

News Release

May 06, 2014

ICANN Workshop on Domain Names, Trademarks and User Rights Protection opens in Cotonou Benin, Africa

Cotonou, Benin...The International Workshop on Domain names, trademarks and rights protection in Africa opened yesterday at the Hotel Novotel Orisha Cotonou.

During the conference, participants will attend high-level presentations on the issue of domain names, trademarks and intellectual property in Africa. More than 80 participants from 25 African countries are participating in the workshop.

Organized by ICANN, the workshop was opened by Komi Koutche, the Beninese, Minister for Information and Communications Technology and David Olive, ICANN's Vice President for Policy Development Support..

Participants include ccTLD managers ,registrars, practitioners of intellectual property rights, rights protection specialists and others. Attendees will have the opportunity to share best practices for the protection of users' rights.

“Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) will have a profound impact on brand owners, regional industry and consumers,” said Olive. “It is important that ICANN supports Africa in its strategy to promote Internet industry.”

The workshop will allow ccTLD managers and registrars to be better equipped for the rapid implementation of measures for the security, management and promotion of ccTLDs. This is a critical part in enabling the Domain Name industry to flourish in African digital economy.

"The protection of rights is hardly addressed in Africa and mechanisms for protection of existing rights are not very popularized on the continent," said Pierre Dandjinou , Vice President of ICANN for Africa. “As many African countries having started to organize their structures of intellectual property rights, it may be necessary to better inform them on the relationship between domain names, trademarks and the mechanisms for conflict resolution.”

###

Media Contacts

Luna Madi
Communications Director, EMEA
Tel: +44 7780 947574
Email: luna.madi@icann.org

James Cole
Global Media Coordinator
Washington, D.C.
Tel: 202-570-7139
Email: james.cole@icann.org

About ICANN

ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit: www.icann.org.