SO/AC New gTLD Applicant Support Working Group (JAS)
TRANSCRIPT
Tuesday 08 February 2010 at 1400 UTC

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http://audio.icann.org/gnso/gnso-jas-20110208-en.mp3

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Coordinator: The call is now recorded please go ahead.

Gisella Gruber-White: Thank you. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to everyone. On today's JAS call on Tuesday the 8th of February we have Alex Gakuru, Tinjani Ben Jemaa, Rafik Dammak, Alan Greenberg, Olivier Crepin-LeBlond he's just temporarily disconnected - Elaine Pruis, Avri Doria, Andrew Mack. And from staff we have Karla Valente and myself, Gisella Gruber-White.

And we've got apologies from Michele Neylon, Tony Harris, Cheryl Langdon-Orr and Carlton Samuels. And if I can just please remind everyone to state their names when speaking for transcript purposes. Thank you, over to you Rafik.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you Gisella. Hello everyone. So let's start by the first item of the agenda so there is - is there any update of your SOI or DOI? Okay hearing none then we can go (to) the item about reporting of every - of each work team. So we can start with Work Team A and B lead by Tinjani. Please, Tinjani, go ahead.

Tinjani Ben Jemaa: Okay thank you Rafik. We just (synced) on the list Google Doc done by Cintra gathering all the inputs we get - we got. And it is not the final or it's not even revised version so it's a (row) document. We will work on it for the next week - for this week, if you want, and I hope that by next Tuesday we will (propose) a text for your consideration. Karla is asking for the floor.

Rafik Dammak: Karla?

Karla Valente: Yes...

Rafik Dammak: Sorry, I was on mute (unintelligible). Please go ahead.

Karla Valente: Yes. I would like to give an update on the wiki. We do have the wiki so there's a relocation of the wiki. I sent you the link on Friday and also this morning.

And I'm told that all of you should have access to the wiki but you have to (unintelligible). So please take a look at your email inboxes and also your spam just in case. And please try to get access to the wiki.

I thought that what we could do is the wiki has what they call try-out pages. We can create one page for each of the subgroups. I didn't do that yet. But I thought this was one of the things we could do so all of the documents and information are posted there.

When you access the wiki page you will see that I already did some cleanup yesterday. The documents an all of the information was previously there. I didn't add information on the subgroups and I didn't add any information on the current charter yet or charters yet. That's it.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you, Karla. So I think please everybody try to check if you can access the wiki space and then we can - at first we start to share the document of Work Team A and B in the wiki so it will be more easy to share with all working group members.

Please any comments about the document itself or if you had a chance to check it?

Tinjani Ben Jemaa: I am asking for the floor Rafik.

Rafik Dammak: Oh yeah, I see. So we have Tinjani and Elaine. Please, Tinjani, go ahead.

Tinjani Ben Jemaa: Okay thank you. I have already access to the wiki. I think it is well done. There is information - (lack) of some information as Karla said. But in general I found it very - if you want - friendly for the user.

Karla Valente: I agree with you, Rafik. This is Karla speaking. That's really beyond my range but I agree with you.

Rafik Dammak: Okay. Elaine, please go ahead.

Elaine Pruis: Thanks. This is my first time looking at this and it looks like it requires a username and password. I don't think I have one established already so - and I don't see a way to start a new account. Karla, do you know how that - what that might be linked to?

Karla Valente: Did you receive an email Elaine with information about user and password?

Elaine Pruis: I only received your email with the link.

Karla Valente: Yeah so I'm going to double check because everyone should have received an email.

Elaine Pruis: Okay thanks. And so (unintelligible) is the process generally you just upload a document and if someone wants to edit the pull it off and edit and then put it back or how does that usually work?

Karla Valente: I'm sorry can you ask again?

Elaine Pruis: (Unintelligible) actually utilize this I see there are documents posted. So if a document is edited does it get edited right there or do you download it, edit and (next)?

Karla Valente: I didn't play with this wiki enough to answer you that. I will find that out for you. I am not sure, Elaine.

Elaine Pruis: Okay thanks.

Andrew Mack: Karla, generally I'm guessing a lot of people have that same question so if you could - if there are some really simple instructions on how to use this best that'd be super if you could just post those.

Karla Valente: Okay. Yeah, we can also get some training if you want. I can arrange for something like that for us.

Andrew Mack: That'd be great if it's quick, you know.

Karla Valente: Okay. Thank you.

((Crosstalk))

Rafik Dammak: Yeah, we have Avri in the queue. Please, Avri, go ahead.

