

Steve Antonoff:

...Support Program for Constituent Stakeholders and more. This will be a brief update of where we are at in FY'12. I don't expect that this session will take more than about fifteen or twenty minutes. And if you have questions, because I have turned my speakers off, I'm going to ask that somebody who is in the room use the chat for raising hands so that I may answer questions since I will not be able to hear questions until I turn my speakers back on. So with that, I shall start.

This is an update on Travel Support. The agenda for this meeting is to briefly address the response to the public comments that were made to the FY'12 Travel Guidelines; a discussion of what's new; a brief discussion of upcoming meetings – what to expect and to begin the planning for fiscal year '13; and then of course take questions and answers.

Public comments were opened in May of 2011 on the FY'12 Travel Support Guidelines. There were in essence two sets of comments: one set of comments had to do with travelers who receive support but who do not actually attend meetings. They may actually come to the meeting location but not actually attend the meetings themselves. There was a dialog between a number of constituent stakeholders regarding this issue.

The response from ICANN is that we expect that if we are providing financial support that those individuals participate in the

---

*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

---

meeting as indicated by the groups that have nominated them for support; and that the real responsibility for attendance would fall with those working groups or the chairs of those groups. And if there's an individual abusing the privilege that those working groups would deal with that by not granting future support. ICANN is not in a position to actually police whether individuals are attending a specific session or not.

The other set of comments had to do with ensuring that the Guidelines reflect accurately the amounts that have been approved. ICANN's response in essence is that the Guidelines themselves for FY'12 were drafted prior to the budget being complete and so there was additional support that was granted in the budget that was not accurately reflected in the Guidelines: specifically GAC support has increased from six travelers per meeting to 20 travelers per meeting and there was additional specific financial support for IPC and... Let me take a quick look at my notes so I get these right. IPC received an additional \$30,000 for fiscal year '12. The SSAC is receiving an additional \$60,000 and the At-Large community is receiving an additional \$80,000.

These funds were not specified as numbers of travelers but strictly additional funds to be approved. I believe the At-Large community used a significant portion of these funds to bring additional travelers to Dakar as part of an effort to have an AFRALO type of meeting even though it may not be a full AFRALO meeting. So in addition to additional support for the

---

GAC going from six to twenty there was specific financial amounts granted for each of those three groups.

The FY'12 Travel Support Guidelines will be updated and reposted reflecting these changes for the budget. Going forward, we will work internally to ensure that we get a more timely communication out of the budget process when the Guidelines are being drafted so that the Guidelines are a much closer if not exact match to what has been approved in the budget.

So I've already discussed the additional support for GAC, the IPC, the At-Large and the SSAC. In addition, we have been permitting an increased flexibility in the use of funds. What that means is in the past the GNSO specifically has requested the ability to split travelers, meaning that a full traveler equivalent – which is one airfare, one hotel stay, one per diem set – be split amongst multiple individuals; perhaps one getting air, another one receiving the hotel support, and a third yet maybe receiving the per diem.

We are now allowing that type of split across all groups, so any group who wants to maximize the use of the support that's been provided may split that across multiple travelers. So conceivably a group such as the At-Large which as 27 approved travelers could actually receive some type of support for 71 individuals at a meeting which would be, or 81 I should say, which would be the 27 airfares, 27 hotels and 27 per diems. So it can be either granted in a bundled form or split apart, so we are allowing increased flexibility in the use of the funds.

Upcoming meetings: what to expect. So the meeting subsequent to this one will be in Costa Rica. Again, there will be visa requirements for a good number of travelers – not all. And like many of the other locations, San Jose, Costa Rica will have some flight limitations. It is not a hub in the sense that some other larger cities in other parts of the world are hubs so there will be limited flights into and out of San Jose, and again that will mean taking a good look at how early can we start booking.

The meeting subsequent to that in June of this year will be in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Prague does participate in the European Schengen Program so the typical Schengen requirements for travel to and from are what will typically apply in Prague which means that there will still be travelers from various parts of the world that will need to apply for visas. Again, Prague is not a primary hub city. It's not that difficult to get to. There are flights from most of the European gateway cities such as London, Paris, Frankfurt, etc. There are not as many direct flights to Prague from as far away around the world.

The next meeting after that which is actually in FY'13 will be in Toronto. Again, Canada does have certain visa requirements. Travelling to Canada is in many ways very similar to travelling to the United States in terms of visa requirements but there will still be certain travelers who will require visas and will need to consider that as they prepare for a trip to Toronto in October, 2012. Toronto is a major hub. It is one of the largest hubs for Canada. Even still there will still be flight limitations coming from certain

parts of the world where individuals may need to transit either in the United States or in certain parts of Europe coming up out of Africa prior to flying on to Toronto. So that's a bit of what to expect for upcoming meetings.

Planning for fiscal year '13 – as I've already mentioned, Toronto is the first meeting in fiscal year '13 and then the location for Asia-Pacific has not yet been selected/announced, but that will be the next region. The third "FY'13 meeting" will be in Africa but that will be in July, meaning that the meeting will actually take place at the beginning of fiscal year '13. I am not yet sure what that means from a budgeting standpoint and so I will be following up with the Finance Department on exactly how the accounting will work for expenditures in the African meeting that is scheduled for July, 2013. As I said, ICANN's fiscal year ends 30 June each year so FY'12 will end 30 June 2012, meaning that the Africa meeting will physically take place in July, 2013.

