Subject: [EC] Re: Issues to be discussed in EC
Date: Monday, 22 September 2025 at 18:26:57 Australian Eastern Standard Time
From: Matsuzaki Yoshinobu via ec
To: Jichen Thinley
CC: EC

Dear Jichen,

I wanted to provide you with an update on one of the matters you had raised to the APNIC EC late last year, when you suggested that the EC consider incremental reductions in the LDC discount to economies graduating from LDC status.

The EC received similar requests during the year from others in the wider community as well, and heard from Members at the recent btNOG/SANOG. After much deliberation, a new phased fees approach to LDC graduation was announced during the recent APNIC Member Meeting at APNIC 60. Under the new approach, all future LDC graduations will be subject to the following fee schedule changes:

* On the first membership renewal following the LDC graduation date, Very Small tier account holders will receive a 25% discount on the full fee. All other account holders will be charged the full fee.

* On the second membership renewal following the LDC graduation date, all account holders will be charged the full fee.

Considering your feedback, and in the spirit of consistent and equitable treatment for Members, the EC also resolved to provide the same discount to economies where LDC graduation has already occurred since the LDC discount commenced in 2009. In this regard, account holders in Maldives, Samoa, Vanuatu and Bhutan who are in the Very Small tier at the time of renewal in 2026, and who were account holders at the time of graduation, will receive a 25% discount on their 2026 fees.

While I'm aware this will not have an impact on Bhutan Telecom as a Medium-tier Member, the EC's informal consultations with the community identified that Very Small Members, whose revenue is typically small, are most sensitive to an increase in fees due to LDC graduation and therefore, are in most need of any fee assistance.

The announced phased fee discount above will provide one-off relief to a number of operators in Bhutan in 2026, and around 71% of the total new graduating Members in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Lao PDR. The phased fee discount for Very Small Members will also apply to LDC economies graduating in the future, such as Solomon Islands in 2027 and Cambodia in 2029.

The EC believes its decision to introduce the phased fee discount, outlined above, balances the desire to assist account holders in graduating LDC economies with the EC's duty to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of APNIC for all Members.

Thank you again for engaging with the EC on this issue.
Kind regards

Matsuzaki Yoshinobu,
On behalf of the APNIC EC