Avri Doria: Yeah, hi. Generally (unintelligible)...

Rafik Dammak: Avri, you have an echo.

Avri Doria: Sorry I don't think I'm making it.

Rafik Dammak: Oh it's okay now.

Avri Doria: Right. Generally with the wiki you can both upload files and you can create files on the spot. By the way I got the email; I logged into it and I started playing with making a page for Team C and G yesterday while I was on the plane. So it's there and it does work. But, yeah, probably people would benefit.

The other thing to do is just, as Karla was saying, if you just set up or maybe she or somebody else sets up a scratch place where you could just go in and edit and play with it. It's about, you know, a couple minutes of experimenting to find your way around it. It's not a hard one to use.

And thanks, Karla, for getting it up. And I did get the note. But the note is not from Karla or from this group it's from - oh I forget his name or her name but...

Karla Valente: (Navid).

((Crosstalk))

Avri Doria: ...new account and giving your account name and a password and so I did get one.

Rafik Dammak: Okay.

Avri Doria: Yeah, the mail was from (Navid Tahir-Kali). So if you're looking for the mail that's who mine came from. And it had a subject of ICANN community confluence wiki login information was the subject.

Rafik Dammak: Okay, thanks Avri. We have Alan in the queue. Alan, please go ahead.

Alan Greenberg: Yeah am I the only one who had problems getting to the page Karla pointed to? It said that link doesn't exist although it suggested another one which is the correct one.

Avri Doria: I didn't try the page; I just went to the...

Alan Greenberg: Oh okay. Because the link as sent out is incorrect although it is smart enough to point you to the right one with a hint. But perhaps we should send out the correct link again. This one has a JAS Working Group in brackets at the end of it. That's all I had.

Rafik Dammak: Okay. So - but anybody have comments on the document itself sent by Cintra? So we will share it on the wiki but if there is any comments now that can be helpful for the work team members.

                   Okay maybe we can - maybe we can move to the work team - the next work team leaded by Avri.

Avri Doria: Okay thanks. I haven't done much other than log into the wiki and start playing around to do a page. But I saw that Andrew did a lot and sent a - quite a good substantive email so maybe if Andrew wants to talk a little bit. And then I don't know if anyone else did anything that they want to mention. I don't have anything to report.

Rafik Dammak: Yeah, maybe, yeah, sure. I think Andrew can...

Andrew Mack: Sure. Happy to do it.

Rafik Dammak: Yeah, please go ahead, Andrew.

Andrew Mack: Is this the appropriate time? Okay. Yeah, thanks Avri. Just did a little bit more following up with the potential donor sources. As I said in the note the - I think we had an (initial) amount down of about $10 million if I remember correctly as a starting point.

                The impression that I get from all - the time that I spent working at the bank and also from the conversations I've had with different people in terms of trust funds and things like that is that that's not a ridiculous amount of money for us to be looking for if we're looking from a donor agency.

                The problem is, is that most of the people who are - the big apex agencies that might have a real interest in this like the World Bank, are woefully behind the curve. They're staffed up in certain kinds of tech stuff; a lot of it last generation stuff so they - as you may know they were very, very big in all of the work on telecom and PTT reform but really are pretty behind the curve on anything that touches the Internet in a meaningful way.

                And so given that that's the case it's kind of hard to push forward. The thing that we're going to want to do as we put together our request materials I think is two things, one is to really draw as good a case as we possibly can to how this will directly affect employment.

And the ability to get, you know - a lot of countries have a very strong desire to set up some sort of an IT industry and we have to show that this is going to be helpful to them in some way if we can.

And the other thing I think is the last thing I mentioned which is some sort of co-financing; finding two or three donors may be the best way to go. And the Italian government from - many of you may know - has been pretty active in looking at e-governments and a number of other kind of related issues.

We might be able to cast it in that light if we have somebody who is - has got good connections to the Italian government; they might be a good partner. And there may be some others as well.

I think - there's a tremendous amount of interest right now in this - in India, Pakistan, places like that, so that they might also be a good way to go. And (I do have) some country teams, India, Pakistan; the question is whether we could fit this into a normal project kind of setup or whether we have to try to go for a separate trust fund to be established.

The way that it typically works at places like the World Bank is, is that countries who wish to contribute in often times will set up a trust fund at the bank that will be administered by the bank. And then the bank will have some - will maybe comingle that with some of its own funds and that's how you get an initiative going.

And I'm a little bit familiar with this process but obviously each one is slightly different. Make sense?

Avri Doria: Can I ask a question? Sorry, I didn't get my hand up. But...

Andrew Mack: Please.

