

---

ICANN78 | AGM – Planning for Universal Acceptance (UA) Day 2024  
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 9:00 to 10:00 HAM

SEDA AKBULUT:

Hello and welcome to Planning for Universal Acceptance 2024. My name is Seda, and I am the remote participation manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior. During this session, questions or comments will only be read aloud if submitted within the Q&A pod. I will read them aloud during the time set for the community feedback section.

Interpretation for the session will include English, Spanish, French, and Arabic. Click on the interpretation icon in Zoom and select the language you will listen to during this session. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in the Zoom room, and once the session facilitator calls upon your name, our technical support team will allow you to unmute your microphone.

When speaking, ensure you have selected the language you will speak from the interpretation menu. Please state your name for the record and the language you will speak if speaking a language other than English. When speaking, be sure to mute all other devices and notifications.

Please speak clearly and at a reasonable pace to allow for accurate interpretation. All participants in this session may take comments in

---

***Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.***

---

the chat. Please use the dropdown menu in the chatbot and select respond to all panelists and attendees. This will allow everyone to read your comment. Please note that private chats are only possible among panelists in the Zoom webinar format.

Any message sent by panelists or a standard attendee to another standard attendee will also be seen by the sessions host and other panelists. To read the real time transcription, click on the closed caption button in the Zoom toolbar. To ensure transparency of participation in ICANN's multi-stakeholder model, we ask you that you sign in the Zoom room using your full name, using your first name and last name or surname. You may be removed from the session if you do not sign in using your full name. With that, I will hand the floor over to Anil Kumar Jain. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Seda. Good morning, good afternoon, good evening to participants who are online, and good morning to the participants who are onsite. Universal Acceptance, ladies and gentlemen, is basically required for making all the IT systems, including software applications, to accept the request and emails in IDN, that is domains which is not English, and also emails, which should be acceptable in all software applications, social media, e-commerce. Why it is important that only three percent, three and a half percent of the domains of the registrant are using the domains, which are IDN domains.

The emails, which are either level one or level two or are just 20, 21%. So that is why the whole world, which is 60% of the world population do not speak English, do not converse in English. So that is why it is

---

very, very important. USG leadership last year decided to take a massive awareness program about the possibilities of universal acceptance, the requirements of universal acceptance, the impact of universal acceptance, their social impact, their economic impact, which are required on acceptance of the universal acceptance.

And the first inaugural global UA day celebration was held in FY23. And perhaps to my understanding, it was one of the biggest ICANN events, which was celebrated simultaneously in 44 countries. So in today's session, we will recap what we have achieved, what we have done in UA Day celebration 2023, what lessons we have learned, what achievements we have, and what are the plans which we have in the forthcoming FY 2024.

So let us start with the first one. Next slide, please. So the decision for global UA Day celebration in 2023 was virtually at four stages, or you can say three or four stages. One was celebrating at the local level, then celebration of UA at the national level, then celebration of UA at the regional level. Regional means bringing several countries together. And one celebration, a global UA Day celebration on 28th of March at one location.

And that was to create a budget about universal acceptance across the world. We have reached out to various organizations within ICANN, like ccNSO, GNSO, ALAC, SSAC, and we requested all the full community to be part of the global UA Day celebration. And I'm very happy to know that every community has responded much more than expectation. And at this stage, I would like to thank ALAC, regional

---

LOs, LEs, who have contributed in more than 40 to 50% of the global UA Day celebrations world over.

USG works with four working groups and also the local team, which take the USG message to the public. They are UA local initiative, which is at the country level, and also the UA ambassadors, which will take multiple ambassadors within a country or outside the country.

Everybody has planned UA Day celebration, and that celebration was actually a collective effort, and it looked like that we were celebrating a festival on 28th of March. The global UA Day was celebrated in India and it was hosted by the government of India.

