The Middle East Strategy

Fahd Batayneh | MENOG 15 | Dubai, UAE | 2 April 2015

About the Strategy

- Covers the 22 Arab States, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

- Working group consists of 20 members from the region

  - Initially consisted of 22 members, but 2 members later joined ICANN as staff

- Kick-started in December 2012

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

- Implementation Plan for the second year 3 months away from completion

  - ICANN's fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends on June 30 the next year

- Wiki space at http://bit.ly/1zMpW0X

Key Strategic Areas of the Strategy

- Domain Name Industry

- Capacity Building

- Multi-Stakeholder Internet Governance

General Key Outcomes So Far

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

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

- Middle East DNS Forum

- Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on IG (MEAC-SIG)

- DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)

Year 1 Outcomes

- Held the 1st ME DNS Forum in Dubai during February 3-4, 2014

- Plenty of milestones accomplished by the TF-AIDN

- More awareness on the importance of having root-server instances

- More awareness on IG and the various models used around the world on Internet Public Policy

- Held the 1st MEAC-SIG in Kuwait during May 25-29, 2014

- More faces applying to ICANN's fellowship program

- More understanding on the importance of deploying DNSSEC

- More collaboration amongst the I* organizations; mainly APNIC, ISOC, and RIPE NCC

- More details at http://bit.ly/13R1LVO

Year 2 Activities

- Launch of the DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)

- TF-AIDN to continue its work on Arabic Script IDNs

- Held the 2nd ME DNS Forum in Amman, Jordan

- Will be holding the 2nd MEAC-SIG in Tunis on May 25-29

- Conduct a DNS Industry Study for the ME

- Conduct outreach activities; mainly in countries that can benefit from such outreach efforts, in collaboration with our I* partners

- More details at http://bit.ly/1DkRNZH

Task Force on Arabic Script 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

… cont. (TF-AIDN)

- Membership open to anyone interested

- Work published to the public on the wiki space at http://bit.ly/1tiN7MM

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

1ˢᵗ MEAC-SIG in Kuwait

- Held in Kuwait during March 25-29, 2014

- Agenda covered topics such as Introduction to IG, History, IG Stakeholders, Introduction to the I* Organizations, CIR, Internet Public Policy, Cybersecurity, Privacy, Access, Infrastructure, and others.

- 25 attendees from 10 different countries

- Positive feedback provided after the school, and students are in touch via a dedicated mailing list

- Agenda and other material at http://bit.ly/1osDlb5
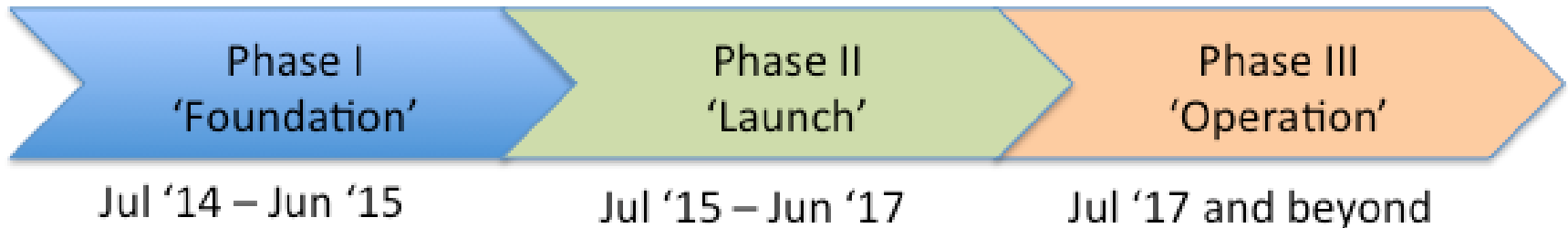
2nd ME DNS Forum in Jordan

- Held in Amman, Jordan during March 9-10, 2015

- Agenda developed by a Program Committee of 6 members

- Attracted 80 physical and remote attendees from various stakeholder groups

- Website at http://amman2015.mednsf.org/en/

2nd MEAC-SIG

- To be held in Tunis, Tunisia on May 25-29, 2015

- Hosted by ISOC Tunisia Chapter

- Agenda almost similar to the first school, but with new faces

- Expected to have a mixture of local stakeholder and overseas all from within the region

DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)

- Its goal is to develop the domain name industry ecosystem in Africa and the Middle East

- Its mission is to develop a robust and healthy domain name ecosystem in Africa and the Middle East

- Established in Cairo, Egypt in partnership between ICANN and Egypt's Regulator (NTRA)

DNS-EC Scope

Phase I 'Foundation'	Phase II 'Launch'	Phase III 'Operation'
Jul '14 – Jun '15	Jul '15 – Jun '17	Jul '17 and beyond

Phase I 'Foundation'
- Develop capacities necessary for the establishment of DNS-EC
- Programs cover various DNS technical, policy, and business aspects

Phase II 'Launch'
- Start up DNS-EC; develop business plan and seek partnerships
- Start offering training and consultation services

Phase III 'Operation'
- Lend expertise and knowledge across Africa and the Middle East
- Possibility of assuming a DNS operational role

DNS-EC Training Tracks

Technical Track

- Registry operations

- Secure registry operations / DNSSEC

- Virtualized training platforms

Business Track

- Registry / Registrar models

- Business models and marketing strategies

- Registration policies

- Dispute resolution

Middle East DNS Study

- The goal of this study is to define the weak components in the industry within the region, and come out with a set of recommendations in aims of improving the industry and getting it closer to the potential it can reach to

- Is expected to consist of facts, analysis of data, and conclusions and recommendations

- Expected to be published in October 2015

Questions?!

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