As a reminder for everyone, budget preparations begin for ICANN in January of 2012. This year we saw a number of working groups, SOs and ACs that requested additional funding through the budget process and as I've already reported there were additional fundings granted to the GAC, to the IPC, the SSAC and the At-Large community. I would suggest that groups that are going to request additional funding above and beyond the annual, what I'll call "normal" funding such as the At-Large's 27 travelers per meeting should consider the fact that the budget process will

---

actually be starting in just a couple of months. So that's a reminder for FY'13.

And that's what I've got to report on for this particular session. Are there any questions? And I will turn my speakers on in hopes that I can hear. So my speakers are now on – are there any questions? Is there anyone there?

Joseph de Jesus:

Hi, Steve. Here's Alan.

Alan Greenberg:

Steve, it's Alan Greenberg. I don't have any questions; I do have a couple of comments. Somewhere we've got an echo here. I'll compliment you on a number of things that were done much better this year and say there's still a couple of gaps. It was absolutely delightful to get a message about my hotel confirmation that actually told me what dates you were reserving it for. It was equally pleasant to see a confirmation number which the hotel and the hotel chain knew about, which is a new phenomenon. So on both those counts I was happy.

I really wish you'd learn how to – this eco is... Can we turn off the speakers here?

Steve Antonoff:

I'm going to turn my microphone off, Alan, and see if that temporarily helps.

Alan Greenberg:

Okay, yes. Yes, or maybe what they did at the back of the room, either way. It would be really nice when you do the per diem deposits or for that matter a repayment of expenses, if you sent an email saying what it is you had transferred, perhaps how many days at so much or that you had done the payment for an expense report. As it is it shows up discretely in a bank account. I can't speak about other people's bank accounts is a credit memo not telling me who it came from, not knowing how much you transferred – all I see is how much it got translated to in Canadian currency.

Just sending out an email at the same time would be really useful and a nice courtesy. As it is right now I predict what I think the number of days per diem you're going to send, then I have to figure out what did it likely convert at on the day it got transferred and guess whether this came from you or not; and then guess if you did it properly or not. I understand that it's probably not trivial to do but really it would help. Thank you.

I'm done but I can't hear you.

Steve Antonoff:

I just unmuted my microphone, thank you very much. So Alan, I think that's an excellent suggestion. I don't know if Joseph is in the room?

Joseph de Jesus:

Hi Steve, I am in the room and I'm writing notes.

Steve Antonoff:

I will work on this. I think this is a great suggestion and while you're right it's not a simple task I think it's a very important one because I'm sure that you are speaking for probably a wider group of folks who have a similar challenge and are wondering exactly what happened when they see money arriving in their account. And I think we can work on putting in a process that as wires go out we are alerting each individual that's receiving a wire that the wire has gone out, how much the wire was for and details of what was in that wire.

Alan Greenberg:

That would be exceedingly useful. If you could turn off your microphone I have one more thought. Again, this is something that you've heard many times before and I don't want to try to refine the rules in this kind of teleconference, but we still need a little bit of rationality in terms of arrival and departure dates.

I'll give you my specific case, that I was allowed to arrive on Friday according to the rules. If I were to have arrived Friday morning you would have gladly paid for Thursday night room to make sure that I had a room. If I were to have arrived at five minutes to twelve Thursday night just before midnight you wouldn't because I was arriving on Thursday and that's not allowed. So as far as I can determine the rule is you'll pay for a



---

hotel room only if I can't sleep in the bed all night, but if I can sleep in the bed all night then you won't pay for it.

Things like this, which would not cost ICANN a penny but which would have allowed me to get more than three hours' sleep after a 35-hour trip I think are things we need to figure out how to do properly. Thank you.

Steve Antonoff:

Thank you, Alan. I think that's still a viable suggestion. This is an interesting challenge for us. We oftentimes will have itineraries proposed to travelers and they refuse those itineraries, and there are a few – not many, a few – who attempt to manipulate the system. And so they need to arrive sometime on Friday for a Saturday session; there's a flight that would arrive at 2:00 in the afternoon. They say "I don't want to arrive at 2:00 in the afternoon. I want to arrive at 5:00 in the morning, and since I'm arriving at 5:00 in the morning I might as well come the day before," and then you have to pay for an extra hotel room.

So we try and manage these Guidelines in such a way to ensure that there's some integrity to the process. Having said that, there's probably many situations where the only arrival time would either be the day before or early in the morning such as you've alluded to like 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning where we would pay for the room regardless. And we can take a look at those circumstances each time as they happen and make a decision that says "It makes more sense to have the individual actually arrive on Thursday since we

---

will pay for the hotel room the night before.” The only challenge then of course is determining does that additional day translate into another day of per diem which also increases costs. But I think your suggestion is a good one and we will take it under advisement.

Alan Greenberg:

Okay, just as a follow-on on that, from my point of view personally I would be – I have probably even said so at times – willing to have waived the extra per diem. So it really wasn’t a question of money and in terms of a traveler playing games so that they can get a day to be a tourist, I think you’re going to have to differentiate a little bit between travelers that you have wide experience with and those that you don’t. It does make a difference. It may not be fair but you know, there are issues that have to be considered which apply differently to different people. Over and out.

Steve Antonoff:

Your point is noted, thank you Alan. Other questions? I believe that normally Tuesday is music night so I think most of you probably want to get off to music night. If there’s no further questions I’d like to thank you all for your time and attention and I expect that I will be reposting the FY’12 Travel Guidelines with the updated budget numbers sometime in the next couple of days. Thank you all.

[End of Transcript]