



MERIDIAN Online

VIRTUAL CONVENINGS 2020

Since March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 global crisis, Meridian has harnessed the tools of digital connectivity and doubled down on our convening power to host more than 70 virtual programs with leaders in business, diplomacy and governments around the world to discuss issues of heightened global importance amid this pandemic and the impacts on the future of international engagement, cooperation and collaboration.



Pandemic Preparedness and Response: Global Perspectives on COVID-19

March 25

A discussion on the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with special remarks from Ambassador John E. Lange, Senior Fellow for Global Health Diplomacy at the United Nations Foundation and often referred to as the “United States Avian Influenza and Pandemic Ambassador.”

SPEAKERS: Ambassador John E. Lange, Senior Fellow for Global Health Diplomacy, United Nations Foundation
Brittany Masalosalo, Head of International Affairs and Public Policy at 3M
His Excellency Ashok Mirpuri, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore
Ambassador Nestor Forster, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of Brazil

AUDIENCE: 95 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector, 394 total views

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Insights@Meridian with Acting Secretary of DHS Chad Wolf

April 1

An off-the-record briefing from a key member of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf, who discussed the steps that his Department is taking to mitigate the spread of the virus, as well as ongoing international and cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination efforts taking place around the world.

SPEAKERS: Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Chad Wolf
Oscar Munoz, CEO and President of United Airlines
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 73 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector



Global Business Briefing with the Ambassadors of Italy and Spain to the U.S.

April 2

Exclusive perspectives from the Ambassadors of Italy and Spain to the U.S. on their countries’ COVID-19 response, along with their thoughts on both the short and long term effects of the pandemic in both nations.

SPEAKERS: His Excellency Armando Varricchio, Ambassador of Italy to the U.S.
His Excellency, Ambassador Santiago Cabanas, Ambassador of Spain to the U.S.
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 149 private-sector leaders, 162 total views

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)
[The Washington Post coverage](#)



Insights@Meridian with Kellyanne Conway, Senior Counselor to the President

April 7

An off-the-record briefing on the measures that the Trump Administration is taking to counter the pandemic and the economic impacts of the coronavirus in the United States, as well as the ongoing multi-sectoral cooperation and coordination efforts taking place at the White House to work with state and local governments across the country to take action against this virus.

SPEAKERS: Kellyanne Conway, Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 121 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector



Global Business Briefing with the Ambassador of Germany

April 8

Perspectives on European solidarity in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as medical, financial and labor market responses from the Government of Germany.

SPEAKERS: Her Excellency Emily Haber, Ambassador of Germany
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 80 private-sector leaders

MEDIA: [The Washington Post Coverage](#)



Insights@Meridian with Governors John Kasich and Terry McAuliffe

April 15

A bipartisan virtual briefing on the influence of COVID-19 on the upcoming U.S. presidential election. The conversation addressed how the pandemic has affected and will continue to impact the candidates, parties, conventions and elections – both primaries and the general election in November. The two governors also discussed the importance of the economy and what voting options might look like on Election Day.

SPEAKERS: Former Ohio Governor and 2016 Republican candidate for president, John Kasich
Former Governor of Virginia and former DNC Chairman, Terry McAuliffe
Moderated by Susan Page, Washington Bureau Chief for USA Today

AUDIENCE: 128 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector, 261 total views

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#) [USA Today Coverage](#) [C-SPAN Coverage](#)



COVID-19 and the Built Environment

April 16

A roundtable discussion co-hosted by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Washington, DC, and the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy that highlighted the outcomes of a jointly organized delegation in November 2019 to the UAE that included US-based architects, architectural photographers, historians, curators and writers. The program also addressed the impact of COVID-19 on the fields of architecture and architectural photography.

