

Diplomatic Spotlight

Future of Work 2.0

MARCH 2020

The Institute for Education (IFE) hosted an evening salon on the “Future of Work 2.0” at the Embassy of Singapore, where Singaporean Ambassador Ashok Mirpuri was joined by Estonian Ambassador Jonatan Vseiov and OMB Deputy Director Margaret Weichert to discuss the promise and perils of 21st-century work and learning. Weichert said that “workforce transformation is the societal transformation of our time,” pointing out that as the largest employer in North America, the federal government should build a climate that puts “people in the middle of everything we do.”

The ambassadors of Singapore and Estonia talked about how their countries use technology to benefit their citizens, who receive a digital identification at birth that allows them to digitally engage in education, elections, e-commerce and banking. Both envoys also stressed the importance of digital literacy to help people succeed in a 21st-century workforce. Mirpuri noted that “when you graduate with a technology degree, its already out of date. People need to embrace a lifelong culture of learning.” “The trick,” Vseiov said, “is to create a more egalitarian education system so that no one is disadvantaged and left behind.”



Coach Kathy Kemper, founder and CEO of the Institute for Education; Ambassador of Singapore Ashok Mirpuri; moderator Nina Bianchi of the White House IT Modernization Centers of Excellence; Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director Margaret Weichert; and Ambassador of Estonia Jonatan Vseiov.



Cyrus Sethna of the United States Digital Service at the White House; Kristen Honey, innovator in residence at the Department of Health and Human Services; White House Innovation Fellow Rana Saad; and Maria Dayton, impact fellow with Singularity University.



Nina Bianchi of the White House IT Modernization Centers of Excellence with Author Davar Ardalan and Jessica Davis of Microsoft.



R. David Edelman, director of the Project on Technology, the Economy, & National Security at MIT, gives remarks.



Anil Cheriyan, director and deputy commissioner of technology for the U.S. government; and Coach Kemper.



Frank Reyes, TechCongress Fellow serving on the House Committee on Homeland Security.



Javier Vasquez of Microsoft asks a question.



Joanne Ke Edelman, chief operating officer at the Refugee Investment Network; with Gouri Mirpuri.



Jared Koch with Fatima Al-Dosari, Deputy Executive Director of the Qatar American Institute.