



## **Roger Baig Viñas**

Roger Baig Viñas received his degree in Industrial Engineering (2002) from the Universtiat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) and currently is working on his PhD on community networks at the same university. He joined the guifi.net community as a volunteer in 2006. In 2011 he was hired at the Foundation for the Neutral, Free and Open Network, the non-profit organization that represents the guifi.net project. He is currently coordinating its participation in international projects. He has actively contributed to many aspects in guifi.net, such as organizing community

events, promoting projects, giving talks, etc. and has gained a broad knowledge about community networks. His research interests are on business models, sustainability, and governance of community networks. Currently he is the secretary of ISOC-CAT association.



### Thomas C. Barrett

Thomas C. Barrett is the Permanent Representative of the European Investment Bank (EIB) to the United States. The European Investment Bank Group supports investment by providing US\$90B per annum debt and equity financing, as well as policy support and advisory services in Europe and in 150 countries around the world in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Before taking up his current assignment, Mr. Barrett was director of EIB's financial products and advisory teams. He was chairman of the European PPP Expertise Centre (EPEC) and was also responsible for the establishment of the EIB's Centres of Expertise on

Trans-European Networks for ICT, Transport, and Energy. Mr. Barrett is director of the Marguerite Fund for Energy, Climate and Infrastructure and a member of the Atlantic Council Task Force in Washington, D.C. on the EuroGrowth Initiative. Mr. Barrett is an INSEAD MBDA (France) and a graduate of the National University (Ireland).



## Jochai Ben-Avie

Jochai Ben-Avie is the Senior Global Policy Manager at Mozilla where he works on a range of global issues as diverse as the Internet. Amongst other responsibilities, he leads Mozilla's work on Equal Rating and serves as a policy advisor to the Mozilla Foundation. Before Mozilla, he was the Policy Director at Access Now (AccessNow.org) an international organization that defends and extends the digital rights of users at risk around the world. Jochai graduated summa cum laude from Bard College at Simon's

Rock with a BA in Political Science and Social Psychology.





### Manu Bhardwaj

Manu is Vice President for Research and Insights at the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. In this position, Manu is responsible for proactively identifying and building relationships with relevant new individuals and institutions for the Center. In addition, Manu works closely with the Center's executive director and chief economist in managing and fully leveraging existing relationships with the Center's senior fellows and

university partners. Manu is looking forward to helping deliver on the Center's message of inclusive growth and expanding Mastercard's global influence.

Manu served as a political appointee in the Obama Administration for the past eight years, while also serving on the 2008 Obama-Biden Transition Team. In 2009, Manu was a digital economy advisor at the US Department of Commerce, where he handled the full range of technology matters. From 2011 to 2016, Manu reported directly to the Under Secretary of State and three US Ambassadors, advising them on trade, intellectual property, cybersecurity, internet-related national security, and data privacy matters. Manu has had formal responsibility to communicate US positions to over 60 countries and at hundreds of UN and other multilateral meetings. Manu has also served as an advisor at the White House, at the US Senate and at a US.District Court. Over the past 17 years, Manu served in all three branches of the Federal Government and has also practiced telecommunications law and general litigation at major private law firms.

Manu has a law degree from the University of Michigan and completed his undergraduate degree at Northwestern University.



### Vanu Bose

Dr. Bose is CEO of Vanu, Inc., a provider of innovative wireless infrastructure solutions. Founded in 1998, Vanu, Inc. pioneered the commercialization of software-defined radio and was the first company to receive FCC certification of a software-defined radio. Dr. Bose has been granted the personal distinctions of being named a World Economic Forum Technology Pioneer and a ComputerWorld Honors Program Laureate. He is currently serving as a member of the United States Army Science Board, the

Bernard M. Gordon-MIT Engineering Leadership Program Industry Advisory Board, and the MIT Corporation. He previously served as a Commissioner to the UN Broadband Commission for Digital Development from 2012-2015 and as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Boston Museum of Science from 2007-2013. Dr. Bose was a technical expert for the President's Council of Advisors (PCAST) report: "Realizing the full potential of government-held spectrum to spur economic growth", and is the Founder and Chairman of the National Spectrum Consortium. Most recently in June of 2016, Dr. Bose was asked to serve on the m-Powering Development Advisory Board for the ITU. Dr. Bose received his B.S, M.S. and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT.