AUDIENCE: 132 attendees; from Brazil to Australia, 30 people tuned in from outside the United States

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



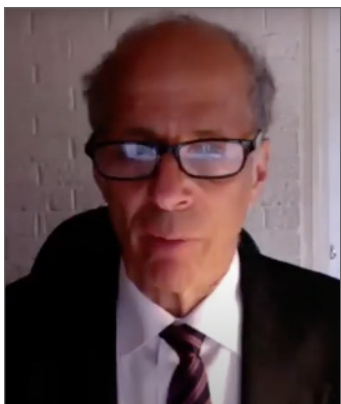
Global Business Briefing with EU Head of Trade Tomas Baert

April 17

Perspectives on the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on trade between the European Union and United States.

SPEAKERS: Tomas Baert, Head of Trade and Agriculture at the EU Delegation to the United States
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 66 private-sector leaders



U.S. Constitution: A Living Document

April 16

A discussion organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and the American Center Moscow, focused on the origin and development of the cornerstone of American democracy, the U.S. Constitution, including both the origins of the document as well as its continued evolution and development in the modern

SPEAKERS: Robert Mathis, former attorney and history teacher

AUDIENCE: 9,500 total views, shared by 10 other European embassies

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Global Business Briefing with the Ambassador of Mexico

April 22

A discussion organized in partnership with the U.S.–Mexico Foundation that featured perspectives on the Mexican response to COVID-19, as well as COVID-19's impacts on investments in Mexico and U.S.–Mexico relations.

SPEAKERS: Her Excellency Martha Bárcena, Ambassador of Mexico to the U.S.
Emilio Cadena, President and CEO of Grupo Prodensa and Head of the U.S.–Mexico Foundation
Moderated by The Honorable Laurie Fulton, Chair of Global Engagement Committee, Meridian Board of Trustees

AUDIENCE: 105 private-sector leaders



Insights@Meridian with Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun

April 23

An off-the-record briefing with Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun to discuss his perspective on how COVID-19 is shaping U.S. foreign policy and how the United States is balancing its coordination on pandemic response with the pursuit of its long-term geostrategic interests, relationships with allies and adversaries, and economic goals.

SPEAKERS: Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun
Ambassador Stephen J. Akard, Director of the Office of Foreign Missions
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 118 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector, 261 total views



History of Disinformation

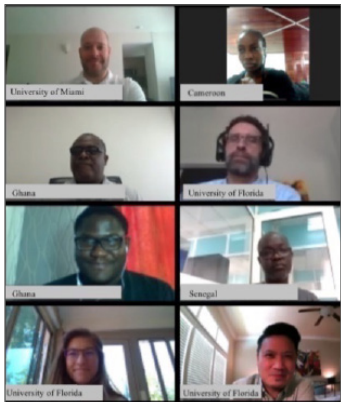
April 24

A discussion organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Paris, focused on the history of disinformation tactics used during the Cold War and how those tactics have changed in the post-9/11 era. Pressing contemporary questions were also addressed, such as how effective disinformation campaigns are affecting public opinion and policies, and how new media platforms contribute to or help counter disinformation.

SPEAKERS: Vangala Ram, former U.S. diplomat and current professor at the National Intelligence University

AUDIENCE: Peak of 428 live viewers, 26,000 total viewers across Europe

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



IVLP Virtual Meetings

April 24 – Present

As the COVID-19 crisis began to close offices and interrupt travel in mid-March, the Office of International Visitors (OIV) at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) ended all IVLP projects that were in the country on March 12 and took immediate steps to repatriate participants. For the eight Meridian-implemented IVLP projects that were curtailed, we assisted in getting program participants safely home before international air travel restrictions went into place. Once the dust settled, we turned to how best we could support and engage the IVLP participants whose programs had been interrupted. Working closely with our partners at the Office of International Visitors, Meridian developed a plan to deliver virtual IVLP meetings, in some cases across multiple time zones, to connect participants with some of the professional resources around the United States they could not meet in person while on the exchange. As the first virtual IVLP meetings held during this period, these sessions represent our commitment to innovate in the face of challenges, while continuing to promote international person-to-person exchange.

