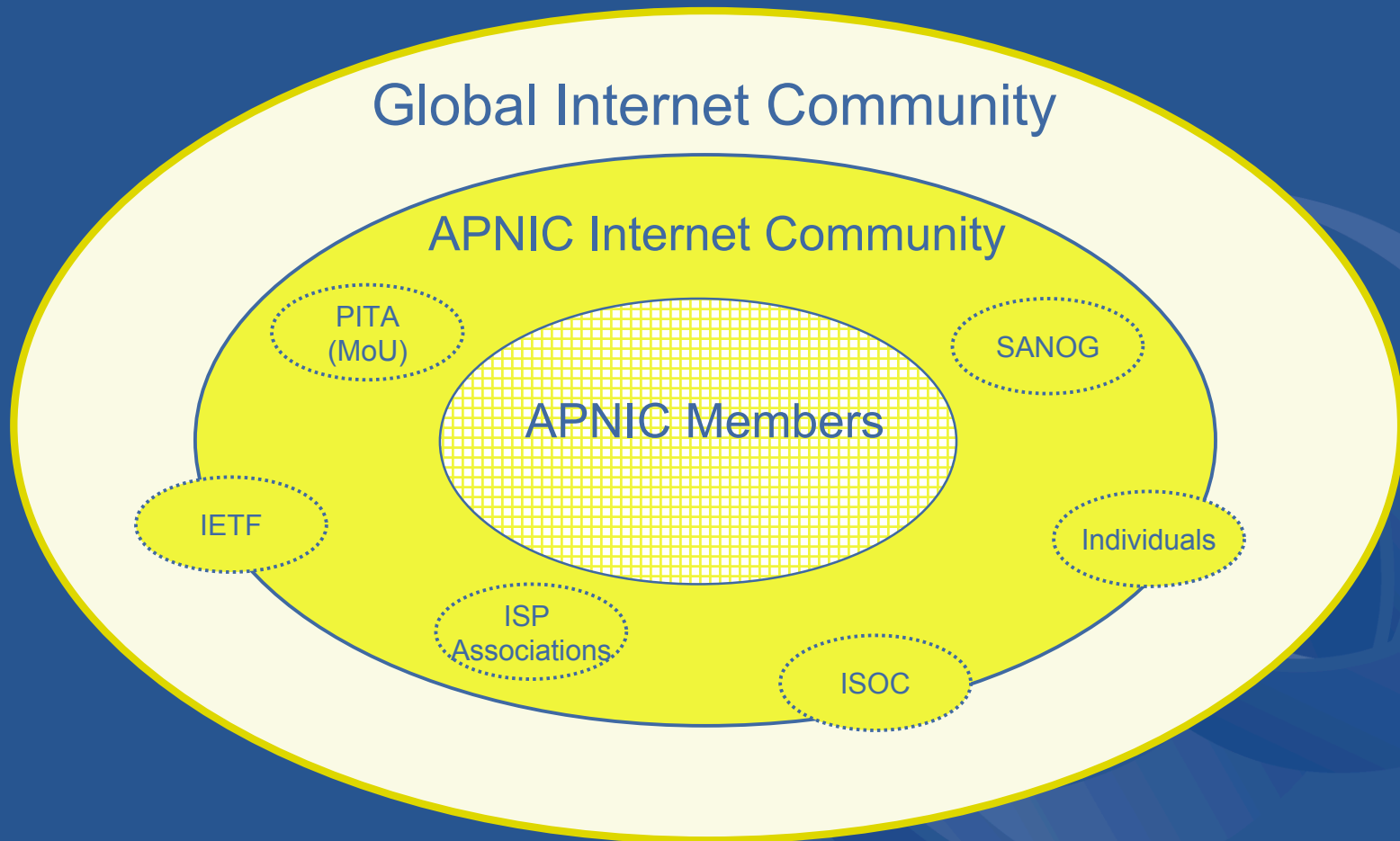# Policy Development Processes in the APNIC Region

