Panel on ICANN’s Public Responsibility Programs

October 2013 – February 2014

Description

INTRODUCTION

ICANN is seeking to catalyze the formation of a high-level Panel on ICANN’s Public Responsibility Mandate, and is approaching industry leaders, technical pioneers, CEOs, ministers and civic leaders to participate actively or support their efforts. The panel’s work will begin in October 2013 and conclude in late January 2014. The panel will examine ICANN’s existing efforts in capacity building and development and advise on how to strengthen and formalize these efforts through ICANN’s newly announced Public Responsibility Programs Department. This department will focus on ICANN's role as an enabler of growth in the DNS industry and related industries around the world.

THE CHALLENGE

Historically, there has been poor participation in the ICANN process from geographies beyond Europe and North America. Despite the numerous attempts to broaden participation in the ICANN process, these efforts have not paid off. It became clear that the problem was not merely due to the financial gap, but mostly due to a large gap in knowledge and expertise.

WHY IS ICANN DOING THIS

We recognize that bridging the gap of knowledge is thus the most effective vehicle in attracting participation from areas that have historically been absent from the ICANN process. ICANN needs to focus on activities that will enhance interaction with the developing world and to help its constituencies adjust the levels of knowledge and requirements needed for participation and engagement.

THE OBJECTIVES:

The panel will provide recommendations on the composition of the newly announced Public Responsibility Programs.  It will draft a proposal that lays out the strategy for these efforts, defining the framework of activities, focus areas, the potential partners, sources of funding and so on.

THE OUTPUT: A short, high level report – with a public presentation of findings — that presents principles and explores options for a way forward.

THE MEMBERS: The panel will be chaired by Nii Quaynor (biography attached) and will consist of 6 knowledgeable and globally respected leaders from public, private, civil society and technical sectors, with a balanced representation from diverse geographies of the world. Beyond the membership, the panel may encourage the formation of advisory panels or groupings of experts or advocates, depending on their requirements.

PARTICIPATION:  The time commitment envisioned is one in-person meeting. Any other meetings will be conducted remotely.  Most of the work can conducted at the staff level if required.  Additional staff resources to support participation can be provided if needed by a member of the group.

**Nii Quaynor**



Dr. Nii Quaynor pioneered Internet development and expansion throughout Africa for nearly two decades, establishing some of Africa's first Internet connections and helping set up key organizations, including the African Network Operators Group. He also was the founding chairman of AfriNIC, the African Internet numbers registry.

He earned a PhD in Computer Science in 1977, from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and helped establish the Computer Science Department at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, where he has taught since 1979. He was the first African to be elected to the board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and served as an at-large director of ICANN for the African region from 2000 to 2003.

Dr. Quaynor was a member of the United Nations Secretary General Advisory Group on ICT, Chair of the OAU Internet Task Force and President of the Internet Society of Ghana. In 2007, the Internet Society awarded him the Jonathan B. Postel Service Award for his pioneering work in advancing the Internet in Africa. He is a member of the IGF Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG).