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LONDON – Welcome Ceremony and President's Opening
Monday, June 23, 2014 – 08:30 to 10:00
ICANN – London, England

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to introduce ICANN board chairman, Dr. Stephen Crocker.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Well, welcome, everybody. I have some prepared remarks but I want to first say something that is of the moment here.

I have been informed that our registration has crossed the 3,000 mark, which is far, far and away above anything that we have seen before.

[Applause]

From my technical background, I always like to try to find out the reason why. Is it because of controversy? Is it because of the good weather? Is it because of London? Or maybe -- or maybe something else?

And the other thing which struck me is that this is one of the few times that you have seen me where I am not stuck in the position of following Fadi. What a relief.

[Laughter]

So welcome to ICANN 50. Because it is 50, we are going to indulge a little bit, looking back as well as looking forward.

I want to particularly acknowledge the representatives from the various governments around the world who are here today, partly for the ICANN meeting but most particularly for the high-level meeting that is taking place today as well.

So Your Excellencies, Ambassadors, Ministers, Minister Vaizey, and senior officials, welcome and thank you for joining us.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the leaders of our sister technical organizations, and also those from business, civil society, and others within the global Internet ecosystem. And the global Internet ecosystem is the real focus of what brings us all together. ICANN plays a specific, but certainly not the totality of that role.

So to all of you, thank you for joining us in this historic meeting in a truly magnificent city, one that my wife and I always enjoy the opportunity to visit.

So when it comes to the Internet -- where is Minister Vaizey? Sitting right here.

When it comes to the Internet, the British have, in a sense, shown us the future in a prescient way.

A few years ago, the British government moved oversight of the Internet from the Ministry of Trade and Industry to the Ministry of Culture, Media, and Sport. So that may not seem like an important event to people who are watching a small bureaucratic change inside the government, but viewed from a larger lens like a forest that's going from its initial growth through several phases before reaching a mature state, I have been privileged to be part of this process for a long time,

and the whole process was predicted by the second American president, John Adams, in the late 18th century.

He wrote, "I must study politics and war so that my sons may have the liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. My sons ought to study mathematics and philosophy, geography, natural history, naval architecture, navigation, commerce, and agriculture, in order to give their children a right to study painting, poetry, music, architecture, statuary, tapestry, and porcelain."

[Laughter]

So this all started out in the U.S. Department of Defense, has moved by steps through departments of trade and industry around the world, and now we know where the final resting place is: Music for everybody!

[Applause]

So in no small way the Internet works because of you and everybody in our community of volunteers who donate a lot of their precious time and because of the diligent staff that brings us together three times a year at different locations around the world.

Our world, the Internet world, is constantly evolving and changing to meet the ever-changing number of global Internet users, but in this constant change, it is easy to sometimes forget people who have been with us for a long time and have helped bring us where we are today.

I want to acknowledge two people in particular.

Raul Echeberria is an inductee into the Internet Hall of Fame, founder of the Internet address registry for Latin America and Caribbean, or

LACNIC, and for the past dozen years has been the executive director. The bad news is that Raul is leaving that position at the end of this month. The good news is that the Internet Society has announced that he will be joining their organization as its vice president of global engagement. So we congratulate Raul with --

[Applause]

Another longtime friend and trusted colleague, Lesley Cowley.

For as long as Raul has been leading LACNIC, Lesley has been leading Nominet, the Internet registry in the U.K. for the .UK domain. After 12 years of leading Nominet, Lesley is relinquishing the leadership. Baroness Rennie Fritchie, Chair of the Nominet board, will speak to us in a few minutes. I should note that Lesley is not slowing down at all. She has told us that she is looking forward to spending a bit of time with her classic 1996 Kawasaki.

[Laughter]

[Applause]

There are sides of you, Lesley that we did not know.

[Laughter]

So here we are at the 50th meeting. Since 1999, we have met three to four times a year at locations around the world. My official meeting was not until ICANN 13 in Bucharest, Romania, which means I have now attended more than three dozen meetings, and in the past, many of them have been swirled in heated controversy, unlike this one which is smooth and has no issues whatsoever.

[Laughter]

I sometimes wonder how I would have been affected by all of those controversies, which were often framed by loud and emotional voices. If I had not been subject to all of that, would I be different? Perhaps I would look different.

There we go.

[Laughter]

[Applause]

I think that picture makes this clear it is not the hair that makes the man, it is the glasses.

[Laughter]

ICANN today is different than the ICANN of yesteryear. In the 12 years that I have served on the board and been with the organization, I have seen a lot of changes. It is running smoothly and far more efficiently. Stability and respect now define the organization and the community. The supporting organizations and advisory committees have grown and become vibrant, vital, and effective parts of our organization.

They have grown in numbers, knowledge, internal organization, et cetera.

Staff has grown, as has our budget, but it has not always been that way.

In November 1998, a month after ICANN was incorporated; there was a small meeting of a group of Internet pioneers just outside Boston in the

U.S. Their mission was to figure out how to move ICANN forward, and that was the beginning of a journey that brought us here today.

We have a picture of the first board of directors that helped establish that foundation. A little hard to see, but the person second on the right, Esther Dyson was the chair of the board. She is on her way but probably not here yet, but when she does arrive, if she arrives in time, I will make a point of pointing her out and we will welcome her.

It has been a long, arduous, and -- but very, very productive journey that has brought us here.

Among the top priorities in the early days was to define ICANN through -- to be transparent and accountable. Those priorities have carried over to our work today. Accountability and transparency is the theme of our lead review in our Affirmation of Commitments. Recommendations from the second Accountability and Transparency Review Team were delivered at the end of 2013. I am happy to report that the board and the staff have worked diligently since then to study and plan the implementations. Later this week, the board will pass a formal resolution adopting the ATRT2 recommendations and directing staff and others to implement them, with regular reporting of progress and that will commence immediately. In fact, some of what was able to be done has already been done and is in progress.

Another review that is built into our Affirmation of Commitments is the WHOIS review. We are committed to implementing the recommendations from the WHOIS review team. That work is proceeding smoothly and moving toward completion. And in parallel with that, on a much longer time frame in a kind of more strategic

activity, we started up in -- by board resolution in November 2012 a process to examine WHOIS from first principles again, and out of that, rather quickly was formed an expert working group.

That working group has delivered up its report just shortly before this meeting, and there will now be an extended period of examination of that.

It was a 15-month or even longer process that has recommendations related to what we are calling the next generation of registry directory service.

I was fortunate, along with my colleague on the board, Chris Disspain, to be a part of that working group, an incredible amount of work and quite a lot of energy and thoughtfulness put into it, and yet some very, very hard, difficult problems that still remain to be considered carefully.

So I commend to all of you and to all of the people you work with to read it and think it through and participate in the process that is coming. It is not certain -- we have not laid out what the next steps are. We are not going to go from that report to implementation directly.

But I want to congratulate Jean-Francois Baril and the entire expert working group team for their arduous work.

So a lot has been accomplished. Still a great deal to be done.