### Sylvia Cadena

Sylvia has been working for over two decades on strategic use of the internet for development. She joined COLNODO in 1994, where she worked to build a strong and consistent internet presence from civil society around the LAC region, coordinating the first Latin-American telecenter network providing access for marginalized communities. As well, she

supported over 400 NGOs to establish their first internet presence.

In 2000, she joined the Tropical Whitefly IPM Project to develop an online content management system. In 2003, her work was recognized with the "Annual Award for Young Professionals" by the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

She moved to Australia in 2008 and joined the Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC) to coordinate the design and implementation of funding partnerships among the internet technical community that supports social and economic development in the Asia Pacific region.

She worked to design and establish the Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia), a program that allocates grants and awards to innovators working on internet technologies for development as well as capacity-building opportunities to scale. She also supported the establishment of the Seed Alliance, an umbrella initiative where ISIF Asia actively collaborates with other two grants programs covering the global south: FRIDA, covering Latin America and the Caribbean, and FIRE, covering Africa.

Now Head of Programs for the APNIC Foundation, Sylvia is working on the design and implementation of collaborative programs to expand APNIC's capacity-building efforts that support the development and growth of a global, open, stable, and secure internet that serves the entire Asia/Pacific community.



#### Julián Casasbuenas G.

Julian Casasbuenas is a chemical engineer with more than 25 years of experience in environmental and information and communication technologies.

He is the director of Colnodo (www.colnodo.apc.org), a non-profit organization established in 1993 with the goal of facilitating the communications and exchange of information and experiences among Colombian organizations at local, national, and international levels.

Colnodo's strategic programs include e-government and e-democracy; citizenship promotion and participation in the use and appropriation of ICTs; ICT policies; and research, management, and development of ICT knowledge. Colnodo works with three transversal axes: free and open-source software, gender, and sustainable development.

Julian is a council member and chair of the executive board of the Association for Progressive Communications (Apc) and has been in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) as a civil society representative since 2016. He is a member of the Internet Society and served as an IGF ambassador for the 2007 and 2009 Forums, as well as a member of the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus.

Julian has participated in multiple ICT events such as the ISOC conferences (1993-1995), Global Internet Governance Forum and their preparatory meetings in Colombia and LAC, ICANN



meetings (2010 Cartagena), Latin American Ministerial Conference on the Information Society (2010 and 2015), and Telecenter meetings in Europe and Latin America. He graduated from the University of America in Bogotá, Colombia in 1984.



#### Vint Cerf

At Google, Vint Cerf contributes to global policy development the continued spread of the Internet. Widely known as one of the "Fathers of the Internet," Cerf is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the Internet. He has served in executive positions at the Internet Society, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the American Registry for Internet Numbers, MCI, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and on the faculty of Stanford University. Vint Cerf sits on the US National Science Board and is a Visiting Scientist at the

Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Cerf is a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and Swedish Academy of Engineering, Fellow of the IEEE, ACM, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, British Computer Society, Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, Worshipful Company of Stationers and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Cerf is a recipient of numerous awards and commendations in connection with his work on the Internet, including the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, US National Medal of Technology, the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, the Prince of Asturias Award, the Japan Prize, the Charles Stark Draper award, the ACM Turing Award, the Legion d'Honneur and 29 honorary degrees.



## Jane Coffin

Jane Coffin is the Director of Development Strategy at the Internet Society (ISOC) (www.internetsociety.org). Her work focuses on coordination of collaborative strategies for expanding Internet infrastructure, access, and related capacities in emerging economies. She leads ISOC's community networking and internet exchange point development efforts, working closely with global partners, ISOC's

chapters, public policy partners, technical partners, and community partners.



#### **Gary Fowlie**

Gary Fowlie is Head of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Liaison Office to the United Nations (UN). ITU is the specialized agency of the UN responsible for information and communication technology.

