

# MERIDIAN CENTER FOR DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

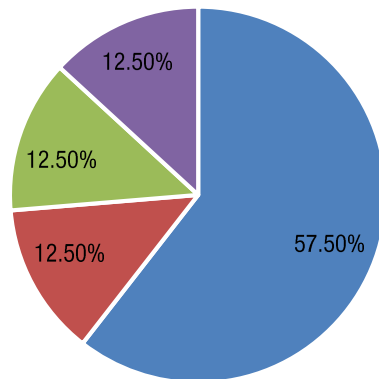
## Diplomat Survey Results

The Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement brings together the diplomatic corps with U.S. public and private sector leaders to collaborate on solutions to global economic and security issues. Meridian believes that America is safer at home when globally engaged. Meridian conducted a survey\* of diplomats who previously participated in Meridian events to evaluate the effectiveness of Meridian’s programs and assess their impact.

*95% of diplomats certify that Meridian improved their ability to perform effectively in their field.*

### KEY DIFFICULTIES FACING FOREIGN DIPLOMATS IN WASHINGTON

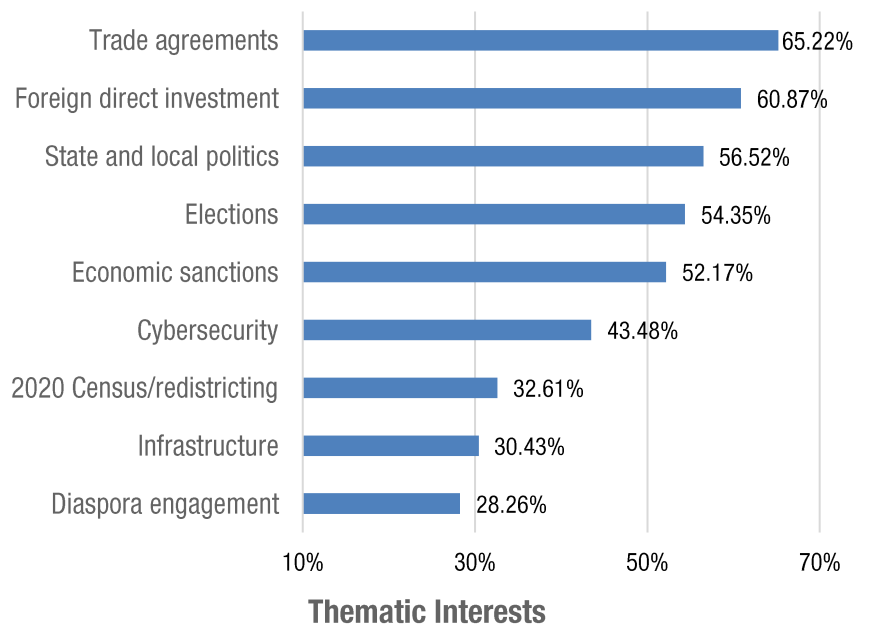
- Building an effective network
- Navigating U.S. political landscape
- Managing time / busy schedule
- Finding opportunities to connect with U.S. officials



- Over 50% of diplomats surveyed agree that **building a reliable professional network** was their greatest challenge in Washington.
- One diplomat pointed to their **limited time** and **properly utilizing their network** as their primary struggle, noting that “based on the limited terms that we as diplomats have in the country, it is necessary to **expand and utilize the network of contacts** most effectively to reach mutually beneficial goals.”
- Other diplomats lamented that another key challenge was “**understanding how all the aspects of government, society, and business intersect.**”

### FUTURE PROGRAM INTERESTS

- Meridian strives to organize programs of greatest interest to the diplomatic corps, as well as include themes not otherwise addressed in Washington.
- Based on survey data, **economic** and **trade policy** themes are of paramount interest.
- Diplomats want to keep **city and state elections and politics** on their radar as well.
- Other topics that diplomats expressed interest in include U.S. foreign policy, U.S. national security, cultural and public diplomacy, and technological innovation.

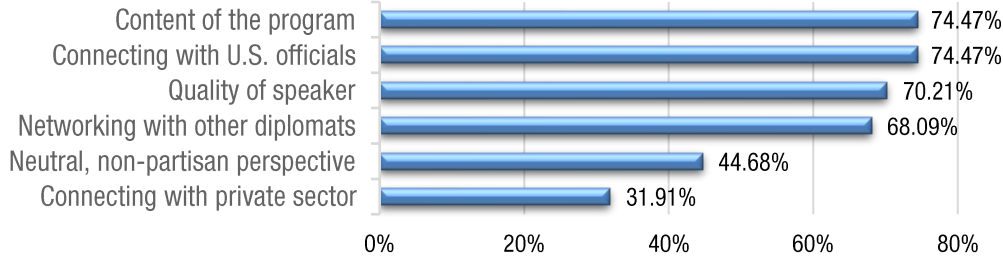


\*Meridian polled 47 members of the diplomatic community from 7/24/19 – 8/18/19

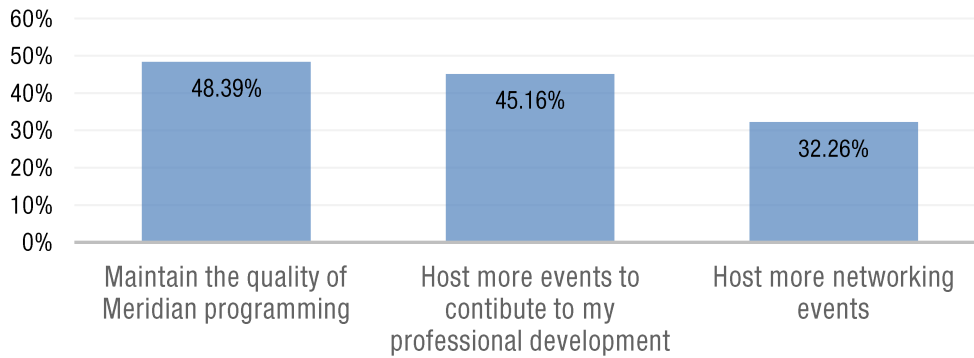
## MERIDIAN'S IMPACT

*A majority of diplomats agreed that Meridian events strengthened their understanding of U.S. foreign policy, the American political system and key issues facing the U.S.*

### Most Useful Aspects of Recent Meridian Programming



## HOW MERIDIAN CAN BEST HELP DIPLOMATS



*Continue to be a “a direct channel of communication amongst government officials and diplomatic stakeholders to accommodate great ideas and to build bridges for understanding and cooperation.”*

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Over 95% of diplomats** certify that Meridian improved their ability to perform effectively in their field. Meridian recognizes the diplomatic corps' desire for more events regarding **trade agreements, foreign direct investment, state and local politics and elections**, as well as the **demand for networking events**. As the survey results confirm, the Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement helps diplomats comprehend the Washington landscape and hear from influential American officials while enabling them to perform at the highest level.

## FEEDBACK

Meridian provides “insights from other sectors, namely **private sector** and **first-hand government perspectives**.”

“Meridian has helped in **understanding how Washington really works**.”

“Continue to provide **honest and frank discussions** with people that work in the U.S. system.”

Meridian “provides connections and **expands networks** for effective communication with stakeholders. The platform allows for valuable discussion that leads to **exchange of ideas**.”

“I feel better informed about the **U.S. political system**, particularly the State Department.”

Meridian provides diplomats with a “better understanding of the U.S. administration, **broadening my perspectives on key issues**, as well as widening my network of diplomatic contacts.”



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