There is no chance that we are going to sit idle.

So whether this is your first meeting or your 50th, I hope you all have a good and productive week, and now it's my pleasure to introduce Her Majesty's Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Culture,

Communications, and Creative Industries, the Honorable Edward Vaizey, whom along with the U.K. government I would like to thank for supporting this meeting. Ed?

[Applause]

MR. ED VAIZEY: Thanks very much, Steve. I am very sorry about the sound problems you had at the beginning of your speech. I had said to my team, "I don't want to be up-staged by Steve Crocker, so turn his microphone off for the first five minutes."

[Laughter]

But you came back strongly.

It is wonderful to see everyone here. It is a mass crowd and I am delighted to welcome everybody to the U.K., to London, and to ICANN 50. I am so pleased so many of you brought your partners and your children to enjoy one of the greatest, if not the greatest, city in the world. I feel a huge privilege to be your host. I feel like I'm the Seb Coe of Geekdom, that this is the Olympics for geeks, and --

[Applause]

-- I am in charge, and I very much hope that everything runs as smoothly as the Olympics did and that also like the Olympics, we bring together nations in a common endeavor, which is, of course, the future success of the greatest technological revolution in our lifetime, the Internet.

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It is very hard to believe that it has been 15 years since ICANN first met in Singapore; that this event has never before taken place in London, because we pride ourselves in the U.K. in terms of supporting digital technology.

We in the U.K. are early adopters of technology. The U.K. consumer led the way in terms of e-commerce, has led the way in terms of adopting tablets and smartphones.

The Internet economy is already responsible for 8% of our GDP. That is a greater share of our economy than any other G20 country.

And a lot of this is down to the success of the innovation in British technology pioneers, but we also like to think that government has played its part. We have tried to create an environment in which IT can thrive. We are rolling out our superfast broadband network. We are creating tax relief for innovators and entrepreneurs. We are making government services digital by default and government now interacts with its consumers much like a business does. We know every minute of every day how many people are using our services and what they are using them for, and we have found out some fascinating facts.

It will not surprise you that the most used government service is paying your taxes. Quite right, too.

[Laughter]

The next used government service is applying for a passport, though we have had a bit of a hitch with those in the last few weeks.

[Laughter]

And no one will guess what the least used government service is, but I give this to you free of charge to use in your next quiz.

The least used government service, digital service, in the U.K. is an application to be buried at sea, but we are --

[Laughter]

-- We are hoping -- we are hoping that our digital pioneering technique will see a rapid increase in applications.

[Laughter]

So that's one reason why we love having ICANN here, because we'd like to think the U.K. is embracing technology in every shape and form, but also, of course, here in London, 10 miles to the southwest lies the childhood home of Tim Berners-Lee, the great brain behind the creation of the World Wide Web, and of course 10 miles to the east -- I have no idea whether that's east or west, I can't tell where we are in this cavernous room -- is the Olympics, to which I referred. And of course he tweeted a worldwide tweet, "This is for everyone," about the Olympics, a description not just of the Olympic Games but of course of the Web and the Internet, and of course just as importantly for today, how we believe the Internet should be governed.

Because I think it is worth reflecting for a minute that the way the Internet has been governed has to be seen as an unqualified success story. It has created the opportunity for massive economic growth and for greater intellectual freedom.

So if we are going to look at the governance of the Internet, it is important that we preserve those principles.

That includes, of course, ICANN in the performance of its role in coordinating and developing the domain name system so that it serves the global community. And the current review of ICANN accountability is very important in that regard.

And that links to the IANA function, which has performed so well under the existing arrangements under contract to the U.S. government.

So the average Internet user might wonder what on earth we are talking about, what are we discussing.

We often talk about the stewardship of the IANA function, and I always think it is the perfect way to describe that role.

It is not about regulation and it is not about ownership and it is not about one country controlling the Internet or dictating its terms. It's about nurturing the Internet, supporting it, creating the environment in which it can develop and grow, so that it can be safely handed on to the next generation.

But the Internet is constantly evolving and the way its stewarded has to evolve as well, and that is why we in the U.K. strongly support moves by the U.S. to let go, if you like, of the IANA function. It is a huge step forward in making this global resource a truly global enterprise, and it is a move that has a symbolic mirror in the very makeup of ICANN, which has shifted under Fadi Chehade's leadership from being a U.S.-based and U.S.-dominated organization to one that is clearly seen as much more international.

And of course with such a vital role to play, it is absolutely imperative that the alternative model we move to maintains security, maintains stability, and maintains the resilience that underpins the global domain name system.

It not only just has to be capable of doing the job in the old way but it also has to be capable of doing it better, and it has to be capable of adapting and coping with the next wave of Internet-enabled devices, the so-called Internet of things.

So that is why we engage with this final phase of privatization of the domain name system. When we engage with it, we have to be cautious and we have to -- we must not rush into changing the arrangements.

It is only going to happen if the system continues to evolve and develop organically, with the full involvement and input of all interested parties all over the world.

And that can only happen, in my view, if the stewardship continues to be carried out in a collaborative, bottom-up way, in a spirit of global cooperation rather than state-centered regulation.

Some say this cannot work, it is a monumental task; it can only be undertaken at a governmental or super-national level. But as I say, look how well the ICANN model has worked so far. In less than 20 years, the Internet has revolutionized the way the world works, talks, and studies, and this explosive growth has not been managed by government. It was driven by you.

So look at the principles that we agreed at the global multistakeholder meeting on the future of Internet governance – does not that trip off the tongue? -- the NETmundial.

[Laughter]

Those principles were not created by politicians or by the United Nations or by anonymous people in shadowy rooms. They were created in the open by the community that supports and curates the Internet, the people without whom life on-line would be simply impossible, the people who have the best possible grasp of both the challenges facing the Internet and the means required to tackle them. Or to put it another way, the people in this room.

The principles developed at NETmundial are as robust as they are simple. Internet governance should be built on a fully inclusive, multistakeholder process, ensuring the meaningful and accountable participation of everyone involved. Decisions should be made in a bottom-up, open, participative, consensus-driven way. There should be a suitable level of accountability, with mechanisms for checks and balances, as well as for review and redress. And anyone affected by an Internet governance process should be able to participate in that process.

And I am proud to say that the U.K. government wholeheartedly supports these principles as a basis for the global Internet governance framework.

[Applause]

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Again, I know that some do not share this view, but what is the alternative? Top-down, centralized decision-making. A bureaucratic World Wide Web of red tape.

The Internet being run not by the people who make it work on a daily basis but by people like me. You do not want that.

[Laughter]

Horse-trading politicians behind closed doors. Imagine an Internet that relied on governments having to agree on things. Internet governance has to match the rapid pace of change experienced by the Internet itself.

But let us face it, rapid change and Internet -- intergovernmental agreements are not concepts that generally go well together. That is why I was so keen to host the high-level meeting of governments here today.