Next slide, please. So what USG at the ICANN level has contributed in the global UA Day? It is not that we said that you just celebrate the global UA, but there were two or three type of supports. One support was to provide the material. It means that USG team has provided the awareness presentation, they have provided the welcome videos, technical overviews, programming trainings, and email administration training.

And the complete program was so flexible that the organizers could have taken the UA Day celebration, either of one hour UA Day celebration, two hours UA Day celebration, half an hour UA Day celebration, or a full UA Day celebration. And at the global UA Day celebration, which was held at India, it was a virtually three days celebration, which India conducted. The special webpage was prepared for UA Day celebration, which established a clear communication between the organizers and USG and ICANN team.

---

And the process which we followed last year was, we have taken proposals from organizers. There was a special UA Day working group, which scrutinized the proposals, and depending on the level of organization, a funding was given to every organizer. And I'm very happy to inform you that around \$160,000 funding was given to various organizers across the world to celebrate the global UA Day. And I'm very happy to inform you also that there were several proposals which we have received, which says that we don't need any fund. And this year also we expect the similar kind of response, which we are going to get from various groups.

The multiple teams which were involved in the global UA Day planning and execution was GDSs, GSCs, communication, procurement, legal, and other team. And on I, behalf of the complete USG and on behalf of the ICANN, would like to thank each and everybody who was instrumental in making the global UA Day FY23 successful. Let us see how the UA Day has unfolded. We received 32 proposals from Africa, 41 proposals from Asia Pacific region, two proposals from Europe, Latin America, and then Caribbean has given 12, and North America has given two.

Out of total 89 proposals, we shortlisted 50 events that were contracted with ICANN to undertake the UA Day celebration. Total 9,400 participants participated in the global UA Day celebration with 56 UA Day events. And I'm very happy to inform you that UA Day was celebrated with various countries using various languages for awareness, for training, for adoption, for hackathon, and for workshops. Twenty-two languages, which includes Arabic, Aramea, Cantonese, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Manamar,

---

Nepal, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Senali, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, and Urdu were used for UA Day celebration.

Now, if we see that the response which we have received was maximum from APAC, 37%, followed by Africa, but there was a response, good response from other portions of the region also. But this year we want more response from those countries, which were not able to respond. The reason was that last year, time given to various applicant was quite less. Next slide, please.

Yeah. So when we analyzed what has actually transpired during UA Day, 50% of the UA Day celebrations was about spreading awareness and 50% approximately for training and few portion on the UA adoption also. interesting part was that UA Day was celebrated over a long time. And this year also, we are planning to have UA Day over a period of three months. And the advantage of this long period is that wherever there is a conflict, because of some festivity, because of some engagement of organizers, they can avoid that part and they can utilize other portion for celebration of UA Day so they don't miss this particular celebration. Next slide, please.

ICANN conducted comprehensive outreach to spread the UA Day awareness and encourage the participation through their various communication of media. Press releases were released on the global UA Day, and let me tell you that there were several other press release which were released at India level and at other countries where the global UA Day was celebrated so that the people and public who are not aware about UA, the media was helpful to us to do that. Press

---

release garner more than 1,500 pickups by various global media outlets.

ICANN conducted extensive social media engagements leading to and up to UA Day, including paid and unpaid on Twitter, which is X now, and Facebook. Around thousand impressions reach and over 3,500 links click on the UA Day page was observed during last year. And every event organizer, they have used all kind of media, whether it is press or social media, to spread the masses of universal acceptance in financial year 23.

Now, this is about what we have done in financial year 23, but we desire that the tempo which was built up in financial year 23 should continue, should increase, and we should be able to generate this global UA Day celebration as the festivity. And the basic objective of UA should reach to every eyes, every ear, to every stakeholder who is concerned about this. So let us discuss what we want to plan for FY24 for UA Day celebration. I hand over now my mic to Nitin Walia, vice chair of USG to take us what are expectations about UA Day 24, and I would request my vice chair Nabil to take the process, what process has to be followed by all of us, the organizers, and what is expectation from FY24 UA Day. Over to Nitin.

