

APNIC Public Policy Advisory Committee Charter

Mission: To encourage exchange of information and dialog between APNIC and Internet/ICT Public Policy developers within the Asia-Pacific region.

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Document Information

Amendment History

Version	Date	Created/Amended By	Summary of Changes
v0.1	25th March 2013	Dean Pemberton	Initial Revision
V0.2	27 th June 2013	Dean Pemberton	Subsequent Changes
V1.0	8 th August 2013	Dean Pemberton	Incorporating all changes from working group members.

Document Purpose

This document provides the charter for the APNIC Public Policy Advocacy Committee.

Reference & Supporting Documents

The following documents should be read in conjunction with this document.

Document Name	Document Version	Document Abstract	Reference Location
InternetNZ Policy Principles	N/A	Public Policy Principles of InternetNZ	https://internetnz.net.nz/system/files/pages/2012/principles_website_copy.pdf
APNIC SIG guidelines	N/A	Guidelines for APNIC Special Interest Groups	http://www.apnic.net/community/participate/join-discussions/sigs/sig-guidelines

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Executive Summary

The APNIC PPAC is a platform for the exchange of information and dialogue to ensure that APNIC is, and recognised as an active collaboration partner in relation to public policy development on topics relevant to APNIC's role within the Asia-Pacific region. To this end it is vital that APNIC, through the PPAC, is advised on matters relating to Asia Pacific public policy encompassing all the facets of Internet – and that APNIC's expertise and interests are clear to public policy makers across the region.

The structure of the APNIC PPAC will be:

- A Chair and Co-Chair elected by the community for a period of time similar to that of the Policy SIG Chair and Co-Chair.
- Government, Intergovernmental agencies and NGOs
- Members of the APNIC and Internet Communities

The APNIC PPAC is not a policy formation group; instead it serves to increase discussion and input on APNIC's issues by all stakeholders and participants.

Through meetings every 6 months during APNIC member meetings, as well as mailing list interaction in the interim, the APNIC PPAC will look to undertake the following initiatives:

1. Work towards the establishment of a platform for dialogue with appropriate inter-governmental organizations to discuss matters under their purview related to the Internet community. Recognising however that the APNIC secretariat remains the official channel for external communications from APNIC.
2. Through open discussion, enable all stakeholders to develop ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in their regions through changes in Public Policy.
3. Through open discussion, recommend APNIC best practices to ensure that regional Public Policy issues foster sustainability, security, stability and development of the Internet, in line with PPAC Policy Principles.
4. Through open discussion, ensure that regional Public Policy developers have access to accurate, up-to-date information with regard to Internet best practices.
5. Identify emerging regional Public Policy issues, discuss them within the PPAC and present a summary to the APNIC EC at the APNIC Members Meeting.
6. Ensure that emerging regional Public Policy issues are taken into account in the work of the Policy SIG. Where appropriate making comments during the Policy SIG OPM or authoring policy proposals for consideration by the Policy SIG.
7. Draw relevant topics, expertise and ideas from global, regional or national Internet Governance Forum initiatives to the attention of the APNIC community.

Scope

This document describes the mission, purpose, structure, means of setting agenda, method of functioning, and frequency of meetings of the Public Policy Advisory Committee. The PPAC will ensure that the guidance within this document is followed in its interactions with parties both within and without the APNIC community.

Glossary of Terms.

Term	Definition
APNIC	Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
PPAC	Public Policy Advisory Committee
Policy-SIG	APNIC Policy Special Interest Group
OPM	Open Policy Meeting
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation

PPAC Mission Statement

To encourage exchange of information and dialog between APNIC and Internet/ICT Public Policy developers within the Asia-Pacific region.

PPAC Objective

The PPAC will foster an increased level of sharing of information and perspectives between APNIC and Internet/ICT Public Policy stakeholders with a view to advancing APNIC objectives.

Purpose of the PPAC

The APNIC PPAC is a platform for the exchange of information and dialogue to ensure that APNIC is, and recognised as an active collaboration partner in relation to Internet/ICT public policy development on topics relevant to APNIC's role within the Asia-Pacific region. To this end it is vital that APNIC, through the PPAC, is advised on matters relating to Asia Pacific public

policy encompassing all the facets of Internet – and that APNIC’s expertise and interests are clear to public policy makers across the region.

Structure of the PPAC

The PPAC will be a multi stakeholder advisory body consisting of:

- An elected Chair and a number of Co-Chairs who will facilitate discussion and ensure that the values and principles of the PPAC are maintained. The Internet community should elect these positions in a similar mechanism to the Policy-SIG Chair¹. The term of these appointments should be similar in nature to the Policy-SIG Chair and Co-Chair
- Government representatives, Intergovernmental agencies and NGOs – There is a need for engaged government representation as the policy formulators who are responsible for steering and charting policy that has an effect on the growth path of the Internet in their respective economies. These participants require interaction in order formulate national policy roadmaps that support and address the issues and concerns related to Internet within their jurisdictions. It is important that APNIC has an understanding of their needs as well as having an effective way to communication APNIC core issues/policies to these important stakeholders.
- Members of the APNIC and Internet communities - In a true multi-stakeholder model, the PPAC is open to any and all members of the APNIC and Internet communities. These members may be Industry Participants who provide Internet related services under appropriate authorizations within members’ economies, they may be individual IP resource holders, they may be independent interested parties. It is vital that this group upholds all the tenants of multi-stakeholderism and ensure that all members feel that this group is not only accessible, but that their views are given the same weight as any participant.