We are not here to make decisions here on your behalf. We are here to talk about the ideas you have developed. We are here to learn more about ICANN and for you to learn more about us. Governments do have a role in Internet governance, just as the technical, civil, and academic communities do.

But we have responsibilities as well. We have to act proportionately in cyberspace. We have to empower the users of the Internet by promoting and safeguarding freedom of expression. We have to ensure domestic legal frameworks are fair and consistent. And we have to establish and promote a robust global Internet infrastructure that provides equal access for all and promotes economic development.

But what we should not be doing is attempting to manage how the Internet is run. As Fadi has said, the Internet is the greatest public gift and it does not belong to anyone and it should not be controlled by anyone.

You know, ICANN 50 is taking place at a critical moment in discussions about the future of Internet governance. I have already referred to NETmundial, the key outcomes of which will be discussed at this meeting. The recommendations for strengthening the Internet -- Internet Governance Forum should also feed into the ninth IGF in Istanbul in September and following on from that, the International Telecommunications Union will have the opportunity to consider its role in standards and capacity-building at the plenipot.

All these processes and linkages are against the backdrop of the WSIS +10 review by the U.N. General Assembly. The outcomes of the 2005 Tunis Summit which embedded the multistakeholder approach in the Internet governance ecosystem have been implemented very well. And you only need to look at the highly detailed evaluations produced by UNESCO last year to see that. So it makes sense for next year's final stage of the U.N. review process to also be undertaken with the active participation of representatives from all over the world.

We have to look at alliances and active collaboration among stakeholder constituencies. And a key objective must be to strengthen the existing mechanisms of processes of the Internet Governance Forum which we in the U.K. have always supported.

I hope that we will see the IGF with more immediate, visible, and tangible outcomes, stronger links between the main IGF and the

regional IGFs and with other entities in the Internet ecosystem. Achieving this will help with what has to be our number one goal: Bringing the next billion people from developing countries into the global digital economy with all the social and economic benefits that entails.

Earlier this year, the World Wide Web celebrated its 25th birthday, 25 years of unparalleled expansion, economic growth, and social good. ICANN has been crucial to ensuring that success, and ICANN will be crucial to ensure that success continues for the next 25 years. So Tim Berners-Lee said the Internet is for everyone. It is up to us to make sure it stays that way. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Minister Vaizey, thank you very much. It is a real pleasure.

Now it is an additional pleasure to introduce a good friend, Baroness Rennie Fritchie, chair of the board of Nominet, the U.K. registry.

Rennie.

[Applause]

BARONESS RENNIE FRITCHIE: Steve might not want to follow Fadi, but I have to follow Ed Vaizey.

[Applause]

Can I say a very warm welcome to sunny London. We organized the sun especially for ICANN and for the tennis at Wimbledon that starts this week. And for those of you who watch Wimbledon, you will know we will get rain at some point.

[Laughter]

Nominet has always been an active participant at ICANN, and we are proud to be the country code registry at ICANN 50.

In this brief address, I would like to talk to you about three related things: My belief in a positive attitude to change, Nominet's experience of this, and the importance of bringing the best of what has gone before to future challenges.

2014 is a year of Internet milestones. Nominet is the U.K. and Ireland's office of the World Wide Web Consortium. So, of course, we joined the global Internet community in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the World Wide Web in March. A quarter of a century, an extraordinary milestone.

We often describe domain names as the building blocks of the Internet, and this 25-year anniversary seemed a good time to step back and look at what these building blocks have actually built.

For those working behind the scenes of the Internet, focused on the collaborative systems and processes required to make it work, opportunities to step back and think can be surprisingly rare.

I know that everyone in this room has had an important part to play in turning something most people have not heard of into something we

cannot live without. The Internet is now our primary information utility, and it is crucial that it stays in safe hands.

We are proud to punch above our weight in the U.K. as a thriving digital economy. We are extremely fortunate to have a minister who has a deep understanding of this and who has committed to its success.

At Nominet, we support over 3 million businesses who have chosen to set up shop within the U.K. namespace.

While our reputation may be as a nation of shopkeepers, it seems we are also a nation of shoppers topping the charts in terms of buying online. From a global perspective, the pace and reach of this change is historically unique. This ascent reflects many things: The user appeal of the Web and Internet technology as well as the fact of much of it is open and free.

But I wanted to highlight what I believe is a key characteristic of our collective success to date and an essential ingredient for future progress.

That is a positive and proactive attitude to change. It is one of the biggest strengths we have as a community, and it comes from our experience to date. In an industry that undergoes such expansion and transformation so quickly, being opposed to or afraid of change simply is not a practical option for us. So we have become really good at it, and we have never needed those qualities more than we do today.

The significance of our industry to the wider economy and wider society means that being tested, prodded, and scrutinized has become the new

normal. For us as a registry, competition has also been a useful and perhaps necessary catalyst for change.

In an environment like this, we need to lean into change with energy and enthusiasm and face the future as a friend armed with the lessons of the past but without, to quote W.A. Jordan, a wardrobe full of excuses.

I wanted to briefly share Nominet's experience of grappling with the changes of the industry and in the wider political environment.

UK is the oldest country code registry dating back to 1985. Our driver for commercial success is to help to create a trusted Internet. And there, of course, have been a number of individuals over the years, many of them known to you here who have made a significant contribution to our success. And as we prepare, once again, to embrace change, I would like to take an opportunity to recognize their efforts. Nominet's first managing director Dr. Willie Black, my predecessor Bob Gilbert, and, of course, our outgoing CEO, Lesley Cowley. Without them, Nominet would not be the success it is today. It is a source of pride that as well as providing a secure registry, we have set up a corporate foundation, the Nominet Trust. And over a few years, we have donated 26 million pounds to fund an amazing and inspiring range of projects but harnessed the power of the Internet to do good.

After 30 years of only accepting third-level registrations such as .CO.UK, the introduction of a shorter .UK domain name is arguably the biggest ever change to the U.K.'s Internet infrastructure, affecting directly or indirectly more than 36 million Britons who use the Internet every day. That is a daunting number.

But we chose to do it because there was an opportunity for us to up our game and to reach the registrants of tomorrow.

In an environment marked by smartphones' use and Twitter's 140-character limits, our research showed that shorter domains appealed to a tech-savvy audience and an environment as active and fast-changing as the U.K. namespace where 2/3 of our registrations are less than five years old, it is critical that we adapt and change to provide choice for our customers.

While the rationale for change was clear, our decision to offer existing registrants the first option on corresponding shorter domains showed, I think, an important commitment to our existing customers. So despite the challenges, we launched the second level .UK domains for the first time this month on June the 10th.

We were absolutely delighted that actor, tech enthusiast, and leading member of the Twitterati Stephen Fry was the first to register. And he also moved his Website to .UK as proof of his support.

And while Stephen was the first, another 50,000 .UK domains were registered on day one. This, I believe, shows the enduring appeal of a sense of place within your online identity. And there are thousands every day. People in businesses are seeking an immediate association within the U.K. as a geographical, cultural entity.