NITIN WALIA:

Thank you, Anil. So, good morning, everyone. I'm Nitin Walia for the records. First of all, thank you for coming up so early. I believe nine o'clock event is not easy to attend after a long night yesterday with several parties. Anyway, so just to move forward regarding the UA Day 2024 planning. There's a milestone which has already been achieved

---

last time, a well thought program, which was being well executed in 2023 which was being called as global UA Day.

The objective to celebrate this day was that it's been eight years that USG has been working on this particular mission for universal acceptance. And the leadership last time thought that it's very important that collectively the entire community across the globe should come up on one particular day and celebrate this thing as a festival for language.

Then the thought came that why just one day, why not to spread this thing in multiple days so that more and more countries can participate and celebrate this thing on one particular day later on. Although the timelines last time were not that great because the execution time which was being available to the entire group was pretty less.

But with the help of our ambassadors, community members, chairs and vice chairs of the various working groups, we created a small group to celebrate this UA working global day. And then, several proposals were being scrutinized, the staff and the ICANN team supported us day and night. Although a lot of our working group work was being compromised to execute this thing in a well-planned fashion to create all kind of presentations, to create all kind of videos to help our people in the community who's taking this thing in consumers so that the said day can be celebrated together. Next slide, please.

So this year in FY 2024, so as I mentioned that in 2023, there was significant contribution from all our allies, and the outreach was being done by ALAC and 23 LEs, and many of which are also ISOC chapters,

---

which organized UA Day events. There was an active participation from our USG members and USG ambassadors.

The USG gained new members and ambassadors after the UA Day, and there was a significant amount of awareness, which was being raised by this particular event. In fact, the global UA Day event, which was being celebrated in India for almost like two days was having multiple sessions. And we also like to thank the ICANN Board chair and ICANN interim president and CEO and other members of ICANN Org, who have taken up their valuable time and traveled down to India to attend this event for both two days.

And we had great multiple sessions not only towards awareness, but also there were certain training sessions to talk about the importance of UA and how it can be executed well. And also, we shared a lot of success stories during that event that how UA has impacted in various countries and to various people life. There were several videos which was being shared during that particular event which talks about the individuals who got benefited because of this UA. Next slide, please.

So, as far as the UA Day 2024 is concerned, what can be improved from the last year learning was that more events from North America and European region are being thought that we should-- there's already a benchmark which has been set that round about a hundred odd proposals were being received and 56 odd events were being done. This time, it's been like three months we are planning, from 1st of March till almost 30th of May. This window will remain open to conduct all the UA Day events.

---

Although the 28th of March, which has been fixed last year as a global UA Day, that centralized event would happen, the location is yet to be decided. But eventually the objective is that not only the countries where IDN or language is prominent we should also try to reach out to regions like European regions in North America because us in USG for us, it's not only the IDN, it's also the local ASCII domain names and other, which is important to be dealt in terms of UA awareness.

Sorry. And a concrete result from events. So the focus is more on training this time and adoption. So there's already a lot of awareness, which has been done till now. So the thought of the entire group is that let's focus more towards the adoption this time. Next slide, please.

So the focus for UA Day 2024 is that UA Day 2024 will focus on UA adoption and general awareness, that's one thing. Support two level of events, national and one would be global. Now, in this particular national event, we would be having nationwide and regionwide also. So those who are already organized the UA Day event in 2023, like if somebody has done an awareness, we are expecting that now they have to switch the gear from awareness to technical training.

And if somebody has done a technical training last time, they should move towards adoption. As far as the fundings are concerned, for allies and ambassadors, we have clearly indicated that the funding would not be for awareness, the funding would be more towards training and adoption, actually, and three months window for conducting UA Day events from 1st of March till 30th of May will be available.

