



IFE is honored to support the Presidential Innovation Fellows (PIFs) with opportunities for PIFs to showcase this 'awesome' program and to share knowledge and explore innovative solutions to the most critical challenges of our time. IFE is grateful for the leadership of IFE Innovation Steward Dr. Amy Geng, and to Todd Park and John Paul Farmer.



Three U.S. CTOs: Chopra, Smith & Park at PIF Round 3 Welcome Dinner



With Ambassador Djalal of Indonesia - National Day



With Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg INFO at U.S. Supreme Court



Dinner with Ambassador Mirpuri of Singapore

What sets IFE apart is its relentless pursuit of "the next big thing"- and the people who are working everyday in Washington on the most innovative new ideas that will change our city, our country and our world. IFE and Coach Kathy Kemper's extraordinary support of the Presidential Innovation Fellows program, through INFO public policy salons and other special events, is bringing attention to this incredible group of highly skilled public servants, who are on a "tour of duty" within government from their respective sectors. The PIFs have incredible stories to tell and I'm grateful that IFE and Coach Kemper are giving them the opportunity to share them with leaders in Washington."
~ Todd Park, Former United States Chief Technology Officer



With Ambassador Wolzfeld of Luxembourg - National Day



PIF Grad Cookout - Congressional Country Club



With Ambassador Sager of Switzerland- Trickle Up Innovation INFO



With Ambassador Mirpuri PIF Cookout



With Senator Al Franken (D/MN) - INFO at U.S. Capitol



With Ina Ginsburg - Internet of Things INFO



With Ambassador Cuisia of Philippines Civic Innovation INFO



PIF Dinner hosted by Ambassador Poptodorova of Bulgaria

THE HUFFINGTON POST

THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY



Kathy Kemper

Founder and CEO, Institute for Education

An Internet of Things Playground

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Sometimes I get frustrated with my slow Internet. Singapore's citizens download at an average of 17 megabits per second. Korea's at 28.8. And here in the good ol' US of A... it's a whopping 11.6 megabits per second. How can we be home to the world's innovation economy but be so behind on our Internet infrastructure?

One possible answer is lack of competition. Dr. Sokwoo Rhee, Associate Director of Cyber-Physical Systems and former Presidential Innovation Fellow at National Institute of Standards and Technology, offers his view: "Countries like Singapore and Seoul have a very high density of Internet-savvy people living in relatively small areas. Many of these people are not afraid of switching carriers in the blink of an eye. In the U.S., a lot of areas have only one or two choices of Internet Service Providers. So even if people want to switch, they usually don't have a lot of choices."

Let's look at an emerging market, the Internet of Things (IoT), where everything is connected and exchanging information: cars, air conditioners, blood pressure cuffs, traffic patterns, disaster relief, all with embedded sensors connected to the Internet. All this data can be analyzed... lives can be saved, time can be managed more efficiently, pollution can be reduced and on and on. It will have a huge positive effect on consumers and society. It will find solutions to the biggest social issues of the day.

But will the United States' deployment of IoT be as slow as its Internet speed? Will our lack of leadership affect interoperability, functionality and hinder a new standard?

Dr. Rhee thinks the government needs to go beyond the "carrot-and-stick" approach:

"Government has traditionally played the role in carrot (funding) and stick (regulation) in technology. In IoT, the landscape is changing faster than ever and fragmentation is too severe – which leaves great opportunity for the third role of the government – providing a playground that these technologies and stakeholders can rapidly test and compare the results of real-world examples. Essentially the government can play an important role of 'accelerator' for the development and adoption of interoperability, standards, and functionalities. SmartAmerica Challenge and Global City Teams Challenge are great examples to show how the government can work together with industry and academia to make it happen."

Though it may seem primarily a technology initiative, leadership in IoT will require close collaboration between technologies, business models, and policies, because IoT is an "enabler" of many different sectors. The IoT technology would be much more powerful if closely coupled with sustainable business models and policies.

So pay attention policy makers. Our Internet infrastructure is crawling, but we have a second chance to go beyond the carrot and the stick. Time to start a playground!

KATHY KEMPER IS FOUNDER AND CEO OF THE INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATION A NONPROFIT FOUNDATION, HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON, DC, THAT RECOGNIZES AND PROMOTES LEADERSHIP AND CIVILITY LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY. IFE ALSO ENCOURAGES YOUTH GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP WITH PROGRAMS THAT FOSTER INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING. VISIT INSTITUTEFOREducation.org FOR DETAILS ABOUT IFE PROGRAMS AND SPEAKERS.