Greetings from Geneva

Happy new year, hope all's well at your end. Next Monday-Tuesday 12-13 January, representatives of ICANN's Noncontracted Parties House (NCPH) will be meeting at the Center for Strategic & International Studies in DC. The NCPH comprises civil society and business participants in the Generic Names Supporting Organization, the body that develops policies for gTLDs. On the civil society side, we'll have about 15 people there from the Noncommercial Users Constituency (www.ncuc.org), of which I was recently elected to a third term as chair. As it turns out that many of us will not be flying out until Wednesday night or Thursday, we thought it would be interesting to see if we could organize an informal gathering with some fellow travelers from Washington DC civil society groups, think tanks, and academia to share info and views on current ICANN/Internet governance issues. Matt Shears from the Center for Democracy and Technology (a new NCUC member) has secured a room for us, so I'm scurrying now to see if it would be possible to get critical mass on very short notice (sorry).

Is there any chance you would be available to meet with about a dozen of us plus some locals next Wednesday 14 January from 10am - noon at CDT, 1634 I Street NW #1100? If so we'd love to get together. Any of your colleagues who'd be interested (in house or beyond) would be most welcome as well, we'd just need the names so we can assemble an attendance list.

In terms of agenda, perhaps what we could do is have some NCUCers kick off the conversation with brief highlights of issues we're involved with in ICANN, like 3 minutes per, and then have a few local folks lead off on what's happening in DC on these and related matters, and then open discussion…relaxed and informal but with enough structure to be productive. For example, some key issues we could bring to the table include civil society engagement in ICANN on

• IANA and the transitioning of US authority
• Accountability mechanisms in the context of globalization
• Human rights generally
• Privacy and registry services
• Freedom of expression
• Access to knowledge and intellectual property
• Development
• Internet governance beyond the ICANNsphere, e.g. the NETmundial Initiative, IGF, etc.

Could this be of interest? I look forward to hearing from you,

Best

Bill

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