

October 28, 2010

Subject: Recommendations

Policy Advisor to Generic Top Level Domain Name.

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)

I met Sophia Bekele during her appointment with ICANN a policy advisor to the GNSO, a policy body that advises and make recommendations to the ICANN Board on generic top level domain names such as .com, .org and .asia.

During my acquaintance with her, Sophia was championing IDNs which I had previously implemented in March 1998 after she was made aware by the IDN group that I was involved in, the Multilingual Internet Names Consortium where I was a co-founder, that there was no formal policy structure at ICANN for promoting IDNs. Sophia pushed very hard for a policy dialog through the GNSO Board and finally through the ICANN Board, where we now have IDN policy formally.

I found Sophia is quick learner on new issues, persistence and courageous. She is a team player with integrity. She is currently championing the .africa gtld implementation the same way she did with IDNs, and I am confident she will do the same good she did for the IDN community.”

Dr. Tin Wee Tan

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