Recent virtual IVLP meetings:

- Multi-Regional Project – Not Too Young to Run – Engaging Youth in the Political Process**
 April 24: Eleven program participants from 10 countries met virtually with a 30-year-old member of the Florida House of Representatives, Alex Andrade, who participated in this project with the help of the Gulf Coast Citizen Diplomacy Council in Pensacola, Florida
 April 28: Nine program participants met virtually with the Political Director at New Hampshire Youth Movement in Manchester, NH, who participated with the help of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire.
- On Demand/Regional Project/Africa - Combating Infectious Diseases**
 May 7: Eight program participants from 5 countries in Western Africa met with research scientists from the Center for Disease Control's Southeastern Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases at the University of Florida and the University of Miami. The meeting was arranged with help from GlobalJax in Jacksonville, Florida.
 June 15: Eight program participants met with faculty from the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. The meeting was arranged with help from the New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council
- Single Country Project/Kazakhstan – Political Analysis: Its Role in Policy Formation and Public Discourse**
 June 10: Three program participants met virtually with Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania. The meeting was arranged with help from Citizen Diplomacy International of Philadelphia.



CBM Staff Exchanges

April 14 – Present

Meridian has run an in-person IVLP Staff Exchange with the CBM (Community Based Member of Global Ties U.S.) network for several years. In the face of COVID-19 travel restrictions, Meridian turned this in-person exchange into virtual convenings. These sessions bring CBM representatives together with Meridian staff to discuss programming best practices and share updates on operations, resources and processes. This virtual platform has allowed us to expand participation to more CBMs and remain engaged and supportive of the IVLP network. Since April 14, Meridian has held 15 virtual staff exchanges with CBMs across the country.

CBMs engaged:

GlobalJax
 Global Ties Albuquerque
 The International Center, Indianapolis
 Michigan Council for Citizen Diplomacy
 New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council

World Affairs Council of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
 Global Ties Arkansas
 World Affairs Council of Seattle
 WorldChicago

Vermont Council on World Affairs
 World Affairs Council St. Louis
 Colleagues International
 World Affairs Council of Maine
 Santa Fe Council on International Relations



Understanding Washington: A Deep Dive into Federalism with Akram Elias

April 29

Meridian's first virtual federalism briefing, which provided an overview of the inner workings of the U.S. government system, including the Constitutional decentralization of federal and state levels of government and the evolving role of the branches. This intimate program allowed for newly arrived diplomats to Washington, D.C., to immerse themselves in the complex U.S. federal government structure as quickly as possible, along with an opportunity for them to connect with their counterparts from other countries.

SPEAKERS: Akram Elias, President of Capital Communications Group, Inc.

AUDIENCE: Nine diplomats from countries across the globe, including Afghanistan, Honduras, Ghana, Ireland, Nigeria, Latvia, Oman and the European Union



The 2020 Election: National Decisions and Unconventional Times

April 29

A discussion organized in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Embassy in Paris that featured an overview of the 2020 national elections and several factors critical to the U.S. Presidential and Congressional elections. The discussion covered conventional analyses of elections and how 2020 could be different.

SPEAKERS: Steven Billet, Legislative Affairs Program Director at the George Washington University

AUDIENCE: 22 participants in the Central and Eastern Europe Journalist Fellowship Program (CEEJ), a program of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Paris



NATO and North Macedonia

April 30

A presentation and discussion organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Skopje and the American Corner in Tetovo, focused on NATO and its newest member, North Macedonia. The discussion ranged from NATO's history, its processes and procedures, as well as its role in the world moving forward.