Rafik Dammak: Yes, please Avri.

Avri Doria: Okay. When one of these initiatives is established at the bank is this something that is only nations can apply or can it be set up that individual, you know, groups from developing economies can apply?

Andrew Mack: Right.

((Crosstalk))

Avri Doria: ...question. And the second one is, is it only nations that can invest into this fund or can it be set up - trusts like that can it be set up from anybody? In other words I'm looking at is a World Bank type of fund or trust one of many or is it possibly if they got into it a concentrating point that could be used for lots of things and that's...

Andrew Mack: Okay. Do you want me to take those questions now or take others? I see Alex has a hand up.

Avri Doria: If you want to take...

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: So let me see if I can deal with those three questions really quickly, Alex, if you'll forgive me. And I'm going to do them in reverse order. The last question was about the idea of the bank being a - kind of an apex, right, a centralizing - a centralizing core.

                I think that that's right. I think that there is - there's a lot of precedence for that. They do a global road safety initiative that I have done some work with in the past where it has exactly that structure; where there are a number of different groups some of them are - mostly from different nation-states but some also from the FIA Foundation which is a foundation looking at road

safety. And they all came together in a trust fund that was managed by the bank so there's precedent for that.

In terms of your question about whether or not it should be countries or other groups that come through most of the funding comes from countries because that's the size of the - of the resource that's necessary. But in many cases - in some cases there are exceptions; (Gates) contributes in money to funds that are going to manage by and through the bank's trust funds and there are others.

In terms of who gets access to that resource the bank is in its weird way a membership organization and the members are the states - the nation-states. And so if you create a window it can be opened for groups that are not countries but usually it goes through the lens of the country.

So it would - in part because that's the way that their oversight is structured; they've got initiatives that are mostly geographically based. And so we just have to come up with a way to set up the right kind of window.

Traditionally what they do is they say we want to do an initiative; it's a global initiative and then countries would apply in to do a sub project off of that. So we would need to take a look at that. That's something that can - I think that that's something that can be addressed though. Make sense?

Avri Doria: Yeah, thanks.

Andrew Mack: Great.

Rafik Dammak: Just to have question, so, Alex - to Andrew. So if I understand well it can is that it can - it's through a country so it can - some countries applicants like it's - in our case applicant from some countries to be (unintelligible) because some - or something like this or it can be also by region? Maybe I am just missing the point.

Andrew Mack: Right, no that's a good question. Think about it like this, Rafik, there's a - the way that the bank's projects get built it's almost always on the basis of a formalized legal agreement between the World Bank as an institution and a national government, okay, traditionally signed by the Ministry of Finance.

And so what ends up happening is, is that that's the window that gets opened because that's the agreement that needs to be signed. It's pretty rare - I don't know of more than one or two instances where there have been agreements that have been signed with, for example, the AU or something like that, right.

That said that's a possibility. But there still has to be effectively a support contract between somebody and somebody, right? And so if the money goes through the World Bank then there'd have to be somebody on the other half to say yes we would like this to happen and if it's a grant somebody who takes responsibility for the grant on the national side; if it's a typical project it's actually a loan; it's a very interest and favorable term loan but it's a loan, right.

And so somebody has to sign that loan on the borrower's side. And so that's one of the things that we'd have to figure out is where would that window be set up and who will be eligible for it?

What might be the case is that there might be certain target countries or certain - a certain target region like for example there might be a possibility of setting it up as an initiative for a particular region. It's something we can look into.

Again it all flows backwards from the justification which is can we point to the fact that this is something that directly hits on the bank's core mission and the donor's core mission which is the economic development piece.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you, Andrew. Alex, I am sorry that you wait so long; please go ahead.

Alex Gakuru: No problem. Thank you very much. Alex speaking. I'm interested first of all in what Andrew said of the possibility or the likelihood that a bank may have a facility to where they match for every dollar that's contributed they can contribute one. I want to understand that I have that clearly.

And secondly I want to say that since they also do studies even on mobile penetration and how it contributes to GDP I really don't think that it would be difficult to tie in the Internet into economies - development of a - economy of the developing countries.

So those two, one is a comment and then the other one is a clarification on whether there's that facility or possibility or likelihood of the bank matching for every dollar contributed maybe they also contribute. Thank you.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you Alex. Avri, please go ahead. Avri, okay. Can you hear me?

Avri Doria: I can hear you; I was muted, sorry.

Rafik Dammak: Oh okay.