Nominet is both honored and delighted to be able to continue this principle by launching .CYMRU and .WALES this autumn. Whilst we were planning those major launches, we also put in place a new Registrar Agreement, introduce new policies on dealing with domains

involved with criminal activity, introduced a new data quality policy to raise standards, and decided to take a stand on some domain names we simply did not want on our register.

None of these were easy or universally popular. But taking the initiative and being prepared to look at what we can and should do better has left us more confident, better placed to shape our own destiny. We approach the challenge of Internet governance with the same appetite, finding better ways of doing our bit, working together, and a desire to make real progress.

In conclusion, with the U.S. oversight of the Domain Name System's technical functions ending this year -- next year, the increasing internationalization of the Internet continues apace. Developing a new framework represents a seminal moment. It is an opportunity to build on the best traditions of the Internet to ensure all voices can be heard.

The turnout and engagement at the recent NETmundial meeting was a demonstration of this. And this conference represents a great opportunity to build on the progress made there and to listen and learn from others, to take the initiative, and to begin to create an Internet fit for the future.

I want to end with a quote, one of my favorites, which says: When people who are not used to speaking are heard by people who are not used to listening, then real change can take place. So --

[Applause]

So my aspiration for this week is for all of us to both speak and listen and to contribute to a positive future. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Thank you, Baroness Fritchie. Thanks very much.

We are now going to announce the first winner of a very special award, the Ethos Award, which is intended to honor exceptional community contributions. To talk more about the Ethos Award, what it means, allow me to introduce Robert Guerra, a charter member, I think, of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee. That is where I have had the pleasure of working with them off and on over a long period of time.

Here speaking today on behalf of the Multistakeholder Ethos Award evaluation panel, long string of words there, Robert. There he is.

[Applause]

MR. ROBERT GUERRA: Good morning, everyone. The Multistakeholder Ethos Award that is being awarded today recognizes those ICANN participants who have deeply invested in consensus-based solutions and the importance of ICANN's multistakeholder model to Internet governance. Because the multistakeholder model brings together competing or special interests to work towards a joint goal, it usually brings spirited discussions and debates on a range of issues.

Because of the presence of so many different opinions and interests within ICANN's policy-making structure and in Internet governance, courtesy and collaboration are key to success.

At the Buenos Aires meeting, I believe ICANN created a pilot program for the Multistakeholder Ethos Award. And I am glad to announce that the first recipient of this award is Ms. Avri Doria.

[Applause]

She receives the award in recognition of her multiple roles in ICANN and in Internet governance. She has been constructively engaged in a variety of Internet fora such as the U.N. Working Group on Internet Governance, the World Summit on Information Society, the IGF, the U.N. Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, ISOC, IETF, and I could go on.

In the ICANN context, she was a NomCom appointee to ICANN's GNSO Council from 2005 to 2009 and elected from the Noncommercial Stakeholder Group from 2013 till now. She also chaired the GNSO Council from 2007 to 2009.

She has served in multiple GNSO working groups as a key participant on the Joint Applicant Support program, Cross-constituency Working Group, and several At-Large working groups, and was also member of the inaugural ICANN Academy in Buenos Aires.

She is a resident of Rhode Island. She is a current policy and governance advisor to dot-gay, LLC, on the research staff for APC, and a member of the faculty of the International School for Internet Governance.

Overall, the evaluation committee selected her from a pool of 22 nominees as the one who best demonstrated the spirit of collaboration as shown through empathy and a sincere desire to engage with people from other backgrounds, cultures, and interests. She has demonstrated

her willingness to reach out to new people, to listen, to really engage with others who do not necessarily share her viewpoints or interests.

She is well-known beyond any one constituency or stakeholder group as someone who is willing to have a true dialogue and, yes, works toward consensus. In my opinion, and in many, she is a true steward of the multistakeholder model. I would like to invite Avri and members of the community evaluation program on stage to give Avri her award.

[Applause]

Congratulations, Avri.

AVRI DORIA: It is very pretty. I am really quite amazed. Truly very quiet amazed.

"Ethos," what does that mean? Character? Attitude? I have certainly had a lot of that. But "multistakeholder," I truly am devoted to that and I found ICANN to be one of the best crucibles for hammering it out. So thank you very much.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: I need a little help from my friends.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the First Minister of Wales, the Right Honorable Carwyn Jones, and I am very much looking forward to this and what follows after him.

[Applause]

RT. HON. CARWYN JONES: Good morning, everybody. Bore da. Mae'n bleser mawr i weld cymaint ohonoch yma yn Llundain.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Welsh language, my native tongue, I have just said to you "Good morning. It's a great pleasure to see so many of you here in this London."

As you can see, Welsh is completely different to English. Welsh is the language that was spoken on this island when the Romans were here. English is the descendant language or the language spoken by the people who came after the Romans left.

[Applause]

Indeed, the word "Wales" means the land of the foreigners, in the Anglo-Saxon language. In the Welsh language, England is rendered us Lloegr, which means the lost land.

But before any of you get too worried, I can say the Welsh government has no current plans to recover the lost land --

[Laughter]

-- by military force.

[Laughter]

But thank you for that introduction. I am delighted to be here today at the opening ceremony. I would like to congratulate everyone in ICANN and the wider community on achieving this milestone 50th conference.

In this year when so much is changing in the world of domain names, I'm thrilled that Wales will finally have a natural home on the Web, or to be more precise, we will, in fact, have two homes from September, .WALES and .CYMRY -- Cymry is "Wales" in the Welsh language -- to reflect the bilingual nature of Welsh culture and society.

I know this is an international audience and that many of you may not know much about Wales and its place in the U.K. Wales is one of the four constituent nations of the U.K. state. There are only 3 million of us, but nevertheless we very much cherish the fact that we have an autonomous government within the U.K., and of course independence in sport, particularly when it comes to rugby and football.

I cannot say too much about England's World Cup performance --

[Laughter]

-- But all I can say is I know that England did not qualify for the final stages at -- this year for the first time since 1958. It is not too bad because 1958 was the last time we qualified for the World Cup --

[Laughter]

-- When we got to the quarterfinal and lost to Brazil, one-nil.

We are a Celtic country like our cousins in Scotland and Ireland and that identity has always differentiated us from our very large neighbor in England but nevertheless of course we are very much firmly a part of the United Kingdom.

Like many small countries, we also have a fierce pride in our history and our language and our culture. There is a strong and vibrant Welsh

identity which plays an important role in the politics, economy, and culture, indeed, of the U.K. There are also a widespread Diaspora of Welsh migrants and their decedent's right across the globe who continue to identify with Wales.

In an increasingly globalized world, having a sense of identity, of course, becomes ever more important. The Internet allows us to make connections that go beyond our local neighborhoods and even beyond our country's borders, allowing individuals to develop their personal identity in whatever manner they see fit.

