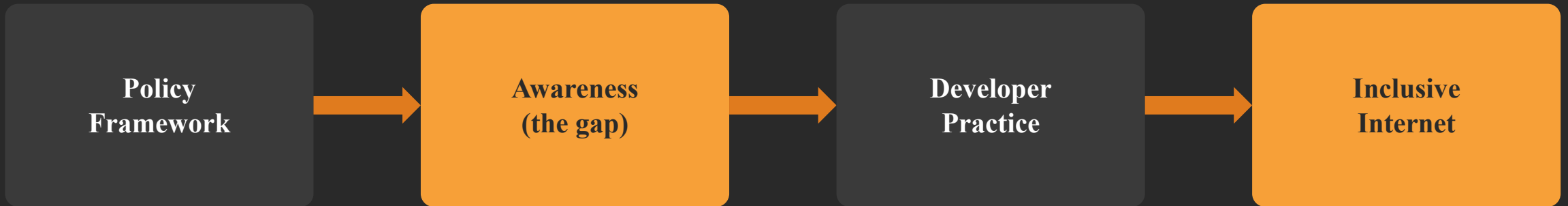
Never includes non-Latin scripts, so the exclusion ships silently, undetected.

This is not just a technical bug. It is a digital inclusion issue for millions of people who read and write in Devanagari, Arabic, and other local scripts.



Policy Is Only as Strong as Its Awareness

- ICANN's policies are only as strong as the awareness behind them.
- Engineers who have never heard of Universal Acceptance cannot apply it.
- Result: an implementation gap that keeps local-language and script users locked out.



Fix the awareness gap, and policy finally reaches an inclusive Internet.



Why Nepal Is the Right Starting Point

Nepal already has the languages, the community, and the institutions to make a pilot work.

1

Language diversity

With 124 languages and scripts like Devanagari, UA is a daily need here, not an abstract one.

2

Proven community

UA Hackathon Nepal 2025 already brought ICANN, UNESCO, APNIC, and local builders together.

3

Ready institutions

Universities like Tribhuvan University already run the networking and CS courses where a module fits.

Why it matters: A pilot in Nepal can become a model for other underrepresented regions.



Bringing ICANN into the Classroom

ICANN and partner organizations can support curriculum integration in underrepresented regions, starting with Nepal.

1

Module, not a major

A short Internet-governance and UA module embedded into existing networking or CS courses, not a new degree requirement.

2

University partnerships

Partner directly with universities like Tribhuvan University to integrate the module into existing subjects.

3

Partner support

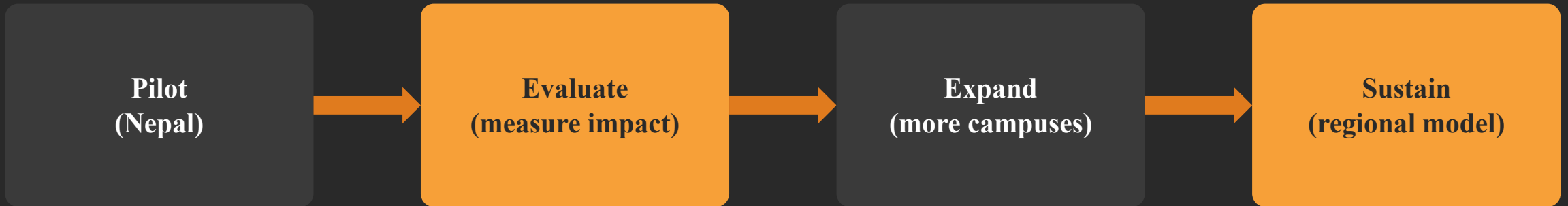
ICANN, APNIC, and regional partners provide teaching materials, guest sessions, and small grants for pilot institutions.

Expected outcome: One small module, repeated across institutions, turning unaware developers into UA-ready builders and future Internet governance participants.



Roadmap: From Pilot to Scale

- Start small: one module at a few partner universities in Nepal.
- Measure what changes in student awareness and developer practice.
- Share the proven model with other underrepresented regions.



Start small in Nepal, prove it works, then scale the model.



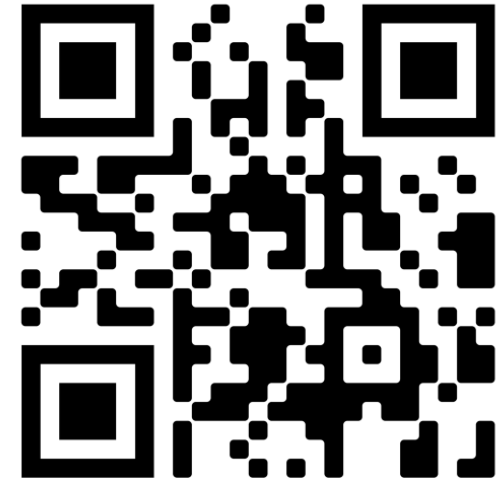
Thank You

Continuing the conversation on bringing ICANN into academia.

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