---

So most probably by 1st of November, this thing will come out with the concrete plan and all who wants to participate this year can start submitting their proposals in the specified format, which will be coming into the call for proposal. And organizers will be provided funding, full funding, partial funding, depending upon the kind of proposals they have submitted. Like [00:25:40 - inaudible] shared that last time there were several proposals.

In fact, there were two proposals from one of my dear colleague Mark in which he has not asked for any kind of funding, but he asked that, I really want to conduct the UA awareness programs in my region. And both the proposals were being approved which he has asked, and he has done a tremendous amount of work in spreading the UA, not only the awareness, but also he has conducted several trainings.

And similarly, the role was being played by a lot of our ambassadors, including the dear Abdulmonem, who has taken the initiative not only into the Arabic region, but he has also moved out of his region and conducted several online presentations to support last year because the window was pretty less and there were a handful of people, which were only available last time.

So they all club together without worrying about the time zones and at what time the event is happening. So for him, it was like 2:00 AM in the morning, and he was doing a presentation in a different time zone, but with full enthusiasm and it's full spread about the UA. Next slide, please.

So the options for proposal this time is that there would be a local [00:27:12 - inaudible] national, so there would be a one hour UA day

---

awareness event, then, sorry, then local and national two hours event, local and national half day event, local and national training, a half day for adoption, half day for academia, one day training for the entire UA Day event, and one day training and adoption event would be there. And then regionally, there would be one day event strategy event, which will be planned. So, there are multiple options which are available this time.

So based on upon your requirement and your spread to contribute to this noble cause of spreading the languages and spreading about the UA, you can participate as per your choice that which kind of an event you want to conduct, and you can submit your proposals accordingly. Next slide, please. Nabil.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Nitin, for making us aware what is planned for financial year 24. I think it is very flexible approach, which is there that suiting to the availability of the time and the organizers' ability to bring the attendees and to spread the awareness, flexibility is available from one hour to one day. You can conduct a local level, you can conduct a national level, you can conduct a regional level event also. Now, let us see how we have to submit the proposal. What are the guidelines which are required to scrutinization of this? What are the timelines which are available to all of us to understand this? Let us go to Nabil. Over to you, Nabil, to brief us about this.

---

NABIL BENAMAR:

Thank you, Anil. Thank you everyone for joining our session on the celebration of UA Day in 24. Next slide, please. So we have some consideration for shortlisting the proposals. As you know, celebrating the UA Day using all through different channels like mainly workshops, this is of utmost importance for us and for the possibility to implement and adopt definitely the universal acceptance on what we have seen last time. When we have workshops, we are in contact face-to-face with implementors, with the main stakeholders, with those who will implement and adopt the universal acceptance in different ways, with registrars, with developers, with students from the university from different regions.

And we hear from them the questions, their comments, their fears about implementing the UA and what can be the pros and cons. So it was for me, a good experience by participating in different working workshops last time, and it was the first time that I heard some questions that were not debated during our meetings. And this is a big advantage because it'll move up and move on to the next step and to take the universal acceptance to the next level. So we have regional and local initiatives and workshops and events.

We are taking into consideration geo diversity and the diversity of events, whether it's about awareness training or adoption. This time, it has been mentioned earlier, we are more focusing and giving more interest on the adoption because this is something that we want to achieve and we would like to see some adoption around the world and to hear the feedback from those who have reached this level.

---

So the number and diversity of participant is also taken into consideration whether they are technical from the community in general, from the government, from academia, we want to make some balance to have at least feedback from all different stakeholders. The amount of financial support requested is also taken into account, whether there is partial support or there is a request for full support.

Availability of other resources requested, like the logistical support speakers, trainers, technical support, when there is, for example, a need for external speakers and trainers, this is something that we take into consideration because there is an amount of budget to be reserved for this. And if there are available local experts in the field, that would be definitely an advantage. Next slide, please.

