

Board Seat 13 Candidate Statement
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To serve the wider ICANN community by bringing a diverse range of perspectives from contracted parties – large and small, commercial and community-based, open and niche, liberal and protective – that is my vision for Board Seat 13. I believe this broad representation is essential for supporting ICANN’s mission and enabling meaningful multistakeholder governance.

I call myself an ICANN-native, actively and consistently participating at ICANN since 1999, when I started the IDN movement at ICANN to counter alternate root systems at the time. My startup was one of the earliest ICANN Accredited Registrars, and I was elected by the Registrars Constituency to the first ICANN committee on IDN, which produced the first IDN Implementation Guidelines and helped define ICP-3: A Unique, Authoritative Root for the DNS. Besides representing registrars, I also served on the GNSO Council between 2006 and 2010 from registries. The knowledge and institutional memories are effective assets that I can bring to the board in representing the insights of registries and registrars.

My recent term on the ICANN board has been deeply focused on reinforcing ICANN’s global technical coordination role, defending the DNS against the rise of alternate root systems, and ensuring ICANN’s resilience in the face of geopolitical challenges. During this time, I championed board initiatives to improve board responsiveness (the flip side of board readiness), agility, and transparency. For example, I advocated for industry-led approaches to addressing DNS abuse, establishing a proactive framework for registries and registrars to take the lead. My work on the board has also included encouraging liaison roles (walking the talk myself) and implementation staff participation in PDPs, which resulted in a record-setting turnaround time for the adoption of the IDN EPDP recommendations. Furthermore, I guided the operationalization of the Global Public Interest (GPI) framework, which can be used as a practical checklist to assess policy recommendations.

Beyond these achievements, I have also consistently promoted informal dialogue between the board and the community, leading to more dynamic and open engagement. I view these contributions as essential for fostering a board culture that emphasizes responsiveness and agility – qualities that are crucial as ICANN embarks on a new round of gTLDs, navigates process reforms, and tackles issues of trust in the DNS.

ICANN must excel within its narrow mandate, but geopolitics will inevitably find its way into ICANN and we must run with it rather than run away from it. Over the years I have supported ICANN efforts to ensure effective participation from both CN and TW representatives, and stood for prompt and measured responses to the war in Ukraine and the crisis in Palestine. My experience with the At-Large, including co-founding APRALO and serving on the ALAC (2010-2012), has shaped my approach to equitable participation and human rights considerations. I believe that with this background, I can be effective on the board in bringing ICANN to the wider Internet governance community, interfacing with geopolitical forces, while remaining firmly within its limited purview.

A central part of ICANN’s mandate is the TLD business. . The upcoming new gTLD round is of great importance to ICANN and the contracted parties alike. As a current board member, I have been actively engaged in addressing the complexities of managing conflicts of interest (COI) in this area. I helped prompt the formation of the board’s COI subcommittee, which is developing a framework that balances the insights from implicated board members and any perceived conflicts, as well as consider transparency and ethical integrity. I believe that at the heart of the very concept of the multistakeholder model is that interested parties are structurally embedded into the governance

process by design. With another term, I am committed to advancing this discussion and fostering an ethical governance model that values both expertise and impartiality.

Additionally, I have championed the recent draft ethics policy, and am advocating for a nuanced approach for board members working with COI – one that enables contracted party representatives to effectively participate in relevant discussions while recusing from final board decisions. This agile approach has allowed me to serve as a resource on board matters involving gTLDs, actively liaising with staff to bring issues forward during community discussions for maximum transparency and early intervention, instead of after-the-fact when adjustments become harder and take longer to achieve.

Outreach and awareness are equally critical to the success of the new gTLD program. Universal Acceptance (UA) and the Applicant Support Program (ASP) are front-runners in these efforts, helping to position the new gTLD program as a means for broader digital inclusion. As a Subject Matter Expert (SME), I am uniquely positioned to be able to be effective, serving as a representative from the contracted parties on the board, in championing for both the cause of UA and of the ASP as it relates to new gTLDs. Over my current term, I have helped shift ICANN's stance on domain name usage, advocating for ICANN to actively support positive usage of new gTLDs, especially through the development of the UA Day and collaborations with UNESCO. This stance aligns ICANN's mission with the broader goals of digital inclusion and DNS education. I believe with another term on the board, I can contribute substance to shaping the discussions on COI, board agility and the business of TLDs, especially having had direct operational experience as large and small contracted parties, for-profits and non-profits, as well as open and restrictive TLDs.

Finally, I am deeply committed to ICANN's mission and energized by its discussions on public interest, global governance, and the evolution of its multistakeholder model. I am committed to listening to and reflecting on community input to inform my contributions at the board. Positioned in a time zone allows me to seamlessly work with board participation alongside my day-to-day responsibilities. I look forward to engaging with the candidate forum and am available for questions. Please feel free to reach out via WhatsApp / Signal / Telegram: +852.68218219, or Skype/Facebook Messenger: edmonchung. I hope my dedication, deep experience, understanding of ICANN's works and institutional development, and demonstrated leadership on the board earn your trust for me to serve on the contracted party seat of the ICANN board.