Mr Fowlie led a UN inter-agency effort to ensure that science, technology, and innovation were adopted as key catalysts for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). His work



focused on information and communication technology (ICT) targets in the areas of education, gender equality, infrastructure (universal and affordable access to the internet), and as a means of implementation across all 17 sustainable development goals. The UN sustainable development agenda, an agreed blueprint for sustainable development in all nations, came into effect on 1 January 2016. It recognizes "global connectivity and ICTs as having great potential for human progress."

Prior to joining the UN and ITU, Mr. Fowlie worked as an account director for the global technology practice of the consulting firm Hill and Knowlton. At the UN he was responsible for the communications and marketing strategy for the UN World Summit on the Information Society. From 2005-2009 he occupied the post of Chief of Media Liaison for the UN in New York. He is an economist and journalist, having worked for the news service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and The Economist.

Mr. Fowlie is a graduate of the Universities of Alberta, Alabama, and the London School of Economics.



## Mei Lin Fung

Mei Lin co-founded the People Centered Internet with Vint Cerf in 2015, and was the business partner of Douglas Engelbart from 2001 to 2004: Their labs were the first 2 nodes on the Arpanet. A pioneer in customer relationship management, she was on the two-person skunkworks team that designed and coded the first CRM system, OASIS, at Oracle.

She worked at Intel, then at Oracle, heading finance for Tom Siebel, then Marc Benioff. From 2009-2013 Mei Lin worked with the US Department of Defense's initiative/think tank looking at the future of health. She is a thought leader on the use of networked improvement communities in health.

Her first job was writing assembler code at Shell Australia. She studied finance at MIT under future Nobel winners Robert Merton and Franco Modigliani, and she also studied under Fisher Black, known for the Black Scholes Options Pricing Model.

Mei Lin is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Digital Economy and Society. She serves on the Steering Committee for the Internet for All initiative of the World Economic Forum. She serves as vice-chair for internet inclusion within the IEEE Internet Initiative.



# **Doyle Gallegos**

Doyle Gallegos is Global Lead, Broadband Access for All, in the Transport and ICT Global Practice of the World Bank and ICT Regional Coordinator in the Latin America & Caribbean Region. Mr. Gallegos leads the Bank's telecom policy and regulatory agenda, regional backbone and rural connectivity programs, and implementation of PPPs in client countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked as with Booz Allen Hamilton as a senior advisor and as a senior manager in Deloitte

Consulting throughout the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, and US. Mr. Gallegos also has held VP-level positions with telecom start-up and emerging business enterprises. Mr. Gallegos has an



MBA in finance from the Wharton School and an undergraduate degree in economics from Columbia University.



# **John Garrity**

As Senior Connectivity Advisor within the Global Development Lab, John Garrity supports USAID's operations on extending internet access and adoption through policy engagement and program management. This includes identifying and shaping policy and regulatory reform with respect to broadband expansion, engaging with various public and private stakeholders, leading on the technical aspects of developing and

maintaining public-private partnerships around digital infrastructure investments and expansion, and assessing feasible technologies for last- and middle-mile infrastructure deployments, including identifying new, low-cost technologies that might replace current infrastructure.

Before USAID, Garrity spent ten years at Cisco, most recently as senior manager of policy research managing technology policy engagements and articulating the appropriate policies to expand broadband infrastructure deployment. His first role at Cisco was as manager of emerging market strategy, responsible for advising Cisco's emerging markets expansion strategy across 130 countries utilizing macroeconomic analysis and engaging in the public dialogue on the role of information and communications technologies. Prior to Cisco, Garrity was in the corporate strategy group at the World Bank and held previous roles at the Federal Trade Commission and in state government. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in applied development economics from The Ohio State University.



#### **Erick Huerta**

Erick holds a law degree from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico, with postgraduate courses at the Free School of Law; a Master's in Social Administration with a concentration in Community Development from the University of Queensland, Australia and PhD in Rural Development from the Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico.

Erick is an Expert of the International Telecommunication Union for connectivity issues related to remote areas and indigenous peoples and he has served as Co-Rapporteur on Development of Information Technology and Communication in remote areas and groups with unattended needs, and Head of the Study Group on Indigenous Populations, the Permanent Consultative Committee 1 of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission of the OAS, as well as advisor to the Directorate General of Telecommunications Policy on development issues in preparation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference and the Plenipotentiary Conference of the ITU. Mr. Huerta is currently a member of the advisory council of IFETEL, the Mexican telecommunications regulator.