Names are an important part of how we communicate our identity to each other, and that is why I am so pleased that from September we will be able to register the domain names that end in .WALES and .CYMRY. We'll finally have a way of using our Web sites and email addresses to reflect the identity we feel in our hearts, and that's why I'm also pleased to announce here today that the Welsh government will be moving our on-line presence from GOV.UK to the new domains as part of our renewal of how we serve and interact with citizens in Wales.

Now, I have talked a bit about the history of Wales, but today Wales has a growing economy that is open to the world. Historically, our economy was based on coal mining, particularly up to about 50 years ago, and steel making. But we are investing in our communications infrastructure so that by the spring of 2016, 96% of properties will have access to fast-speed broadband, fiber broadband. We have also recently announced that Cardiff will be getting its own Internet exchange point, so we no longer have to rely on links to London and Manchester.

We are attracting and supporting investment from some of the biggest names in aerospace, financial services, and the creative industries, whilst, of course, still supporting the development of our homegrown SMEs which account for the vast majority of the Welsh economy.

I am sure that the new domains will offer a powerful new platform for the Welsh brand on the international stage.

I am delighted that Nominet have invested in developing .WALES and .CYMRY. They have also teamed up with Gwynedd Council to provide bilingual customer support in a great example of cooperation between the private and public sectors.

With the amount of goodwill behind these new domains, I am certain that they will be successful and I want to applaud, once again, ICANN for taking the necessary steps to open up the domain name systems in a way that allows countries like Wales to build a home on-line.

Could I wish you all the best for the event today. Thank you for your time and could I wish you all the greatest of success in the future. Diolch yn fawr iawn. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Thank you, First Minister.

It is now my pleasure to announce the introduction of a new initiative for ICANN meetings, which is to recognize achievements of specific countries, and in that context, I would like to acknowledge the work of

Nabil Bukhalid, the CEO of the newly formed Lebanon Internet Center, or LINC.

LINC is a model of national multistakeholder Internet structure patterned very much after the CGI in Brazil.

LINC deals with ccTLDs and Internet governance issues in Lebanon, and now we are going to hear from Dr. Imad Hoballah, a member of the LINC board of directors and a longtime colleague and friend.   Dr. Hoballah?

[Applause]

MR. IMAD HOBALLAH: Good morning, everyone. It is good to be standing here with everybody who is involved in the transformation of this world.

After 15 months of complex negotiations and brainstorming sessions, the representatives of the different Lebanese Internet stakeholders established, on June 2nd of 2014, a bottom-up multistakeholder -- we call it an NGO. Namely, the Lebanese Internet Center, LINC.

This step upward in the multistakeholder model for Internet governance on a national level will help Lebanon to be better empowered and represented in the global multistakeholder organizations.

This is a true multistakeholder organization where members fall under seven categories: Associations of ICT companies; syndicates; chambers of commerce; association of companies not dealing with ICT; civil society NGOs; universities; and governments.

LINC has defined its mandate, current mandate at least, as the governance and operation of the .LB ccTLD, the Arabic script internationalized domain names and capacity building and consulting on Internet regulatory issues, among other initiatives.

Lebanon is establishing this multistakeholder structure on a national level as a role for the region and we hope that this threads around the region, across the world globally. LINC founding members launched LINC activities at the press conference on June 3rd, 2014 at the Ministry of Economy and Trade when the minister himself attended, Mr. Alain Hakim, with ICANN's Fadi Chehade, and many other ICT and non-ICT stakeholders.

LINC is governed by 11 members, a true multistakeholder board, where eight of the 11 come from nongovernmental entities. Three come only from governmental entities, including the ministry of trade, as we said, and the TRA.

The board sits for two years, elects its president -- elects its president, VP, treasurer, and secretary, which happened this past week. LINC's board services are offered pro bono. The bylaws unfortunately currently are still in Arabic but we are going through translation and they will be translated into English and soon into French and they will be posted on the ISOC LB location. The Web.

LINC founding members held their first general assembly meeting, elected the board members, the executive board members, and the CEO. The CEO is an excellent person. Our friend Steve mentioned his name. Nabil is basically the person who was behind it from ISOC. I would like to thank him personally here in front of everybody. This is

his effort more than anybody else. I happen to be here, so that is why I am speaking.

During the meeting, the board actually formed five committees to deal with HR, budget, membership, redelegation, and infrastructure. We are working hard to move and up the ante to work on actually all policy issues related to Internet governance.

The board members are aware of the challenges, especially the legal, legislative, financial, and HR challenges, but are fully committed and prepared to push the process forward and to work hard on ensuring a smooth transition as part of this great initiative, as part of this great global transformation and secure and (indiscernible) resources, systems, processes, constituency, and financials, to deal with Internet governance policies, awareness, technical, and other issues.

Here I would like to thank Steve and Fadi and the whole ICANN leadership for their support and for the recognition of the LINC program and Lebanon's effort. Definitely I would like to think -- sorry. I would like to thank the U.K. government for hosting this event and allowing me to have an additional visit with my son and with my in-law -- and with his in-laws. I greet everyone here and I would like to definitely greet everyone at LINC, the LINC team. You are linking everybody. And thank you.

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: Thank you, Dr. Hoballah. What we see now in Lebanon is very, very encouraging.

The multistakeholder approach draws its strength from the ability to bring together diverse views, align them to a common goal of a global interoperable Internet, so in line with the quote that Baroness Fritchie shared with us, while we may not agree on everything, but we have a chance of resolving our differences only if we hear each other out, I now have the honor of introducing minister Lu Wei of Cyberspace Affairs Administration of the People's Republic of China.

Minister Lu is going to share with us how China is embarking on a new journey of IPv6 adoption which it has always been a leader in, DNSSEC deployment, and internationalized domain name innovation.

Minister Lu.

[Applause]

MR. LU WEI: Good morning!

On behalf of the Chinese Government, I would like to congratulate ICANN on the opening ceremony of your 50th meeting! I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the positive efforts and considerate arrangement made by Minister Vaizey and ICANN! There is a saying from the UK: He who walks with wise men should be wise. This is my second visit to London within a year, to the birthplace of the World Wide Web, and it is my intention to exchange ideas and experiences, and learn about the Internet development and governance issues.

First and foremost, I would like to thank ICANN for its support to the Internet development in China over the years. The Chinese government

supports the cooperation amongst CNNIC, ICANN and the wider Internet community. This year, we will give strong backing to CNNIC's full scale support of IPv6 and DNSSEC deployment in China's top-level domains and Chinese email IDN, pushing China to a transition towards the next generation of a secure and reliable Internet.

China is an Internet giant. We have been working hard to build an open, secure and reliable Internet that can satisfy the needs of users. 20 years ago in Zhong Guan Cun (a technology hub), Beijing , the birthplace of the internet in China, a huge billboard was set up with one sentence on it: "How far way are the Chinese people from the Internet Highway----- About 1500 meters northbound."

Since then, China has opened its doors to build a shared Internet era with countries around the world.

Thanks to the shared Internet, 20 years later, China has more than 600 million internet users, accounting for ¼ of the Internet users in the world.

