



Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association

19 February 2008

Suzanne Sene
Office of International Affairs
National Telecommunications and
Information Authority
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Room 4701
Washington, DC 20230
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Re: Docket No. 071023616-7617-01

Dear Ms. Sene,

A submission from APTLD follows.

Apologies for our tardiness.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask via don@aptld.org.

Regards,

Don Hollander
General Manager

APTLD

PO Box 11-881, Wellington, New Zealand
Phone +64-4-495-2113 | Fax +64-4-495-2115 | don@aptld.org

Submission on behalf of APTLD to the NTIA Mid-Term review of the Joint Project Agreement

Summary

APTLD believes that some of the questions raised by NTIA in the midterm review of the ICANN JPA are too specific, whereas our submission wishes to address the main issues facing ICANN - is ICANN in a position to transition from the JPA with the US Government, to become accountable to the Internet Community at large.

The APTLD asserts that ICANN should be an independent, stand-alone organisation with the, specific mandate – “to keep the Internet name and address space secure and stable whilst ensuring open and transparent, bottom up, consensus driven decision making from the Internet Community. ICANN’s performance of that mandate should be monitored and assessed using mechanisms agreed by the Internet Community rather than through the JPA with the US Government. This will remove the perceptions that ICANN’s dealings with Country Code Top Level Domain managers and their Governments may be encumbered by obligations to a single Government..

About APTLD

APTLD is the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association, a trade association of managers of ccTLDs in the Asia-Pacific region.

Submission

ICANN, like APTLD, is celebrating its 10th year of existence.

ICANN has a very narrow mandate and has remained focused on it and on developing the structures, systems and policies necessary to achieve its mandate efficiently and effectively. This is a sign of a strong and mature organisation.

The JPA review asks if ICANN can do better. Yes, ICANN can do better – just as the NTIA can do better and just as any and every one else can do better. In our view, this question does not assist in eliciting information helpful to the review.

In ICANN’s actions we see the active and purposeful pursuit (and achievement) of continuous improvement in the fulfilment of its mandate.

ICANN has made significant progress toward the goal of operating as an entirely independent organisation accountable to the Internet Community as a whole.

While not directly a part of this review, APTLD notes that the IANA function is integral to the operation of ICANN. We do not believe that the processing procedures of ICANN should continue to require the oversight of the United States Government.

We believe the following two issues are of immediate importance:

- 1) The active pursuit of a transition plan from the JPA agreed by ICANN and its community in conjunction with the NTIA.
- 2) Following on from transitioning to a fully independent and accountable ICANN, consideration should be given to addressing the limitation of the United States Government’s oversight of the IANA function.