#### **Zack Huhn**

Zack Huhn is helping connect smart-city solutions city to city, state to state, and region to region. Zack is the Chairman of the Board for Venture Strategy Partners, the Director of Government Relations for Venture Smarter, and leading efforts behind regional smart cities initiatives using technology as a tool to uplift communities. Zack is also invested in and/or advising several businesses focused on smart-city solutions in connectivity,

mobility, security, and sustainability. Zack has been a long-time advocate for tube transportation projects and is working to bring to life next-generation transportation innovations. Other passions include educational policy, sustainable food systems, and reformed political landscapes.



#### Sara Jacobs

CEO of Project Connect, a non-profit recently started to map every school in the world and measure internet connectivity in schools. Prior to this, she was most recently a policy advisor to Secretary Hillary Clinton in her campaign for President of the United States, where she also served as chief of staff of the campaign's foreign policy team. She has also worked in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations at the US Department of State, UNICEF's Innovation Unit, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Originally from San Diego, California, Sara holds a BA in political science and a Masters in international affairs focused on international conflict resolution from Columbia University. She lives in New York with her dog, Winston.



#### **Steve Johanns**

Steve Johanns has over 20 years of experience in energy, infrastructure, and innovation. He is the founder and CEO of Veriown Global Holdings; a distributed generation and microgrid service provider with a focus on electrifying the 1.2 billion people without access to electricity and banking systems in India and Sub-Saharan Africa. Johanns leads a US and global team of experts in the development of renewable energy projects, as well as

advanced microgrid innovations using new blockchain-enabled fintech solutions for microfinancing and micro-energy transactions.

Johanns was the former chairman of the Illinois Science and Technology Institute. He has also advised and presented to financial institutions, as well as government and utility officials in Africa and India, showing the impact and opportunity created by the convergence of cleantech, fintech, and IoT to finance and get clean, renewable, reliable electricity anywhere, anytime, for anyone.





### **Sonia Jorge**

Sonia is an expert in the confluence of development and communications policy, with over 25 years of diverse international experience in a career spanning both the private and not-for-profit sectors.

Her work has included ICT policy and regulatory advice and analysis, strategic industry planning, national ICT/broadband policy development, and the creation of new legal and regulatory frameworks to address issues around competition, cost-based pricing, spectrum management, and infrastructure development and sharing. Sonia has worked extensively to promote gender

analysis and awareness in the ICT planning process, as well as an understanding of the importance of universal access and digital inclusion for development.

Sonia is a frequent speaker at international, regional, and national events, including at the World Economic Forum, Stockholm Internet Forum, Transform Africa, Mobile World Congress, Internet Governance Forum, the Latin American Telecommunications Congress, and several ITU events. Sonia serves as a member and expert in a number of committees, including the DFID's Digital Access Panel for Africa, the ITU-UN Women EQUALS Initiative, the World Economic Forum's Future of the Internet Initiative, the Broadband Commission Working Group on the Gender Digital Divide, and the Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy (ACICIP) Subcommittee of the US State Department on ICT4D.



# **Timothy Lee**

Timothy Lee, currently a Boeing Technical Fellow, is responsible for the development of radio frequency (RF) and digital electronics for advanced communications networks and sensor systems at The Boeing Company (1998-Present). He is leading the development of state-of-the-art complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) and RF integrated circuits and devices. Current interests include techniques to overcome the end of Moore's Law, which includes 2.5D/3D heterogeneous integration and hardware designs for 5G millimeter-wave systems. Tim holds BS/MS

electrical engineering degrees from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a MS degree in systems architecture and engineering from the University of Southern California.