4th ASO General Assembly

Santiago, Chile

24 April 2003

Overview

- Definitions
- Principles
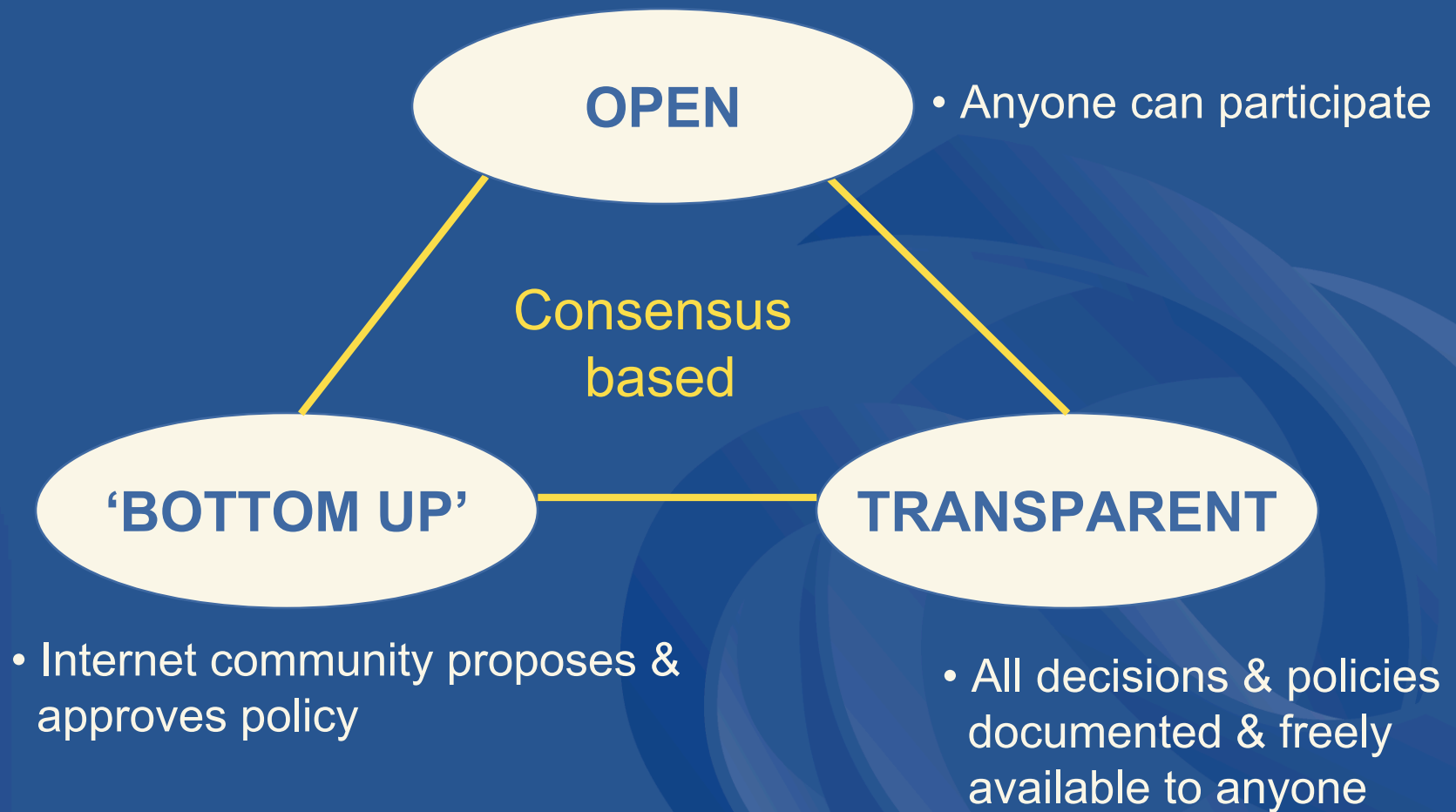- Elements
- How does it work?
- Questions?

Definition – "Internet Community"

Definition - Consensus

- OED definition
  - "General agreement in opinion"

- Show of hands to judge 'general agreement'
  - Often a count is taken to assist but is not essential
    - Those in favour, those against and abstentions
    - Each attendee has one vote

- If difficult to judge, unlikely to be consensus
  - Final call by chair

Principles of Policy Development Process

OPEN

• Anyone can participate

Consensus based

'BOTTOM UP'

TRANSPARENT

• Internet community proposes & approves policy

• All decisions & policies documented & freely available to anyone

Elements of the Process

Member Meeting

MM: forum specific to APNIC business eg. fee structure, election of executive council & endorsement of policy decisions

WGs: semi formal, volunteer group tasked by a SIG to work on a particular project until completed eg. 'Broadband'

Working Groups

Open Policy Meeting & Mailing Lists

Special Interest Groups

SIGs: Formal groups which discuss broad areas of policy relevant to the APNIC internet community

BOFs: Informal meetings to exchange ideas eg. CA BOF, Network Abuse BOF, Training Need to hold at least one to form new SIG

Birds of a Feather

Training & Education

- Contributing to more informed policy discussion

- APNIC training courses
  - Increase awareness of regional policies and procedures
  - Open to all (priority registration for members)

