

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE DAY 2023 EVENT REPORT

Date	27 - 28 March 2023
Location	ISBAT University Auditorium (and remote)
Theme	Demystifying Universal Acceptance in Uganda
Organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Business, Science and Technology University (ISBAT) University [Host] • Internet Society (ISOC) Uganda Chapter • Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) • Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG)
Participants	34 on site and 10 remote participants from 15 institutions (mostly academic institutions in Uganda and the region).
Organising Team	Sarah Kiden, Innocent Adriko, Lucky Jimmy Boroa, Esther Nyapendi, Emmanuel Oruk, Hakim Kayonga, Allan Magezi, Jesse Nathan Kalange.
Rapporteur	Hakim Kayonga

ISBAT University joined ISOC Uganda to host a 2-day event in commemoration of the Universal Acceptance Day 2023 under the theme “**Demystifying Universal Acceptance in Uganda**”. The event primarily focused on creating awareness about Universal Acceptance (UA) and Email Address Internationalisation (EAI), the benefits of being UA-ready and the steps to become UA-ready. Event sessions portrayed topics on Universal Acceptance and technical discussions, and these included: UASG Overview, UA awareness video shows, Introduction to UA and why it matters, speeches from University officials, question and answer sessions, and awarding of certificates to participants. The event built on a previous [webinar series in 2021](#) under the same theme, that sought to create awareness about UA. A detailed agenda is provided at the end of this document.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Day 1 (Monday, 27 March 2023)

Sessions were moderated by **Mr. Innocent Adriko** (Internet Society Foundation). **Mr. Satish Babu** (representing the UASG) gave an overview of UASG activities, highlighting that the goal of UA is for all domain names and email addresses to work in all software applications in different language scripts. He shared the history of requests for non-Latin and non-English scripts and languages for Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs). He also noted how different stakeholders can contribute to UASG efforts and encouraged participants to get involved with the UASG.

The event was officially opened by **Dr. K.M. Mathew** (Vice Chancellor, ISBAT University), who called on participants to actively engage in the session. Other senior officials at the University and visiting officials from University of Somalia were also in attendance. We were also briefly joined by Mr. Pierre Dandjinou (VP Stakeholder Engagement for Africa) and Mr. Bob Ochieng (New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Sr. Director), who both spoke on behalf of ICANN.

Giving a Ugandan perspective, **Mr. Mayur Kumar Chhipa** (ISBAT University) and **Mr. Mutegeki Cliff Agaba** (ISOC Uganda), discussed why being UA-ready matters, citing that a multilingual Internet would facilitate businesses within communities, drive towards an inclusive Internet and deliver a career path for people seeking to advance their technical skills. “The responsibility of making sure that we are UA-ready does not fall only on ICANN but everyone” Mutegeki added.

Dr. Abdulkarim Oloyede (also representing the UASG), facilitated a session on UA technical overview. He explained the process of getting a unique domain name from an ICANN accredited registrar, and emphasised that UA was not about content but domain names and Email Address Internationalisation (EAI).

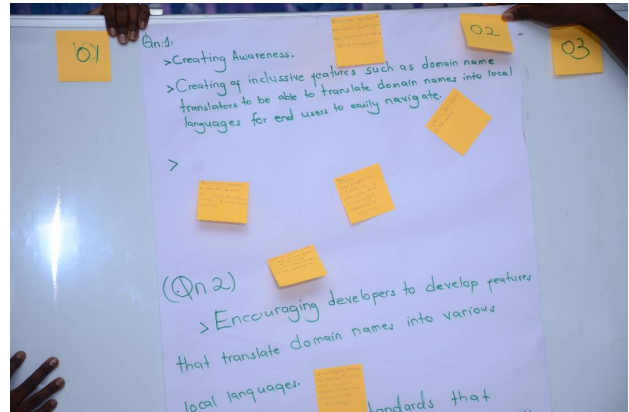
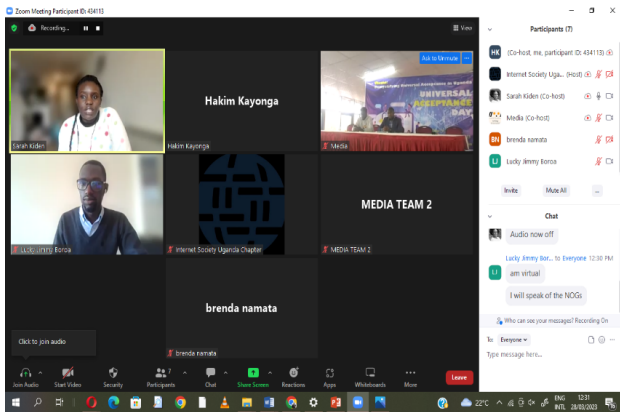
In an interactive session, facilitated by **Ms. Sarah Kiden** (At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)), participants worked in small groups in which they discussed, pledged and made calls to action to advance the UA agenda in Uganda. Some of the suggestions included advocacy, working with developers to develop Domain Name System (DNS) language translators, using multilingual encoders, promoting caching of frequently accessed information, using domain flaggers and working with policy makers to push companies and businesses to be UA-ready.

