Middle East Strategy Updates

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Middle East Strategy

+ The strategy covers the 22 Arab States, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

+ Working group consists of 21 members from the region

+ Kick-started in December 2012

+ A 3-year strategy and a 1-year implementation plan completed

+ Implementation is underway for FY14 (July 2013 – June 2014)

+ Work on the FY15 Implementation Plan is in progress

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Key Strategic Areas

+ Domain name industry

+ Capacity building

+ Multi-stakeholder Internet Governance

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What is the MESWG Up To?

+ Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)

+ Task Force on Capacity Building and Awareness (TF-CBA)

+ Train-the-trainer track

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Task Force on Arabic IDNs (TF-AIDN)

Looking into use of IDNs in Arabic script

+ Arabic Script Label Generation Ruleset (LGR) for the Root Zone

+ Second level LGRs for the Arabic script

+ Arabic script Internationalized Registration Data Protocol and Practice

+ Universal acceptability of Arabic script IDNs and variants

+ Technical challenges around registration of Arabic script IDNs and variants

+ Operational software for Arabic script IDN registry and registrar operations

+ DNS security matters specifically related to Arabic script IDNs and variants

+ Technical training material around Arabic script IDNs

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… cont. (TF-AIDN)

+ Announced during the Arab IGF in Algiers in early October 2013

+ Consists of 21 volunteers from the region

  + Majority are fresh blood that have never been involved in regional discussions on Arabic IDNs, or the ICANN process

+ Holding calls when needed to ensure timelines are attained and momentum is maintained

+ The first F2F meeting took place in Singapore during March 20-22.

  + ICANN Funded 10 of the 11 who attended

  + A very productive 3-day meeting

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… cont. (TF-AIDN)

+ Arabic Script Generation Panel

    + A sub-group of 4 volunteers and 2 reviewers

    + Submitted to ICANN for informal review and received feedback

    + Draft circulated to the TF-AIDN at-large for feedback and discussions

    + Final draft document submitted formally to ICANN for review in mid-January 2014

    + First linguistic group to do so

+ Submitted a document on "Principles for Inclusion, Exclusion, and Deferral of Arabic Script Code Points" right before the ICANN Singapore meeting

    + First linguistic group to do so

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TF-AIDN – Moving Forward

+ Work underway on Arabic Email Support and Universal Acceptance of Arabic script IDNs

+ The work on *Label Generation Ruleset (LGR)* is expected to end in late November 2014

+ Next F2F meeting expected either in June or in August

Want to join the TF-AIDN? Please send your Resume/CV and Statement of Interest (SoI) to meswg@icann.org.

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Task Force on Capacity Building & Awareness (TF-CBA)

+ Call circulated on December 1, 2013

+ The call was open for interested candidates from outside of the Middle East Strategy region

+ 21 applications received

  + A Steering Committee was formed from within the MESWG to evaluate the applications and set the next steps

  + All applicants have been welcomed on board

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Train-the-Trainer Model

+ Ongoing discussions on how to implement this model in our region

+ Consensus that the TF-CBA is a building block for this model to move forward

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Middle East DNS Forum

+ Two-day meeting

    + Held in Dubai on 3-4 Feb

    + Co-organized by both ICANN and ISOC, and hosted by UAE TRA

    + Sponsored by dotShabaka Registry and PIR

    + Networked by du and Website Powered by KuwaitNet

+ Main agenda topics

    + New gTLDs

    + Registry strategies for domain name growth

    + Role of ccTLDs in strengthening the domain name industry

    + Registrar accreditation

    + Registrar strategies in a competitive environment

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… cont. (Middle East DNS Forum)

+ More than 100 attendees

    + Hailed from 36 different countries

    + 33% hailed from the Business Sector

    + 46% from within the UAE

+ Some sessions had more than 30 remote participants

+ Forum was a huge success and exceed expectations

+ Forum seen as an annual event hosted by the regional community

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What's Next for the MESWG?

+ Agree on Year 2 Implementation Plan (FY15)

+ TF-CBA to Develop content and deliver it as part of their mandate and work

+ TF-CBA to work on a Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on IG (MEAC-SIG)

+ Host a training program on TLD Risk Mitigation

+ TF-AIDN to hold its second F2F meeting

Questions?

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