

AP* Retreat - 50th Meeting

3rd September, 2024

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM (Wellington Time)

Room Mokopuna 1B, Level 1 of Takina Conference Centre,
50 Cable Street Te Aro, Wellington 6011 New Zealand

Co-Chairs: Maureen Hilyard and Joyce Chen

Coordinated and Supported

by DotAsia Organisation (Edmon Chung, Phyo Thiri Lwin, and Jasmine Ko)

Special Thanks to APNIC team, Professor Kanchana Kanchanasut and the team



Photo from APNIC Social Media

In-person Attendees:

Aftab Siddiqui (ISOC)

Alban Kwan (CSC)

Andreas Pareanga (Vodafone Cook Islands)

Champika Wijayatunga (ICANN)

Edmon Chung (DotAsia)

Hashiba Keishi (JPNIC Fellow)
Hiro Hotta (JPRS)
Hirochika Asai (WIDE Project)
Ian Sheldon (Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts, AU)
Isobel Egerton (APTLD and Internet NZ)
Jodi Anderson (Internet NZ)
Jia Rong Low (APNIC)
Jo Fan Yu (TWNIC)
Jordan Carter (auDA)
Joyce Chen (APNIC) – Co-Chair
Kohki Hashimoto (JPNIC Fellow)
Marcos Sadao Maekawa (APNIC Foundation)
Maemura Akinori (JPNIC)
Maureen Hilyard (APRALO) – Co-Chair
Noriatsu Kudo (WIDE Project)
Ole Jacobsen (IPJ/APNOG)
Paul Twomey (Argo Pacific)
Rajnish (Raj) Singh (APNIC Foundation)
Rosemary Sinclair (auDA)
Rupesh Shrestha (SANOG)
Subha Shamarukh (APNIC)
Sylvia Cadena
Vivien Maidaborn (Internet NZ)

Online Attendees:

Amrita Choudhury (APRALO)
Cheryl Langdon-Orr (auIGF)
Jean F. Queralt (The IO Foundation)
Md. Mahfuzus Salam Khan (APNG)
Sunyoung Yang (APNG)
Sagarika Wickramasekera (APSIG)

1. Opening Remarks

The opening remark session was started with a “Karakia Welcome” by InternetNZ, followed up by an introduction to the day’s agenda from Maureen Hilyard. Afterwards, Joyce Chen facilitated morning sessions of AP* Retreat Meeting and Maureen Hilyard served as the facilitator for the afternoon sessions.

2. Updates in the APAC Region

The meeting covered a broad range of updates from various Internet governance organizations and initiatives across the Asia-Pacific region. The list of topics and corresponding speakers were as follows:

- Recent developments from Internet NZ - Vivien Maidaborn
- Insights into TWNIC, and updates on APriGF, APyIGF and TWIGF 2024 - Jo-Fan Yu
- Updates on APNIC - Subha Shamarukh
- Updates from auDA - Jordan Carter
- APTLD's regional efforts - Isobel Egerton
- Updates on APNG CAMP 2025 - Md. Mahfuzus Salam Khan and Yang Sunyoung
- Ongoing work of the APNIC Foundation - Rajnesh Singh
- APRALO activities - Amrita Choudhury
- Australian Internet Governance Forum (AuIGF) - Cheryl Langdon-Orr
- Preparations for WSIS and the NaviGate initiative by the Australian government - Ian Sheldon
- Updates from Pacific IGF (PacIGF) - Andrew Molivurae
- Internet challenges experienced recently in Bangladesh - Subha Shamarukh
- Updates from ICANN - Champika Wijayatunga
- ISOC's global efforts - Aftab Siddiqui
- Recent activities of APSIG - Sagarika W
- DotAsia's activities, including the EcoInternet initiative - Edmon Chung
- APIE Project - Noriatsu Kudo
- Updates on NETmundial+10 - Akinori Maemura
- IO's introduction to the importance of Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) in global internet governance - Jean F. Queralt
- We also welcomed Jia Rong Low in his new capacity as incoming Director General of APNIC spoke briefly at the meeting as well.

3. Discussion on Future and Sustainability of AP*

The conversation reflected on the history and future of the AP Star Retreat, noting that this marks the 50th meeting, with the first meetings dating back to 2000, and has been a pivotal forum for Asia-Pacific-wide Internet-related collaborative initiatives. It was highlighted that APTLD Board meetings were jointly held at the AP* Retreat in the early years and DotAsia AGM continues to be held at AP* during APRICOT.

It was noted that Initially focused more on technical coordination aspects, the retreat has evolved to include significant discussions on Internet governance. At the last AP* meeting during APRICOT 2024 in Bangkok on 26 February, 2024, intERLab/AIT, which has been serving as the Secretariat for AP* indicated that they have decided to discontinue their work in the role. A transition has since been underway in cooperation with the intERLab/AIT team, with DotAsia and APNIC working jointly together to support the Secretariat duties – DotAsia handling the administrative Secretariat tasks and APNIC providing venue and technical support. There was acknowledgement and no objection to the arrangement going forward at the meeting.

There was general acknowledgement of the value of the AP* Retreat platform and that adjustments to the organization of the event and platform were welcomed. The importance of balancing between technical and governance discussions was highlighted, and further feedback on the agenda should be invited for future sessions. There was support for keeping meetings flexible while ensuring they remain useful and interesting.

A discussion on the purpose of the AP* Retreat was raised. The conversation revolved around AP* as a gathering of Asia Pacific Internet organisations (hence AP“**”). Some participants expressed that they were expecting the AP* Retreat to include informal collaboration discussions among AP Internet related organizations, but only found structured presentations throughout the day. It was suggested that AP* can provide a platform for cooperation between different Internet organizations from the AP region in the Internet governance space and that informal settings could foster better collaboration. There was agreement that part of the agenda can be focused on how the AP community could address specific issues collaboratively, rather than just sharing updates. It was suggested that one such specific issue, namely a playbook or information sheet on Internet shutdowns, which straddles between the technical workings and governance of the network, could be included as a pilot on the agenda for the next AP* meeting.

The question of attracting youth leaders and next generation participation at AP* was raised. It was noted that while youth involvement is important, it may not be realistic to expect persons early in their career to be able to devote the time and to step up to leadership roles immediately. It was further proposed that adjustments to the meeting format to allow for more meaningful discussions would be conducive to attracting and inviting youth leaders to participate.

Overall, it was suggested to make the meeting more dynamic, collaborative, and impactful while keeping them accessible and relevant to both newcomers and longtime participants.

4. Conclusion

The meeting concluded with the procedural task of appointing new Co-Chairs. Alban Kwan is appointed as one of the Co-Chairs (International) for the next AP* Retreat. It was suggested that another Co-Chair (Local) be identified when the venue of APRICOT 2025 is decided, noting that the AP* Retreat tradition is to include one Co-Chair from the local community. The next AP* Retreat meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on 23rd of February, 2025 at APRICOT 2025, pending confirmation of APRICOT's dates and venue.