SPEAKERS: Larry Chalmer, Professor Emeritus of the U.S. National Defense University

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Insights@Meridian with Ron Klain, former Chief of Staff for Vice Presidents Joe Biden and Al Gore

May 1

A discussion on the steps that the U.S. and international community are taking to manage the pandemic, with a focus on lessons learned from Klain's time at the White House. Klain, who served as White House Ebola Response Coordinator (2014–15), discussed approaches for future cooperation on global health and national security, as well as the potential impacts of the pandemic on the upcoming presidential election.

SPEAKERS: Ron Klain, former Chief of Staff for Vice Presidents Joe Biden and Al Gore and White House Ebola Response Coordinator (2014–15)

*Moderated by Mary Louise Kelly, host of NPR's *All Things Considered**

AUDIENCE: 93 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)
[The Well News Coverage](#)



U.S. Elections: Campaigning Amid the Pandemic

May 5

A discussion with staff and students of Southern Denmark University – organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen – focused on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on campaigning for the upcoming U.S. elections in a program organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen. This presentation included discussion on effects on local, state and national campaigns as well as election logistics.

SPEAKERS: Brian Brox, Associate Professor of Political Science at Tulane University

AUDIENCE: 26,000 total views

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Hip-Hop Diplomacy: Next Level Live!

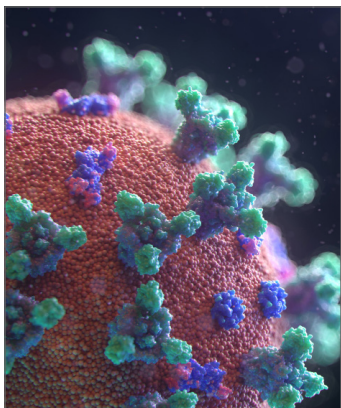
May 7

Next Level Live! – a four-part virtual series and extension of the Next Level global hip-hop diplomacy exchange program organized in partnership with and with support from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – featured discussions on the power of hip-hop to connect people around the world with exclusive performances from Next Level artists.

SPEAKERS: Next Level Director, Junious Brickhouse
Next Level Founding Director Mark Katz
Next Level alumni MC Toni Blackman and beatmaker DiViNCi

AUDIENCE: 112 attendees, including 12 from outside the U.S.

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Insights@Meridian Pulse Check: How International Businesses are Reacting to COVID-19

May 8

An exploration of how businesses are responding to the multitude of government policies and consumer trends related to the pandemic. The conversation addressed supply chains, employment and worker health.

SPEAKERS: Leila Afas, Director of International Public Policy at Toyota Motors North America
Tiffany Atwell, Global Government & Industry Affairs Leader at Corteva Agriscience
Fred Humphries, Corporate Vice President of U.S. Government Affairs at Microsoft
Mark Isakowitz, Vice President of U.S. Government Affairs and Public Policy at Google
Moderated by Brad Knox, Senior Vice President & Counsel of Federal Relations for Aflac, and Meridian Trustee

AUDIENCE: 61 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector



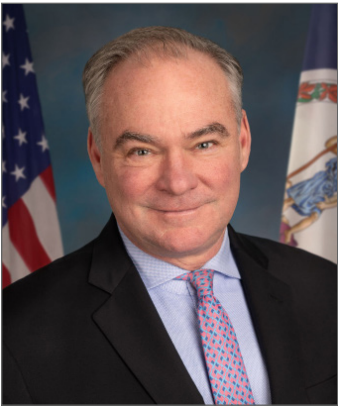
Global Business Briefing with Ambassador Philippe Étienne of France and FedEx CEO Fred Smith

May 11

Perspectives on the French response to COVID-19, in discussion with Mr. Fred Smith and Mr. Rajesh Subramaniam of FedEx who offered private sector perspectives.

SPEAKERS: His Excellency Philippe Étienne, Ambassador of France to the United States
Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx
Rajesh Subramaniam, President and COO of FedEx

AUDIENCE: 92 private-sector leaders



Insights@Meridian with Senator Tim Kaine

May 12

A discussion on ongoing foreign policy issues and how they have been affected by COVID-19. The conversation covered the pandemic's effect on U.S. immigration and alliance participation, as well as the importance of balancing foreign policymaking power between the legislative and executive branches.

