



**March 8, 2012**

## **Costa Rica President Laura Chinchilla to Address ICANN Public Meeting**

**San Jose, Costa Rica...** Costa Rica's 49<sup>th</sup> President, Laura Chinchilla, will address the opening session of ICANN's public meeting when it convenes in San Jose on Monday, 12 March.

President Chinchilla and Costa Rica's Minister of Science and Technology, Alejandro Cruz, have declared next week's ICANN meeting to be of "national interest."

"We are deeply honored to have President Chinchilla address our 43<sup>rd</sup> public meeting," said Rod Beckstrom, ICANN's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Her plans to improve broadband access in Costa Rica speak to her understanding of the vital role the Internet plays in all aspects of modern life."

Last year President Chinchilla told graduate students at California's Stanford University that Costa Rica's plan to install an extensive broadband cabling system would more than double high speed Internet access in Costa Rica from the current 7% to 15% by 2014.

"This would make Costa Rica the second most connected country in Latin America," she said.

The President said she wants to provide laptops for students in less-developed regions of her country and to open "digital community centers" where everyone would have access to the Internet.

President Chinchilla took office in May 2010 after a landslide electoral victory. She is the first woman to be elected President in Costa Rica and was formerly a vice president under her predecessor, Nobel Peace Prize-winner Oscar Arias.

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- To see a live video stream of the opening session of ICANN's meeting on 12 March, go here: <http://costarica43.icann.org/node/2952>.
- To learn more about ICANN's 43<sup>rd</sup> public meeting in Costa Rica, go here: <http://costarica43.icann.org/full-schedule>

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**About ICANN:** *ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet. To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit: [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org).*