In the IEEE, Tim has served as the 2015 Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S) President where he led creation of MTT-S Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology (SIGHT) to promote humanitarian activities, with a focus on India and Mexico. Starting in 2017, as the IEEE SIGHT Chair, he is focusing on humanitarian projects in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. As the 2017 Chair of the IEEE Internet Initiative adhoc committee on internet inclusion, Tim is working to grow a new generation of technical leaders whose vision is a thriving local community enabled by internet technology. Tim believes that the only true way forward is to invest not only in technology infrastructure but to invest in human capital to foster innovation and interactions between communities and technologists.





#### **Anna Lerner**

Anna Lerner is an energy and ICT specialist with the World Bank, working in the intersection of energy, connectivity, and digital technology. A serial entrepreneur, Anna is passionate about solving global problems by designing and implementing initiatives, often focusing on disruptive technology and data-driven solutions. Anna is a core member of the World

Bank Digital Development Partnership (DDP)—a partnership platform for digital innovation and development finance. In 2016, Anna won a Finance-for-Resilience Award for her initiative to develop harmonized reporting standards for PAYG solar.



## **Chrissy Martin**

Chrissy Martin works at the US Global Development Lab, where she scales the use of digital financial services to increase household resilience, especially through improved agricultural incomes, access to energy, and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. Currently, she is managing an initiative to digitize agricultural value chains in Uganda by enabling collaboration among the many stakeholders required to provide value for farmers using mobile money, including schools and off-grid energy companies. Prior to joining USAID, Chrissy was a consumer experience

manager for Zoona, a social enterprise expanding mobile payments in Africa through a customercentric business model. She began her career in fintech in Haiti, where she launched the first mobile money service in the country through the mobile network operator Digicel. Chrissy is a graduate of The Fletcher School at Tufts University and the University of Virginia. @chrissiy



#### **Vishal Mathur**

Vishal joined the GSMA in May 2012 and has held two senior positions. For over 4 years, he was the head of strategic engagement for Middle East and Africa. Within this role, he was responsible for engaging C-level executives within the region, aligning them on and delivering complex strategic programs on behalf of the mobile industry in that region, often requiring collaboration between competitors and adjacent industries.

Vishal now heads up the Connected Society program within the Mobile for Development suite. Linked to the 17 UN Sustainable Development

Goals, the Connected Society program has a vision to digitally connect and drive mobile internet usage for 2.5 billion underserved adults by 2020. Vishal and his team will focus on delivering the insights, seeking innovative approaches, and demonstrating as well as advocating the role and value the mobile industry plays in bridging the global connectivity gap.

Vishal has a MBA from London Business School and over 19 years of consulting and executive engagement experience gained from top-tier consulting houses and telecom brands, including Accenture, A.T. Kearney, Telefonica O2, and Huawei. He is at his best when engaging with C-level executives, developing productive multi stakeholder working environments, whilst working with or managing a team to structure and deliver tangible outcomes.





#### Karen McCabe

Karen McCabe is a Senior Director of Technology Policy and International Affairs at IEEE, where she leads efforts to build and connect communities working in the technology policy ecosystem and where her focus is on the development and promotion of collaborative strategies that produce impactful outcomes among multi-stakeholders to help advance technology for society and humanity's benefit.

During the last 20 years, Karen has held various leadership and senior management positions in the technology sector, with a specific focus in the

global standards and technology development domain that is rooted in openness, transparency, and inclusiveness. After graduating from Kean University with a degree in communications, Karen initiated her career working in the engineering and technology space as a communications professional.

Today, Karen is engaged in efforts in internet governance, ethics, and technology and global standards in trade and policy. She leads IEEE's engagement with the UN and other international bodies, focusing on engaging the technical community and the intersection of policy and technology in ICTs. Karen is a member of the OECD Internet Technical Advisory Board and the Internet Society. She works with an array of organizations to connect technologists, industry leaders, and policy makers, to build partnerships and alliances across stakeholder communities.



### **Don Means**

Don Means is the Founder/Director of the Gigabit Libraries Network (GLN). With over 25 years of experience in ICT, Means initiated the "Fiber to the Library" (FTTL) campaign in 2007 and in 2012 founded GLN, a global collaboration of tech-savvy, innovation libraries.

In 2013, Means launched the Libraries WhiteSpace Pilot to advocate for library community leadership in utilizing new long-range license-free spectrum to dramatically expand access to library WiFi® in communities everywhere.

