

OVERHEARD AT THE ROUNDTABLE

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE



TARIQ MALIK | FORMER CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL DATABASE AND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

"It is growingly recognized that good governance is impossible without states' capacity, and big data coupled with data analytics is the key enabler for smart government."



DAVID SOLOFF | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CO-FOUNDER
PREMISE

"A global knowledge network can deliver visibility. It can measure impact. It can fill the void of a national stats office that is either overmatched or has a conflicting agenda. It can really be a core technology for measuring progress towards all sorts of development goals. What good is a goal if you can't measure progress toward it?"



REBECCA TABER | HEAD OF GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS
COURSERA

"There's no reason that each facilitator of a group looking to gain skills should be coming up with their own training or trying to figure out what employers need. The scale of digital technology can result in getting the best training anywhere in the world, whether it's high-demand skills, like coding or data science, or entry-level skills, like customer service."



SAM WORTHINGTON | PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
INTERACTION

"Is there a way that public knowledge can become an echo that supports or influences positive government change? Because otherwise, you get into this negative cycle of people with some degree of empowerment taking action and then having their input limited because societies do not like the disruption."



CHRISTINA SASS | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
ANDELA

"Currently, there are approximately 1.8 million jobs open for software developers on LinkedIn—and in the United States alone there are four open jobs for every one software developer. Our solution is to use the very best blended online and offline learning to move young people into these jobs as rapidly as possible, with a seemingly impossible goal of launching full career paths for them without any debt and without leaving home."



IRVING WLADAWSKY-BERGER | VISITING LECTURER
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

“When we think of skills for the digital economy, we tend to emphasize STEM skills, and those are important. But in my experience, the even more important skills are the social skills; the ability to work in teams, the ability to communicate your ideas and learn from others, the ability to write. Those are eminently analog skills, I would say. And that’s critical.”



DEEPAK MISHRA | CO-DIRECTOR OF 2016 WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT
WORLD BANK

“Unless countries strengthen their analog complements, investments in digital technologies will not yield the expected dividends. Instead, it would create new risks: concentrated markets, rising inequality and intrusive states. So, let’s celebrate the digital revolution, and at the same time, let’s work to strengthen its analog foundation.”



MIKE KUBZANSKY | PARTNER
OMIDYAR NETWORK

“All technologies have upsides and downsides. And I think it’s incumbent on us to figure out how to make the most of the upsides and guard against the downsides. We’re hugely excited about the upside of all this technological progress—and not losing sight of what’s possible in a world of ubiquitous connection which can be massively empowering for individuals.”



ANNE-MARIE SLAUGHTER | PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

“Education will be lifelong from multiple sources with measureable outcomes, beyond a four-year college degree for the 40% of Americans who get one. Some of it is digitally immersive online. Some of it’s in the workplace. A lot of it is augmented in different ways. But we need all of it.”



JONATHAN HAKIM | PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CIGNIFI

“Mobile data is a fundamental building block, because the way that you use your phone is a proxy for the way that you live your life. The pattern of calls, texts, internet usage not only reveals a lot about the individual customer, but it also shows me her place in a giant social network—a different kind of social network than a Facebook or Google, but in many ways, analogous to it.”



KEMAL DERVIŞ | VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR, GLOBAL ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT
BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

“Financial innovation can spell disaster, as it did with the synthetic subprime mortgage products. Or it can allow the poor to produce and access markets, as illustrated in this volume. And such is the case with technology and innovation in general: it should serve human needs and progress, not the interests of the few.”