Avri Doria: But I was muted on my phone, not on the (unintelligible) so you couldn't see; I apologize. I think that, you know, I really appreciate Andrew's work. And I think that it seems to me that we may, as we move along, have, you know, various possibilities and perhaps different kinds of applicants, different - or different places depending on cooperation and their government as sort of an intermediary slash national sponsor, etcetera - may make it different for different ones.

And it's, you know, just let's say making it obvious that we may really have a small, you know, selection of things and then see which ones go forward. One thing that I do have one other question I have on this is what is the normal time that it takes for - let's say that there was already a bunch of

money and the fund was already - how long does it normally take from the time there is the availability of funds and an applicant goes through the process and gets them - what kind of cycle do they have?

Andrew Mack: Okay. I'm sorry, let me raise my hand.

Avri Doria: Oh I think if you're asking...

Andrew Mack: Yeah, okay. So let me see if I can handle...

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: Is that okay for me now?

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: Okay let me see if I can answer - I'll see if I can answer both Alex's and Avri's, okay? Alex, in terms of the idea of a bank match that's something that takes some time to get going. There's no - right now so far as I know there is absolutely no money that's devoted to this.

There are two ways that it might come about, one is if there were a project that would be launched and a project process can last anywhere between six months if it's an emergency and two years if it's not so that's, you know, that's a pretty long process.

For this kind of a thing not two years because there's not a lot of technical spec-ing out that needs to happen but, you know, even still this is outside of the typical realm of the bank. So from the time that it gets started to the time that it goes to board it can be up to two years. So that's partly answer to Avri's question. The - but that's for a typical project.

For a trust fund - trust funds can actually be set up relatively quickly; within a matter of months if not weeks. The question is what's the implementing arrangement and to what extent does the bank itself need to contribute in money?

The bank has two options in this instance; one is to be the fiduciary and to basically provide oversight and sometimes some technical assistance as part of it or to actually kick in money.

But to be clear, Alex, there isn't a pot of money based on the poking around that I've done - there's no pot of money. And in fact because there are so few people in the bank who have any kind of a technical background what you end up with is, is that very few people who get promoted to the approving level have a technical background.

And so traditionally the bank is pretty far behind the curve in terms of adopting new technology. What I was able to glean is that there are very, very few people who know anything about ICANN and very few people who are picking up on our work.

It doesn't mean that we can't make the case but I think that we - where we're going to have a challenge is, is making the case specifically about this issue, you know. And specifically about saying if we - if there is support that is offered how does it directly impact and directly benefit the economic prospect?

I think we'd all agree that generally it would be the case and it would make sense. It's just - we're going to have to do a little bit more translating then normal because there just isn't a lot of background.

In terms of the time it would take, Avri, I'm guessing that if we wanted - if we came to the table with resources; if we, for example, were able to find a combination of foundations and other country resources by national, you

know, national resources like for example if we were to go to the Dutch or to the Italians, both of whom have historically been pretty interested in this stuff, and said let's, you know, we'd like to talk to you about it; we think that this is a positive good. Here's our reasoning.

And we were able to get $6 million or $7 million to get some additional funding from the bank is a possible but to get it up and running shouldn't be difficult at all. There's a lot of precedent for that and the major donors already have - already have trust fund arrangements - many trust funds with the bank and similar organizations. So my guess is, is that we just pony off of one of their existing agreements and try to pattern it after that.

Avri Doria: Great, thanks.

Rafik Dammak: Thank Andrew. Avri you want to ask a question or...

Avri Doria: No, no, no I just basically was thanking him. I think - and I don't know - I know I don't have my hand up but I also started trying to take some notes while Andrew was talking in the wiki although it doesn't show up; I have to play with it.

But I think that, you know, the information that Andrew has given we need to sort of capture it, make sure we've got it as we're looking at all the possibilities and all the possible strategies we can take. But thanks; I think, you know, you do great stuff.

Rafik Dammak: Yeah, I think so. Maybe to make like a decision tree or something that to help us to navigate with all those different civilities.

Andrew Mack: One - if I could just one quick comment to add so I'll close on that one is, is that these organizations are - like big organizations like the bank are traditionally very conservative in that they'd love to be the third guy in the pool or the second guy in the pool.

And so the rapidity with which we're likely to get any kind of support from the big institutions - if we come to the table with other money it will help a lot because it lowers their risk substantially and they are fundamentally pretty risk averse.

Rafik Dammak: Yeah but the - the hard thing is to (frame) the first source of money.

Andrew Mack: That always is. Well that's where a foundation or a smaller national government may be the right way to go.