Means is founding chairman of the Schools, Health and Libraries Broadband Coalition. In 1992-93, as a member of the Atrium Group. Means served as an advisor to the Librarian of Congress on digitization strategy. He was appointed to the California IT Commission from 2001-2003.

In 1996, he created the Community TeleStructure Initiative, a national consortium advocating local community responsibility for telecom infrastructure planning. He also co-founded ebook authoring software/service ventures in Japan and China in 1995 that are still operating today.





### **Atul Mehta**

Atul Mehta is the Global Head of Telecom Media Technology, Venture Capital and Funds at the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. In this role, Atul is responsible for a team that manages US\$5 billion of investments and undertakes new investments of about US\$1 billion annually in these sectors.

In addition to his current role, Atul has held several leadership positions within the World Bank Group. From 2010 to 2014 he was director of IFC's investments in manufacturing, agribusiness, and services, overseeing scale-up of IFC's investments in the agribusiness, health, and education sectors globally. Prior to this, as director of change management, Atul assisted IFC's CEO in developing and implementing a corporate reorganization to bring decision making closer to clients. He also served as IFC's director for Latin America and the Caribbean, growing IFC's investments and advisory services practice in the region.

Prior to being appointed director, Atul was chief investment officer at IFC, responsible for developing and structuring projects in diverse sectors in Eastern Europe and Asia as well as Latin America. Atul worked at Ernst and Young in the United Kingdom before joining the IFC in 1989.

Atul holds an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in mathematics from Syracuse University. He is also qualified as a chartered accountant from the UK and as a CFA in the US.



### **Peter Micek**

Peter Micek is General Counsel at Access Now, an organization that defends and extends the digital rights of users at risk around the world. Peter advocates for a more rights-respecting tech sector and leads engagement with international organizations. Through strategic advocacy, norm-building, and policy guidance, Access Now promotes transparency and accountability for human rights online. Peter is also an adjunct professor at the Columbia University School of International and Public

Affairs, teaching a course focused on the structures and processes that determine public policy in the digital age. Peter sits on the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Cybersecurity. While completing a JD cum laude at the University of San Francisco School of Law, Peter published "A Genealogy of Home Visits," critiquing surveillance of at-risk communities. Peter is licensed by the state bars of California and New York, and he has no cats.





# **Christian O'Flaherty**

Christian O'Flaherty began his career in academia. He was the internet operations director at the Argentine National Research and Education Network and became internet operations manager for a regional internet service provider. He served as Latin American internet product manager for Global Crossing, and was responsible for developing and implementing the strategic plan for internet products in the region. Christian joined the Internet Society as Internet Development Senior Manager, where his work focuses on promoting internet access, growth, and sustainability in Latin

America and the Caribbean.



#### Laura Quintana

Laura Quintana joined Cisco in 1999 and currently leads the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) field operations worldwide. She and her team, based in 40 countries, help shape and drive public-private partnerships to design, implement, and operate strategic CSR programs around the world. These programs reach well over one million beneficiaries each year with annual in-kind contributions valued at over

\$240M USD.

Laura's responsibilities include building partnerships and local management of Cisco's largest and longest-running CSR program, the Cisco Networking Academy. The Networking Academy trains more than one million students annually in information and communication technology (ICT) and entrepreneurial skills, partnering with over 9,600 educational institutions in over 170 countries.

In 2015, Laura and her team successfully completed Cisco's multi-year commitment to the Jordan Healthcare Initiative. She strategically collaborated with the government of Jordan and was instrumental in driving tele-medicine, clinical collaboration, and tele-radiology projects that enabled quality healthcare services and benefited over 175,000 patients.

Previously, Laura held a variety of director-level leadership roles at Cisco within CSR product management and program development, worldwide service sales operations, US theater services sales, and worldwide technical services marketing. Laura holds a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering from Stanford University.



#### Nilmini Rubin

Nilmini Rubin is the Vice President for International Development at Tetra Tech, where she leads policy and engineering services for infrastructure projects in developing countries.

