



Hi,

I am Amrita Choudhury from CCAOI. At the outset, I would like to thank you for considering our NOIF towards recognizing the Cybercafé Ecosystem (CC)/ Public Internet Access (PIA) as a separate constituency under GNSO. While we are delighted for the possibilities that await us, keeping your busy schedules in mind, I would try to be succinct and to the point.

Cybercafés/ PIA communities play a critical role in the emerging nations where the next or next to next billion internet users reside. Out here, owing to the high cost of PC, non English speaking population etc., internet penetration is low and shared PC concept is the only means to overcome the challenge. Besides, the cybercafés help to overcome the four major impediments - cost of access, cost of internet, language and education. As all our services to this community are offered for 'Free', we propose the constituency to be a part of Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG). Unlike the ISPs, in shared PC access environment, the role of platform is not just access but also, awareness and accountability of their actions. Combined Shared PC access platform is bigger than any ISP and has to endure varied policies from various stakeholders. Thus, cybercafés have a bigger and more responsible role to play than the ISPs as they are the complete ecosystem of eGovernance, VAS providers, ISPs, security providers and the Consumers. It's a place where virtual and physical co-exist. Rather, it's the perfect place to fill up any gaps arising out of technology being virtual. Security of the users is one big concern in this segment and we would like the support of ICANN to jointly address this issue.

The PIA/CC constituency would help in giving due recognition and patronage to all the stakeholders of the Cybercafé community who today play the role of a facilitator for the society in most of the emerging nations, thereby promoting Internet and internet enabled services, which is one of the missions of ICANN. Today, even though they are accountable for their actions, there is no standardization and they face a lot of challenges. The platform of GNSO and ICANN would not only bring forth the representation of the cybercafé operators and the end users but also, be able to address their concerns. This platform would also support GNSO to get in-depth and regional understanding of the IDN and GTLD programs, their regional implications etc., which is missing currently.

The constituency would also actively support GNSO towards making well informed and faster policy decisions based on expert regional advice as it would be able to facilitate in promptly bringing forth the views and experiences of diverse nations especially, the emerging nations, who till now have not been broadly represented in the GNSO. This way

the entities, most affected by these decisions, can assist in policymaking and thus, fostering an environment of open and transparent policy making process. This would help in faster implementation and adoption of the policies, which is the ultimate goal of GNSO.

The constituency also provides the advantage to GNSO to get a holistic view of the different stakeholders of the ecosystem at one go which is much needed for effective decision making and for ensuring the ultimate objective of connecting everyone by implementing IDNs, implementing new ccTLDs, IPv4 monitoring/IPv6 etc. especially in countries like India and China which are of prime importance to ICANN and are heavily dependent upon the ecosystem of cybercafés.

The PIA/CC constituency would be fresh and separate from any pre-existing constituency and would encourage the Cyber cafe associations from all across the globe, especially from the emerging nations to join us. We have already initiated contact with the Cybercafé Associations present in different countries and have already initiated dialogue with them viz., iCafe Pilipinas, Cybercafé Association of Bangladesh (CCAQB), Cybercafé Association of Kenya (CCAOK), World Internet Café Operators Association (WICOA) etc., to initiate the process of knowledge sharing amongst the members, and related stakeholders towards mutual cooperation. We plan to initiate communication with Associations present in China, countries of South East Asia, Latin America, Africa and other nations shortly to share our objectives and ideas.

Meanwhile, if any further information/clarifications are required, please do let me know.

Regards

Amrita Choudhury
Director CCAOI

Cyber Café Association of India

C 427 B, Sushant Lok, Phase-I, Gurgaon-122001 Fax : +91 124 4047508 website : www.ccaoi.in