So starting the tentative timeline that we have for UA Day 24, so the window will open for a call for proposals from one November until the mid of December. Then we will form a proposal review committee that will select the proposals between the mid of November until the 1st of December. The proposal shortlist, which means that the review process will be done during this period, and the results will be available by the mid of January. The material ready for distribution will be between one November and mid of January, meaning that we will try to update and improve existing materials that we used in the celebration of the UA Day during 23 to come up with something.

So we have good material for the moment, but we might improve and add some other slides and some other technical details here and there. Contracting the UA Day organizer will be between the mid January until the mid-February. And then we will assign ambassadors

---

for training. So for training, we are mainly reaching out to our ambassadors, they are the main representatives of the UA concepts.

We need them during the events, they have good knowledge on the UA, and they have good background on how and expertise in different levels and different aspects of the universal acceptance. But sometimes, we can seek the help of other experts from the field outside the ambassadorship because of the limited number that we have and depending on the proposals that have been shortlisted.

So, the UA Day event will take place between the 1st of March until the end of May. As it has been mentioned earlier, this is a consideration to give more flexibility for everyone, for everybody to organize the event. We don't stick with only one special or short period. We open this up to everyone to be able to find the right time for anyone to conduct the event. I think we are done with the slides, and we will be happy to hear from you your feedback, especially on how it can be done, an adoption event, an event related to adoption.

What should be there, what are the requirements, what are your expectation from this event, especially that it'll be the first time that we will have, and this is our expectation too, to have an adoption event, meaning that we have already done with awareness and training and adoption would be really something new and a novelty and an added value to the universal acceptance. We would like to hear from you, community, what are your expectation on this? Thank you.

---

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Nabil.

ABDULKARIM AYOPO OLOYEDE: Thank you very much. Good morning. My name is Abdulkarim. First of all, I want to commend the leadership team for the wonderful work you have been doing and also staff, it's an enormous task and you guys have been doing a great job. Thank you. I also want to commend that last year when we were planning the UA Day, which was the first time ever, we had a planning committee, and that made it look like our event, because everybody participated in the planning, in the structuring, in everything, we had a committee and we agreed on every bits and pieces of it.

And for that one reason, it felt like this is a community event, this is our event, but this year we are just throwing everything at us, this is the guideline, this is this without-- yes, I understand last year was the first time, and we've learned some lessons from last year, and I believe there should still be some level of coordination, especially from the community, to take community input rather than just coming here to tell us this is the guideline, this is the dates, and things like that.

Secondly, I also want to commend ICANN staff for understanding some peculiarities. One of the peculiarities that we have, for example, with universities in Nigeria is what we call the TSA, that it's difficult to pay in foreign currency to a university in Nigeria because the government has just one account. So if you pay into that account, it takes months and months before you can actually get that.

---

So there are some peculiarities with some countries, especially in developing countries, that it's not so easy to get in money. So when we are planning these things, we also need to take that into consideration. Yes, Seda really tried during the 2023 UA Day because of those peculiarities. Just for us to take note of that. So thank you,

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you very much for appreciating the efforts. And I would like to appreciate the work done by you, your team at the national level. And the planning of UA Day is a hybrid planning where there is a flexibility meeting the expectations of all of you and the entire community. But as far as the coordination is concerned, may I request Sarmad to please comment on this particular portion from him?

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Sure. So I think are you asking about the coordination for the UA Day or?

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Yeah.

SARMAD HUSSAIN: Yeah. Okay.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: It's especially about how they can get the funding because of this is-- I think.

SARMAD HUSSAIN:

Right, so there are two parts to the question. As far as the coordination team is concerned, there are actually, if you think about the two steps in the process, one is the planning part, and then one is more execution where, for example, your shortlisting proposals and that those kind of details. Currently, the planning part is being done through the UA comms working group of USG. One of the reasons we didn't spin off a separate working group at this time was because there is still limited staff support. So increasing working groups also requires adding more staff support.

