

## Foreword / Raúl Echeberría / Chair



Looking back on the past year, I truly believe we have a lot to be proud of. In 2010, we worked together to make sure the Internet continued to evolve as a platform that empowers people to share ideas and to connect with others in new and different ways. The Internet Society helped make sure that the tenets at the core of the Internet's success remain central to the technologies and policies that are shaping its growth. Through our collective efforts, we helped strengthen the multistakeholder approach that is necessary for the Internet to continue to thrive.

The challenges that confront our world are as diverse as the peoples and cultures that define it. The same is true of the technological, governance, and policy challenges we face as the Internet grows to meet the needs of billions of users. Throughout the past year we have seen a number of attempts to shut down or limit discussions on key issues, such as network neutrality, or to reframe the implications of policies, such as those concerning cybersecurity, as protections for citizens when, in reality, some of those recommendations will only lead to a locking down of the Internet. What we learn, time and again, is that the best and most lasting solutions are the ones that we arrive at through cooperation and mutual respect, that are rooted in principle, and that open the door to innovation.

In an open environment, the discussions can sometimes get noisy; perhaps that is the price we pay for transparency. In the end, however, openness and transparency always serve the greater good.

Traditional calabash cups of Uruguay, home country to the Internet Society Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Bureau

Throughout 2010, the Internet Society has succeeded in establishing and promoting a set of principles that are intended to persuade governments, whatever their unique cultural and political environments may be, to make the decisions that are right for their citizens and for each nation's future. We aim to continue having that kind of impact in 2011 and beyond.

I do not believe that our successes would have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the Internet Society community, which has continued to grow in every region around the world, with many more Individual Members, Organization Members, and Chapters than we had a year ago.

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As the number of Internet users around the world reaches past 2 billion, I believe the year ahead looks equally bright. Our continued cooperation on issues facing the Internet's development will be critical, but our collective vision of an Internet that truly is for everyone gives us strength, and promises even greater success.

## Foreword / Lynn St.Amour / President and CEO

Geneva, Switzerland, home to one of two Internet Society headquarters



We are living in interesting and exciting times for the Internet. Having passed the 2-billion-user mark in 2010, the Internet continues to prove just how vital a communications tool it is. This has been especially evident as events in North Africa and the Middle East unfold.

The Internet Society is here to ensure that the Internet continues to develop as an open platform; one that serves the economic, social, and educational needs of individuals throughout the world. We are committed to preserving and

protecting the Internet Ecosystem (see page 17), which we do by being deliberative, thoughtful, and forward-thinking, and we are dedicated to supporting technologies and policies that facilitate “permissionless innovation.”

A key Internet Society investment in 2010 was the further development and empowerment of our Chapters and Regional Bureaus. That investment, and the very positive results it has yielded, reflects our commitment to building local roots and increasing global engagement. A total of 10 INET events were held in 2010—all in partnership with local Chapters and Regional Bureaus—as well as five regional Chapter workshops. Armed with additional financial support as well as toolkits and primers aimed at helping leaders mobilize volunteers and influence policy makers, Chapters and Regional Bureaus have never been better prepared to grow and to realize our joint mission and goals. Even more impressive, they have never been more widely recognized in their communities for their involvement in key Internet issues.

One of the most exciting accomplishments of the year was the launch of the Next Generation Leaders (NGL) programme, an endeavor designed to cultivate new Internet leaders who are prepared to meet the technology, policy, and education challenges that lie ahead. In 2011, we will be extending the programme to include, under one umbrella, a new eLearning curriculum and several existing field-based educational and professional opportunities, such as the

Internet Society’s highly successful Fellowship to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), Internet Governance Forum Ambassadors programme, and Fellowship to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Technology Foresight Forum.

Throughout 2010 we worked tirelessly to advocate for our principles and core values (see page 3) as well as to catalyse support for the Internet’s multistakeholder model, which has made the Internet so beneficial to all of us. We actively supported the launch of several Internet exchange points in Africa and elsewhere, and we supported regional development efforts and policy forums aimed at identifying critical issues in the Internet’s development, including a workshop organized with the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission in Latin America (known as CITELE) in Argentina in May 2010.

More generally, the Internet Society advocated globally for the deployment of technologies that help create safeguards for the Internet, such as IPv6 and the Domain Name System Security Extension (DNSSEC) protocol. Many of those efforts would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of our Organization Members, donors, and other partners in the Internet Ecosystem. These partnerships inform and enrich our activities immeasurably.

The coming year holds the promise of even greater accomplishments and growth as we work to increase our engagement with all of our members—current and new. In 2011 and beyond, we plan to take additional steps to support locally and globally integrated activities and to strengthen our Regional Bureaus, Chapters, and Organization and Individual Members in support of our mission (see page 3).

Finally, I would like to take this moment to recognize the Internet Society’s Members, Chapters, Board of Trustees, and staff for their contributions as well as the Board of Directors and staff at the Public Interest Registry, whose ongoing support enable much of our success. I also wish to express our appreciation to our colleagues at the IETF, the Internet Architecture Board (IAB), and the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), without whose contributions and dedication to openness and transparency, the Internet as we know it would not exist. I look forward to working with all of you in 2011.