SPEAKERS: Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Moderated by Julie Pace, Washington Bureau Chief, Associated Press

AUDIENCE: 92 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)
[Reuters Coverage](#)



Journalists Facing the COVID-19

May 12

A discussion organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia to celebrate Press Freedom Day. The conversation focused on journalists' safety during the pandemic, the future of the media beyond COVID-19 and combating disinformation amid a global health crisis.

SPEAKERS: Judith Matloff, American writer, journalism professor and media safety advocate

AUDIENCE: 1,043 views



American Journalism: Powering Self Governance

May 13

A presentation organized in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Embassy in Paris on the role of and protections for journalists within the U.S. constitution and as a function of democracy. The discussion covered free speech, journalistic ethics and accountability, and challenges for journalism in a changing field.

SPEAKERS: Charles Self of 227 International, LLC, and the University of Oklahoma

AUDIENCE: 25 participants in the Central and Eastern Europe Journalist Fellowship Program (CEEJ), a program of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Embassy in Paris



Dance Diplomacy: Global Arts Perspectives on COVID-19

May 14

A high-level virtual program of Artistic Directors of major ballet companies from across the globe discussing how to best lead dance and performing arts organizations through the COVID-19 crisis. The program included performances by dancers of Alvin Ailey II, Hong Kong Ballet and American Ballet Theatre as well as the internationally acclaimed choreographer Jessica Lang.

SPEAKERS: Kevin McKenzie, Artistic Director, American Ballet Theatre
Julie Kent, Artistic Director, The Washington Ballet
Ted Brandsen, Director, Dutch National Ballet
Moderated by Septime Webre, Artistic Director, Hong Kong Ballet

AUDIENCE: Approximately 370 attendees

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



How to Lose the Information War

May 14

A presentation organized in partnership with The Wilson Center focused on the current climate of dis- and misinformation, covering how dis- and misinformation is spread, why actors spread it, and what we can do to combat this challenge.

SPEAKERS: Nina Jankowicz of The Wilson Center

AUDIENCE: 36 attendees

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Insights@Meridian with Antony Blinken

May 19

A discussion with Antony Blinken, a leading voice on international affairs and foreign policy advisor to Vice President Joe Biden's presidential campaign, on a range of global issues and how they might be handled under a Biden Administration. The conversation also examined the U.S. COVID-19 response and how it has impacted the U.S. role on the international stage.

SPEAKERS: Antony Blinken, Foreign Policy Advisor at Biden For President and former Deputy Secretary of State
Moderated by Margaret Brennan, Senior Foreign Affairs Correspondent at CBS News

AUDIENCE: 190 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#) [CBS News Coverage](#)



Global Business Briefing with Assistant Secretaries Valerie Boyd and Sam Kaplan of the Department of Homeland Security

May 21

Exclusive perspectives on cyber policy, security, resiliency and the international scope of work for the Department of Homeland Security amid COVID-19.

SPEAKERS: Assistant Secretary Valerie Boyd, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Assistant Secretary Sam Kaplan, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

AUDIENCE: 72 private-sector leaders



Europe and China in the times of COVID-19

May 21

A presentation organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and the U.S. Consulate in Barcelona. Professor Philippe LeCorre joined the Barcelona Institute of International Studies to discuss the complex relationship between EU nations and an increasingly ambitious China. The discussion touched on how COVID-19 has further complicated relations between these nations.

SPEAKERS: Professor Philippe LeCorre, Fellow at the Belfer Center and Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Mossavar-Rahmani Center on Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School



Next Level Live!

May 21

The second of a four-part virtual dialogue and performance series with Next Level Director Junious Brickhouse and Next Level Founding Director & Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mark Katz and performances by Next Level alumni dancer Ryan "Future" Webb and DJ Skeme Richards.

