



THE MERIDIAN CENTER FOR DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

IS AN EDUCATION AND NETWORKING HUB FOR THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC CORPS BASED IN WASHINGTON, DC. WE SERVE AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

AT A GLANCE:

- 675 diplomats from 151 embassies participated in our 36 programs in 2019.
- 95% of diplomats certify that Meridian improved their ability to perform effectively in their field.
- A majority of diplomats agree that Meridian events strengthen their understanding of U.S. foreign policy, the American political system and key issues facing the U.S.
- Recent speakers include Secretary of Defense Mark Esper, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Ranking Member Joe Manchin, House Foreign Affairs Ranking Member Michael McCaul, Fox News Lead Political Anchor Bret Baier, and Former Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen.
- Recent program themes include navigating U.S. sanctions, public-private partnerships in sustainability, and FDI.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

- **Insights @ Meridian with Sean Cairncross, President and CEO of Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC):** As head of the MCC, Cairncross leads an innovative and independent U.S. foreign assistance agency that is helping lead the fight against global poverty. Cairncross will discuss the MCC's unique development model, the ways that it selects and works with partner countries, and how the agency is leveraging private sector financing to improve development outcomes around the world. The program will be moderated by Alonzo Fulgham, former Acting Administrator of USAID. **(January 14, 2020)**
- **Welcome to Washington Reception for Newly-Credentialed Ambassadors:** Meridian will honor new ambassadors at an evening reception providing them with an opportunity to meet and engage with a cross-section of Washington policy leaders from the government and business communities. **(January 15, 2020)**
- **Insights @ Meridian on Elections Security:** Cities and states oversee election security in the United States with the state-level secretary of state often overseeing protection measures. A panel of secretaries of state will address steps that they are taking to ensure free, fair, and secure elections in the face of international threats. **(January 2020)**
- **Diplocraft: Lost in Translation - Foreign Media in an Era of Disinformation:** Geared towards press attachés, communications counselors, and foreign journalists, this afternoon discussion and networking reception will offer tips and explore best practices for engagement with the U.S. public and private sectors. **(February 2020)**
- **Insights @ Meridian with Robert O'Brien, White House National Security Advisor (February 2020)**
- **Federalism Deep Dive:** This 2.5-hour program on the U.S. system of government is ideal for diplomats who are new to Washington. It explores the separation of power among branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial) as well as levels of government (federal, state and local). **(March 2020)**



OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIPLOMAT PARTICIPATION AND EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT:

- DIPLOCRAFT - POLICY DEEP DIVES AND SEMINARS:** A key component of the Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement is our series of policy discussions and issue specific seminars for diplomats to hear from and interact with organizations and individuals on the front lines of the political, social, security and economic issues engulfing Washington. 2019 programs included a day trip to Charlottesville, Virginia to explore state and local governments as laboratories of democracy, a dialogue on “Navigating the State Department”, and a panel discuss agritech business, among others. Meridian encourages the embassy community to offer recommendations on the types of policy discussions and workshops that most interest them.
- INSIGHTS @ MERIDIAN:** This high-level briefing series provides ambassadors with an opportunity to hear from leaders in Congress, the Administration and state and local governments to exchange views and increase their understanding of the U.S. perspective on timely domestic and global issues. Meridian recently hosted Clarke Cooper, Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs, and Andrew Olmem, Deputy Director, White House National Economic Council.
- FIGHTING ILLICIT ECONOMIES TO FINANCE DEVELOPMENT SERIES:** Over the course of 2020, this seven-part convening series will raise awareness on the tribulations of illicit economies. A cross-section of experts and decision-makers from the U.S. government, multinational institutions, foreign diplomatic corps, private sector, think tank community and civil society will examine areas of illicit economic activity and work towards viable multisectoral solutions. The sessions will be thematic and include corruption and impunity, crime and environment, violence and instability, illicit trade and financial flows, human mobility and exploitation, and cybercrime.
- MERIDIAN GLOBAL BUSINESS BREAKFASTS:** Meridian partners with the corporate community to co-host morning dialogues where featured ambassadors or foreign government leaders engage with business executives and provide insight on the trade and economic landscape in their home nations.
- MERIDIAN GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL SALON DINNERS:** Ambassadors have an opportunity to host a curated salon dinner at their residence with Meridian's distinguished network of public and private sector leaders. These salon dinners are used to highlight issues and topics of interest to the Ambassador and their country. Recent dinners explored art and cuisine (Argentina) and first women in leadership (Germany).
- HEAD OF STATE OR MINISTERIAL BRIEFING:** Meridian's historic and elegant campus, nonpartisan platform, extensive network, and highly professional staff combine to serve as an idea partner and co-host for a visiting prime minister, president, foreign minister or other senior official wishing to make a public address and/or engage a bespoke audience while in Washington, DC.

The Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement provides programming for foreign diplomats of any portfolio. To learn more about how the Center can strengthen your work, please contact Vice President Frank Justice (fjustice@meridian.org; (202) 939-5583) or Associate Director Katherine Boyce (kboyce@meridian.org; (202) 939-5546).



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