
Subject: [EC] Re: Issues to be discussed in EC

Date: Friday, 17 January 2025 at 19:13:54 Australian Eastern Standard Time

From: Matsuzaki Yoshinobu

To: Jichen Thinley

CC: EC

Dear Jichen,

Thank you for your email. The APNIC Executive Council values the contributions of Bhutan Telecom and its advocacy for APNIC membership across the region. Below, we provide our responses to the points you have outlined:

1. **APNIC Membership Fees.** While we acknowledge the challenges faced by Bhutan Telecom following Bhutan's graduation from LDC status in 2024, the transition and associated fee adjustments were communicated in advance to allow for adequate preparation. APNIC strives to maintain consistency in fee structures and applies the same expectations to all Members, including those in Nepal and Bangladesh, as they approach LDC graduation.
2. **Increase in APNIC Fees.** APNIC announced the 4.75% membership fee increase on 14 September 2023 (<https://blog.apnic.net/2023/09/14/apnic-fees-to-increase-from-2025/>), providing APNIC's Members with 17 months' notice before its implementation on 1 February 2025. This timeline ensures transparency and sufficient time for Members to plan accordingly. The fee increase reflects the rising costs of providing high-quality services and was designed to distribute financial responsibility equitably among all Members.
3. **ASN Fees.** The introduction of ASN fees was not driven by resource scarcity but the need to mitigate misuse, such as speculative behaviour and ASN trading. It also ensures responsible ASN management and helps cover administrative costs. While your suggestion of providing up to six ASNs free of charge is noted, the current approach aims to balance fairness and operational sustainability across the APNIC community. We are continuing to encourage discussion and feedback on fees particularly at the upcoming AGM held alongside APRICOT.
4. **Reserve Fund.** Feedback from the 2024 APNIC Member survey, conducted independently by Survey Matters, indicates that the majority of the community supports maintaining or increasing the reserve fund. Specifically, 29% of respondents felt the 18-month reserve was appropriate, and 33% suggested extending it to 24 months (see <https://www.apnic.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/APNIC-2024-Survey-Report-APNI-101-2401-V2.pdf>).
The intention of the reserve fund is to ensure operational

stability and safeguard against unforeseen circumstances. Australian legal requirements also emphasize responsible financial management for organizations like APNIC.

5. South Asia Representation. APNIC is committed to addressing regional concerns and promoting equitable access and representation. We encourage further dialogue to identify specific areas where South Asia's priorities can be integrated into APNIC's broader initiatives.

We appreciate Bhutan Telecom's continued engagement and advocacy within the APNIC community.

Sincerely,
APNIC Executive Council
Matsuzaki Yoshinobu