MESSAGE FROM THE IEEE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lives were changed as a result of the strides made by IEEE’s global community during 2013; there is no greater measure of success than that.

Our members, in IEEE Sections and Society Chapters the world over, spent each day of the past year advancing technology to benefit humanity. Their mutual efforts led to a year in which enhancements to our modern world felt like they were arriving almost weekly. It was an extraordinary year to be a technologist, and to be a part of the work of IEEE and its hundreds of thousands of volunteers and members throughout the world.

To view the IEEE community requires observing the entire planet; in more than 160 nations, on every inhabited continent, you will find a diverse community of IEEE members engaging in an even more varied range of technological pursuits. All of these people—young and old, women and men, students and educators, those working in industry, academia and government, from many cultural backgrounds and practices—share a unity of purpose and a mutual commitment to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity.

In the early months of 2013, IEEE’s Board of Directors created a framework of Strategic Priorities that serve as living guidelines to the continued evolution of the enterprise in the years ahead.
These Strategic Priorities, however, are but the earliest example of important work undertaken during the year. Throughout 2013, we explored and implemented new ways to enrich the member, volunteer and public experience, among them:

• Rolling out a three-pronged open access program, which included the debut of our multidisciplinary mega-journal IEEE Access®, and the publication of nearly 1,000 articles in our open access program throughout 2013.

• Successfully launching a consultants’ network that includes professionals in the United States, Canada, Colombia and India, and engaging in collaborative efforts to develop a global career services strategy.

• Establishing a task force with the Royal Society of Edinburgh to bring attention to the impact and legacy of James Clerk Maxwell, whose singular work became the basis for electromagnetic theory and practice.

• Enhancing IEEE Xplore®, the distribution platform for our digital library, with six new releases, and the addition of more than 600,000 interactive HTML articles, as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that all journal, magazine, and conference articles dating back to 2001 are in this interactive format.

• Receiving recognition from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for 12 new IEEE Standards supporting medical-device interoperability and cybersecurity.

• Launching extensive efforts to increase engineering capacity in Africa and India by leveraging and applying the expertise of IEEE members to support workforce development.

• Developing a suite of online collaboration tools for IEEE members and volunteers in a joint effort among three major IEEE boards.

• Supporting the ongoing efforts of our technical communities, nurturing evolving technologies in Green Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Cloud Computing and Electric Vehicles.

• Recalling the Tsunami event of Fukushima in Sendai, Japan eighteen months after the event, witnessing the aftermath of the tidal wave, hearing the lessons learned by the ICT community, and reliving the stories of the Japanese people who drew tenacity, perseverance and hope from the phrase “fukutsu no seishin” (never give up).

IEEE’s efforts in support of today’s technologists and tomorrow’s technologies continues to expand and evolve, offering new opportunities for those within our global community. We have employed our combined expertise and insights to forge a vision of what can lie ahead for IEEE and for our entire professional technical community. And, perhaps most importantly, we have continued to inspire students and young professionals throughout the world to pursue their passions for technology and the advancement of their communities and the world.

We are grateful to all those in the IEEE community who helped make 2013 the robust year that it has been. Your efforts helped to shape a future filled with promise, possibility and opportunity. We look forward to what the coming years hold for IEEE.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Staecker
2013 IEEE President and CEO

E. James Prendergast
IEEE Executive Director and COO