Rafik Dammak: Yeah so maybe we need to list all the targeted foundation and to see how we can handle that with each foundation so maybe to tweak our strategy or our communication. We have Olivier and then Elaine. So Olivier, please go ahead but maybe you can reply to the question of Elaine about ISOC maybe you can give more explanation as you are more - I think you the ISOC guy here in the call.

Olivier Crepin-LeBlond: Thank you Rafik. I was actually going to just follow up before that on what Andrew mentioned with regards to smaller governments and perhaps the Italian government being able to contribute funds.

I wonder whether it would be a good idea to get in touch with the respective GAC representatives for these governments if we don't have any better avenue towards them. That was one thing.

The other thing was with regards to the ISOC grounds I'm not sure whether Elaine was talking about the community grounds but these are limited to I think $10,000; $15,000 maximum for any one project. So that certainly is not even 1/10th of what the actual cost is for making an application. So, I mean, it might help - speaking to ISOC perhaps about other types of grounds and maybe Elaine had that in mind. That's all. Thank you.

Rafik Dammak: Thanks Olivier. Please, Elaine, go ahead.

Elaine Pruis: Thank you. Yes, Olivier, that's the email that I had seen was the ISOC community grant. And I did see that they were limited to $10,000. But when I went through the email and looked at the requirements and parameters they had a pretty good description of how they would allocate the money and for what sorts of projects.

And I thought that would be a nice framework for us to look at when we're putting together our documentation. And I've heard a couple of times this morning that that's the way to get money is to have two or three donors and so even if it's a small grant that's a start.

And then the other side of that is, you know, is how do you talk to - who do you talk to within ISOC to see if they would be willing to sort of cookie-cutter that particular program but for the new gTLD disadvantaged applicants? So if you have any leads there that would be great.

The other thing I wanted to ask was of Alan is if you know if the World Bank would consider the value of donated services or time as part of a matching grant for a fund. So if we have a registry provider that's willing to provide, you know, $100,000 worth of startup and registry costs would the World Bank consider that, you know, a primary donor and then they would be willing to come in as second or third? Thanks.

Alan Greenberg: You said Alan; did you mean Andrew?

Elaine Pruis: I did, I'm sorry.

Andrew Mack: Should I try - Elaine, would you like me to try that one...

Rafik Dammak: Yeah.

Andrew Mack: ...real quick? Okay.

Rafik Dammak: Yes Andrew.

Andrew Mack: The short answer is, is that it's a little unclear. There are two ways of structuring this. One is as the public private partnership and the other one is as a blended trust fund.

The truth of the matter is, is that cash in gets cash in if you know what I'm saying so that - because if you don't want to get into a discussion of how much money the donors will spend; their cost structure is crazy and their efficiency levels as you may know are often quite low. So if you take their fully loaded rate you could run up $100,000 worth of staff time pretty quick.

I think that it would have to be some sort of combination of - there'd have to be other things on the table besides just in-kind services. So we'd have to find, you know, we'd have to find funding from a third source if there weren't funds available.

The larger question - there's also another question which is, is that the donor generally - and the bank especially - are really allergic to the idea of favoring one company over another and so we just have to be exceedingly careful that if there were in-kind services that were offered that, number one, there was an opportunity for any competitors to offer in similar services as part of the facility.

And, number two, that there was no quid pro quo or no applied quid pro quo whether with the bank or the donor community as a recipient or whether with the aid recipient country because that's the kind of stuff that gets people fired and they like those jobs.

Rafik Dammak: Just true.

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: ...very, very strong on the idea that it has to be in some sort of an open competition, you know.

Rafik Dammak: Thanks. We have Alan in the queue. Alan, please go ahead.

Alan Greenberg: Yeah, just to address the same issue a little bit. In-kind donors count more when they're sort of proposed by the country applying for the grant. That is if, you know, if Tunisia applies for the grant and says affiliates is willing to contribute a huge amount to the process also that would count more.

Coming from us or the third party it gets into all the nasty things that Andrew was talking about. So yes it may ultimately count in the equation but it's got to be structured properly and there probably does have to be other cash in it also.

Andrew Mack: Yeah. I think it's a sweetener but it's not a - it's not a main course, you know.

Alan Greenberg: And, you know, if it's a public/private partnership the situation is different but it's got to be structured differently than what we're talking about here.

Andrew Mack: And a PPP might take...

((Crosstalk))

Alan Greenberg: ...put together.

Alan Greenberg: Yeah, with real national - local money coming into it and that's not likely to happen in the kinds of things we're talking about.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you Alan. Any comments? Any further comments for this? Avri, please go ahead. Avri, you have a problem - to mute - un-mute.