And obviously, the same staff support it was easily possible to, for example, start the planning process within the comms working group. Once the staff support is available, obviously, I think a more dedicated group can also be provided, but that doesn't stop the process.

So comms working group is open, and anybody can sign up and participate. So there's, I think, no challenges there. As far as the funding part is concerned, for us to provide support, there is obviously formal contracting, which has to be done. That's just the way it is. And as far as the formal contracting process is concerned, the organization, which is submitting the proposal, obviously, has to sign the proposal as well, the contracts as well. So if you think there will be any challenges from that perspective, please make sure that you submit the proposals.

There's no constraint on who submits the proposals. So plan to submit proposals through organizations, which can easily sign contracts and which can channel the fundings. If you feel that a

---

certain organization for example, a university, you find it challenging to channel the support, then please look at any other alternate organization which can be used to host them. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Sarmad. Before we come to Mark, there is a comment in the chat, Raitme saying that assigning ambassadors for the training, and that is a request. Let me inform all of you that we have 15 ambassadors, and we expect that every ambassador should cover at least three to four events under UA Day.

So we'll try to assign an ambassador to every event, which is planned for UA Day, but there may be a possibility that our ambassador may not be able to reach to every event. In that eventuality, we will support from the leadership team and from the ICANN staff also. With this, may I request Mark to take the floor?

MARK DATYSGELD:

Thank you very much chair. Mark Datysgeld speaking, I serve the GNSO Council, but here I'm speaking on my capacity as a USG member. So, one of the things that really stood out for me in the first UA Day was the lack of events in the NA and EU region which was very, very, very low. And I don't want to blame those regions, I want to blame us, right? We did not do enough, as a community, we did not do enough.

We needed to be there, really pushing them and really saying, Hey, this is necessary. So I would like us to make a commitment. I'm making a

---

commitment, and I want us all to make a commitment that this time we really insist on there being more events in those regions because it is our mission, we are trying to make the world UA aware, we're trying to make the world adopt UA.

So we already have very good basis in Latin America, clearly in Asia, India is a very big hub for UA. Now we need to start looking, especially in the EU region where they have so much linguistic diversity, right? How do we really get to them? So I would like this to be a priority for UA Day 2024, so that next year when we're doing this, we can say, see, we did it.

We took it from 2 to 10, or something like that, and we can be proud of what we did as a community, because this time I think we didn't do enough. So as we move on with this planning, let's see how we can try to reach them specifically, what can we do that we missed the first time that we can do to now be there? Thank you very much.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Thank you, Mark. I think wonderful, and that should be the aspect which every region should show. And as I said, that there should be, yes, you are right, next year when we'll be sitting here, we'll see that every region has contributed equally also. Thank you, Mark. Thank you very much. Sarmad, you wanted to say something before we proceed to the next one. So next is Raitme. Please go ahead, please take the floor. Are you there Raitme? So anyway, we can take up Raitme later on, then --

---

RAITME CITTERIO: I can please speak in Spanish?

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Yeah, please.

RAITME CITTERIO: Okay. [00:45:44 - Spanish language].

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Raitme. So first of all, I would request Nitin to please answer initial portion of his question. And then Nabil to answer about the comment about the academia involvement in the UA Day.

NITIN WALIA: So thank you, Raitme. I believe more than the question, you have given some wonderful comments about the last year contributions and the events which were happening in your region. And also, thank you for all kind of tremendous work, which has happened into your region. In fact, you also quoted the same name which I used during my presentation, which was Mark, so thank you Mark for giving your tremendous support into your region. In fact, the important thing which you mentioned was regarding that more ambassadors into your region and local initiatives.

So yes, if you have attended our earlier session, you must have seen that the focus is moving towards more into your region and the applications for UA ambassadors and local initiatives are most welcome. Also, as I will take it as a promise from Mark actually, which

---

he has made right now, to conduct more and more events into his region that will automatically support your requirement in terms of having some wonderful events happening this time regarding UA Day.