Previously, Nilmini served as the senior advisor for global economic competitiveness at the US House Foreign Affairs Committee. On behalf of

Chairman Royce, Nilmini spearheaded passage of legislation by the US House of Representatives to promote internet access in developing countries. She drove unanimous passage of a law to



increase access to electricity in Africa that serves as the framework for the United States' Power Africa initiative.

Earlier, Nilmini advocated on cybersecurity and cloud policy for the Information Technology Industry Council and led international economic, development, and transparency policy at the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

As a director at the National Security Council at the White House, Nilmini secured agreements with the G-8 to limit the spread of weapons of mass destruction; to raise billions of dollars for the Global Fund for AIDS/HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and to increase transparency of international organizations. She previously worked on international economic policy at the US Treasury Department and Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Internet Governance Forum – USA Steering Committee, the World Economic Forum Experts Network and Internet for All Working Group, Young Global Leaders Alumni Steering Committee, Advisory Council of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Academy of the Global Teacher Prize.



### **Melissa Sassi**

As the global Program Manager of Microsoft's Affordable Access Initiatives team, Melissa is responsible for evolving connectivity, agricultural IOT, and micro and off-grid power to rural communities around the world within Microsoft's Tech and Civic Engagement team. Microsoft's strong culture of philanthropy, humanitarian support, and youth skill-building inspired Sassi to create MentorNations' digital literacy, coding, and tech entrepreneurship movement, a nonprofit

endeavor that aims to empower underserved communities to transform their lives through technology. As a PhD candidate in international business, Sassi's research focuses on women and girls in Africa and the impact of digital inclusion and economic empowerment. She holds two master's degrees in supply chain and finance, and completed her undergraduate degree at Missouri State in international business management and Spanish.



## **Frank Schott**

Frank Schott joined NetHope in 2005 and served as Managing Director of Global Programs for 11 years. In 2016, he took on the role of Vice President of Global Programs, where he oversees field programs. During his time with NetHope, Frank has worked closely with member agencies, corporate partners, and NetHope staff to design, develop, and deliver ICT-related programs that are shared by the humanitarian sector.

Prior to joining NetHope, Frank worked with public and private sector

clients developing programs and solutions around the use of technology in the developing world. His client list includes UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency), the University of Washington, Naguru Teenage Medical Centre, and Microsoft Corporation. Frank has also spent hands-on time in the developing world, with time spent on programs in Africa, Southeast Asia, Central America, and Eastern Europe.





### **Mohammad Shahidehpour**

Dr. Mohammad Shahidehpour is a University Distinguished Professor, Bodine Chair Professor, and Director of the Robert W. Galvin Center for Electricity Innovation at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). He has also been the principal investigator of several research grants on power system operation and control. His project on perfect power systems converted the entire IIT campus to an islandable microgrid. His CSMART (Center for Smart Grid Applications, Research, and Technology) at IIT has

promoted cybersecurity research for managing the resilience of smart cities. His SPIKE initiative facilitated the design and the implementation of affordable microgrids in impoverished nations. Dr. Shahidehpour is the recipient of the IEEE Burke Hayes Award for his research on hydrokinetics, IEEE/PES Outstanding Power Engineering Educator Award, IEEE/PES Douglas M. Staszesky Distribution Automation Award, and the Edison Electric Institute's Power Engineering Educator Award. He has co-authored 6 books and 500 technical papers on electric power system operation and planning, and he served as the founding editor-in-chief of *IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid*. He is a Fellow of IEEE, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and a member of the US National Academy of Engineering.



### **Steve Song**

Steve is a research associate and consultant with the Network Startup Resource Center, where he works to expand the use of wireless technologies through shared spectrum strategies and to enable greater internet access throughout Africa and other emerging markets. He is also the founder of Village Telco, a social enterprise that builds inexpensive WiFi mesh VoIP technologies to deliver affordable voice and internet options in under-serviced regions. Previously, Steve worked at the

International Development Resource Centre, where he led the organization's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Development program in Africa and funded research into the transformational potential of ICTs across Africa.



