

# Internet Society Board of Trustees Meeting #187

Welcome to New and Rejuvenated  
Chapters and SIGs –Ted Hardie

March 6, 2025

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## **Internet Society Board of Trustees -Meeting #187 - Seattle - March 6 2025**

### **03 Welcome to New and Rejuvenated Chapters and SIGs –Ted Hardie**

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#### Ted Hardie (Board Chair)

- Opened the session by linking the topic to the earlier discussion with Flávio.
- Expressed strong support for chapters in formation, emphasizing their role in the growth and strength of the Internet Society.
- Highlighted two foundational strengths: the unity of purpose ("The Internet is for everyone") and the diversity of experiences within the organization.
- Stressed fairness and inclusivity across all parts of the Society (chapters, IETF, staff, etc.).
- Reaffirmed the Board's commitment to supporting diverse chapters and treating all contributors equitably.

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#### Caleb Ogundele

- Raised the question about the lack of local chapters in highly populated countries like Nigeria and Canada.
- Noted challenges in coordination at national levels and suggested that local (e.g., state/provincial) chapters might help.
- Questioned whether population distribution and regional engagement are factors being considered in chapter formation.

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## Ted Hardie (Response to Caleb)

- Acknowledged the importance of revisiting structures for membership support.
- Proposed informal discussions with the Chapter Advisory Council (ChAC) on improving chapter accessibility and potential structural adjustments.

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## Barry Leiba

- Noted gaps in chapter presence within large countries like the U.S. (e.g., few chapters outside major cities).
- Questioned how the Society could better stimulate interest and involvement to form new chapters.
- Suggested proactive outreach might help inspire more localized chapter development.

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## Ted Hardie (Response to Barry)

- Shared that chapter formation often begins when individuals connect with ISOC initiatives.
- Emphasized chapters acting as ambassadors to surrounding regions, as seen in the Caribbean.
- Recognized the value in enabling this type of organic expansion and outreach.

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## Charles Mok

- Agreed with Ted's and others' support for chapter formation and rejuvenation.
- Criticized limited data transparency from staff on chapter statuses.
- Highlighted the need for more insights on chapters' stages, processes, and reasons for success or stagnation.
- Pointed out that chapter identity often hinges on the interests and availability of key individuals, making sustainability a concern.
- Suggested comparative research and internal sharing of best practices among chapters to improve longevity and resilience.

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## Sally Wentworth (ISOC Staff)

- Thanked the board for the discussion and recognized the importance of supporting chapters in formation.
- Clarified that while staff invest in supporting these chapters, there might be other supportive approaches to explore.
- Noted complexities with sub-country chapters due to local chapter concerns and regional nuances, but affirmed that ISOC doesn't object to them at the global level.
- Promised to consider sharing chapter-related data regularly with the Board.
- Endorsed the idea of drawing lessons from successful chapters and sharing them within ChAC.

- Cited the chapter evaluation criteria (elections, activities, etc.) as baseline indicators of chapter health.
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### Maureen Hilyard

- Spoke from the perspective of PICISOC, which includes 18 different Pacific island countries.
  - Shared that leadership often becomes narrowly focused on individual countries within the chapter, diluting the broader regional view.
  - Expressed hope that ISOC's increased presence in the Pacific could help unify and elevate regional concerns.
  - Noted the unique challenge of catering to vastly different population sizes and needs (from islands with 5,000 to 5 million people).
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### Ted Hardie (Closing)

- Concluded by reiterating the value and challenge of such diverse experiences.
  - Stressed the board's ongoing commitment to fairness, support, and inclusivity for all chapters and contributors, regardless of their geographic or organizational background.
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