

Memorandum of Understanding Seed Alliance Collaboration and Cooperation

Date

15 December 2015


Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between:

- A. APNIC Pty Ltd ACN 081 528 101
for and on behalf of the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre
of 6 Cordelia Street, South Brisbane, Queensland, 4101, Australia
(APNIC); and
- B. Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry
of Rambla República de México 6125 CP 11400, Montevideo, Uruguay
(LACNIC); and
- C. AFRINIC Ltd
of 11th Floor, Raffles Tower, Cybercity Ebene, Mauritius
(AFRINIC).

Background

1. Since October 2010, AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC have worked alongside the International Development Research Center (IDRC) to establish a global alliance to support Internet development globally. The Seed Alliance was formally launched on 31 March 2012, thanks to a generous grant from IDRC, to support the launch of FIRE Africa and to strengthen the two existing programs, FRIDA and ISIF Asia. The Swedish Government also joined the alliance via a generous grant from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) the same year.
2. The Seed Alliance is a collaborative partnership between the FIRE, FRIDA and ISIF Asia Grants and Awards programs and the Alliance's various partners and sponsors. Together, these programs support innovation on Internet development across the global south:



- a. The Fund for Internet Research & Education (FIRE AFRICA) was launched in 2012 and is administered by AFRINIC, the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Africa and the Indian Ocean.
 - b. The Regional Fund for Digital Innovation (FRIDA) was launched in 2003 and is administered by LACNIC, the RIR for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - c. The Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF) Asia was launched in 2008 and is administered by APNIC, the RIR for Asia Pacific. APNIC currently acts as the Seed Alliance's Secretariat.
3. In addition to funding by the IDRC and SIDA, each of the RIRs contributes significantly to the program it acts as secretariat for. The RIRs also partner with local sponsors to widen coverage for regional and global activities. To date, over US\$ 2 million has been allocated in Grants and Awards to numerous projects throughout Africa, Asia Pacific, and Latin America, helping to strengthen and promote the Information Society within these regions.
 4. The parties are entering into this MOU to record their mutual intent to work together to: 1) share processes, procedures and knowledge gain through the regional programs; 2) strength collaboration among the regional programs; 3) seek additional and future funding from aid agencies, governments, Internet industry partners, philanthropist and other potential sources. All these, in order to support research and innovation on Internet development, by providing funding via different modalities of grants and awards, capacity building and networking opportunities so that the benefits of the Internet we experience today are preserved and expanded, for an open, stable and secure Internet for all.

Objectives

5. The joint objectives of the parties are to collaborate and work together to:
 - a. offer their respective members and the community at large much needed funding so they can contribute to the development of the Internet from a regional perspective through research and implementation;
 - b. seek funding to strength regional and global activities around Internet development;
 - c. identify capacity building opportunities for supported projects; and
 - d. gain knowledge about future innovations that might affect the development of the Internet, share knowledge and lessons learned both at the program level and at the recipient level.

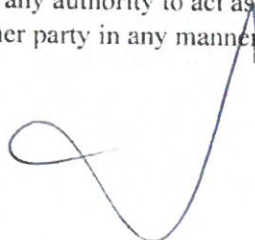


Record of Understanding

6. The parties agree that they will work together to implement and use practical mechanisms for knowledge and information sharing about the management of the regional programs both programmatic and financial, which are critical for an effective collaboration and decision making. The parties will not necessarily use the same platforms or tools.
7. The parties agree that they will work together to identify and seek funding according to the objectives of the alliance and in line with regional priorities by designing funding proposals together, approaching donors for funding negotiation and participate at events to seek investment opportunities for mutual benefit. The parties will not necessarily approach all potential donors and sponsors together, but will keep the others informed during the process, not only once funding has been confirmed.
8. The parties agree that once funding is confirmed from any source at either regional or global level, all details for that specific funding allocation will be managed according to separate grant agreements or contracts signed by each regional program receiving funds. The parties agree that, to the extent not prevented by contractual obligations, the regional programs will invest time and effort to maintain the principles for collaboration as described in this MoU.
9. The parties agree that the Seed Alliance is a program only for RIRs and will work together to facilitate other RIRs to join, if appropriate, according to the objectives of the alliance and in line with their regional priorities.
10. The parties agree that they will work together to identify capacity building opportunities for supported projects which will increase visibility for the role the RIRs play for the development of the Internet, as well as the role the Seed Alliance and all regional programs play.
11. The parties agree that they will work together to gain knowledge about future innovations that might affect the development of the Internet, share knowledge and lessons learned both at the program level and at the recipient level.
12. The parties agree that they will work together to maintain the Seed Alliance website up to date, with relevant statistics and supported project information to strength the Seed Alliance brand, maintain reputation and increase visibility.

No partnership or agency

13. This document does not create any partnership, agency, association, employment, or any other fiduciary relationship.
14. This document does not give any party, any authority to act as agent for, or on behalf of, or to represent or bind the other party in any manner.



No transfer of funds

15. This document contemplates no transfer of funds between the parties. In the event this document is terminated, each party is solely responsible for the payment of any expenses it has incurred.

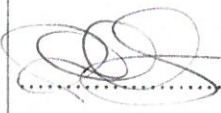
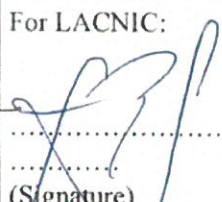

Status of this document

16. The parties record their mutual intention that this document serves as a non-binding record of their understanding.
17. This document does not create any enforceable obligations under law.

Duration and amendments

18. The parties can modify this document by recording any such modification in writing signed by both parties.
19. This document is intended to be long-standing. However, either party may, by giving at least 60 days notice in writing to the other party, terminate this document.

Signatures

For APNIC:	For LACNIC:	For AFRINIC:
		
..... (Signature) (Signature) (Signature)
Name: PAUL WILSON	Name: Oscar Robles	Name: Alan BARRETT
Title: DIRECTOR GENERAL	Title: CEO	Title: CEC

