

IANA Report on the Delegation of the .tl Top-Level Domain

Subject: Request of the Department of Information Technology at the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Public Works (DoIT) for the .tl Top-Level Domain

Date: January 2005

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (the IANA), as part of the administrative functions associated with management of the domain-name system root, is responsible for receiving requests for delegation and redelegation of top-level domains, investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, and reporting on the requests. This report gives the findings and conclusions of the IANA on its investigation of a request for the delegation of the .tl (Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste) country-code top-level domain (ccTLD).

Factual and Procedural Background

In 2002 the two-letter code “tl” was and is set forth on the [ISO 3166-1 list](http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html) (<http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html>) maintained by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) as the approved alpha-2 code for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste is the newest country in the world (independence on 20 May 2002) and its institutions are being put in place by the democratically elected Government in 2001. Timor-Leste is the new name of the country formerly known as East Timor. DoIT is a department in the Ministry of Transport, Communication and Public Works in Timor-Leste. By letter effective 15 September 2004, the Ministry authorised the DoIT to assume responsibility for the day to day administration of the .tl ccTLD on behalf of the Timor-Leste Government and the local and Global Internet communities.

The contacts as listed in the template received by IANA are role accounts from the Ministry, with the Director of the DoIT, Flavio Cardoso Neves as Administrative Contact and the Technical Manager of TL NIC at the Ministry being the technical contact.

On 24 January 2005 the ICANN Board of Directors authorized the President to complete the delegation process.

Evaluation

This report is being provided under the [contract for performance of the IANA function \(http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm\)](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm) between the United States Government and ICANN. Under that contract, ICANN performs the IANA function, which [includes receiving delegation and redelegation requests concerning ccTLDs \(http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2\)](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2), investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, making its recommendations, and reporting actions undertaken in connection with processing such requests.

In acting on delegation and redelegation requests, the IANA currently follows the practices summarized in “Internet Domain Name System Structure and Delegation.” (ICP-1, <http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm>) ICP-1 represents an update of the portions of [RFC 1591 \(http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt\)](http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt) which was issued in March 1994) dealing with ccTLDs, and reflects subsequent documents and evolution of the policies followed by the IANA through May 1999. Relevant guidance is also provided in the GAC Principles.

In considering delegation or redelegation of a ccTLD, the IANA seeks input from persons significantly affected by the transfer, particularly those within the nation or territory which the ccTLD has been established to benefit. As [noted in ICP-1 \(http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a\)](http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a), the parties affected include especially the relevant government or public authority: “The desires of the government of a country with regard to delegation of a ccTLD are taken very seriously. The IANA will make them a major consideration in any TLD delegation/transfer discussions.”

Based on the materials submitted and the IANA's evaluation of the circumstances, The DoIT qualifies as an appropriate manager for the .tl registry, with support from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste community, including the relevant Governments.

The GAC Principles serve as “best practices” to guide governments in assuming proper roles with respect to the Internet's naming system, which the GAC has observed is “a public resource . . . administered in the public or common interest.” (<http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.3>) In general, they recognize that each government has the ultimate responsibility within its territory for its national public-policy objectives, but also that ICANN has the responsibility for ensuring that the Internet domain-name system continues to provide an effective and interoperable global naming system. The GAC Principles recommend that governments and ICANN pursue their respective roles by creating a framework for accountability memorialized in communications with each other and with the ccTLD manager (see [clause 2, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2)). The GAC Principles guide governments on how to responsibly structure their relations

with ccTLD managers (see [clauses 5.5, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5) and [clause 9, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9)). Among these specific principles, the best practices contemplate that governments will assist in ensuring that the ccTLD manager complies with ICANN policies related to global coordination of the Internet DNS ([clauses 9.1.7 and 9.1.8, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7)).

The proposed delegation will promote service to the local Internet community and will help assure continued Internet interoperability through the global technical coordination that ICANN was created to provide. In this regard, the recognition contained in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Government's discussion of the need for close coordination between ICANN and the government is particularly noteworthy.

Conclusion

The structure proposed by the DoIT and endorsed by the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Government is to have the DoIT undertake management of the .tl ccTLD under appropriate oversight of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Government concerning the national policy interests. The DoIT and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Government also acknowledge and support ICANN's responsibility for coordinating management of the DNS, including the .tl ccTLD, to safeguard global technical-coordination interests. In reviewing the request, in light of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Government's endorsement of The DoIT and Flavio Cardoso Neves as the appropriate all inclusive caretaker, the IANA concludes that the .tl ccTLD should be delegated to The DoIT and Mr. Flavio Cardoso Neves.