

**Speech of the Chairman of ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Vint Cerf, in the opening ceremony of the ICANN Meeting in Lisbon, 26-30 march 2007**

Good morning, everyone.

This is a special treat for me, frankly, to return to Lisbon for something like the third or the fourth time. I must tell you that our Portuguese friends are very subtle. Pedro mentioned that the quality of the Internet in the rooms differs from the quality in the open public areas. This was a subtle attempt to bring people together, because if you want good networking, then you can't avoid actually being in areas where you would meet each other as well. So I think that's a very clever tactic. It gets you out of your room. And, of course, he hopes eventually to get you out of the building and into the rest of the city.

Having spent some time here, let me urge you, if you can, to find time to visit Sintra, not far from here, and also, if you can make it into the south to the Algarve, I would recommend that as well.

This is a small country with a big heart. It produces one-sixth of the world's wine. And, of course, if you haven't already sampled the product from Oporto, I would recommend that as well.

We are going to have a very busy week. I'm sure many of you have already noticed that.

Just to give you a sense for the wide range of issues that we will be faced with, you all know we will come to some decision on the question of the dot XXX top-level domain. We will be looking at the root server attacks and to understand more deeply whether and how we can defend against them. We will be talking about transparency and the whole process of accountability of ICANN. We'll be signing additional agreements with various international organizations, from Africa, the Pacific Islands, and the United Nations. We have already signed -- and this is news -- an agreement with Libya.

We will be working on the President's Strategy Committee report.

We'll be talking about the WHOIS issue again. I hope we can make some progress on coming to conclusions there.

We will certainly be concerned with the side effects and lessons learned from the RegisterFly "debacle" is the best way to describe it, a meltdown of one of the registrars, from which we may learn some very important lessons and to take some actions that will improve matters for registrants in the future.

We will be hearing more about internationalized domain names and testing of them in laboratory environments. We'll be talking about ccTLDs, some of which should be or could be sunsetted, like dot SU. We'll be hearing about some very important advances in security of the domain name system, particularly led by Sweden and Bulgaria.

We will be discussing questions about delegations or redelegations of ccTLDs, and a number of other things as well.

So all of you have very very big lists of meetings to go to. And as chairman of ICANN, I look forward to taking advantage of all that you produce during the week so that we can take actions that are useful for everyone, not only this week but in the future as well.