

**DONA FOUNDATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**(July 2 & 3, 2015)**

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Robert E. Kahn (Chair), Xinmin Gao, Antoine Geissbühler, Stefan Eberhard, Norman Paskin, Adama Samassékou, Peter Wittenburg, Stephen Wolff.

**Also present were:** Institutional Observers: Alexander Ntoko, representing ITU; and Patrice Lyons, representing CNRI. The DONA Executive Director, Christophe Blanchi. In addition, several invited guests were present at most of the meeting at the invitation of Dr. Kahn.

### **1. Opening of the Board meeting**

On notice duly given, a meeting of the Board of Directors (the **Board**) of the DONA Foundation (**DONA** or **Foundation**) was held at the Confucius Institute of the University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland, beginning at 14:00 on July 2, 2015. The Chair thanked the University of Geneva for making the Confucius Institute facilities available for the Board meeting and for their hospitality.

A draft Agenda for the meeting had been circulated to the Board members prior to the meeting, as well as the Minutes from the last Board meeting (July 3 and 4, 2014). After a brief discussion, and taking into account changing logistical schedules, the Minutes were approved, as presented, and a slightly modified Agenda was approved. Dr. Kahn opened the meeting with a general introduction of the issues to be addressed.

### **2. Recent Internet experience in China**

At the request of Mr. Gao, who had to leave the meeting early, Dr. Kahn invited him to present his views to the Board. He presented an interesting overview of the current state of Internet activities in China. He placed emphasis on improving the technology with a view to promoting industrial growth and job creation. While they faced challenges in applying the handle system technology and architecture to traditional industries, there were new opportunities to promote its role as a critical infrastructure.

### **3. International standards**

There followed a discussion about the importance of international standards in encouraging new use of technology. Although three informational RFCs about the Handle System were made available several years ago, they were now in need of updating to reflect changes. A standard was also adopted by ISO for the DOI System; and it was likely that other applications of the basic technology might be standardized by other groups. It was particularly noted that Recommendation X.1255, "Framework for Discovery of Identity Management Information," based largely on the Digital Object (DO) Architecture, was approved on September 4, 2013, at an International

Telecommunication Union (ITU) meeting. X.1255 provides an abstract description of the DO Architecture and establishes a basic standard for purposes of further standardization of the DO Architecture, including the Handle System technology and software.

#### **4. New MPAs**

Dr. Kahn informed the Board of several groups that have expressed a possible interest in becoming MPAs, including representatives from Rwanda, Tunisia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Brazil. The Board stressed the need for geographical diversity as well as technical capability in the selection of MPAs. There was also sensitivity expressed on the continuing need for a “multi-stakeholder” approach in the selection of new MPAs. It was the sense of the Board that the Chair was authorized to enter into discussions with potential MPAs, and to report back to the Board before taking any formal action.

#### **6. Report of the Executive Director**

Christophe Blanchi, Executive Director, presented a report on the status of the Global Handle Registry (GHR). Over the last year, the primary focus of the DONA Foundation was on setting up and testing the technical and security mechanisms of the GHR, operating on a multi-primary basis. This work was going well and the authorized and credentialed MPAs were in the process of testing the system. It was noted, however, that additional time was still required by the MPAs before going operational. While replication would be ready soon, there were still issues with respect to administration that needed to be addressed. It was estimated that this might require several more months of work. The need for redundancy and monitoring going forward was also stressed.

The issue of an organization being allotted by DONA two or more credentials was discussed. It was recalled that this matter is covered in Article 1.1 of the MPA Agreement as follows: “While the current Foundation policy is to allot a single credential to each MPA, the Foundation Board of Directors may, at its sole discretion, decide whether to allot one or more additional credentials to an MPA and the conditions that would apply to such allotment.” It was agreed that a position on this subject should be developed by the Board, based on actual situations and/or requirements.

#### **5. DONA-MPA Meeting**

Since the morning’s agenda had been rearranged, the Board then reviewed the activities of the DONA-MPA coordination meeting held in Beijing, China, December 14, 2014, at the National Library of China. The efforts of the Coalition for Handle Services – China (ETIRI, CHC & CDI) in organizing the meeting were noted, with thanks. The discussion then continued based on the Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> DONA-MPA Meeting that were made available to the Board. The question was raised of defining possible boundaries so that MPA activities would not conflict with each other, as well as the need to develop Board policies to comply with relevant privacy, anti-trust and competition laws. This question was noted by the Board for consideration at a later time.

There followed a discussion of the relationship between the MPAs and the Board. A question was raised about the representation of MPAs on the Board of Directors. Generally it was understood that the MPAs would determine who to recommend for such representation from time to time; however, it was the view of the Board that further experience was required before formalizing procedures at this point. It was observed that under the By-Laws all members of the Board serve in a personal capacity, and, if an MPA's recommendation for a representative seat on the Board is approved, that the person would then be serving in a personal capacity.

## **6. Testing and other issues**

a) "Guidelines on the Testing by authorized Multi-Primary Administrators of GHR Beta Version 2 Software" (Version 1.0) was prepared by the Executive Director of the DONA Foundation with the assistance of CNRI, and released to the MPAs on June 22, 2015. The tests included a wide range of experimental operations targeting issues related to the installation and configuration of GHR (Beta v2) software, its proper daily operation and administration, key rotations, reporting and the detection of intrusion and catastrophic system failures. The testing of the GHR (Beta v2) code is now underway; and a need was expressed for additional time to complete this process before the GHR goes operational on a multi-primary basis.

b) In light of the expressed need for further time to complete testing and to begin administration, the Board authorized CNRI to continue operating the current version of the GHR until such time as the GHR, operating on a multi-primary basis under the overall administration of DONA, is ready to go operational, it being understood that the Executive Director shall formally notify the Board and the MPAs at least one week prior to the date this will occur. It was urged that this process be completed later this year.

c) Other matters were briefly mentioned in closing, including procedures for records retention, continuity regarding the use of mirror sites, MPA GHR Services at multiple IP addresses, concerns about the use of cloud services at this point in time, and the need for timely updates to the existing Handle System RFCs. Dr. Kahn indicated that CNRI was committed to doing the updates in the coming months.