

An IFE Special Program on Nurturing Innovation Partnerships



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On September 18th, 2012, the Institute for Education held its inaugural Innovation Roundtable Forum, "The Vehicle's Role in Sustainable Energy Solutions." His Excellency Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States, hosted this special event at the Historic Japanese Residence. In attendance were many IFE interns, fellows, and friends of the Institute.

Before the program began, guests dined on an elegant assortment of sushi and other Japanese delicacies. Following introductory remarks by Coach Kathy Kemper, IFE CEO and founder, Ambassador Fujisaki thanked her from his heart: "I have only been in Washington for so long, and at first I did not understand why everyone called her 'Coach.' But I do now. She has coached me on how to navigate Washington ever since I arrived here, and for that I am extremely grateful." Next, Mr. Hiroyoshi Yoshiki, Chief Officer of the Toyota Technical Administration Group, delivered an engaging and thoughtful presentation on Toyota's vision for the future of the electric vehicle. Mr. Yoshiki, who is responsible for the company's global initiatives in research, development, and innovation, noted that Toyota is currently testing fuel-cell hybrid vehicles and hopes to bring them to market in 2015. He emphasized that its major challenge is to define standards for a "smart grid" that will allow an electric vehicle to be charged anytime and anywhere.



After Mr. Yoshiki's presentation, guests heard thoughtful remarks from Dr. Robert Hormats, IFE Honorary Trustee and Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment; Joshua Bolten, Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush and now a Principal at Rock Creek Global Advisors; John P. Farmer, Senior Advisor to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; and R. David Edelman, IFE Fellow and Senior Advisor for domestic Internet policy at the White House. The evening concluded with Coach Kemper thanking the guests for their attendance, announcing IFE's exciting lineup of speakers for the Fall, and reminding everyone to uphold the Institute's mission of promoting civility, common ground, and youth global citizenship.