SPEAKERS: Next Level Director, Junious Brickhouse
Next Level Founding Director Mark Katz
Next Level alumni dancer Ryan "Future" Webb and DJ Skeme Richards

AUDIENCE: 86 attendees

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Producing a Regional Show

May 27

A program produced in partnership the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy in Paris and GlobalTies Detroit, featuring Sandra Svoboda of Great Lakes Now, a regional public TV program, who spoke about the start up and operations of this regional program that covers issues relating to the entire Great Lakes region, and current and future challenges.

SPEAKERS: Sandra Svoboda, Program Director, Great Lakes Now at Detroit Public Television

AUDIENCE: 19 participants in the Central and Eastern Europe Journalist Fellowship Program (CEEJ), a program of the U.S. Department of State and U.S Embassy in Paris



How to Combat Disinformation During the Pandemic Using Data Visualization

May 28

In cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Skopje, Dr. Joel Selanikio joined an audience from North Macedonia to discuss data sources, data quality, data reporting and the power of misinformation and more in coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPEAKERS: Dr. Joel Selanikio, Attending Pediatrician and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Georgetown University Hospital

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Global Business Briefing with Ambassador Daniel Mulhull of Ireland

May 29

A conversation with Ambassador Mulhull on the future of U.S.–Ireland economic relations post COVID-19 along with the private sector response by Frank Bisignano, President and CEO of Fiserv.

SPEAKERS: His Excellency Daniel Mulhull, Ambassador of Ireland to the U.S.
Frank Bisignano, President and CEO of Fiserv

AUDIENCE: 55 private-sector leaders



Virtual American Studies: Literature

May 29

In a presentation organized in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, author Cristina Lee joined Turkish university students to discuss her work, weaving in themes of the importance of diversity in a cross section of American Studies issues - literature, culture, mobility, and freedom of expression.

SPEAKERS: Cristina Lee, Author and Head of the Ambassador Program at Hostwriter, an organization that helps journalists to easily collaborate across borders



Challenges and Opportunities for South Asian Economies in the Time of COVID-19

June 2

Dr. Irfan Nooruddin joined the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to discuss the efforts of governments across South Asia to address the COVID-19 crisis, and the potential positive and negative outcomes that may result from these actions.

SPEAKERS: Dr. Irfan Nooruddin, Professor of Indian Politics at Georgetown University and Director of Georgetown University's India Initiative



Global Business Briefing with the Ambassadors of the Philippines and Vietnam to the U.S.

June 3

A discussion on the ASEAN response to COVID-19 economic recovery along with Vietnam's and the Philippines' response to the pandemic.

SPEAKERS: His Excellency Jose Manuel Romualdez, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the U.S.
His Excellency Ha Kim Ngoc, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

AUDIENCE: 65 private-sector leaders



One Nation, Many Approaches: How Mayors are Tackling the Crisis

June 4

An *Insights@Meridian* panel discussion featuring mayors for a program focused on how cities are re-opening across the country. The bipartisan panel provided insight on the health and safety measures, as well as the economic factors that they are taking into consideration as they roll out local regulations and enforcement.

SPEAKERS: Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, City of Lincoln, Nebraska
Mayor David Holt, City of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mayor Paul Kanitra, Borough of Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 51 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Citizen Journalism

June 4

Journalism professor Vince Gonzalez joined the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw to share stories, emphasize the importance of participatory journalism/street reporting, and provide tips/techniques to future, budding citizen journalists.

SPEAKERS: Vince Gonzalez, Professor of Professional Practice, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, and Associate Director for Journalism Graduate Programs at the University of South Carolina at Annenberg



Next Level Live!

June 11

The third program of a four-part virtual dialogue and performance series with Next Level Director Junious Brickhouse and Next Level Founding Director & Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mark Katz and performances by Next Level alumni.