Thanks to the shared Internet, China now enjoys more than 1.2 billion mobile device users, 500 million microblog users, 500 million Wechat users, generating more than 20 billion messages in a single day. Communication happens anytime and anywhere.

Thanks to the shared Internet, China has more than 4 million websites. Surfing the Internet has become an indispensable part of people's lives. Anytime and anywhere, people can check the news around the world, shop around the world and make friends around the world.

Thanks to the shared Internet, China enjoys an e-commerce transaction volume of over 1 trillion pounds, accounting for more than 10% of the contribution to our economic growth, becoming the largest growth point of our national economy.

What is happening in China is also happening all over the world. The Internet is changing people's lives in a deep and thorough way, pushing the social progress forward, leading the national development and shaping the world's future.

With the widening and deepening of exchanges on the Internet, we increasingly feel that due to the different situations in countries, historic and cultural backgrounds, and the Internet development levels, the governance models and methods are varied, which has caused some disputes and debate. However we all hold one single aspiration, i.e. to improve the governance of the Internet.

This is in line with ICANN's vision of "One World, One Internet". On top of this common aspiration, I hope we can seek common grounds while we shelve our differences, improve mutual understanding and reach consensus on the following 7 points:

1.   The Internet should be for the benefit of all mankind, to improve the well-being for people around the world, and should not bring harm;

2.   The Internet should bring peace and security to countries, and not become a weapon for one country to attack another;

3.   There should be more attention paid to the interests of the developing world, especially because they need the Internet for development opportunities more than others;

4.   We should focus on protecting the legitimate rights and interests of citizens, and not allow the Internet to become a hotbed of criminal activity, or even become a tool for violent terrorist activities;

5.   The Internet should remain civilized and credible, and not allow slander and fraud;

6.   The Internet should be a positive force, to inherit and celebrate the good cultures of mankind;

7.   The Internet should help our minors grow up in a healthy way, as this has a lot to do with the future of mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen!

In March this year, the U.S. government publicly stated its intent to transfer its stewardship over IANA functions to the global community; in April, countries gathered in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and reached basic consensus on Internet governance. We applaud and welcome such developments. This represents the start of the global governance of the Internet; this is a new historical chapter in ICANN's development.

We sincerely hope to cooperate with all countries to march into an era of global governance of the Internet.

An ancient Chinese Tao philosopher, Lao Tsu once said: "He who is identified with Tao (the ethical way)—Tao is also glad to welcome him."

I believe that with the collective hard work of the global community, ICANN's globalization is sure to be a success; the world Internet development is sure to see a bright future; and the world is sure to be a better place!

Thank you!

[Applause]

DR. STEPHEN CROCKER: I like the reference to Tao.

Thank you very much, Mr. Lu.

Our friends at the IETF have a document that they commend to newcomers, the Tao of the Internet -- the Tao of the IETF, I think.

Now my pleasure to welcome and turn the floor over to our CEO and President, Fadi Chehade.

Fadi, the floor is yours.

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE: Quite a morning. I want to start by thanking our host, Minister Ed Vaizey, not just for everything he did to make this possible but also for his words which were deep, wise, and, frankly very inspiring. Thank you, Ed, very much for that. Very much.

[Applause]

And I also want to thank the Baroness for being a leader of change, and it is good. We can learn from the experiences you shared with us. Thank you very much for that.

[Applause]

And Avri, when she got off the stage, she told me, "You see for all the grief I gave you, you know, you give us this award." She does not give grief. She is, frankly, to me, a teacher, someone who puts all her heart and all her beliefs in everything she does at ICANN. And for that, we are grateful to you.

So congratulations, Avri.

[Applause]

And, of course, Lebanon, the country where I grew up, is a special place for me. And I remember going to visit their prime minister and telling him, "Why don't we in the midst of a country that is struggling through a lot of crises, why don't we do something for the young people in this country? Why don't we build a true multistakeholder, bottom-up Internet governance body in a country that is struggling to govern so many things?"

I have lived through that struggle in Lebanon. And I am immensely proud of the achievement that LINC has made. Thank you, Imad, for being an agent of change as well in a part of the world where bottom-up is not always possible and you have made it happen. So thank you very much.

[Applause]

And, finally, I cannot tell you how important it is for us to have heard from the new minister of cyber affairs in China.

Minister Lu Wei spoke important words today. He is here at an ICANN meeting recognizing the partnership that ICANN has had with China and will continue to have. And I thank him for embracing the NETmundial outcome, an outcome that supports us working together as a multistakeholder community to advance Internet governance.

And I am very confident that as we work together, we will be able to find clear paths forward for the nation that boasts a quarter of the Internet users of the world and clearly where many of the next billion users will come from, for that nation to come closer to these great institutions and to work with us to strengthen us, and we will strengthen them.

So welcome and thank you for the words you said.

[Applause]

Well, I started this journey with you a couple of years ago. And we talked about a new season. We are still working hard. We are nowhere near where the harvest has started yet, but we certainly are in the phase of hard work in this new season. And we continue to, with the hope that as we transition ICANN into its next version, into the version that makes ICANN completely independent and truly dependent on its stakeholders and its multistakeholder model, is an important phase that we are still in the middle of.

But for a minute, let me go back to ICANN 1. This is a picture from ICANN 1. You see -- Is Esther in the room by now? Is she here? Okay.

That is Esther Dyson again, chairwoman of ICANN at that time. And ICANN 1 was a very, very special time for the Internet community. At that time, 4% of the world was on the Internet. There were only three regional Internet registries, TLDs, ccTLDs, but no ccNSO, and certainly no IDN ccTLDs.

And half of the users of the Internet were in North America. We come to today, 40% of the world population is on the Internet and half of them are in Asia now, not in North America. 285 ccTLDs, of which 36 are IDNs and 150 members of the ccNSO bringing this world together.

And when we finish our five-year plan that we're on in 2020, then 63% of the population will be online and obviously with far less Latin keyboards, with a lot more keyboards that represent the diversity of this great planet we live on.

So we come from ICANN 1 to ICANN 50, a lot of change except for one thing that cannot change, our core values. Our core values must remain with us as we move into the next phase. And if you look into our bylaws, right on the first page, our core values can be extracted: Diversity, fairness, integrity, creativeness, effectiveness, responsiveness, and transparency. And these values were there from the beginning.

We found this picture from ICANN 1. They were discussing what "transparency" means and how they would work on remaining transparent.

[Laughter]

So lots have changed, but our core values will not change. These we keep because it is what drives us. It is what keeps us here. It is what

makes this -- as of last night, 3,343 registered people are at this meeting. This is by far a testament to where we are today.

[Applause]

I want to cover five things with you quickly this morning in my normal update on what is happening with ICANN. First, the IANA stewardship, an important area that is getting a lot of our focus and attention at this meeting.

Now, I have blogged that the IANA stewardship has four tracks of work. I am not going to cover all four. I will focus on the first two quickly.

