

DotAsia Board Community Projects Committee (BCC) Meeting Minutes

Date(s) & Time:	February 01, 2023 (Wed) 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (HKT)
Location:	DotAsia Zoom Meeting Room: http://aji.asia/zoomboardcommunity
Attendees:	<p>Santanu ACHARYA Kashif ADEEL Edmon CHUNG Murad IBRAGIMOV Ellen STRICKLAND (Chair) Leonid TODOROV</p> <p>Phyo Thiri LWIN (DotAsia Team) Rebecca CHAN (DotAsia Team)</p> <p>Apologies: Andi BUDIMANSYAH</p> <p>Absent: Joel DISINI</p>

No.	Action Items:	Owner	Remarks
C2022.04.A01	Draft an action plan regarding the correspondence of reserved names to GAC representatives for further discussion.	Edmon CHUNG	Awaiting discussion on C2022.05.A03.
C2022.05.A03	Organize a special meeting of interested Board Members with the DotAsia team on government engagement.	BoardSec	To be scheduled at F2F meeting.
C2022.10.A01	Review the criteria for SCP Fund disbursement.	BCC	Completed
C2022.11.A02	Discussion about EII and Aji project	BCC	Completed

Discussions:

1. Roll Call

- 1.1. Ms. Ellen STRICKLAND chaired the meeting as BCC Chair.
- 1.2. Roll call. Those present for all or part of the meeting are included in the Attendees section.

2. Approval of Last BCC Meeting Minutes (November 24, 2022)

- 2.1. Draft 1 of BCC meeting minutes 2022.11.24 and action items were presented.

- 2.2. BCC meeting minutes 2022.11.24 approved with no objections.

3. Review of SCP funds disbursement process

- 3.1. Two aspects of the funds disbursement process for approved SCPs were discussed:
 - Mechanism for disbursement of funds
 - Withholding of the funds until completion of report
- 3.2. It was explained that upon approval of the SCP application, the grant recipient would issue an invoice to DotAsia and the funds approved would be sent by wire transfer. The team further noted that there has been no problem with the disbursement mechanism based on the experience in the past. It was also clarified that the invoices are issued from the grant recipient and not the Sponsor Member (ccTLD).
- 3.3. The question of whether there may be any concern for dispersion of full fund amount at the risk if the grant recipients are not delivering on the project itself or the project report. It was discussed that there are pros and cons for withholding or not withholding partial funding to ensure that project deliverables are met. The team observed that based on past experience, SCPs were duly implemented and grant recipients appreciated the simple process.
- 3.4. It was commented that the screening and monitoring of grants fund usage is very important components of any grant project. It was suggested that DotAsia communicate well with the grant recipients and explain any the ramifications of non-delivery in advance. It was noted that the SCP concept relies on Sponsor (ccTLD) Members to vet and oversee grant recipients, which helps ensure accountability.
- 3.5. It was concluded that the current process should continue and that the matter be reviewed from time to time in the future.

4. Ajitora & EcolInternet Initiative

- 4.1. The background and works of the Ajitora project, which started in 2016 when the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were put into effect, was presented alongside the continuing work on the EcolInternet Initiative and its relation to Ajitora.
- 4.2. A question was raised on why the report is focused on the details of the project rather than how Board Members can contribute to the efforts. The BCC Chair clarified that this was the request from previous BCC meeting, to better understand the details of the work.
- 4.3. There was a comment for the good work in producing a meaningful report on EII. There were also comments that the issue of climate change remains a tricky one and can still be quite controversial.
- 4.4. It was commented that the communication part of this project is lagging behind the overall effort. There was a suggestion to increase the engagement and promotion of the project around the region across different media channels. It was explained that such public relations effort would require substantial budget, whereas the current approach towards education and community engagement is more focused on shaping the narrative starting from the Internet governance community.
- 4.5. It was noted that becoming a leading voice within the Internet governance community on the matter should be a reasonable objective for the project at this time.

5. Social Impact Assessment (SIA) updates

- 5.1. It was reported that Social Impact Assessment (SIA) reports are being compiled annually for key DotAsia community activities including for APriGF and NetMission. It was noted that an SIA on the Ajitora and EcolInternet Initiative has not been compiled previously, and that perhaps it should be planned for in the coming year.
- 5.2. It was highlighted that the SIA reports provide details in quantitative as well as qualitative measurements, which include testimonials, results from surveys and actual numbers collected, etc.
- 5.3. It was noted that measurements have been collected for the last 3 years and comparison provided within the report. Nevertheless, the comparison for APriGF may be more difficult because it was largely virtually held for the previous 2 years, with only 2022 becoming largely on site in the hybrid format.
- 5.4. It was observed that the goals set out in the SIA framework 3 years ago are being realized. The amount of output and engagement of NetMission alumni had increased, creating impact in the community. DotAsia's team also represented a strong presence at the global IGF 2022, bringing the voices from the Asia Pacific Internet community to the global forum as official speakers at 18 sessions.
- 5.5. BCC members are encouraged to review the draft SIA reports and to provide feedback about the framework as well as the data collected. Further discussion on the SIA reports are planned to be continued at the next BCC meeting and the F2F Board meetings.

6. AOB

- 6.1. It was noted that there should be one more BCC meeting before the AGM.