

# Chairman's AGM Report 2008/9

## Africa Top Level Domain Organization (AfTLD)

AfTLD 2009 Event  
Arusha, Tanzania



17<sup>th</sup> April, 2009

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# AFTLD ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

I am pleased to present to you the annual report and AfTLD highlights for the year 2008 – 2009. In an effort to actualize its objectives, the Excom has continued to hold teleconferences, mailing-list discussions and face-to-face meetings over the past year and as a result several achievements have been realized since the last AGM.

## 1. ACHIEVEMENTS

### *1.1 AfTLD Johannesburg 2009*

The event was hosted with the support of the South African Department of Communication, AfriNIC, ISOC, ICANN, NSRC, OIF, Internet Solutions and Kheweul.com. Through the support received from ICANN and ISOC, AfTLD was able to provide fellowship support to 14 ccTLD registry managers from the region. The event was attended by 57 participants drawn from African Governments, African ccTLD managers, TLD Registrars, representatives from APTLD, CENTR, Nominet UK, AFNIC, OIF, CZNIC, ccNSO Secretariat, GAC, ICANN/IANA, ITU, AfNOG and AfriNIC.

The Hon. Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, the South African Minister of Communication, opened the event at the Balaika Hotel, South Africa. Her speech highlighted the challenges facing African ccTLDs and the importance for cooperation at all levels to achieve ICT growth and development. She reiterated that Africa's time has come to have its impact on the global ICT arena and the need to start by recognizing the key institutions such as AfTLD, AfriNIC, AfNOG at the African Union (AU) and the Pan African Parliament in order to sensitize the policy makers.

It's with deep sadness that we learned of her demise on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2009. She will be truly remembered for her inspiration to the ccTLD community during the event in South Africa.

### *1.2 Participation & visibility in other events*

To promote African representation and participation at the global policy formulation arena, the Excom has ensured that AfTLD is visible and plays meaningful roles during various events. The events covered since AfTLD Johannesburg includes:

- ICANN meetings
- AfriNIC meetings
- Hyderabad 2008 IGF meeting
- ATU 2009 ccTLD IGF in Mauritius



At these forums, the Excom members have utilized the opportunities to represent the African region. AfTLD held a workshop titled “Access: Bootstrap ccTLD growth and development in developing countries”. The Workshop was aimed at presenting best practices in developing partnerships and multi-stakeholder approach to achieve growth and development. The countries that participated were .IN, .MW, .EG and .LK. The speakers were able to demonstrate how multi-stakeholder partnerships were able to provide additional resources and support that was essential for the growth of their respective ccTLDs.

Further, CENTR in cooperation with RTLDOs organised a Workshop titled around the world in 8 ccTLDs at the IGF in Hyderabad, India. The Workshop sought to present experiences from various ccTLDs around the world. The African region was represented by .MW and

### *1.3 Hiring an Administrative Manager*

Despite having taken a longer period than planned, the Excom hired effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 Mr. Eric Akumiah to the position of AfTLD Administrative Manager. Mr. Akumiah brings on board a wealth of experience from the Internet community. More information on his appointment is available on the AfTLD Website.

### *1.4 Capacity Building*

Further to the request of its members to facilitate capacity building events. In 2008, APTLD in collaboration with AfTLD hosted a 3 day Attack and Disaster Recovery and Planning (ACRP) training prior to the start of the ICANN meeting in Cairo. Further, AfTLD is happy to observe has successfully held its first hands on Workshop at the AfTLD 2009 event. The course training is focused on ACRP with a 2 day advanced hands on Security training for ccTLDs. The workshop was held with the extensive support of ICANN, ISOC, NSRC, TZNIC and the Government of Tanzania. In addition, a parallel introduction to IPv6 and DNSSEC presentations were given to non-core ccTLD participants for a 2 day period. We extend our sincere appreciations to the Instructors from Delta Risk, NSRC, ISOC and Uniform for making the workshops a success.

### *1.5 Collaboration and partnerships*

Collaboration and partnership have proven over the past years of the emergence of the global village phenomenon to be strong cornerstones of accelerating development and empowerment using ICTs. To this end, the AfTLD Excom has continued to explore strategic partnership opportunities.

We continue our partnership and collaboration efforts with CENTR, APTLD and LACTLD. Recently, the Excom renewed its observer role at the European ccTLD



Association CENTR for the period 2009 – 2010. Further, the ongoing collaboration amongst the regional TLD associations continues to grow with meetings being held at ICANN meetings and participating at each other's regional TLD meetings.

At the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting held in December Hyderabad, India, the Regional Top Level Domains Organizations (RTLDOs) that include CENTR, AfTLD, APTLD and LACTLD shared a booth at the exhibition area to showcase their activities in the respective regions. The booth was generously sponsored by CENTR, and wishes to thank them for their continued visionary role in IGF meetings.

Efforts are underway to explore various partnership opportunities with relevant regional organisations such as AfNOG, AfrISPA and ISOC. These will add to the already strengthened and mature partnership that exists with AfriNIC.

### *1.5 Formalizing AfTLD membership*

The AfTLD membership recruitment program aimed at formalizing its relationships with the ccTLD managers in the region commenced in earnest in December 2007. To date, the Excom has received over 16 formal membership applications. Three more ccTLD have indicated they will submit their applications before the close of this meeting. In the process, we are cautious to check applications against the IANA ccTLD database to ensure that we receive applications from the delegated authority. There have been instances where applications have failed the verification process as a result of ongoing re-delegation procedures. In such cases, the applicants have been advised to consult the IANA regarding the published Whois information. The aim is not to make the membership application process onerous; rather our aim is to make sure that the information we have used is consistent.

Here to, on behalf of the Excom, I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to other ccTLD managers to give due consideration to formalizing their relationship with AfTLD. This will contribute to the strengthening of the association as it seeks to represent the regions interest on the global arena.

## 2. AFTLD OPERATIONS

AfTLD operations have continued to be run primarily by the Excom members, particularly those members who were given specific responsibilities. To this end, mention should be made of the contribution by Mr. Mohamed EL Bashir, Vice-President for Communications and Outreach in our communications and outreach efforts. Mr. Souleymane Oumtanaga has labored diligently in his efforts to set up an AfTLD capacity building program and we hope the next Excom will take this further and institutionalize the capacity building program.



Mr. Vika Mpisane has also been instrumental in his role as Treasurer. As a Treasurer, he has kept a close relationship with AfriNIC, which generously manage our funds to date.

Mention should also be made of the rest of the Excom members who have made themselves available for AfTLD's call of duty when needed. I mention in particular Dr. Paulos Nyirenda, Ms. Malebogo Leokape who has served as the secretary to the Excom and Mr. Victor Ciza.

With the appointment of Mr. Eric Akumiah as Administrative Manager who will provide secretarial service and coordinate the activities of AfTLD, we hope to make further progress.

### 3. FINANCES

Our balance sheet as at 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 showed a positive balance of \$44,712. In addition to this balance, we received generous sponsorships of \$20,000 from ISOC for the AfTLD Tanzania event. We have made meaningful efforts in ensuring that the money is used to grant at least travel sponsorships to ccTLD representatives.

#### **Statement of Accounts as at 16 March 2009**

Date	Transaction Details	Funds IN	Funds OUT	BALANCE
		US\$	US\$	US\$
1-Jan-07	Balance b/f			15,000
17-May-07	Grant from ISOC	10,000		25,000
29-May-07	Grant from AfriNIC Ltd - Cairo meet.	3,406		28,406
29-May-07	Payment Movenpick Hotel - Egypt		(3,406)	25,000
1-Jun-07	Payment workshop - Cairo		(16,000)	9,000
5-Sep-07	Grant from Neustar	15,000		24,000
29-Feb-08	Refund - Airtickets Cairo - V Mpisane		(711)	23,289
3-Mar-08	Sponsorship received from ISOC	10,000		33,289
17-Mar-08	Sponsorship received from ICANN	20,000		53,289
4-Apr-08	Sponsorship received from Kheweul.com	2,000		55,289
18-Apr-08	Refund to V Ciza for accom. R4328.72		(581)	54,708



18-Apr-08	Payment to Tripple Tours - Airfares		(14,606)	40,102
30-Apr-08	Hotel Accom for AfTLD delegates		(5,858)	34,244
28-May-08	Refund to V Mpisane Expenses AfTLD meet - ZAR 6178		(822)	33,422
17-Jul-08	Refund to .za DNA AfTLD exps - ZAR 12456.64		(1,676)	31,746
25-Jan-09	Transfer to Eric Akumiah		(1,000)	30,746
22-Feb-09	Transfer to Eric Akumiah		(1,034)	29,712
16-Mar-09	Funds from ICANN	15,000		44,712

**Closing Balance 16th March 2009**

<b>\$</b>
<b>44,712</b>

On behalf of the Excom, I would like to thank AfriNIC for their diligence in assisting us with our financial management and controls.

#### 4. CHALLENGES

There are some planned activities that have not been achieved due to various challenges faced by the Excom during the past year. However, due to the importance placed on these projects, there will be need for the implementation plans to be revised and executed in future. The yet to be resolved challenges include revising and updating the registration of AfTLD in Mauritius which role the Administrative Manager has assumed. These challenges hopefully will be resolved shortly.

#### 5. TRIBUTES

We would like to thank Adiel Akplogan, the CEO and the entire board of AfriNIC lead by their able chairman Pierre Dandjinou for their guidance and continuing support for AfTLD. It's through their support that we have made the significant strides in revamping the organizations activities.