Of course, first and foremost, ICANN accountability. We must strengthen our accountability. We must be clear what are we accountable for and to whom, and we must do that together. And our commitment to do that is real. It is not just another check box. We have to do it. And if we do not do it, then we do not maintain our core values which we have had from day one.

Now, we have launched a process. Many of you have seen since May 6th we put out a proposal. That proposal is just what it is. It is a proposal. We need to hear from you. Do we need the working group? Is there a better way to do it? What other mechanisms and methodologies do we use? This is the time for all of us to discuss this and to agree together how to actually strengthen our accountability.

Last night I had a meeting with one of the ministers here from Europe, and she and I were chatting about the importance of accountability and how this is the roadmap to ensuring that an independent ICANN is an accountable ICANN. We are committed to that.

On this second track, which is the track most of us are focused on, we have received over a thousand email comments and many proposals after the meeting in Singapore, a thousand email comments. We sifted through all of this. And after a lot of analysis and work, we have produced on June 6th a proposed process for starting the transition of the IANA stewardship from the U.S. government to the ICANN community. This is an important document which we will discuss again at this meeting, but it is a document that calls for the creation of a coordination group of 27 members representing 13 parts of our great Internet community, all coming together to figure out what's the best course forward in order to end the unique relationship that the U.S. government has had with ICANN.

Now, it is important to note that ICANN's role in this picture is very much a facilitator. We are not driving. We are not supposed to be driving. And if you see me or ICANN driving, do stop us. This is your process. This is the community's process. And through it, I am certain that when we remove the training wheels that ICANN has had in the great stewardship of the U.S. government, we will be steady through this process that we will do together.

Now, if you want to participate more in all these tracks, we have two important meetings on Thursday. Do attend. Do participate. And please do give us input. This is your process again, and I am glad that we have these two important sessions that will squeeze some time out of our public forum, but they are critical for us to be on the same page.

My second area of focus is the globalization and hardening of ICANN operations. We are on a journey. I think we have about two to maybe

three years to go before, frankly, I am comfortable that ICANN operations are where they need to be. But that journey has started, and we are already moving forward.

And at the heart of hardening of our operations is also to globalize it. Now, in normal places I have worked, you do not do these at the same time. You typically sequence these. You harden the operations and then you start thinking how to globalize. Unfortunately, here at ICANN, we do not have that luxury of time. We had to move on both.

And so we have laid out a set of activities that are very important to go on this mission. I am summarizing them here for you just so you get a sense. Expanding our outreach channels, how are we doing that? By starting to bring the ICANN engagement into other fora. It does not always have to happen at ICANN meetings. So we are discovering that there are many places where we can do that.

We are building service channels. For the first time, you can pick up the phone in China any time of day while you are awake and call ICANN and someone will answer you in your language and help you. And we are expanding that model across many regions. And we intend to have a 24-by-5 ICANN line in more than 20 languages available. So we are working towards that. We tested it. It has been a very big success, and we will expand it.

Community-driven language localization. So, yes, we stuck for a long time with the U.N. languages plus Portuguese, but who says these are the only languages? Huh?

We need to go beyond that. How are we doing this? By building relationships locally. I want to call out Korea. South Korea has done a great job partnering with us so our materials are available in South Korea in the language of the people who need to participate in ICANN. And we plan to expand this in other places.

Thank you, Korea. I see the Korean delegation. Thank you for that.

[Applause]

And we will do this in other parts of the world.

Yes.

[Applause]

And in China as well. In China as well. We just signed actually -- and I'm glad Minister Lu Wei is reminding me, that we just signed under his leadership and the leadership of the MIIT, our partners in China, an important MOU yesterday that allows us to also start working closely with China on localizing ICANN and making sure we are truly understanding the local needs and they're understanding what ICANN does.

We are enlarging our touch points around the world. The touch points come in hubs, and they come also in individuals that we have around the globe. ICANN will have about 300 people on staff by the end of this fiscal year, in a few weeks. And these people are spread all over the globe as we have frozen new employment in Los Angeles unless in highly exceptional cases.

Now, I want to focus a little bit on the hubs for decentralized operations. Our ability to become global is only possible if we start truly decentralizing our operations. And decentralizing our operations -- something I have done in other places before -- does not mean simply sending people from Los Angeles to work in other places. It means actually taking the whole function and starting to move it to work elsewhere and making this other location the center of excellence for that function.

And we are doing this in Istanbul and in Singapore. I will give you one example of a successful shift this way.

This shift occurred with the compliance department. Compliance is an area when I arrived at ICANN two years ago that I heard an earful from you on. We need to get compliance working well. And so today, I am happy to tell you that in 2011, we had only five staff employees. Today we have 16 in L.A., three in Istanbul, and two -- because we have one new employee start today, so we now have two in Singapore. And they work 24 hours a day so compliance can answer the requests of the community 24 hours a day in nine languages. And they have started to standardize processes.

So when you file a compliance issue in Singapore at 2:00 p.m. in Singapore, but then you follow up with somebody who wakes up in Istanbul later, that case is standardized. It is in a system, and we can follow through for you around the world. This is just an example of how we need ICANN to serve the world in your language, in your time zone, not when we are awake but when you need us.

There will be many meetings at this London meeting to discuss the globalization and operational excellence of ICANN. Please do attend these meetings. They are very important.

And on that note, I just want to tell you, to those of you who have been very helpful in the criticality of our operations, please keep doing it. I want to really thank the registry group, for example, for sending us a 27-page letter of areas where we can improve. We are taking it to heart. We already formed a team to embrace everything in that letter and work with you so we can improve our operations.

You need to be critical. If you are not, we will not get better. So please do continue with this level of focus and help on making us a better place to serve you.

Third, I want to thank this amazing group led by my friend, Jean-Francois Baril.

They came together when the community was telling me, "It's been a decade and we can't get these directory services to actually advance."

WHOIS was created for a different technical reason. It was really at a different time. Now we are relying on it to really have directory services. These are two different things. And so we launched this great effort led by Jean-Francois and I want to tell you that the report they came up with is simply input to us as a community, so that we can take it.

And yesterday we met with the GNSO. They will take this report, study it, do whatever they want with it, but the decisions on how we evolve

directory services to the Internet and the world will come from our GNSO. That is where the decision lies. This is simply input to you.

But it is valuable input. It is valuable input. It is important input. Please do meet with the team when you see them.

And I want to tell you that the new proposal they put on the table for all of us to study has incredible focus on privacy and an important set of safeguards on who can get to see this data. So it is important. This will affect our Internet, so please participate.

I want to ask the people on this working group to stand up because we should all thank them for the incredible work they did.

Are they here? Here you go. Please, stand up.

[Applause]

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you, Jean-Francois. Thank you.

And they will have two meetings, one today at 3:15 so you can all hear them describe the report, and also there will be another discussion -- set of discussion sessions later today and on Wednesday.

Fourth, the GDD, as we call it, our global domains division, did not exist exactly a year ago.

A year ago, we came to the conclusion, with great input from you that we need to give focus to the division that serves the growing needs of not just the gTLD but the ccTLD and other identifiers that we are managing for the Internet.