SPEAKERS: Next Level Director, Junious Brickhouse
Next Level Founding Director Mark Katz
Next Level alumni dancer Melanie Aguirre and Beatboxer Baba Israel

AUDIENCE: 56 attendees

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Impact of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic on U.S.–India Relations

June 16

In collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, Senior Research Fellow Tanvi Madan will discuss the immediate future of U.S.–India relations during and post the COVID-19 pandemic.

SPEAKERS: Tanvi Madan, Senior Fellow in the Project on International Order and Strategy in the Foreign Policy Program and Director of The India Project at the Brookings Institution



Global Business Briefing with Ambassador Jeffrey Gerrish, Deputy USTR

June 10

Ambassador Jeffrey Gerrish, Deputy United States Trade Representative, shared an update on global trade insights given the context of COVID-19, along with other perspectives on the priorities of the U.S. Trade Representative's office.

SPEAKERS: Ambassador Jeffrey Gerrish, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative

AUDIENCE: 57 private-sector leaders



The Power of Diplomacy: A Conversation with Ambassador Capricia Marshall

June 16

As a leading voice on international affairs and diplomatic engagements, Ambassador Marshall, discussed the importance of protocol and diplomacy in times of crisis, as well as ways in which protocol will need to adapt to a virtual world. Moderated by award-winning journalist and best-selling author Claire Shipman, the conversation also highlighted lessons outlined in Ambassador Marshall's new book, "[Protocol: The Power of Diplomacy and How to Make it Work for You.](#)"

SPEAKERS: Ambassador Capricia Marshall, former Chief of Protocol of the United States

AUDIENCE: 82 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector

MEDIA: [Washington Examiner Coverage](#) [YouTube Livestream](#)



Global Business Briefing with the Ambassador of Japan

June 23

A discussion with Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama on the future of U.S.-Japanese relations post COVID-19 and current public-private health care initiatives being undertaken.

SPEAKERS: His Excellency Shinsuke Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States
Mr. Kabir Nath, CEO and President of Otsuka

AUDIENCE: 63 private-sector leaders



A Conversation with USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa

June 23

A conversation with USAID Acting Administrator, John Barsa on the Agency's important role in leading the U.S. global humanitarian response to COVID-19 and its commitment of over \$1 billion allocated towards combating this unprecedented global crisis.

SPEAKERS: John Barsa, Acting Administrator at USAID
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

AUDIENCE: 64 members of the foreign diplomatic corps and private sector



Countering Disinformation During the Coronavirus Pandemic

June 23

Sree Sreenivasan will join the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi to discuss how disinformation has spread throughout India and the world during the coronavirus pandemic and what can be done to combat it.

SPEAKERS: Sree Sreenivasan, Marshall Loeb Visiting Professor of Digital Innovation at Stony Brook School of Journalism



Next Level Live!

June 25

The final program of a four-part virtual dialogue and performance series with Next Level Director Junious Brickhouse and Next Level Founding Director & Professor of Music at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mark Katz and performances by Next Level alumni.

SPEAKERS: Next Level Director, Junious Brickhouse
Next Level Founding Director Mark Katz
Next Level alumni MC Divinity Roxx and MC George "G" Yamazawa

AUDIENCE: 38 attendees

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Global Business Briefing with the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia

June 30

A discussion on the future of U.S.-Saudi relations post COVID-19 and current initiatives being undertaken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

SPEAKERS: Her Royal Highness Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States

AUDIENCE: 65 private-sector leaders



Global Business Briefing with Her Excellency Kirsten Hillman

July 7

Her Excellency Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States, will discuss USMCA and U.S.-Canada relations.

SPEAKERS: Her Excellency Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian



Global Business Briefing with Kate Kalutkiewicz

July 8

Ms. Kate Kalutkiewicz, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Trade Policy, will join Meridian for a virtual convening to discuss trade insights amid COVID-19.

SPEAKERS: Ms. Kate Kalutkiewicz, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Trade Policy
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian



Why Museums Matter?

