

tzNIC Current Status and Beyond

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Eng. Ntahigiye's presentation was part of the official opening of tzNIC offices and inauguration of tzNIC Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). His presentation had five (5) agenda items: -The general introduction on ccTLDs, Management of ccTLDs, Functions and objectives of tzNIC, Current status and way forward.

As a general introduction Eng Ntahigiye said that the dot tz country code Top Level Domain (.tz ccTLD) is the national resource that provide unique global internet identity associated to Tanzania just like the country code +255 does for the telephone system. He pointed out that it was a critical part of the internet structure (Domain Name System) that brings about more credibility as compared to generic TLDs (gTLDs) such as dot com, dot org, dot biz, etc. He reminded the audience that ccTLDs are the enablers of ICT applications and are increasingly being recognized as tools to improve social and economic development and service delivery.

Basing on above stated cutting edge of ccTLDs, Eng Ntahigiye pointed out that tzNIC, a not for profit organization, was established through a consultative Public-Private Partnership (PPP) process for the benefit all Tanzanians (ICT opportunities for all) and that every Tanzanian had a role to play. He enumerated the stakeholders' groups and roles as:

GOVERNMENT = Facilitator

- Sponsorship entity
- Provider of policy directives and conducive environment
- Responsible for public interest protection

PRIVATE SECTOR = Implementer

- Has technical expertise / know-how
- Business oriented and can ensure sustainability
- Responsible for protecting the private sector interests

SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

- Have potential for registering new domain names

YOUTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- ICT advocacy role; and

THE ACADEMIA

- Have potential for scientific research and direction

Eng. Ntahigiye went further and said that tzNIC has been established to manage and administer the dot tz domain space with three main objectives:

- To manage and operate dot tz ccTLD for the public interest
- To promote the use of dot tz domain name space; and
- To be sustainable and be able to support ICT for development.

As for the tzNIC current status Eng Ntahigiye informed the audience on the human resource, dot tz ccTLD management, second level domains (SLDs) and infrastructure as follows:

a. Human resource

The secretariat had two staff and two more staffs were expected to join by mid June 2008.

b. Dot tz ccTLD management

Administrative contact was Prof. Beda Mutagahywa

Technical contact was Mr Randy Bush

c. SLDs

- i. .co.tz (commercial), .ne.tz (network infrastructure) and .or.tz (non profit making organizations) had a total record of 3606 domain names and were under the management of Mr Bill Sangiwa (Private individual)
- ii. .ac.tz (academic), .go.tz (governmental) and .mil.tz (military) had a total record of 319 domain names and were under the management of University Computer Centre (Public entity)

d. Infrastructure

The hardware was in place, registry package was readily available, reliable electric power was in place and the reliable internet links procurement process was in the final stages.

Eng Ntahigiye went further and informed the participants that the way forward was toward the dot tz ccTLD re-delegation viz., changing the designated administrative manager and/or the designated technical manager. This process was expected to be finalized before end of 2008 and that for the organization's sustainability, a registration fee not exceeding 30 usd and an annual fee of 20 usd will be introduced.

He finally concluded by requesting all the stakeholders to support tzNIC by registering to dot tz domain space. By doing so, tzNIC would be sustainable and could contribute to other national and international ICT development initiatives.