Dear Members, Chapters, Staff, Partners, and Friends,

2013 was a very busy year with many new challenges: Lynn St. Amour notified the Board and the community that she would step down as the Internet Society’s President and CEO at the end of her contract; revelations about the US NSA and other government surveillance programmes threatened the Internet’s fundamental principles; new Internet Governance meetings emerged, such as the 2014 Brazil meeting; and many questioned the sustainability of the Open Internet model. 2014 may well be a watershed year for the Internet and a test for our mission of creating an Internet for everyone.

There were also many important accomplishments in 2013: IPv6 deployment doubled; the IETF reached a consensus to improve the security of Internet protocols to respond to pervasive surveillance; the I* Montevideo Statement on the Future of Internet Cooperation was very well received; and, after a long and thorough search, the Board announced the hiring of a new CEO to replace Lynn St. Amour.

As we look ahead to 2014, we welcome our new CEO Kathy Brown to the organization and look forward to her strong leadership to carry us into the future. This also means we say goodbye to Lynn, who built the Internet Society into a trusted and internationally respected leader operating at the intersection of policy, technology, and development. Lynn made the Internet Society what it is today. The Board and I greatly appreciate all her hard work and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

Thank you all for your support and engagement to advance our mission around the world. Working together, we can create the Internet everyone wants.

I look forward to continuing our important work to keep the Internet strong and open.

Bob Hinden
Chair, Board of Trustees
Internet Society
Dear Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

It doesn’t seem possible that 15 years have come and gone. When I joined the Internet Society in 1998, the Internet reached less than 4 percent of all people. Today it is accessible to nearly a third of the world’s population, but there is still a long way to go. While change has been a constant, the mission of the Internet Society remains just as relevant today. Now, more than ever, we need to strengthen our efforts to support the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet in order to ensure its benefits extend to all humanity.

The Internet Society was created to “… facilitate the technical evolution of the Internet, specifically to be the institutional home to the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF); to educate and advocate on behalf of the Internet; and to foster collaboration among organizations in their operation and use of the Internet.” I am proud that we have been able to realize and impact these goals, while keeping true to our principles, as a result of hard work and dedication by so many people across the globe.

Supporting the IETF has always been a priority, and over the years our relationship has expanded and grown. The IETF has been central to virtually everything we do online today, and open standards continue to be critical to the Internet’s development.

In 2003, the Internet Society won the bid to operate the .ORG registry and subsequently established the independent Public Interest Registry (PIR) to carry out that responsibility in line with the Internet Society’s principles. This marked a turning point in our history, and gave us the sound financial footing to more fully address our Mission.

Specifically, the Internet Society was able to expand our physical presence across the globe through increased support for Chapters and Members, as well as the establishment of Regional Bureaus. Through this deepened engagement, we significantly increased our impact. Today, we collaborate with our 100 Chapters, 65,000 Members, 152 Organization Members, partners within the Internet ecosystem, civil society, and business community, and with many intergovernmental organizations.

We built our own strategic technical capability and increased our development efforts, and these programmes continue to be some of the most impactful. Finally, we built up a well-respected Policy expertise, tackling many critical issues across the world — inter alia net neutrality, intellectual property, human rights, security, and Internet Governance.

What I will most vividly recall and cherish are the smart, passionate, creative, and dedicated people I’ve had the privilege to work alongside. Together, we are building a new world fully enabled by the Internet. We are fortunate to have world-class Staff, Members, and Chapters, and have been well guided over the years by successive Boards of Trustees.

In closing, I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Internet Society Members, Chapters, Staff, and Board of Trustees, as well as to the Board and staff at the PIR, and our colleagues in the IETF, the Internet Architecture Board (IAB), and the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF). Thank you all. It has been a joy and a privilege to work with you.

Lynn St. Amour
President & CEO
Internet Society

Messages to Lynn St. Amour

Thank you for your leadership and for your grace. You met great challenges and turned them into great opportunities, and as a result, we all benefited.

— Dich Beard

The Internet Society of 2014 is light years away from the Internet Society of 1999, and it is thanks to your leadership, vision, and persistence that this is so. You stood up for the freedom of the Net and never wavered from our motto: The Internet is for Everyone.

— Vint Cerf

Your leadership was inspiring and visionary. You grew the Internet Society into what it is today. You had the ability to connect with ISOC members from all walks of life from the most remote places on the planet.

— Mwendwa Kivuva

Thank you for all your efforts, achievements, and dedication throughout the past years for an Internet that is open for everyone. Special thanks for your support and commitment to the developing world.

— Manal Ismail

www.internetsociety.org/news/thank-you-lynn-st-amour