

# APNIC Policy Process Provoking Discussion (of Process and of Policies)

2003.02.27

APNIC / Taipei

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<<http://psg.com/~randy/030227.apnic-policy.pdf>>

# A/P is Diverse

- Geographically large
- Culturally diverse
- Linguistically diverse
- Has regional stakeholders who can not afford to come to meetings
- But from a narrow view, i.e. address management, not protocol designers, backbone architects, router hackers, ...

# Stakeholders are Missing

- Topics which APNIC members have set policy on include serious engineering matters that affect the entire internet forever
- Also, IETF and vendor experts have travel time and budget problems too
- And they don't even know to come as things are not clearly announced

# Timing and Availability

- Proposals are made a week before they can be decided in a face to face meeting of a small number of people in a 'far away' place where the above-mentioned barriers to prudent consensus and decision making exist
- This is what we curse ICANN for!

# The IETF Model

- I am not proposing the ARIN model, it is too bulky (Advisory Council)
- The IETF model seems adaptable
  - Written proposals well in advance
  - Topics always raised on mailing lists
  - Meetings are not binding decision points
  - The mailing lists are
  - Public review with time to comment and all comments must be addressed

# Speed

- Few decisions are that time critical
- The IETF has taught us that bad ideas propagate in a matter of days
- Prudence, Simplicity, and Restraint take on the order of a year to be absorbed
- If a decision is *really* time critical, then have an exception process with review afterward

# Proposal

- No discussion without a written proposal (and not just PPT!)
- Meetings provide depth and high-bandwidth communication, not make binding decisions
- Mailing lists are the primary decision mechanism (a la IETF)
- Decisions are expected to take at least 60 days from the last major proposal change so all stakeholders may be heard

# Many Ways of Listening

- Yes, some APNIC folk have difficulty communicating in the public atmosphere
- This is like modes of learning; some people learn by reading, some by listening to lectures, some by doing
- So we should open as many types of channels of communication as we can
- And we should have a process which is patient enough to hear the voices of those with different communication modes