

Moderator



Mr. Baher Esmat | Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East, and Managing Director for the Middle East and Africa (MEA) Regional office, ICANN

Baher Esmat is ICANN Regional Vice President for stakeholder engagement in the Middle East, and Managing Director for the Middle East and Africa (MEA) Regional office in Istanbul. In his role, Esmat oversees ICANN's engagement in the MEA region and facilitates collaboration with stakeholders to fulfill ICANN's strategic objectives at the regional level.

Esmat has been involved in Internet technical and governance issues for over two decades. He is a founding member of Egypt ISOC Chapter. He had also served on several Internet governance related groups including the UN Working Group on Internet Governance, the CSTD Working Group on IGF Improvements, and the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Committee (MAG).

Esmat holds a Bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Cairo University, and a Master's degree in Computer Science from the American University in Cairo.

Speakers



Ms. Emily Taylor | CEO, Oxford Internet Labs

Emily Taylor is CEO of Oxford Information Labs. A lawyer by training, Emily has worked in the Internet governance and cybersecurity environment for more than 20 years. Emily is an associate fellow at Chatham House and editor of the Journal of Cyber Policy; a research associate at the Oxford Internet Institute and an affiliate professor at the Dirpolis Institute, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa. Emily has written for World Politics Review, the Guardian, Wired, Ars Technica, the New Statesman and the Slate, and is a regular commentator on technology issues in news and broadcast media including the BBC and Sky News. Emily is a graduate of Cambridge University, and has an MBA from Open University. Follow her on Twitter @etaylaw.



Mr. Adiel Akplogan | Vice President of Technical Engagement, ICANN

Adiel A. Akplogan is Vice President for Technical Engagement at ICANN. With more than 25 years' experience in the ICT industry (20 specifically in the Internet Technology Industry), Adiel has previously worked as CEO for AFRINIC (The African Network Information Centre), IT Director for Symbol Technology in France (2001-2003) and Director of New Technology at CAFÉ Informatique in Togo (1994-2000). Recognized as one of the Internet technology pioneers in Africa, he has contributed to technical capacity building and deployment of some of the first private Internet Service Providers in Africa from 1996-1999.

During his career, Adiel has served on the Boards and Advisory Committees of many global and international organizations such as the UN Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IGF-MAG from 2006-2009), the Technical Advisory Committee of the United Nation Economic Commission for Africa (ATAC/UNECA from 2005-2006), the Executive Council of the Number Resource Organization (NRO – 2005-2015 as Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer), ICANN's Strategic Panel on its role in the Internet governance ecosystem, the African Union's AXIS program Steering Committee (2012-2015), the African Network Operators Group and the Africa Internet Summit's Administration and Program committee (AFNOG/AIS – 2000-2015) and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) Expert Group on Internet Governance (since 1999).

Passionate about Internet technology and its impact on human development, he has actively contributed to the setup of several technical coordination bodies in Africa such as the African Network Operators Group (Afnog), the African ccTLD Managers Association (AftLD), AfricaCERT, and the Africa Internet Summit (AIS).

Adiel Akplogan has a graduate degree in electrical engineering and holds a master's degree in E-Business and New Technology Management from Paris Graduate School of Management. He lives and works from Montréal, Canada.



Mr. Moustafa Moharram | Founder and CEO, Moharram & Partners for Public Affairs and Strategic Communications

Achievement-driven public policy management/political communications expert with qualifications in all aspects of political/policy, risk analysis, public affairs and strategic communications in Egypt, the Middle East and Africa. Accomplished at developing and implementing challenging public policy programs, Moustafa Moharram worked as a lead consultant for a number of prominent national and international organizations including the World Bank (WB), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as well as the Egyptian Cabinet - Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC). As a highlight of his experience with public institutions, he designed and led policy initiatives/dialogues with regional governments on socio-economic reforms, economic governance and corruption fighting legislation, as well as Information and Communications Technology (ICT) strategies/policies. He also contributed in enhancing the capacity and preparedness of key national stakeholders in political and crisis communications. Prior to founding Moharram & Partners (M&P), a pioneering Egypt based public affairs and strategic communications firm, he served as the Regional Public Policy & Government Relations Director for a global payments technology company - Visa Inc. During his tenure at Visa, he successfully contributed to bringing the concept of financial inclusion to the forefront of decision making agenda and integrating it in national/regional strategies and policies. Ultimately seeking to create synergy between business and government, in his capacity as CEO at M&P, Moharram currently works with organizations to build and maintain strong and credible reputations, explain their views and position on public policy issues, and to find common ground and establish meaningful relationships with governments, regulators, media and other societal stakeholders. He currently advises a number of global companies such as Amazon/Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google, Microsoft, Mastercard, Vodafone, Huawei, Coca Cola, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and other Fortune 100 companies on their public policy and strategic communications programs in Egypt and the region. Over the past few years, Moharram designed and led public policy and strategic communications strategies for (50+) top market leaders in a variety of industries including: technology, telecommunications, banking, payments, money transfer, classified ads, ride hailing, transportation, construction, real estate, financial services, education, agriculture, energy, FMCGs, development, and healthcare.



Ms. Elena Plexida | Vice President of Government and IGO Engagement, ICANN

Elena Plexida is Vice President for Government and IGO Engagement at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Prior to joining ICANN, Ms Plexida worked for the European Commission DG CONNECT on internet governance issues. Before that, she was a Telecom Attaché with the Permanent Representation of Greece to the EU. During the Greek Presidency of the Council of the EU, Ms Plexida co-chaired the Council Working Party on Telecommunications and Information Society. Before joining the Permanent Representation, Ms Plexida was an international affairs officer at the Hellenic Ministry of Telecom. Her main responsibilities included EU affairs and relations of the country with a number of international organizations.

Ms Plexida holds a master's degree from the National (Metsovian) Technical University of Athens and a degree in economics and political science. She is also a graduate of the National School of Public Administration of Greece (ESDD).