ASIA, **DOMAINS**, **REGIONS**, **WEB HOSTING**

Indian Domain Experts Gather at Second World Domain Day Conference

BY ROHIT NAIR ON MONDAY, APRIL 13 2015, 9:53 AM

(NEW DELHI) – The second annual World Domain Day (WDD) took place at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi on Friday.

Samiran Gupta, head of India for ICANN, was one of the main speakers at WDD 2015. He kicked off the show, addressing an audience of domaineers, entrepreneurs, web designers, and more. He spoke on ICANN's roles and responsibility as a governing body of the Internet, and described its multi-stake holder model and the various committees that are a part of ICANN.

"The challenge lies in figuring out a new model," said Gupta while explaining how the IANA stewardship process is moving out of US control. Gupta also shed light on the Cross-Community Working Groups, a group of volunteers whose decisions and opinions impact one or more key stakeholders within the ICANN Framework.

In response to whether India's participation in ICANN is strong enough, Gupta said: "India is well represented in communities, but we would want them to have a stronger voice." Gupta also encouraged the audience by assuring support to anyone who wants to promote new gTlds.

One of the most sought speakers for the day was Pavan Duggal, an expert in cyberlaw and ecommerce law. Duggal described a number of instances of how domaineers end up violating intellectual property rights of others. "Domain names are not only about domaineering – they can also lead to communal riots," Duggal said.

Duggal explained how cybersquatting has been prominent ever since domaineering was introduced.

He also explained the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy and how anybody can file a petition under this policy and a domain name can be transferred. If the applicant who files the petition wants his/her domain name back the applicant will have to prove:

1. The domain is similar to the complainant's domain.

2. The respondent has no legitimate rights or interests to the concerned domain.

3. The domain name is being/ has been registered in bad faith.

Speaking about the vastness of registrations made in bad faith, he gave several examples where petitions were filed under

the UDNDRP and the points under which the complainant had filed his petition in the process explaining the ramifications of details not being accurately filled during the registration of domains.

Prominent figures in the industry like Shridhar Luthria, Reseller Club's Business Head, Annurag Batra, founder of exchange4media group, Alok Bansal, CFO PolicyBazaar.com, Dr. Govind, CEO National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) and member of ICANN-GAC were some of the other speakers at the event.

About the Author

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Rohit Nair is a freelance contributor to the WHIR, covering the Indian and Asian hosting and cloud markets.

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