## John V. G. ("Jack") Spilsbury

Jack Spilsbury took up his current position in the State Department as Senior Coordinator for the Global Connect Initiative in January 2017. He previously served as Deputy Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy (CIP) in the State Department's Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. His responsibilities included directing the Bureau's Office of Bilateral and Regional Affairs with responsibility for global policy development and negotiations on international issues related to information and communication technologies (ICT). Previously, as a member of the State Department's Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Spilsbury held positions in Washington as



Director of the Office of South and Central Asian Regional Affairs; as Deputy Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs; and as Deputy Director in State's European Regional Policy Office and its Office of Western European Affairs. During his Foreign Service career, Mr. Spilsbury completed diplomatic assignments at the U.S. embassies in Afghanistan, Italy, Poland, and Guyana, and worked in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative within the Executive Office of the President.



#### **Shane Tews**

Shane Tews is a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, managing the global internet strategy program that focuses on cyber security and internet governance as part of AEI's Center for Internet, Communications, and Technology Policy. Shane is also President of Logan Circle Strategies, working with her clients to create a coordinated public-policy approach to information communications and technology policies, cyber security, and cyber governance strategies on a global scale.

Additionally, Shane manages relationships with the US Congress, the US administration, foreign governments, think tanks, and trade associations on behalf of Vrge Communications.

Shane was formerly vice president of global public policy and government relations for Verisign, where she was responsible for the strategic planning and daily management of the policy and government relations efforts for VeriSign globally. She has helped develop internet policy with international governing bodies; national and state legislators; international, national and regional trade associations; and information technology coalitions.

Shane is Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors for the Internet Education Foundation and Vice-Chair of the Internet Governance Forum USA (IGF-USA). She is also currently a board member of TechFreedom and GlobalWIN.

Shane worked on Capitol Hill as legislative director and in the first Bush White House in the Office of Cabinet Affairs and at the US Department of Transportation directly for the Secretary.



#### Staci Warden

Staci Warden runs the Center for Financial Markets at the Milken Institute, where she leads initiatives on access to capital and financial markets, among others. Previously, she spent six years with JPMorgan in London, where she ran the public-sector client franchise in Europe and Africa, and before that in New York on sovereign debt-restructuring. Prior to JPM, she ran Nasdaq's two markets for micro-cap companies. She was an economist at the US Treasury, helped start the Center for Global Development, and started her career as a development economist at HIID. She holds advanced degrees

from Harvard and Brandeis Universities.





### **Stephen Wyber**

As Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Stephen oversees the team within IFLA Headquarters working on the policy environment in which libraries work. The team engages at global, regional, and national levels on issues relating to access to information, copyright, development, internet governance, privacy, cultural heritage, and preservation. IFLA as an organization has engaged for many years in underlining the potential of libraries as a means

of giving access to the internet, as well as promoting an open and free internet overall.

Stephen was previously responsible for copyright and access to information issues at IFLA Headquarters. Before this, he spent nearly eight years working in Paris for the UK Foreign Ministry, both on bilateral social affairs and on a variety of issues in the Permanent Delegation to the OECD. He is a graduate of the College of Europe and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.



### **Christopher S. Yoo**

Christopher Yoo is the John H. Chestnut Professor of Law, Communication, and Computer & Information Science and the Founding Director of the Center for Technology, Innovation and Competition at the University of Pennsylvania. His research focuses on insights that the principles of network engineering and imperfect competition provide into the regulation of the internet and intellectual property. He is building an innovative integrated

interdisciplinary program designed to produce a new generation of professionals with joint degrees in both law and engineering. His major research initiatives include a study of innovative approaches to connecting more of the world's citizens to the internet; an exploration of the legal aspects of providing privacy and security for autonomous vehicles and medical devices; and a comparison of competition law in China, Europe, and the US.

Previously, Professor Yoo clerked for Justice Kennedy of the US Supreme Court and Judge Randolph of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. He also practiced law with the firm of Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells) under the supervision of now-Chief Justice Roberts. He was a professor at Vanderbilt Law School, where he led the technology and entertainment law program. He is a graduate of Harvard College, the Anderson School at UCLA, and the Northwestern University School of Law. The author of four books and more than 70 articles and book chapters, he testifies frequently before the US Congress, the US Federal Communications Commission, the US Federal Trade Commission, and foreign regulatory authorities.