

Celebrating IFE's 25th Season  
***IFE INFO Innovation Salon on  
“Digital Currency in Developing Economies”***

*Enriching Washington's Public Policy Life • Making World Affairs Our Business*



**Institute  
for  
Education**

Featuring

*Panel Moderator:*

**John Paul Farmer**

*Director of Technology & Civic Innovation at Microsoft*

*Panelists:*

**H.E. Dr. Hamdullah Mohib**

*Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States*

**Brian Forde**

*Director of Digital Currency at the MIT Media Lab*

**Jamie Smith**

*Global Chief Communications Officer at The Bitfury Group*

*Hosted at the Embassy of Afghanistan, Washington, DC*

**Friday, September 29, 2016**

# IFE INFO Innovation Salon on Digital Trends

## Host



### Dr. Hamdullah Mohib

*Ambassador to the United States*

Before being appointed Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Hamdullah Mohib served as Deputy Chief of Staff to H.E. The President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The role included oversight of the spokesperson's office, the office of correspondence and diplomatic communications, protocol office, petitions office, and the Presidential secretariat. During his tenure at the Presidential Palace, his role involved liaison with governmental counterparts and drafting of bilateral and multilateral agreements. Dr. Mohib also engaged in the substantive preparation and implementation of official presidential visits to Azerbaijan, Belgium, China,

Germany, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States as part of the administration's strategy for geopolitical and economic integration. Dr. Mohib led the presidential negotiating team for several inter-government cooperation agreements and the formulation of Afghanistan's national development "Realizing Self-Reliance" reform strategy.

Ambassador Mohib will also be participating on this evening's panel.

[@hmohib](#)

## Moderator



### John Paul Farmer

*Director of Technology & Civic Innovation at Microsoft*

John Paul Farmer believes in the combined power of technology and cross-sector collaboration to drive positive change throughout society. As the Director of Microsoft's Technology & Civic Innovation team in New York City, John leads hands-on engagement with governments, non-profits, for-profits, academic institutions, startups, and civic hackers so that they can do more good together than they could apart. Previously, John served as the Senior Advisor for Innovation in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he spearheaded the President's innovation agenda. Under President Barack

Obama, he co-founded and led the Presidential Innovation Fellows program, which attracts top innovators and entrepreneurs from the private sector for focused tours of duty in government, in order to make game-changing progress on projects of national importance. He also served in the Administration as Senior Advisor for Healthcare Reform, working on healthcare information technology such as Blue Button, delivery system reform and economic analyses.

[@JohnPaulFarmer](#), [#Blockchain4SocialGood](#)

## Panelists



### Brian Forde

*Director of Digital Currency at the MIT Media Lab*

Brian Forde has spent more than a decade at the nexus of technology, entrepreneurship, and public policy. He is currently the Director of Digital Currency at the MIT Media Lab, where he leads efforts to mainstream digital currencies like Bitcoin through research, and incubation of high-impact applications of the emerging technology. Most recently he was the Senior Advisor for Mobile and Data Innovation at the White House where he spearheaded efforts to leverage emerging technologies

to address the President's most critical national priorities. Prior to his work at the White House, Forde founded one of the largest phone companies in Nicaragua after serving as a business and technology volunteer in the Peace Corps. In recognition of his work, Forde was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

[@BrianForde](#); [@MediaLab](#)



### Jamie Smith

*Global Chief Communications Officer at The Bitfury Group*

Smith brings nearly two decades of strategic communications experience to BitFury. Smith has previously served as Executive Vice President overseeing multi-channel media for Edelman Public Relations, Special Assistant to the President, Presidential Spokesperson, and Deputy White House Press Secretary, Director of Public Affairs for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), Communications Director for the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation

Committee and its then Chairman, U.S. Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV's, Traveling Press Director and Spokesperson for Secretary Hillary Clinton's 2008 President Campaign, Communications Director for Secretary Madeleine K. Albright and The Albright Group, LLC, and Legislative Aide to Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey.

[@BlockchainSmith](#)



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IFE INFO Public Policy roundtable is 25 years strong, with over 285 distinguished speakers including, five Supreme Court Justices, 18 Ambassadors, 46 Senators, a Maestro, 27 senior advisors to the President over five administrations, the heads of the CIA, FBI, World Bank, and the National Academies of the Sciences, one Vice President, five Governors, four Mayors, two Fortune 500 CEOs, and a Miss America. IFE INFO is a Washington Institution promoting civility and encouraging Youth Global Citizenship. You can visit us at [www.instituteforeducation.org](http://www.instituteforeducation.org), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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## Upcoming Speakers

**Jerry Seib**  
Executive Washington Editor  
The Wall Street Journal

**Megan Smith**  
United States Chief Technology Officer

**Judge William H. Webster**  
Former Director of FBI and CIA



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## IFE Mission Statement

The Institute for Education's (IFE) mission is to recognize and promote leadership, civility, and finding common ground, locally, nationally, and in the world community. IFE also educates youth for global citizenship with programs that foster intercultural appreciation.

IFE convenes diplomats, political, business, media, academic, and community leaders at the highest levels to encourage collaboration. IFE's success in establishing common ground presents opportunities for leaders to share knowledge and explore innovative solutions to the most critical challenges of our time, while also helping to strengthen public policy outcomes and encourage greater global understanding.

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