In fact, last time, there was a shortage of proposals actually which we received. So we just received two proposals and both were from Mark and we approved both of them. The committee has actually approved both of them. So the expectation last time was that we covered maximum regions. So we try to ensure that at least one proposal of every region is approved. Thank you again.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

I want you to very shortly answer this because we have a long queue.

NABIL BENAMAR:

Okay. So just a quick thank you to Raitme for his comments and for his good feedback. I would like to just tell you that we have a good thing that we are working on, which is preparing the material for academia. This is something that you can also use in the university, not only you, but all universities in different languages for different levels of courses related to computer science. That can include the universal acceptance principle, from different courses, different models, from programming to web development, to networking, to operating system, and other courses. So that's a good thing that we can use in the future. Thank you.

---

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Nabil. Thank you. Yao, Sossou please go ahead. Floor is yours. Yao, are you online?

YAO SOSSOU: Do I have the floor?

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Yeah, we are able to listen to you. Please go ahead.

YAO SOSSOU: Thank you very much. First of all, I want to thank the UA Day-

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: I think just hold on. There is a queue and we would like to follow the queue. So in case Herve is not there, please wait for your turn to come. Now, we'll come to the next is Satish Babu. Satish Babu, the floor is yours.

SATISH BABU: Thanks very much. This is Satish for the record.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Just for information, Satish is also, yeah, Satish is also the chair of the Technical Working Group of UAG. Satish, please go ahead.

---

SATISH BABU:

Thanks very much. I have a few quick points. First is that I am also playing the liaison role with ALAC, and ALAC had covered about 40 to 50% of the last year's proposals, and we are very happy to support you further this year also, and we will ensure that the message gets along to the members. Can we go to the slide number six, please? In the meantime, as it's coming up, I'd like to make another point, which is that the UA Day celebrations are on while the ICANN79 in San Juan is on, which is from second March onwards.

So even symbolically, if you can have an event during the ICANN meeting on UA Day, it'll be quite useful. Then regarding slide six, so I just wanted to point out that there is a disparity if you look at the number of applications and number of approved applications, the ratio for Asia Pacific. Number six, please. So the point is that these applications are made with a lot of enthusiasm by the applicants.

And when they don't receive any response, especially when a country has a large number of applicants and there's only one approved, there is a little bit of a disillusionment. I don't know what to do with this number, this is number 17. Can we go to number six, please?

ANIL KUMAR JAIN:

Where it is written, how many applications are received, and how many are approved? I think the first, second or third slide.

NABIL BENAMAR:

I think there's some technical challenges.

---

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Let me answer this strategic.

SATISH BABU: So my point was that among all the regions, Asia has had the maximum number of applications, but the ratio is the least, the number of applications approved to the applied is the least. So I would like to know why this is so, and what we can do to avoid the situation in future. And finally, last point on the UA Day working group, I see no reason why ICANN is spending so much of money on UA Day that it cannot spend a little more on the staffing for this period.

So staffing to me is a non-existent cause. Raymond had pointed in the previous meeting also that we would like to have a UA Day group. And Sarmad's answer has been that it's because of staffing problems. When you have such a large budget, you need a budget to ensure that it happens properly also. So that's a very minimal aspect of the budget. Thank you.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Satish. So first of all thank you very much to At-Large organization at several level for supporting UA Day, and a commitment that you will continue to do that is a wonderful thing. Thank you very much and we all appreciate that, and we would really like that you remain part of us. The second comment is about approvals of the various proposals. There is a committee which actually goes through each and every proposal, look at what they're contributing and what they can take masses to the community.

---

And that is the reason how the approvals or disapproval happens. But we are looking at a day, Satish, when none of the approvals gets disapproved. That is because the basic purpose is that everybody should be able to reach to everybody else.