Day 2 (Tuesday, 28 March 2023)

Sessions were moderated by **Ms. Esther Nyapendi** (Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET)). **Dr. Abdulkarim Oloyede** continued with the technical presentation, focusing on EAI, categories of domain names and email addresses, how emails should be structured (envelope, message header, message body, etc), EAI support across email servers and how to configure EAI. He also discussed programming to support Universal Acceptance of domain names and email addresses, highlighting the technology stack for UA consideration and EAI support.

After the training, we held a panel discussion with community members and experts active in the Internet governance space. They shared their experiences, challenges and tips on how to engage in the community. The facilitator was Ms. Kiden, and panellists included Dr. Oloyede, Mr. Lucky Jimmy Boroa, Mr. Adriko and Mr. Jesse Kalange Nathan. In closing, **Dr. Giju Paul** (Academic Registrar, ISBAT University thanked participants for an interactive 2-day session and concluded that being UA-ready will boost economic growth of Uganda and other countries.

PICTORIAL



UA DAY 2023 DAY AGENDA

Day One

Time	Activity
8:00 - 9:00	Arrival and Registration: Esther Nyapendi, WOUGNET Emmanuel Oruk, ISOC Uganda Chapter
9:00 - 9:05	Prayer
9:05 - 9:10	Opening remarks: Dr. K.M. Mathew, Vice Chancellor, ISBAT University
9:10 - 9:30	Welcome remarks: Dr. Pradeep, ISBAT University Innocent Adriko, AFRALO What does a multilingual Internet look like?
9:30 - 11:15	UASG Overview and UA Day Awareness Session: Satish Babu, UASG (Remote)
11:15 - 11:45	Tea Break
11:45 - 12:30	Introduction to UA and why it matters: From a Ugandan perspective: Mr. Mayur Kumar Chhipa, ISBAT University Cliff Mutegeki, AFRALO
12:30 - 13:00	Group discussions: Sarah Kiden, At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Allan Magezi, ICANN Fellow Jimmy Boroa, AFRALO Cliff Mutegeki, AFRALO
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 16:00	UA Technical Overview: Dr. Abdulkarim Oloyede, Universal Acceptance (UA) Ambassador, UASG
16:00 - 16:30	Tea break and departure

Day Two

Time	Activity
8:00 - 9:00	Arrival and Registration: Esther Nyapendi, WOUGNET Emmanuel Oruk, ISOC- Uganda Chapter
9:00 - 9:15	Promotional Video: Allan Magezi, ICANN Fellow Hakim Kayonga, ISOC- Uganda Chapter
9:15 - 11:15	Email Administration Training for UA: Dr. Abdulkarim Oloyede, Universal Acceptance (UA) Ambassador, UASG
11:15 - 11:45	Tea Break
11:45 - 13:45	Programming Training for UA: Dr. Abdulkarim Oloyede, Universal Acceptance (UA) Ambassador, UASG
13:45 - 13:50	Closing remarks: Dr. Giju Paul, Academic Registrar, ISBAT University
13:50 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30	Award of certificates and group photo

INSTITUTIONS PRESENT

1. International Business Science and Technology (ISBAT) University
2. Internet Society (ISOC) Uganda Chapter
3. Makerere University
4. Victoria University
5. Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU)
6. Digital Grassroots
7. Naguru Youth Health Network
8. University of Somalia (Guests during opening ceremony)
9. National Drug Authority (NDA)
10. Uganda Institute of communication and technology (UICT)
11. Kampala University
12. Kyambogo University
13. Uganda Technology and Management Institute (UMI)
14. Youth Go Green
15. Strathmore University (Kenya)

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

<https://twitter.com/ISOCUg/status/1640823857408888840?t=hwWpKkpRNK7s3xSFjrzwJQ&s=08>
<https://twitter.com/isbatkampala/status/1640283367655522305?t=L6C9JI3INkuD8vs7YRRYRw&s=08>
<https://twitter.com/ISOCUg/status/1640613122170839041?t=uRrLvaYUCYBVZade8RVXWA&s=08>
<https://twitter.com/ISOCUg/status/1640087621354373122?t=JEiXlaAgwz4vgNMSU5hE4A&s=19>
<https://twitter.com/ISOCUg/status/1640643800979881984?t=p9UzQTJTe6hzvvJUM-WNGQ&s=08>