And so under the leadership of my friend, Akram Atallah, we have built a new division, and that division continues to grow and build services.

Now, again, we still have a lot of work to do, but please understand, a year ago we put our hands together to build a lot of services, a lot of systems, a lot of capabilities, while the program was flying. Again, in most places I've worked before, we should have put that program on hold for a few years while we built all these things, but we didn't, because the community was clear. We needed to move forward.

So we built as we went, and of course that means sometimes we have hiccups. But we are on top of it. I want you to know that.

With the leadership of our new operations team, Susanna Bennett and Ash Rangan, our new chief information and innovation officer, we are really putting our heart and our time and our focus and excellence into making sure these services work well for you.

440 new gTLDs contracted.

Remember when we were all worried the contracting function will not keep up with the market needs? We are ahead of the market needs. We have a lot of people we are waiting to hear from now. Because we built a good process for contracting.

 We have 320 new gTLDs already delegated.

And EBEROs are up and running in case of emergencies. Hopefully we will never need to use them but they are there and they are ready regionally. And we just held our first auction in order to keep the process moving forward.

This is good success. Are we there fully? No. But we are committed and we will keep sure that this division serves you very well in the months and years ahead.

Again, if you want to meet the people in this division, they are all here. Please do go and connect with them at these important sessions that will be taking place at ICANN 50.

Fourth, Internet governance.

Internet governance probably took all the oxygen out of the meeting in Buenos Aires and also a bit in Singapore. Today it is my fourth item. Why? Because a lot of good things have happened and because we need to attend to our needs here at ICANN as well.

So we have to find that balance. And I did. I can personally tell you that the successes we made at NETmundial, as mentioned by many people before me, the NETmundial principles are ground-breaking.   Not because they are new. Many of you here have seen these principles before. But because of how we came up with them together. And I want to publicly thank Brazil and thank President Rousseff for her amazing leadership in bringing this conference together.

And then after that, with the leadership of President Toomas Ilves of Estonia and the support of many colleagues like Vint Cerf of Google and the president of Samsung from South Korea, Francesco Caio from Italy and many others, and ISOC with the presence of Kathy Brown, we actually went back and we built a model for how these principles will work.

This model was produced by the panel on Internet governance mechanisms, and was published after NETmundial.

The model calls for a distributed Internet cooperation ecosystem. Keyword here, "distributed" Internet cooperation ecosystem.

As Minister Vaizey said, we do not want a centralized way to manage Internet governance. We want mechanisms and processes that are highly distributed, that allow us to address all the issues of Internet governance in an effective, legitimate, and acceptable way to all the stakeholders where they all participate with equal access to the process.

Now, what do we do from here? In a way, NETmundial built the design, the panel built the blueprint, and now we need a contractor or maybe a number of contractors to build this vision.

We are going to work together, and in the weeks and months ahead, you will hear about alliances and coalitions of different organizations coming together.

What this means for us, ICANN, it means we will participate but we do not have to be forward, we can be with all the others. We can participate as we have done for years, but we no longer need to lead because we think now that the wave of leadership can be broadened to a bigger alliance and a bigger coalition of people.

I want to leave you with our core values.

It is the only thing that will stay. I remember today, like now, November 28th, 1980. I was 18. And my father put me on a lorry heading to Syria to escape the war in Lebanon. He did not know the lorry driver. He

literally waved the first lorry he saw on the main road and told him, "Take my son, here's $400, buy him a ticket from Damascus to get out of Lebanon."

And he put me on that lorry and he told me one thing. He said, "Son, you have to go and make this happen. But one thing. Do not forget your core values. Don't forget who you are." That is all he said.

And I disappeared, of course, into Damascus and Geneva and then Los Angeles and here we are 35 years later and that is the only thing that is left. My father is gone, the war is gone, and lots of things are gone. But the core values he left me with are here today. It is what drives me.

And ICANN -- for those of you who have not had yet my two-year experience, ICANN is a difficult place to be but it is the most wonderful place to build community.

Today, someone stopped me in the hallway. They said -- she is there the Dominican Republic. She was saying, "This is amazing. I've never seen a place like this, where people work together with common values to build something together." There are not many places like ICANN in the world. Let us preserve it. These are our guides. Let us live them, not just talk them.

And that means harmony amongst us in the next few days. We need a lot of harmony that guides us to live by these principles. Can we have some harmony?

[Applause]

[Music]

[Applause]

ONLY MEN ALOUD: Diolch yn fawr iawn. Thank you very much and good morning to you all. It is wonderful for us to be here. We are Only Men Aloud! And it is great to be here with you at this wonderful event this morning.

Now, our first piece was, of course, "Men of Harlech" which is a piece that is at the core of the Welsh male choral tradition, and we as a group are very passionate about embracing that tradition, but also developing it and hopefully moving that tradition forward. And in the same vein, as an organization we are very keen to embrace the digital era in which we live, and therefore we are very proud to announce that we will be founding members and also the first recording artists to use the .CYMRY, .WALES domain name.

[Applause]

Yes, indeed.

And we are very much looking forward to spreading the word as we tour America later in the year, so we will be taking .CYMRY and .WALES to the world and we are looking forward to that.

Now, anyway back to the music and a piece from a musical by Benny and Bjorn to finish. This is "Anthem from Chess." Diolch yn fawr iawn.

[Music]

[Applause]

MR. FADI CHEHADE: Okay. Next the SO/AC leaders band, please?

[Laughter]

Or the board?

[Laughter]

Thank you. I know this was a gift from our friends in Wales, and thank you, Baroness. I know you had a hand in this. We appreciate it very much.

I will let you go, but I want to remind us of two important things.

At this meeting, we have something very unique. In addition to the ICANN meeting that we are all in now, there are two parallel meetings going on. The first is a high-level ministerial meeting that was called by his excellency, Ed Vaizey, so many people in the room are ministers and ambassadors and other dignitaries that are here in order to spend the rest of the day together, and this is an important day for them to also look at ICANN 50 as a springboard for Internet governance around the world.

So we thank the British government for arranging for that meeting.

Now, closer to our home plate, we also have a very -- a second very important meeting going on here. It is called ATLAS.

ATLAS is the meeting where all the people from our structures around the world come together once in a while. They have done last time, what, five years, Sebastien, in Mexico? And this is the second time they

do it. It is a great gathering. I had the privilege of stopping by to see them yesterday.

But this is the third meeting happening in parallel to bring the more than 150 ICANN At-Large structures together in a single meeting so they can discuss how the people who touch the users, who are the users of the Internet, can actually help us make sure that the work that we do here serves everyone.

So congratulations to ATLAS and to our At-Large structures.

Have a wonderful week. If we can be of help, stop us, many ICANN people here in the hallways. Or stop anybody, including Minister Vaizey, myself, Minister Lu Wei, and ask for directions. I know this hotel can use some.

[Laughter]

Have a wonderful week. Bye-bye.

[Applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]