July 9

The program explored the important role museums play in our communities and what the world stands to lose if museums did not exist in a post-COVID landscape and speakers discussed innovative approaches museums are undertaking around the world to engage audiences and sustain activities.

SPEAKERS: Kaywin Feldman, Director of the National Gallery of Art
Chong Siak Ching, CEO of the National Gallery of Singapore
Franklin Sirmans, Director of the Perez Art Museum Miami
Moderated by Heidi Zuckerman, Founder of HiZ.art and former CEO & Director of Aspen Art Museum

AUDIENCE: 135 attended



Meridian Center for Diplomatic Engagement Virtual Networking Reception on Trade

July 9

The evening program will feature remarks from Peter Haas, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and then serve as an interactive networking platform for attendees to exchange ideas and forge new connections.

SPEAKERS: Peter Haas, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs



Global Business Briefing with Congressman Earl Blumenauer and EU Member of Parliament Bernd Lange

July 15

Congressman Earl Blumenauer and EU Member of Parliament Bernd Lange will join Meridian for a virtual conversation to discuss the next steps in the EU-U.S. trade partnership.

SPEAKERS: Congressman Early Blumenauer (D-OR)
European Union Member of Parliament Bernd Lange
Moderated by Ambassador Stuart Holliday, President and CEO of Meridian

MEDIA: [YouTube Livestream](#)



Diplocraft – The Race for a Vaccine: How Industry Government, and International Organizations Are Innovating Survival

July 16

A discussion featuring U.S. government, pharmaceutical, and trade experts on how public and private sectors are working together to fast-track the development and distribution of possible vaccines and explore the investments that are required for deal with this global crisis



Insights@Meridian: Congresswoman Karen Bass and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison on Racial Injustice Movement and Police Reforms

July 17

As the fight against racial injustice remains at the forefront of the national dialogue, Meridian will host Representative Karen Bass (D-CA), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus alongside Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison to reflect on the civil unrest that has swept the nation in the past couple of months, and provide the context needed to understand the deep-rooted frustration behind the protests that erupted across the country. The conversation will explore the many police reform measures being proposed both at the national and local levels, and what this continued momentum means for the country.

SPEAKERS: Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA)
Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota



DIPLOMACY IN THE ZOOM ERA: MULTILATERAL, BILATERAL AND COMMERCIAL PERSPECTIVES

July 23

A wide-ranging conversation with Meridian's Rising Leaders Council members on how the global pandemic has transformed the ways governments work together and how the private sector engages governments.

SPEAKERS: Stephane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General
Gerry Diaz Bartolome, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Argentina
Hreinn Palsson, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Iceland
Kezia McKeague, Director, Latin America Practice, McLarty Associates
Moderated by RLC Co-Chair Ben Chang, Deputy VP for Communications & Spokesperson for Princeton University and a former U.S. diplomat.

AUDIENCE: 127 attendees with an average view time of 48 minutes
88 views on [YouTube Livestream](#) and an average watch time of six minutes



MERIDIAN HUDDLE WITH DEVASHISH DHAR, PUBLIC POLICY SPECIALIST AT THE OFFICE OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

July 23

Devashish Dhar, Public Policy Specialist at the Office of the Vice Chairman, Government of India will be joining Meridian for an exclusive dialogue to give policy updates from NITI Aayog, the policy think tank of the Government of India.

SPEAKERS: Devashish Dhar, Public Policy Specialist, NITI Aayog, Government of India



Insights@Meridian with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft

July 30

Ambassador Kelly Craft discussed how the U.S. is approaching its responsibilities for the upcoming UN General Assembly, where world leaders will be gathering virtually for the first time in its 75-year history. She also discussed the pressing foreign policy issues that are taking place at the UN as the COVID-19 crises continues to dominate the headlines and how the pandemic has created unprecedented challenges to UN peacekeeping missions around the world.

SPEAKERS: Kelly Craft, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations