

**Registries Constituency Comments**  
**Interaction with the ICANN Board on Constituency Day**

**30<sup>th</sup> April, 2009**

The Registries Constituency (RyC) warmly welcomes the opportunity to meet with ICANN Board members, including the CEO and Chair, during its Constituency Day at ICANN meetings. This is a unique opportunity, which does not otherwise present itself, for face-to-face discussion and interaction between the Board and a key stakeholder group within the ICANN community, the gTLD Registries. This time is utilized to dialogue issues of mutual concern and importance and to share valuable viewpoints and experiences.

In the experience of the RyC, a luncheon meeting has worked well for this purpose. The RyC prepares and submits an agenda to ICANN's Co-Ordination Team in advance of the meeting with additional agenda items being noted by the Board on the day. Although the meeting is normally billed as a two hour session, it is often the case that this time allocation is reduced due to time constraints on the day. While respectful of the full and busy schedule of the Board, the RyC nonetheless suggests that a minimum of two hours is required in order to have a fruitful discussion, with an additional half hour where a meal is involved.

The RyC has seen varying degrees of Board attendance on its Constituency Day over the course of recent ICANN meetings, ranging from attendance by one or two Board representatives for some part of the day to participation of the CEO and Chair and a small number of Board representatives at a luncheon meeting or indeed attendance by all Board members, including the CEO and Chair, at a luncheon meeting. This latter formulation took place at the meeting in Mexico City and the RyC believes that it resulted in a very constructive session, not least due to the fact that there was broad participation by the Board.

The issues debated by the RyC are wide-ranging and have far-reaching consequences and it is desirable that as many Board members as possible be present so that the Constituency may hear multiple viewpoints, many of which can be spontaneous. Similarly, the RyC is of the opinion that the entire Board should have the opportunity to solicit the views of the Constituency. The RyC views this as a means of maintaining transparency in the community and keeping the channels of communication open.

Communication could be further improved by having the agenda agreed on both sides in advance, including any pertinent questions to be asked of either side. An established follow up procedure, perhaps through ICANN Staff, could be put in place for any responses due after the meeting. At the close of the last meeting in Mexico City, the RyC was requested by the CEO and Chair to submit its 'Top 5' list of issues for review by the Board. Although the luncheon agenda often reflects these priority issues, it is suggested that this information be sought in advance of the meeting so that the full value of these meetings can be realized.

To summarize, the RyC believes that the optimum format for involvement of the Board in its Constituency Day is to have all Board members, including the CEO and Chair, present at a two and a half hour luncheon meeting with open conversation amongst all attendees to be actively encouraged and with established pre and post meeting procedures in place.