

**Speech of the President of FCCN – Foundation for Scientific Computation, Pedro Veiga,  
in the opening ceremony of the ICANN Meeting in Lisbon, 26-30 march 2007**

Minister of Science, Technology, and Higher Education, Professor Mariano Gago,  
Secretary of State Jose Magalhães,  
Chairman of ICANN, Dr. Vint Cerf,  
CEO of ICANN, Dr. Paul Twomey,  
Representatives of the sponsors of this event, especially I would like to highlight the  
representative of the Mayor of Lisbon that has given us some local support, but also the other  
companies that are listed in all the documentation and that were very important to support  
FCCN in this event,  
Directors of ICANN, and,  
especially, the Internet community, represented in this event by around 900 registered  
participants from more than 80 countries.

“Bom dia”. I suppose you remember that from Rio that means "good morning". So you can  
understand already the Portuguese language.

On behalf of FCCN, I want to welcome you to Portugal and Lisbon.

FCCN is a private, nonprofit organization responsible for the planning and making of the  
Portuguese research and education network.

We are also responsible for the operation of the top-level domain for Portugal, dot PT. We are  
doing this since 1991. And now we have around 140,000 domains.

Until 1996, the registration and maintenance of a domain was free. We have a limited number of  
domains by that time. We then started charging for domain names, and this is still happening  
today. As FCCN is a nonprofit organization, we just charge to cover our running costs.

In the year 2000, we have introduced the model registry/registrar, following the practices used  
in other TLDs, and now we have slightly more than 100 registrars.

In 2001, we have updated the rules concerning the registration of domains and the dot PT  
hierarchy, and we created dot com dot PT where registration is completely free. And we started  
using the mechanism of resolution of conflicts using the same principles behind UDRP.

We have introduced IDNs three years ago, actually a little more than three years ago. So  
domain names using non-seven-bit ASCII characters can be done in the Portuguese language.  
We have 12 characters, basically vowels with accents and the "C" with a cedilla. That is under  
operation for quite a long time.

We are also trying to promote IPv6. We started associating IPv6 addresses to domain name  
registrations four years ago. In Lisbon, we have a replica of the F root server in the context of  
cooperation with IFC.

In relation to our research and education network, we have a rather advanced network. This  
network is partially based in optical cables that my organization owns.

We connect main universities. We have a backbone running at 10 gigabits per second, and we  
hope within one year to upgrade to 40 gigabits per second. And we have international  
connectivity of 2.5 gigabits at present, and we expect to upgrade in the near future, basically  
because we are connecting to Spain with optical cables. And this is in cooperation with our  
counterpart in Spain.

With this advanced network, we try to give to the participants of this conference the best  
working conditions. We have one of the routers linked to our network. This is true for these  
rooms, the ground floor, not in rooms. I had some complaints about the networking in rooms.

This is not the responsibility of our network. So if you want to have fast access, please be here or in the lobby, in the bar, and so on. Not in your room.

But our network, in addition to connecting the higher education system, has been connecting all Portuguese schools since 1997. We have been one of the first countries in Europe, and maybe in the world, to connect all schools to the Internet by that time using ISDN technology. And now we have broadband connections to all schools. And they are connected via our academic network.

Our network since 2002 is a dual-stack network capable of running IPv4 and IPv6. IPv6 traffic is still rather small, but the network is completely ready when the user base grows, we have IPv6. FCCN has decided to propose to ICANN to organize this meeting here in Lisbon. We knew that in spring 2007, Europe was the region where the event should take place, and we have made a proposal to ICANN. We are very glad that you are all here.

We understood this participation in the first place as a way to give a contribution to the global Internet connectivity with our resources. ICANN has been doing significant effort and has made great achievements in its outreach initiatives. And this is a way of our collaboration. And, indeed, in this meeting, for the first time in ICANN meetings, we have the participation of three Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. That's Angola, Cape Verde, and Guinea-Bissau. And this is for us a very good possibility to strengthen the cooperation that we already have with those countries. For example, we run in Portugal, with agreements with those countries, the primary name servers for dot CV, Cape Verde and for Angola, dot AO.

In second place, the possibility of having this event in Portugal brings to our country a lot of experts in Internet technologies. And we hope this is also a contribution to increase the awareness of the Portuguese society to the relevance of the Internet.

This last objective is aligned with importance that Internet technologies have in the core activities of FCCN, but also the public policies of the Portuguese government related to the development of our society towards an information society and also bridging the digital divide. I hope that during these days you will find some free time to get a flavour of the Portuguese architecture, culture, and cuisine. I know some of you already have done that, the last part especially.

I know this is very difficult during ICANN meetings, because everybody's always so busy. We have meetings during the day, sometimes in the evening. But I hope you get -- you can get a small slot of time to visit the city.

Because the unique location of Lisbon, with the beautiful estuary of the Tagus River flowing into the ocean makes a visit to Lisbon an unforgettable experience. But if you don't have time during the meetings, plan a visit in the near future. I also want to emphasize that during this meeting, we have participants of Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. Of course, another country with Portuguese-speaking people has a long tradition of cooperating with ICANN. Indeed, in Brazil, we had already two ICANN meetings.

So this is all. I want to thank you all for coming to this event and wish you a fruitful and successful work.

Finally, I would like to re-emphasize our gratitude to the sponsors of this event, and I would also like to thank the staff of FCCN. They worked hard, and they will go on working hard until Friday afternoon, so that you have the best conditions for your work. And, once again, thank you for coming.