Avri Doria: Sorry. What I was saying is I built - I took notes on this, very sketchy ones, on the wiki. And, you know, and others please go to it, amplify them, start putting points there so we can keep a rolling discussion and we can get onto other stuff. But thank you, as I say I'll get the wiki - the wiki page is there. Thanks. Bye.

Rafik Dammak: Thanks Avri. Andrew please go ahead.

Andrew Mack: Yes. One last quick note. Evan just pointed something up in the chat which I thought was interesting and important which is as we're making our arguments we need to show additionality such that they - that whatever the donor is, whether that donor is an international financial institution or a national government or a foundation or whatever, I think one of the big questions will be are we in any way interfering with the cc.

                 And we need to be able to show the additionality as part of it which I think is going to be an interesting challenge. But I think that that's going to come up and so the sooner we try to address that - that how it relates to the cc the better off we're going to be.

Rafik Dammak: Thanks Andrew. Evan, go ahead.

Evan Leibovitch: Actually you said that well. That was actually an additional point to what I was trying to make. And it had to do with going to a donor and the donors are very often looking at competitive situations where multiple possible recipients are trying to make a pitch.

                 And if we're trying to make a pitch on various kinds of criteria the arguments have to be rock solid. And one of the arguments that we're going to need to address and anticipate is what is the benefit and expression; what is the benefit to the Internet communication schools that we're trying to advance by

putting forward a top level domain as opposed to having the organization simply having a second level domain and doing things underneath that?

Yes there are benefits but from the point of view of a funder - especially a funder that isn't Internet savvy - how do we make the case that having a top level domain which is going to cost $200,000 to start with plus significant operating expenses going on how is that going to enable that better than doing it at a second level under a cc?

So everything Andrew said is correct but I would - I would also add in that additional point that when going to funders there's got to be a lot of things anticipated - especially if ICANN isn't dropping its own fees there's going to be a couple of red flags going why is this so much?

Why is this money being, you know, we're trying to invest in a region and yet the money we're being asked to spend is all going to the US. These are all things that are going to have to be part of the pitch that's made to the funders. And to me that's going to be - at least in my opinion a critical part of this.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you Evan. I think, Evan, Andrew sent in his email maybe like talking about IDN can help; it's something that will benefit to the community. We have Alex and then Andrew. Alex, please go ahead.

Alex Gakuru: Thank you. Alex speaking. I quite agree that when we are dealing with the large donors the likes of the World Bank or funders then of course bearing in mind the overhead (tough) time that Andrew was talking about going into hundreds of thousands of dollars I think that's a factor when you add what Evan just said that we must be quite conscious about.

I want to throw in another angle for consideration. The likelihood of us looking for established trust or established organization that are not profit where we

could hook our projects or align our projects and ask them to be like custodians and therefore that can cut down on costs.

And then we can approach to all other donors and ask them that this is a trust that is being housed - yeah, the word I was looking for is housed - and therefore we can request all of them to contribute to that, A, to cut down on our - on the management; B, to also cut down on institutions that are used to private sector or government lending and, C, to also reduce on the bureaucracy that are likely to happen in terms of releasing the funds.

You know, some days World Bank can promise all the money and we know they are well intended but their processes sometimes can take forever. Maybe we might collect the money but it's released at the second round. They just - I'm thinking wild here really. So just to throw that to the group and then maybe get some ideas. Thank you.

Rafik Dammak: Thanks Alex. Please Andrew go ahead.

Andrew Mack: Yes to Alex's point I think that finding an existing foundation or an existing hub I'm thinking East Africa and the (Igacon) Foundation as a possibility or other things like that. And I don't even know if there's a right kind of group - but finding somebody who's already in place that may make some sense. They may have some more flexibility.

One of the reasons to go through a large organization like the bank is that they might, might, very, very, very heavy, heavy - quotes around this - be able to negotiate a little bit with ICANN and say for this - for this group that's receiving support we'd like to get a group rate that is lower or something along those lines trying to find other ways to cut costs. So that's certainly - as it relates to the IDNs I think that that's a possibility.

In terms of there was another point that was just made. Oh, Alan, in terms of the idea that the $200,000 will be perceived as going to the United States I actually am less concerned about that for two reasons.

Number one is, is that ICANN itself is considered to be - though the past hasn't suggested - but it's considered to be an international organization right now and as such, you know, presents in the public somewhat like the World Bank. And so I'm - I know what you're saying but I'm not as concerned about that - them perceiving it as such.