The purpose and role of the PPAC will be to foster an increased level of sharing of information and perspectives between APNIC and Public Policy stakeholders with a view to advancing APNIC objectives, and ensuring APNIC is aware of the objectives of Public Policy stakeholders. Through open dialog with all stakeholders it will ensure that the APNIC objectives are encapsulated in new policy / emerging developments in respective regions and will provide a platform to participate in all such developments.

Policy makers are not always aware of the impacts their decisions have on industry participants. Active participation by the PPAC within policy development will ensure that where identified,

¹ As described in the SIG Guidelines section 2.6 <http://www.apnic.net/community/participate/join-discussions/sigs/sig-guidelines>

these possible effects are communicated to policy makers in a forum that allows for them to be taken into account.

Agenda of PPAC

It is vital that the PPAC have a clear vision with regard to its agenda. Too narrow and the committee will risk being viewed as dominated by a single issue, too wide and the committee's ability to be effective will be reduced.

To this end a programme committee (PC) will be formed to consider all items to be placed on the agenda for PPAC meetings. A call for PC participants will be made to the wider APNIC community and any respondents should be included.

The following guidelines should be kept in mind when PC members evaluate items for inclusion within the PPAC agenda.

1. The PPAC agenda will cover the topical and upcoming challenges for the APNIC community within a Public Policy framework.
2. The PPAC is not a policy formation group. All APNIC policy is developed by the Policy-SIG through the existing APNIC PDP. PPAC discussions should however help to inform and grow the information available for use in the Policy-SIG PDP process. The submission of policy proposals by PPAC members into the Policy-SIG PDP should be encouraged.
3. The PPAC will focus be on APNIC's agenda and issues, not on broader Internet governance matters although these can provide important context and useful background to issues being debated in the APNIC community.
4. The PPAC will ensure that all items are placed on the agenda in a way that encourages input and discussion from all stakeholders, both industry and government. Proposed agenda items that are solely representative of government, or purely industry participants are reframed before inclusion to focus on topics of concern or interest to the APNIC community.
5. The PPAC programme committee will ensure that any item placed on the agenda has a regional focus rather than views represented by a single economy. Where an agenda item has a single economy focus, work should be actively carried out to engage other economies before it is accepted as an agenda item.

Public Policy Principles of APNIC PPAC

Without clearly stated principles, it is difficult, if not impossible for Public Policy developers to know how the PPAC will engage on any particular issue. Through the application of these principles, the interaction of the PPAC will be not only transparent, but predictable to

developers. When discussing public policy matters, the PPAC will generally aim to apply the following principles²:

1. **The Internet should be open and uncaptureable.** - Openness characterises the fundamental design and intent of the Internet. Openness, not closure, encourages competition, innovation, inclusion, accessibility and countless other socially and economically beneficial things. The Internet should be open for this reason. The Internet should also be uncaptureable. If a single group established power over the Internet or a key part of it – if they captured it – then Internet users’ online experiences may be affected by that group’s decisions.

2. **Internet markets should be competitive.** - Well-regulated competitive markets prevail over those dominated by monopolies, or concentrations of power that behave like monopolies. People should be able to get – and to give – Internet access without facing unreasonable barriers.

3. **Where Internet governance impacts APNIC objectives, it should be determined by open, multi-stakeholder processes.** - The multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance allows the whole of society to participate in fostering the development of the Internet. The multi-stakeholder process is democratic, open and transparent. It is enriched by the diversity of its participants, including the technical community, civil society, academia, government and the private sector. This model ensures that no one group captures the Internet and should therefore be preserved and promoted.

4. **Laws and policies should work with the architecture of the Internet, not against it.** - The Internet challenges the conventional pace of the justice system; harmful acts in the digital realm can be quick to injure, but relatively slow to redress. All the same, when law and policy do not incorporate traditional notions of justice and due process they run the risk of being unfair and unbalanced. When Internet-related law and policy fails to comprehend and account for how the Internet works, they risk threatening its operation. Internet-related law and policy should be mindful of the architecture of the Internet, complementing it rather than working against it.

5. **The Internet should be accessible by and inclusive of everyone.** - The Internet is an essential social and economic infrastructure and is inextricably linked with our daily lives. This is true for some more than others - some people may choose not to use the Internet, while others do not have that choice. Given the importance of the Internet, every citizen should be able to access it and use it.

6. **Technology changes quickly, so laws and policies should focus on activity.** - The pace of technology outstrips the pace of the legislative process. The challenge for legislators is to balance their deliberative process, necessary to make good law, with the fast pace of technological advancement. This state of affairs favours principles-based law over technology-specific law. When law targets a specific technology, it will, sooner or later,

² Based on InternetNZ’s Policy Principles. See references section for a link to a more detailed version.

become obsolete. Technology-specific laws also risk impeding the development of that technology in general, foreclosing possibilities for future innovation.

7. **The Internet is globally important infrastructure, so it should be protected.** -

The Internet is important infrastructure for economies within the region as it is for all global inhabitants. As governments, businesses, and society rely on the Internet, a high degree of resilience and smooth operation are paramount. The public and private sectors should work together to ensure that it remains that way.

Initiatives of PPAC

The PPAC will accomplish its stated operating objective through the following initiatives:

1. Work towards the establishment of a platform for dialogue with appropriate inter-governmental organizations to discuss matters under their purview related to the Internet community. Recognising however that the APNIC secretariat remains the official channel for external communications from APNIC.
2. Through open discussion, enable all stakeholders to develop ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in their regions through changes in Public Policy.
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5. Identify emerging regional Public Policy issues, discuss them within the PPAC and present a summary to the APNIC EC at the APNIC Members Meeting.
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7. Draw relevant topics, expertise and ideas from global, regional or national Internet Governance Forum initiatives to the attention of the APNIC community.

Periodicity of Meetings

- Meeting every 6 months as a scheduled part of the APNIC Conference.