

23 December 2020

Pausing the Rotation Policy for APNIC and APRICOT Conferences

APNOG and APNIC agree the following:

1. The APRICOT MoU between APNOG and APNIC sets out a four-year repeating cycle of sub region choices for conferences to be held (the conference rotation policy). The MoU says this cycle will continue unless changed by mutual agreement.
2. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health and travel has made face-to-face conferences impossible in the near term, and forward planning for future conferences difficult.
3. The rotation policy, if continued to be followed during the pandemic, risks causing unnecessary disappointment in the community as chosen locations are unable to host conferences, and also creates ongoing uncertainty / wasted effort for organising teams at APNOG and APNIC.
4. APNOG and APNIC agree to pause the conference rotation as of 23 December 2020 and shift to online-only conferences until such time that the health and travel impacts of the pandemic have resolved to the point where face-to-face conferences are again possible and effective. When that point is reached would be determined and agreed by the APNOG Board and APNIC EC.
5. The current chosen conference location where the rotation is paused (South East Asia: Manila, Philippines) will become the conference location when the rotation is restarted. The subsequent locations would remain the same, and follow the rotation sequence normally after the restart.
6. To preserve the integrity of the rotation sequence, the restart would need to occur for exactly the same event where the pause occurred. As the rotation is paused at an APRICOT, the rotation must restart with APRICOT.
7. If it becomes possible for APNIC to hold a face-to-face conference in September during the rotation pause, a neutral location would be chosen and not the next location in the rotation (otherwise the rotation would be compromised). If it is possible for APRICOT to hold a face-to-face conference, but not in the Philippines (via a rotation restart), then a neutral alternative location could also be considered.
8. A decision to extend or lift the pause on the rotation policy should be made no later than October 31 each year.
9. Any change to this agreement must be jointly agreed by the APNOG Board and APNIC EC.

Agreed by:



Paul Wilson
On behalf of APNIC



Philip Smith
On behalf of APNOG