What I am concerned about - and they have the history of paying consultants so I don't think that that's necessarily an issue. What I'm more concerned about is, is the amount of money that would be going to ICANN versus the amount of money that would be going to the actual field.

And if the ratio is too high, if it's $200,000 to the - to ICANN or even $100,000 to ICANN and only $50,000 to the applicant or to the field then I think that any donor will have a hard time with that. So we have to figure out some way to make - to tilt that balance in favor of the needy recipient and not the back office. That's it.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you Andrew. Okay I think we have now 15 minutes. Maybe if there is no more comment we can move to the next work team. But we can continue discussion if there is any comments. Okay hearing none we can move to the work team leaded by Elaine. I think - or she already sent a substantive email and maybe she can - I think she can report to the progress down in the work team. Elaine, please go ahead.

Elaine Pruis: Thank you. The work done thus far I've outlined in an email that was sent yesterday around to the group. What I've done is just divide up our tasks point by point and looked at what we've done and what we still need to do.

So (unintelligible) the first one which is I think where we need to start proposing and establishing methods for applicants to seek out assistance to be given by providers both registry (departments), translators and technicians, lawyers, etcetera.

The one idea that we have and we're working with is this Website that the ICANN Board said would - or a list that the ICANN Board said would be established. So I heard on the call on Friday that Karla has already started talking about this with Kurt and they're looking at a mock-up.

What I think would be really helpful for us to do would be to just look around on the Web and see if there's some examples or some templates that we could forward to them that we think would be viable for this particular project.

So just having a look around and considering what kind of information we need to collect and what we want to display and then passing that on could be helpful I think.

And then also I'm wondering if anybody in this working group has any ideas other than just, you know, match typing with - of ways to put together applicants and providers. So if you have any idea there or (jot) that through a little bit if you'd let me know either on the call or an email that'd be really great.

And then the next thing would be actually communicating about this program to providers and to applicants to let them know it's available and finding out, you know, what they think would be useful as far as a way to collect, you know, who needs what and how to match them up.

And along those lines this week I'll be at the (.next) conference in San Francisco and there'll be many, you know, registry-type providers and (unintelligible) there so my main mission this week is to try to connect with, you know, everyone I can and let them know about the program and ask

them for a commitment to at least explore internally how they would be able to assist.

We've already had in comments commitments made by NuStar and Blacknight to help (unintelligible).

Rafik Dammak: Hello?

Elaine Pruis: Hello? Sorry did I hit mute? What did I say...

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: Blackstar was the last - NuStar and Blacknight and then you went dead.

Elaine Pruis: Sorry. So they've already publicly stated that they want to assist by providing services but we don't really know the details of what they're wanting to do. So I think it would be good to then define all possible types of assistance that might be requested and could be provided.

So the task there is to put up a spreadsheet on the wiki and just list every possible thing that we can think of that people may want or need or might have to provide or share and then, you know, cross reference those from providers with applicants. And that's as far as I've got on these two points this week. Does anybody have any comments or suggestions?

Rafik Dammak: Any comments? Okay...

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: I guess my only - my only comment would be the sooner we can get up that list the better because it strikes me that a lot of these issues are now starting to bleed together. You know, where we go for funding depends a little bit on

what we want to get. And, you know what I mean, all of those things are actually - they're actually variables that affect each other. Thanks.

Elaine Pruis: Okay. I will work on the list of things that people need and could provide. I'll have that up today. And so it would be really helpful if everyone could go through that at some point and add anything that I've overlooked.

Andrew Mack: I have a question, Elaine, that's related. For the two - for the two companies that are proposing to provide some service do they have corporate foundations? And if so might it be possible all on a contingency basis to say to them okay well what would be most helpful would be a combination of service and a little bit of cash just to get us started, you know, just to - as a lever to get other people thinking about this.

Elaine Pruis: I'm not sure. I would suspect that NuStar does and probably Blacknight does not just based on size.

((Crosstalk))

Elaine Pruis: And...

Andrew Mack: Okay.

Elaine Pruis: ...the other part of that is I do know that for some of them providing funds is much easier as far as their internal policies go than actually providing services. So I can - I would expect to see some funds coming from some of the larger players whereas probably the smaller players are more likely to provide services.

Andrew Mack: I think that's right.

Elaine Pruis: So can I just ask people if you have any other ideas for how to match providers with donors besides this Website would you please speak up or

send an email today? Otherwise I'm just going to stick with this one way of matching people. Thanks.

Rafik Dammak: Thanks Elaine. Avri, you raised your hand and...

Avri Doria: Yeah I raised it and then I - it got answered as Elaine kept speaking the questions got answered so I dropped my hand.

