

**Conference Attendance report template - to be sent to gertrud@internetnz.net.nz  
1 month after attending the conference**

Grant reference number:	CA006
Name of recipient and contact details	Tim Johnson
Name of organisation (if applicable)	
Name, date and location of conference attended	14 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018 ICANN (GDD Industry Summit) Richmond, BC, Canada
Amount of funding received	\$4,000
<i>Budget details</i>	<p><b>Budgeted:</b>            Flights (Eco) - \$2235            Accommodation - \$2001            Insurance - \$150            Meals - \$500            Taxis - \$200  <u>TOTAL: \$5086</u></p> <p><b>Actual:</b>            Flights (Eco) - \$2235            Accommodation - \$2094            Insurance - \$119            Meals – \$536            Taxis / Train – \$368  <u>TOTAL: \$5352</u></p> <p>I was able to achieve what I had expected as part of this conference, but also was able to attend more evening networking functions than anticipated.</p> <p>My actual spend was slightly more than what was budgeted. This was largely due to higher than expected daily costs (such as meals and transit). I covered the additional costs personally.</p>
What were the highlights of the conference?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While I consider if a big part of my “lowlights”, learning more about the intricacies of GDPR was useful and broadened my understanding of the issues, and probably increased my compassion for those on the “receiving end” that are grappling</li> </ul>

	<p>with such complex issues – commercially, technically and operationally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with many of these kinds of industry conferences, there is so much value in going the extra mile and attending evening events and networking functions. Despite it being a seasoned crowd, there were still many new faces particularly from the local areas. A reminder perhaps of how great it would be to have even more kiwi influence in the global industry.</li> <li>• Being able to discuss with existing portfolio and independent single gTLD operators. Having the opportunity to spend real quality time hearing about their launch and operational struggles as new registries. So much to be harnessed and learned from such willing collaborators! Collaboration is indeed something that is an important concept to grasp for newcomers, if more NZ entities will be pursuing their own TLDs in the future.</li> <li>• Sharing with others about the experience of how the uptake of the 2012 round of new gTLDs within their regions had a strong (apparent) connection with local organisations driving both awareness and providing resources. This was a reminder for me, and reinforced the need for New Zealand to have local and vocal voices educating about the pro’s &amp; cons of pursuing and operating your own gTLD.</li> <li>• The conference offered a good range of simultaneous sessions designed to appeal to a broad section of the industry. I found this very helpful in seeing/hearing what was important to various sectors within the industry. i.e. Registries, Registrars and Technical focussed.</li> <li>• The conference was also well attended but was a relatively small conference for its kind. This lead to a much less crowded event and enabled more one-to-one time with people without constant interruptions. I think I have mentioned enough how good it was to discuss and share experiences and expertise!</li> </ul>
<p>What were the lowlights of the conference?</p>	<p>It was certainly unfortunate that the conference had such a heavy focus placed on GDPR. While GDPR is of course a very important issue to address from multiple perspectives, it did hamper my ability to achieve more of what I had set out to achieve. It was apparent that I was not alone in this.</p> <p>I think in hindsight, there could have been more done by likeminded individuals to organise ad-hoc / sub meetings within the conference to discuss in greater depth other topics outside that of GDPR.</p> <p>This “low light” leads on to how I address the issue of whether there was media worthy content at the conference.</p>
<p>How have you shared your learnings from the conference?</p>	<p>Ironically, I think one of the learnings I have taken from the conference (despite not being a stranger to the industry, globally and locally in NZ) is how few outlets there are to share what is learned and absorbed in such a conference. This was the first time I attended such a conference in my personal capacity, not representing an organisation – so I had no internal</p>

	<p>company agenda driving me. My agenda was to attend, learn, collaborate and bring something back for the NZ community, preferably via a form of media.</p> <p>What I have found is that I have struggled to find groups or outlets, beyond my existing reach, that have any interest in listening. I take this onboard as valuable learning for me, and perhaps could have been included as a “highlight”, but thought it more relevant in this section.</p>
<p>Was their media coverage or media-worthy content at the Conference?</p>	<p>I am not aware of any media coverage, beyond that of the standard ICANN public relations team/efforts.</p> <p>My hope and a part of my stated intent for attending this conference was to be able to bring back some media worthy information relating to the next round of new gTLDs. So, while the matter of the next round was certainly discussed, I did not feel as though there was anything “media worthy” to bring back to the New Zealand. As mentioned in my “low lights”, this was certainly disappointing.</p>