But there are some constraint, major constraint is not money, but I think the manpower and coordination, because we said that we try that one UA ambassador should be there in every event and all those things. So this time we will see that the, I can use the word grudge, which Asia Pacific has, may not be there, the second thing which I said. And the third point you said is?

SATISH BABU: Celebration of-

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: About the celebration during ICANN79 is a wonderful suggestion, and I would request, because there are ICANN Org, which are sitting here through them. I would like to give this message to the ICANN Board also in case they can allocate some time in ICANN79 for UA Day celebration. Thank you, Satish. Thank you. Next. Seda, who is next? Yeah, there are three here.

SEDA AKBULUT: The next one is [00:56:47 - inaudible].

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Yeah. Please go ahead.

---

SÈTONDJI HOUNZANDJI: I would like to speak in French, please.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Oh, yes, please go ahead.

SÈTONDJI HOUNZANDJI: Okay. Thank you. [00:57:02 - French language].

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you, Sètondji. I think it is a very important message which you have given to us this time. Yes, one reason of keeping a window of three months is virtually same, but at the same time, the message which you are giving is that something should remain happen throughout the year so that everybody should get motivated. Thank you, I think this is a very nice one, and we'll note down. Yes, sir.

AKIMBO ADEBUNMI ADEOLA: Good morning. Adebunmi Akimbo for the records. I want to appreciate what we've been doing so far. I'm an ICANN78 fellow, but I'm not new in the system, so I've been here since close to 2009, and I'm fortunate to have been a pioneer member of the Universal Acceptance Group. However, I just want to remind us, there were some rejections last year from proposals, and I want to remind us that we should send a mail to them early enough.

---

Probably, if we can't give them full information of why they're being rejected, please let us send them a response. Another thing I also understand is the diversity and innovation that we should understand. We've been using two semantics adoption, training, and there was a time we were also talking about awareness. I want us to consider media platforms that have innovations and would want to do both because that is what they do. I do not want to mention names so it doesn't look as if I'm trying to lobby.

But the truth is, there are some people who can actually run the awareness because there was an opportunity to do a two-day event. And so, if anyone is saying he can handle awareness, and then he can also handle training, basically because we have the material online for them to adopt and use, then we should do that. It would go a long way in helping us.

And some of us were able to do zero budgeting because we had that opportunity of those materials. So the more we push those materials up for people to understand it, the better. Now, the final suggestion, another key word that we should understand can also work for us in awareness and simultaneously adoption, is advocacy.

That word is very, very important. We have used it so many places and it has worked especially for less developed country continent like Africa, and we would want the UA to start considering that word advocacy as an umbrella for adoption, awareness, and training. Thank you.

---

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: Thank you very much for your comments, and they're well said and well noted. We will definitely take care of this. Now we have five, six people who are on the line. We are already three minutes more than the schedule session time. One question, can we take from Raymond?

SEDA AKBULUT: Yeah, actually we are over time, so we need to close.

ANIL KUMAR JAIN: So sorry, Raymond, we cannot take the questions, and I request all who want to contribute when they want to speak to all of us. You are requested to kindly send your comments and we assure you that we'll send the reply today itself. So this is the time when we have to close the session, but the message is that message and the request and the appeal, which USG leadership would like to give to all of you.

Please join us on celebration of global UA Day. And as it is said, that this is the festivity of all the efforts of all of us who are doing here for the last 25 years. And this is the very auspicious occasion when ICANN is also celebrating 25th year of its formation here. And I request not only you, but all people, all stakeholders who are in touch with you and whom you feel are having a connection with the universal acceptance must join us.

So thank you very much for all participant who are onsite, who are online, and be in touch with us, remain with us so that we can spread the message of universal acceptance always. Can we stop recording?

---

SEDA AKBULUT:

Yeah. For the questions that we could not address today, please join the Comms Working Group for the UA Day planning meetings that are every two weeks on Mondays at 14:30 UTC. Thank you for your participation, we can close the session and end the recording. Thank you.

**[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]**