# New gTLD Program

Singapore

20 June 2011



### Agenda

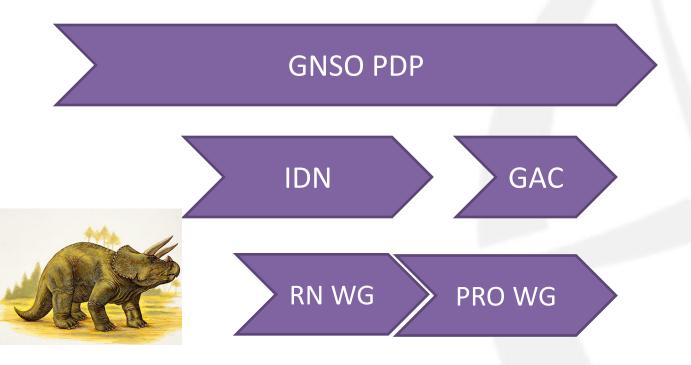
- Reflection on community participation
- What the Board approved
  - Rationales for decision
- What changed in the Guidebook
- Operational Readiness
- Communications
- Timeline



## Reflection on Community Participation

"The gem cannot be polished without friction"





2005 2008



**IDN Implementation WT** 

IRT STI



GAC

**HSTLD** 

2009 2010



JIG

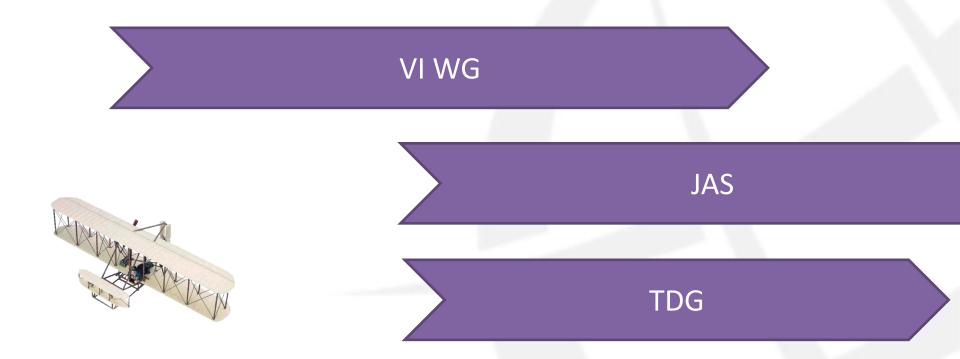
ZFA



Rec 6 WG

2010 2011





2010



GAC

JAS

**IDN Variants** 

2011





### New gTLD Program goals

#### Introduction of:

- Competition
- Innovation
- User Choice

#### For the benefit of:

- Communities
- IDN users
- Commerce
- The Public Interest

### Intended benefits of the new gTLD Program

#### A Safer Environment

- New standard trademark protections
- Improved malicious mitigation measures
- Collaboration among stakeholders on scaling the root
- Objective, internationally based dispute resolution procedures for handling controversial strings
- Protection of registrants: registry transition procedures
- Insights applied to other areas (e.g., background screening used for registrar due diligence)



### Unintended benefits of the new gTLD Program

- Effective, cross-stakeholder working groups
- Board-GAC working process
- Increased transparency
- Depth of public comment summaries and analysis
- New people, groups involved in ICANN
- Closer working relationships with technical community



## What the Board Approved

"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop."



### What the Board approved

- The Program described in the Applicant Guidebook
- Timeline for launch
- Risk assessment
- Communications
- Budget
- Continuing the applicant support work
- Rationales for decision
- Specific differences with GAC
- Operational readiness plan



#### Rationale for Board decisions

- Evaluation process
- Trademark protections
- Malicious conduct mitigations
- Objection processes
- Geographical names
- String similarity and string contention
- Root zone scaling
- Fees
- [Economic studies]
- [Vertical integration]



### **GAC - Board Cooperation**

Reaffirming the effective role of governments in the ICANN model.

Proactive consultations; addressing 12 issue areas:

-Objection Procedures

Post-Delegation Disputes

-Review of Sensitive Strings - Geographic Names

-Root Zone Scaling

Legal Recourse for Applicants

-Market & Economic Impacts

Opportunities for All Stakeholders

-Registry-Registrar Separation

Law Enforcement Recommendations

-Rights Protection

Consumer Protection



### **GAC - Board Cooperation**

Of 12 issue areas and 80 specific sub-issues there has been substantial progress in reaching agreement on all issue areas

Some remaining areas of difference:

- Trademark protections:
  - requirement for evidence of trademark "use"
  - burdens of proof for URS and PDDRP
  - URS loser pays threshold (26 to 15)
  - Need to show "affirmative" conduct in PDDRP
- Post delegation disputes: effect of administrative decisions



#### Work left to do with GAC

- GAC Advice: language development
- Communications: Government objection processes
- Root scaling: complete documentation
- Operating practices for Community TLDs
- Trademark protections:
  - post-launch study
  - Clearinghouse tender



## **Guidebook Changes**

"Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated."