- Joint seminars (APTLD, ISOC, APIA)
  - Increase awareness of Internet governance issues
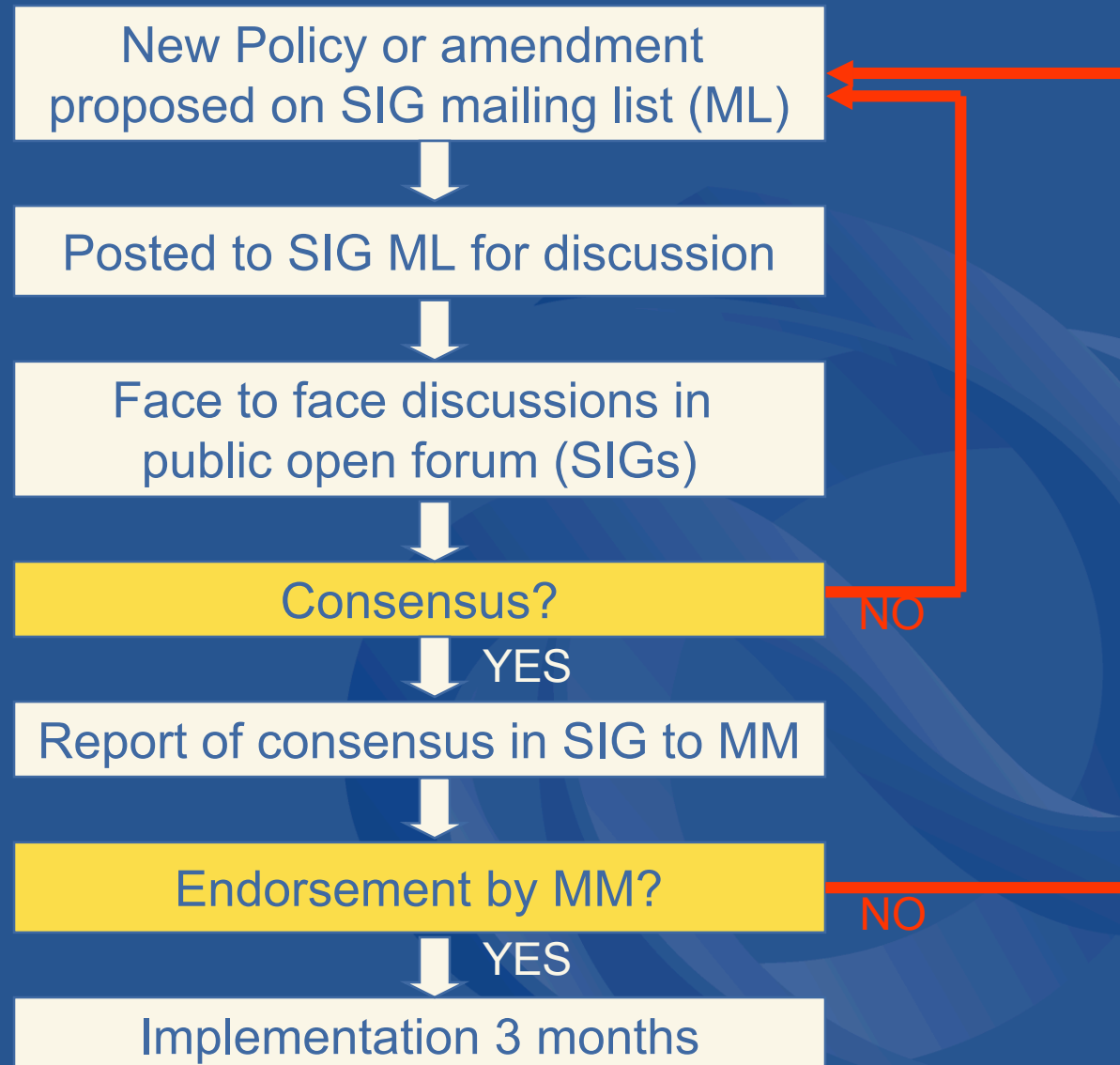 - Open to all

APNIC

APNIC Secretariat

- What is the role of the Secretariat?
  - Support all forums as necessary
  - Document and publish meeting results
  - Prepare for and assist in development of meeting format
  - Facilitate and guide policy process
  - Co-ordinate liaison and exchange with other RIRs

Role of the APNIC Executive Council

- By-laws state EC is empowered to
  - "Consider broad Internet policy issues in order to ensure that APNIC's policies and strategies fully respond to the constantly changing Internet environment"
  - Act on behalf of the Members in the interval between Member Meetings
- EC act in 'emergency' or as point of 'appeal'
  - May be asked to consider emergency proposals or action on policy outcomes

How Does it Work? Self Regulation in Practice

New Policy or amendment proposed on SIG mailing list (ML)

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Posted to SIG ML for discussion

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Face to face discussions in public open forum (SIGs)

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Consensus? — NO

YES

↓

Report of consensus in SIG to MM

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Endorsement by MM? — NO

YES

↓

Implementation 3 months

Policy Development Documentation

- Policy making process description
  - http://www.apnic.net/docs/policy/dev/index.html

- Supporting docs & recommendations
  - Guides for SIG chairs and for presenters
    - http://www.apnic.net/meetings/archive/sigs/index.html
  - SIG administrative procedures (draft)
    - Electing new chairs, creating new SIGs

Questions?

- Presentation slides
  - http://www.aso.icann.org