

Internet Society Board of Trustees Meeting #187

President and CEO's Report – Sally Wentworth

March 6, 2025

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

President and CEO's Report– Sally Wentworth

1. Sally Wentworth (President & CEO, Internet Society)

- **Introduced her first formal CEO report to the Board.**
- Report is structured around **approved CEO goals** and progress on ISOC's **five-year strategy**.
- **Recognized the ISOC & ISOC Foundation teams for successful execution of 2024 goals** despite leadership transitions.

Key Focus Areas:

1. **Strengthening Community Partnerships**

- Quarterly meetings with **ChAC & OMAC leadership**.
- Monthly meetings with **Jay Daley (IETF LLC)** and **John Nevitt (PIR)**.
- Attending the **Internet Architecture Board (IAB) retreat** in June.

2. **External Engagement & Public Advocacy**

- **Q4 2024 was packed with outreach efforts**, reintroducing herself to chapters, partners, and key stakeholders.
- Led **ISOC's delegation at IGF (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)** with key meetings on **WSIS+20**.
- Attended **Pacific Telecommunications Council (PTC) in Hawaii** as part of ISOC's **Pacific Islands engagement strategy**.
- Visited the **Waimanalo Community Network** (Hawaii) to evaluate its impact and upcoming grant proposal.

3. **Expanding ISOC Events & Conferences**
 - Over **15 @ISOC events planned for 2025**.
 - Strong ISOC presence at **NDSS, Internet Development Conference (Ethiopia), Apricot, and RightsCon**.
4. **Advocacy & Global Policy Challenges**
 - **Global Encryption Coalition** had key victories:
 - **UK's anti-encryption challenge**: ISOC team secured **150+ expert signatures opposing the measure**.
 - **France's anti-encryption amendment**: Successfully **withdrawn from Senate legislation** after ISOC intervention.
 - **Concerns over Apple's encryption rollback in the UK**.
5. **Revenue Generation & Financial Stability**
 - **Met potential donors in Boston & Washington, D.C.** to boost funding efforts.
 - **Revenue strategy progressing well**, but ISOC remains cautious.
 - Launched a **Transparency Page** on ISOC's website to clarify organizational structure.
6. **Risk Management & Leadership Continuity**
 - Developing a **risk register & organizational health metrics**.
 - Working with **leadership continuity committee** on **CEO and executive team succession plans**.
7. **Accessibility & Inclusion**
 - **Quarterly accessibility reports** to the Board.
 - ISOC is implementing the **Accessibility Resolution plan** with **Dan York** leading efforts.

2. Ted Hardie (Board of Trustees)

- Asked about **Pulse Platform Replatforming**:
 - **Pulse is ISOC's data and research hub** on global Internet health.
 - Sally confirmed that **Pulse's user interface is being improved** based on community feedback.
 - **New country reports released**, with enhanced visualization tools for **Internet shutdown tracking**.

3. Kathleen Moriarty (Board of Trustees)

- **Applauded ISOC's work on risk management**.
- Asked whether there would be **Board-level engagement on the risk register**.
- Offered **her expertise** in cybersecurity risk assessment.

Sally's Response:

- ISOC aims to **share a solid risk management framework by the Board retreat**.
- Risk register will be **reviewed regularly by the Board**.

4. Victor Kuarsingh (Board of Trustees)

- Supported **Board oversight on risk management**.
 - Suggested **tracking risk metrics** and **reporting key trends** to the Board.
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5. Olufunke Baruwa (Board of Trustees)

- Raised concerns about **ISOC's visibility beyond the technical community**.
- Shared her **own experience in Nigeria**:
 - Worked in **government digital policy** but **was unaware of ISOC** until she was recruited to the Board.
 - Asked if ISOC has a **clear external communication strategy**.

Sally's Response:

- **Acknowledged the challenge** and emphasized the need for **broader outreach**.
 - Encouraged **Board members to suggest new engagement opportunities**.
 - **Chris Locke to present a refined ISOC communication strategy** in the next Board meeting.
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6. Ted Hardie (Board of Trustees)

- Discussed ISOC's **role in coalition-building**.
 - **Global Encryption Coalition (GEC)** is an example of **ISOC driving alliances instead of always being the public voice**.
 - **Strategic balance is needed**:
 - When should **ISOC speak directly**?
 - When should **a coalition lead the conversation**?
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7. Sagarika Wickramasekera (Board of Trustees)

- Noted that **many ISOC chapters started within technical communities**.
- Proposed **expanding ISOC's outreach to schools**:
 - Establishing **school-level ISOC chapters**.
 - Engaging **teachers, students, and parents** to spread awareness.
 - Attracting **donors by showing grassroots engagement**.

Sally's Response:

- Welcomed the **idea of school-based ISOC engagement**.
 - Encouraged **similar outreach ideas for donor expansion**.
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8. Sally Wentworth (Closing Remarks)

- **Upcoming Key Engagements**:
 - **PIR Board meeting**.
 - **ICANN & IETF meetings in Bangkok**.

- **Asia-Pacific ministerial discussions.**
 - **Indigenous People IGF in New Zealand** (May 2025).
 - **ISOC Annual General Meeting in Prague.**
- **Welcomed Board feedback** on the CEO report structure.