DEAR COLLEAGUES,

We stand at a remarkable crossroads. As we look back on the year 2011, we are also in the midst of celebrating the Internet Society’s 20th anniversary. At this unique moment in time, it is fascinating to consider the Internet’s success and evolution during our time in existence.

Growth is an essential theme in understanding both the Internet and our organisation. The Internet has grown in every dimension imaginable. In terms of size, it expanded from a network of networks connecting just over a million computers into a global network connecting more than 2 billion people in nearly every country. In terms of significance, the Internet has grown perhaps even more—enabling people around the world to collaborate with colleagues, communicate with friends, and connect with family members. And, as the 5 billion people who are not yet online begin to use the Internet in the coming years, the Internet must continue to evolve in both resiliency and vitality.

Likewise, the Internet Society community has grown enormously over the past 20 years, and our shared vision—that the Internet truly is for everyone—has never been more important. In the past year, our concerted actions have promoted the deployment of IPv6, raised awareness about the importance of the Internet as an enabler of human rights, and fostered partnerships and communities that are critical to the Internet’s continued development. We also welcomed many new Members and Chapters, another indication that our organisation’s mission still resonates with stakeholders around the world.

I look forward to continuing our work together to help ensure the Internet continues to provide a platform for innovation, economic development, and social progress.

Raúl Echeberría
Chair, Board of Trustees, Internet Society
DEAR MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND COLLEAGUES,

Reviewing the past year provides an opportunity to reflect not only on our accomplishments, but also on the shared vision that motivates our actions. One of the first observations is that our mission has stood the test of time. Promoting the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for people throughout the world remains just as essential today.

Through our collaborations with our Members, Chapters, and partners, we had significant impact on many key areas facing the Internet. For example, while the deployment of the next generation Internet Protocol, IPv6, has been discussed for many years, it was 2011 in which we worked with partners to take significant steps towards realizing its use on a significant scale. With more than 1,000 organisations worldwide participating in a historic “test flight,” we demonstrated that major websites around the globe were well-positioned for a global IPv6-enabled Internet.

We continue to build on our efforts to serve as a trusted source of information for issues critical to the Internet’s evolution and growth. The Internet Society extended its leadership role in public policy. We are now recognized and sought out for our Trust & Identity and Privacy expertise. And, we continued to advance the Internet as an enabler of human rights.

In addition, we welcomed many new Individual and Organisation Members, and Chapters, significantly expanding our global community. We strengthened our Regional Bureaus in order to help us deliver more fully to our mission. Our Regional Bureaus worked with our Members and Chapters to support and promote many important initiatives, including 10 regional INET events that reached over 1,500 participants.

These accomplishments could never have happened were it not for the dedicated efforts of Internet Society Members, Chapters, Board of Trustees, and staff. Our partnership with and the work of the Board and staff at the Public Interest Registry (PIR), as well as our colleagues in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Architecture Board (IAB), and the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF) have also been a key component of our shared success.

Just as a interconnected networks around the world are a foundation of the global Internet, our community is strongest when we work together towards our shared vision.

Very best,

Lynn St. Amour
President & CEO, Internet Society