



## 2015 GLOBAL DIASPORA WEEK LAUNCH EVENT

October 9, 2015

### Notes

**Session Title:** Science Diasporas and Their Role in International Engagement

**Speaker(s):** Dr. Frances Colón (Moderator), Dr. Claude Canizares, Dr. Miranda Teboh-Ewungkem, Dr. Alexander Wlodawer

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**Session Summary:** This session highlighted the contributions of science diasporas to engaging with peers in the United States as well as in their countries of origin through research, innovation and education. The session showcased the power of “whole-of-society” science diplomacy as an important mechanism to build knowledge-and innovation-based societies around the world and to spread scientific values such as meritocracy and transparency that support economic growth and democracy. The discussions highlighted how to build new partnerships, share experiences, and find new ways to tap into the potential of science diasporas to build partnerships between the U.S. and communities around the world.

#### Key Themes:

- Theme 1: Science diasporas speak a common language that transcends political boundaries and barriers.
- Theme 2: There is a need in the country of origin that we can help with.
- Theme 3: We have to work with the reality on the ground and not try to impose our western models. Being tuned into and sensitive to that reality is the power of the diaspora.

#### Notable Quotes/Soundbites (include attribution):

- *“Did you know that over 40% of MIT Professors are born outside of the US?”- Dr. Claude Canizares, MIT*
- *“If there’s a will, there’s always a way”- DR. Miranda Teboh-Ewungkem, Lehigh University*

#### New Partnerships or Commitments & Follow-up Action Items:

- Dr. Teboh-Ewungkem got invited by an audience member to participate in a webinar related to women in STEM.

#### Discussion Topics/Audience Questions:

- How do we make sure that we are not only preaching when we engage in developing countries, but also listen to the needs and opinions of the local communities?

- How can we make sure that we synchronize curricula, so that diaspora members can serve internationally?