

# Fellowship Report - #ICANN52 Singapore

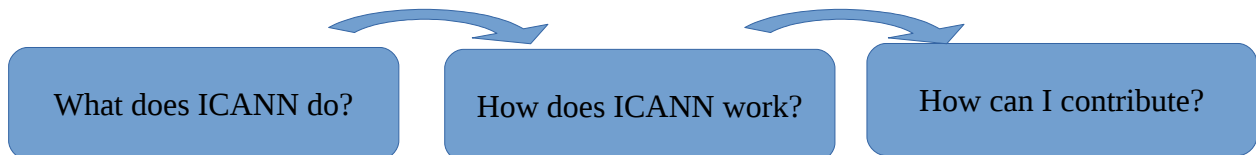
Mathias E. HOUNGBO, Icann Fellow



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First time I heard about ICANN was in 2006 during a web development training and about the Fellowship program in 2012 at AFRINIC-16 meeting. I was newbie in Internet Governance and I had no a clear idea about multi stakeholder model, I was selected as fellowship for ICANN52 meeting in Singapore and my objective was to understand as much as possible the whole Internet Governance process and implement it in my country as fast as possible.

## What did I hope to get out of ICANN52 ?



My expectation at the first was to participate and understand as much as possible in technical discussions like IANA transition, WHOIS, DNS, IPV6, DNSSEC, and all about GTLD's and look for a way to share this knowledge in my country,



[Voir plus de photos et vidéos](#)

As technical, I attended technical topics about DNS, DNSSEC, KSK, WHOIS, ... but I specially remember the mini theater piece about DNSSEC for beginners that I call DNSSEC for dummies. Some civil society discussions topics were interesting too. The IANA transition is complex, but the process is clearest for me now.

My expectations were covered, the ICANN map in my mind is clearer now. I understood better the IANA transition and the importance of the NTIA contract, I also realized the non commercial group of ICANN can be helpful in my work with end-users, associations and NGOs and suddenly NCUC, NPOC and At-Larges became interesting.

## **Experience at the ICANN52 Meeting**

The preparation of the meeting with my coach Naveed was a surprise. A lot of informations, topics and questions. After read the ICANN website information and links sent by my mentor, exchange with other fellows I realized ICANN is not a « black box », ICANN is a multi stakeholder model itself and is part of a multi stakeholder model in the Internet Governance ecosystem.



The meeting focus not only on technical topics but also other not-technical topics like Human rights, Internet governance and civil society organizations that are important in Internet Governance ecosystem.

The fellowship daily and newcomer sessions were helpful. This sessions showed us an idea about how to handle or understand sessions and fellows felt free to ask questions according to their interest. Additionally, we had the opportunity to meet other fellows who work in different organizations and companies around the world.



The youngest fellow of #ICANN52

It was an amazing experience: too much information, new contacts, new people, topics to read and people to follow. I'm returning to my country with a lot of ideas



**Mathias HOUNGBO** @mhoungbo · 12 févr.  
Sam says "find a mentor, be a mentor" #ICANN52



[Voir la photo](#)

At least, one of the many positive experiences that I had was how approachable the group leaders were. We already had Janice as a model of support and guidance, but it was the same in each of the workshop sessions that I attended. Group leaders and other participants are obviously used to a culture of sharing and support.

## **Moving Forward**

To summarize what I discovered about ICANN ecosystem is a bit complex to explain in just one, two or three pages. So I believe, I have to support the work of ICANN, our work, in my country and my region through the following points :



### **a) Promoting**

- in mailing list
- in beninese network operator group
- in classes
- in my office

### **b) Sharing the experience**

- with colleagues and friends,
- with students,
- in social networks, (I was also tweet during the ICANN meeting)
- in blogs



### c) Going further

- comment on policies and write policies,
- become member in ICANN comitee (NCUC, ALAC, experts, etc),
- attend more meetings
- find a mentor, be a mentor
- stay engaged
- write a book « DNSSEC for dummies »

Note : i'm now a member of NCUC, next step NPOC and SSAC.

### Thanks

Thanks to ICANN, Janice, Fadi, other fellows and my coach Naveed.



THANKS TO EVERYONE FOR A GREAT MEETING IN SINGAPORE.



ICANN52 fellows



ICANN52 fellows with Mama J.

twitter timeline

<https://twitter.com/search?f=realtime&q=%23icann52%20AND%20%40mhongbo&src=typd>

flickr album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mhongbo/sets/72157650873651095/>