

# Report on the ICANN and NZNOG Activities Participation 2006

**ICANN & NZNOG 06**



**Wellington, New Zealand  
March 22 – 31, 2006**

**Prepared by Ashwin Nand  
April 2006**

## **Background and Role**

A rare ICANN conference took place, within the Pacific region in Wellington from the period of 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. The Pacific Internet Partners under the aegis of Internet NZ, UNDP and the New Zealand government provided for a number of fellowships for south pacific island states, one of which was the author from Fiji.

The conference was well attended with about 1000 delegates including government delegates, civil society groups and private sector organizations.

As an follow-up to the conference, there were a interesting number of presentations, discussion forums, and demonstrations, many of which came under the banner of New Zealand Network Operators Group, which held their annual conference at Victoria University, Wellington from the 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2006.

The department of Information Technology and Computing (ITC) Services of the Government of Fiji had expressed a strong desire to send a delegate to above mentioned conferences and upon confirmation of the scholarship offer by Pacific Internet Partners (PIP); the author was elected to attend on behalf of the department in his capacity as the Network Team Leader.

## **Comments on NZNOG**

NZNOGs activities at the Victoria University were organized as a series of tutorial, plenary and presentations focusing on the following networking themes mostly:

- Network Access
- IP Address & DNS issues
- Content Networking
- Network Economics and Traffic Engineering

The author attended various events in networking and found the following sessions with the APNIC internet resource management

tutorial, Community Wireless in Tokelau, The "local loop" implementation in Nelson , and Building of content distribution networks to name a few as the most interesting.

The agenda centered on the above themes were well focused and attracted a high quality of panelists and presenters, experts in their own field. It was encouraging to see the islands countries perspective, present in some of presentations made by participants, illustrating problems present and solutions to overcome them. The papers were well researched and it is hopeful that the follow-up activities translate a majority of the ideas discussed into action. For Fiji, one of the immediate issues that the author was able to have discussions on, was with APNIC staff was in relation to independent IP address space for government usage. Paperwork on this will be presented to the section head and subsequently submitted to APNIC.

The author will also attempt to share the other technical presentations and finding in the form of discussions and presentations within the departments' networking team caucus.

## **Comments on ICANN**

The ICANN activities proved to be very fruitful for the author. It offered a first hand glimpse of the role of ICANN as an international organization and witness its strength in "internet running" through community outreach activities as such. It also served as a unique personal experience for the author, with his first ICANN outing.

The highlight of this meeting was attendance at the Government Advisory Committee (GAC), of which Fiji government has been a member of since 2004. It allowed the author to meet some of the delegates with whom, the department had collaborated with in the past and observe first hand, the workings of this committee, role and processes in real-time as opposed to reading minutes as in the past. A report on this will be made to the department head, stating the observations made with GAC, in particular, its recent agenda discussions on capacity building and internationalization initiatives within the coming months.

## **Conclusion**

ICANN was seen to be different from other global ICT United Nations events. It allowed an inside look in processes and working groups of how the Internet was been run as opposed to how it should be run. Likewise the NZNOG activities offered a rich source of technical knowledge and experiences undergoing in the communications world. Equivocally the author intends to disseminate the information learned from the above events through a combination of reports on the ICANN proceedings to presentations and discussions on the NZNOG items of interest. As previous experience has shown, technical matter is best shared within technical colleagues through a series of hands-on sessions and theory, and this will be adhered to this time also, with the departments' technical audience.

Attendance at this unique event wouldn't have been possible without Pacific Internet Partners (PIP) valued assistance and support. It made possible for a more inclusive representation from the developing small pacific island nation region and reinforced the author's belief in ICANN and PIP been a true multi-stakeholder organization realizing its goals for a more inclusive and knowledgeable information society. Thank you, Pacific Internet Partners.

.