### **Applicant Guidebook**

Module 1: Introduction to the Application Process

Module 2: Evaluation Procedures

-- Evaluation Questions & Criteria

Module 3: Objection Procedures

Module 4: String Contention Procedures

Module 5: Transition to Delegation

-- Registry Agreement

Module 6: Terms & Conditions



#### Module 1: Introduction

- Post names of directors/officers/shareholders in application
- Clarification on use of application comments
- Customer support described
- Background screening: added cybercrime, consumer protection
- GAC Early Warning and GAC Advice processes described
- Changes to Guidebook going forward



#### Module 2: Evaluation Procedures

- Questions scoring clarified
- Revisions to questions on Rights Protection, Abuse
   Prevention, Security to provide incentives in these areas
- New application questions to facilitate cost/benefit study
- Incorporated SSAC advice on orphan glue records
- Geographic Names: clarification on government support requirement per GAC



### Module 3: Objection Procedures

- GAC Advice procedure for objecting to applications
- Revisions to community objection standard establishing detriment
- Revisions to limited public interest objection standard additions to discrimination clause per Rec6 WG
- Objection fee exemptions for governments and ALAC



### Module 5: Registry Agreement

- Obligation to investigate and respond to reports of illegal conduct from law enforcement and government agencies
- Obligation to provide data for economic studies
- Registry fees: transaction-based model
- Process for release of Country names at the second level
- ICANN will respect court orders



### Module 5: Clearinghouse, URS, PDDRP

- Broaden types of rights in Clearinghouse
- Costs:
  - trademark holders will pay to enter Clearinghouse, and
  - registries will pay for sunrise or trademark services
- Streamlined and simplified URS
- Proof of "use" required for Sunrise, PDDRP and URS
- Use can be shown with declaration and a sample of one specimen of use
- URS: limited loser pays provision
- PDDRP: ICANN-imposed remedies will be "in line" with remedies recommended by the Panel



## **Operational Readiness**

"Success depends upon previous preparation"



## **Guidebook Approved**

# What's Next?

- TLD Application System (TAS)
- Applicant Service Center (ASC)
- Service Providers Update (SPU)



## How to Apply -TLD Application System (TAS)

#### My Applications

Click on an application's Slot ID to complete/edit the application questionnaire, withdraw the application, or view application-specific tasks and details.

(a) The application deadline is 6/7/2011. The Application Window is Closed

#### Refresh Information

Application Slot ID	$\nabla$	Applicant	Status
1-123-1020		lksadjgalsdgj	Slot Approved

**Start New Application** 

- Online application submission
- Email notifications of tasks
- Online help



### **TAS Resources**

- Recorded TAS Demo
- How To Webinars:
  - Registering
  - Submitting an Application
- User Guides
  - Quick Start
  - Detailed guidance





## Getting Help - Applicant Service Center (ASC)

"Support applicants
through the
application process
in a timely,
transparent, and
consistent manner"

- Multi-lingual, multi-regional
- Self-help Tools
  - Searchable knowledge base
  - FAQs
  - Exploring online forums



### **Applicant Support Center Resources**

#### **Available Now**

- FAQs
- newgtld@icann.org

### **Coming Soon**

- ASC landing page
- Searchable knowledge base
- Additional support channels



## Service Providers Update

#### **Evaluation Panels**

- Geographic Names
- String Similarity
- Registry Services
- DNS Stability
- Financial
- Technical/Ops

#### **Requirements:**

- Skill sets
- Cost
- Conflicts of Interest
- Scalability
- Responses from global providers
- Finalists identified
- In contract discussions now
- Expect to announce firms shortly



### Other Service Providers

### Requests for Proposals (posted or in development):

- Customer Service Contact Center
- Background Screening
- Independent Objector
- Trademark Clearinghouse
- Uniform Rapid Suspension Provider
- Community Priority Evaluation Provider



### Communications

"Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know people."



### **Communications Plan**

#### Goals:

- ensure global awareness of opportunities and risks
- aimed at businesses and organizations
- communicate clearly and comprehensibly
- Launches immediately; will gain momentum over summer, with major focus beginning in September
- Critical program documents in six U.N. languages



### **Communications Key Elements**

- Comprehensive communication in five geographic regions
- Strong focus on social media
- Mainstream press coverage
- Global advertising



### **Timelines**

"When you have completed 95 percent of your journey, you are only halfway there."



### Final AGB Timeline

#### Provide for final decision in Singapore

#### 15-Apr-11

**18-Mar-11** SF/SV Board Meeting Final Scorecard &
Guidebook extracts w/
"track changes" for
constituency comment

15-May-11 Close public comment **30-May-11**Post final
Guidebook

20-Jun-11
Board
Consideration

#### 25-Mar-11

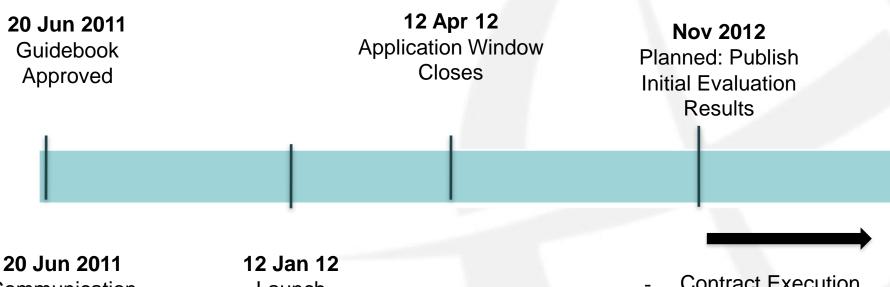
GAC feedback expected and will be taken into account

#### 20-May-11

Proposed GAC-Board teleconference on Final Scorecard (Teleconference)



### New gTLD Program Timeline



Communication Period **Begins** 

Launch Program (Application Window Opens)

- Contract Execution
- Pre-delegation testing
- Delegation
- AOC review organized 12 months after first TLDs operational



# Thank You



### Not to be missed...

### Wednesday

TM Clearinghouse implementation discussion

### Thursday

Getting ready – understanding the applicant guidebook questionnaire

JAS-WG proposal for support for New gTLD applicants from developing nations