Mention also should be made of all our sponsors: ISOC, who has always been there for us, we acknowledge ISOC's efforts in accelerating Internet penetration in Africa. We thank Neustar for its sponsorship in support of hiring a full-time official for AfTLD. We thank NSRC for the much-needed technical training literature, which they shipped for this event.



We thank our Internet Connectivity partner, for keeping us all connected with the rest of the world for the duration of this event.

ICANN has been an inspirational supporter and friend to the ccTLDs and to African ccTLDs in particular. We acknowledge ICANN's generous sponsorship of the event and thank them for ensuring that they have staff representation at all our events. A particular mention should be made of Anne-Rachel Inne, the ICANN official responsible for Africa liaison. She has been instrumental in helping steer AfTLD to success and growing the African ICANN community as a whole. We applaud her commitment to the community and extend our sincere appreciation.

Last and certainly not least, we are generously hosted by the tzNIC with the support of the Ministry of Communication, Science & Technology and the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority. We would like to thank the Deputy Minister of Communications, Dr. Maua Daftalri, for the unwavering support they have shown and committed to making this event a reality.

## 6. PLANNED PROJECTS

As we endeavor to strengthen the role of ccTLD and representing their interests at both regional and international levels, the Excom continues to focus on various projects that will further its mandate. The following represent the core activities that we think should dominate the 2009 – 2010 AfTLD agenda.

### *6.1 Hosting AfTLD 2010 event*

AfTLD will be actively engaging prospective members and countries in a bid to secure a host for the 2010 ccTLD event. The event is set to further the organizations mandate in creating a platform for members to engage in issues relating ccTLD and Internet development in the region. To this end, we wish to take this opportunity to invite members, and Governments to consider hosting future AfTLD events in the region.

### *6.2 Capacity Building events*

The availability of competent technical capacity is a critical element to ensuring the growth and stability of registry operations in the region. AfTLD will continue to initiate and facilitate capacity building opportunities to enhance the technical and administrative competence of its members in the region. AfTLD has planned to hold a second training event in Q3 of 2009 for the Francophone West Africa region. Its worth noting that AfTLD has already secured funding support from ISOC towards this event.



### *6.3 Communication, outreach and representation*

AfTLD will continue to support and facilitate consistency and active participation of its members at ICANN. Further, with the hiring of the Administrative Manager, its our objective to improve on our level of communication and outreach. For instance, in the recent Conficker Worm threats, AfTLD has taken leadership in advising the community on the potential threat to ccTLD operations. The increased outreach and representation is also expected to translate to increased participation of members from the region at both regional and global meetings and events.

### *6.4 Membership recruitment & formalization*

Efforts of recruiting members to formalize their relationship with AfTLD will continue over the next year. We have deliberately given everyone an option of free membership. We will look at paid membership at the right time, when we can really show measurable value to each ccTLD. In the next year, we will look at various ways of adding value to each ccTLD, and thereby lay a foundation for granting options of paid membership.

### *6.5 Research and Technical Projects*

Enough foundation has been laid for AfTLD to undertake or participate in various research projects, and to have its annual research report. With the appointment of a full-time official, AfTLD's research agenda should be defined and implemented in the next year. Further, some of the research work is envisaged to transform into technical implementation projects in the Region. Already there are opportunities to engage in the deployment of DNS Root Servers in a number of countries with operational Exchange points. AfriNIC leads the Root-Server program in collaboration with ISOC and the Root-Server Operators. The importance of the research and technical projects will be to add value to our members' growth and development initiatives.

### *6.6 Funding*

It is not desirable for AfTLD to rely on donations, grants and sponsorships; rather AfTLD should become self-sustaining as soon as possible through various channels, including memberships fees and contributions. The Excom will continue exploring various ways of making AfTLD self-sustaining. It is expected that with the new AfTLD Administrative Manager in place, new revenue streams will be pursued and developed in the coming months/year.

## 7. NEW EXCOM

It's expected that there will be a new look Excom at the end of the AfTLD AGM as some members have already expressed their inability to continue serving due to demanding



responsibilities. Consequently, there will be a transition period to upraise and handover to the new officials. The new outlook will inject new and fresh ideas into the organizations operations necessary to actualize its objectives.

## CONCLUSION

AfTLD has a role to play in the development of ccTLDs in the region. It is for this reason that the Excom themed the 2009 event “Securing Africa’s Internet Infrastructure” to create awareness and empower the organizations that manage our core Internet resources to deal with any security threat. In order to succeed, collaboration between stakeholders is necessary, thus the need for partnerships as the way forward.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have tirelessly given their time and resources towards the success realized so far and humbly request all of you to continue with your unwavering support as we seek to develop and explore the regions Internet potential.

**Michuki Mwangi**  
**President, AfTLD ExCom**  
**April 2009.**