Rafik Dammak: Oh okay. But any further comment of - about the report done by Elaine? Okay so we still have, you know, two minutes but for the two next work team but I'm not sure that there was something done in this work team. But at least we have Andrew, if you want to report or to ask some questions so you have the floor.

Andrew Mack: Okay. As you can probably tell I've spent a little bit more time working on the funding issue for obvious reasons because without it we have no gas in our tank as it will. We're still waiting to hear back from a number of people. Eric has done some good work to try to give us some concrete examples about different ways that the IDN issue might play itself out.

As I was saying earlier it is increasingly clear that a focus on IDNs is going to be something that will help us with the funders because it has such an obvious and such an easily visible connection into the kind of development indicators that a lot of these donors are judged on whether they are national donors or international donors or even foundations. And so we're going to keep going through with that.

I've got calls into three or four different people in IDN worlds that we know through ICANN and from outside of ICANN to talk about how they might use this. And I'll hopefully within the next - by the next time we speak or soon thereafter will have some - something more to feed back and we'll start to build off of that.

We're trying very hard to go for very concrete examples to turn this as much as possible into something that is easy to crack from the outside world.

Rafik Dammak: Thank you Andrew. Any - yeah - any further comments or feedback? Okay I think that some participant complained about time for the Friday call. I'm not sure maybe we can to set up another Doodle poll to see if we can change them so we can accommodate and have some maximum of participant in the call.

So if there is no objection maybe we - I will ask Gisella to set up another Doodle poll for the - for Friday call. Okay hearing none, yes, Gisella can you please send Doodle poll to the mailing list so we can fix that as soon as possible?

Gisella Gruber-White: Rafik?

Rafik Dammak: Yes. Yes, Gisella.

((Crosstalk))

Gisella Gruber-White: ...a Doodle poll for Friday?

Rafik Dammak: Yes. Friday, yeah.

Gisella Gruber-White: We've currently got the call set at 1300 is that not a good time?

Rafik Dammak: Thirteen - you mean, 1300 it sounds...

Gisella Gruber-White: Thirteen hundred UTC - sorry I just started another call. Why are we looking at the Doodle poll for Fridays call? Is there an issue with 1300 UTC?

((Crosstalk))

Elaine Pruis: ...at least two of us.

Gisella Gruber-White: Okay. But we're still looking for a time on Friday?

Rafik Dammak: Yes Friday.

Gisella Gruber-White: Okay.

Andrew Mack: Can I make a - can I ask a question? The - if the 9 o'clock - our Eastern Time - works for a number of people - and we've used it a lot - is it possible just to move from 8 o'clock on Friday to 9 o'clock on Friday since people seem to be able to make that? Elaine, you're in California is that doable for you? I know 5:00 am is going to be hard.

Elaine Pruis: Five am does not work for me. I can do 6:00.

Andrew Mack: Does...

Elaine Pruis: We're doing...

((Crosstalk))

Andrew Mack: Okay. Because I know that Eric also mentioned that 8:00 am Eastern Time was hard for him because of children and school and things like that. I don't know whether - I'm just wondering whether it might be - we might actually have an easy solution which would be to move from 8:00 to 9:00.

Rafik Dammak: Yeah, we will try to find...

Gisella Gruber-White: Are we looking at - are we talking about 8:00 to 9:00 Eastern which would mean we - moving from 1300 to 1400 UTC on Friday correct?

Andrew Mack: The same time as this call.

Gisella Gruber-White: Yes correct. Rafik would that suit you? Because if we're doing a Doodle poll any earlier would be very early in Los Angeles and people won't be able to do it. And any later for you Rafik, is going to be in the middle of the night. So if we can maybe just agree on 1400 UTC?

Rafik Dammak: No problem for me. I think I am the only person from Asia...

Gisella Gruber-White: Okay.

Rafik Dammak: ...here. So...

Gisella Gruber-White: Okay I'll send an email out to the list just to confirm if everyone can do 1400 UTC on Friday. Okay?

Rafik Dammak: Yeah - yeah okay. So we'll try to accommodate as much people as we can. And also maybe if it doesn't work we can have - we can extend to have one hour and half for the call but I'm not sure that can work too. Anyway we try to find a workaround.

Okay so I think we can adjourn this call for today. Thank you everybody for your participation. It was really interesting. And please share any comments in the mailing list before the next call. Thank you very much.

Avri Doria: Thank you.

Rafik Dammak: So bye-bye everybody.

((Crosstalk))

Rafik Dammak: Bye. Bye.

END