

# PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY DELEGATION

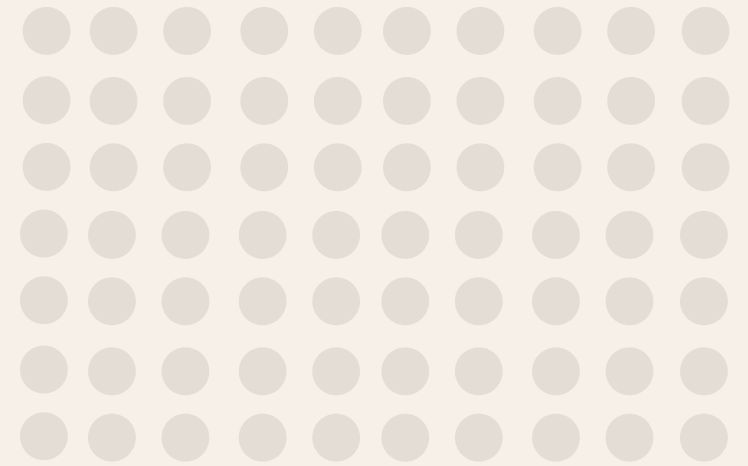


**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

OCTOBER  
1-8 | **2016**

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# PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY DELEGATION



TEHRAN, IRAN  
OCTOBER 1 - 8

16

The week of October 1st, 2016, the Aspen Institute will lead a Partnership Opportunity Delegation (POD) to Iran, where participants will engage in meetings and conversations around water innovation and technology. Participants will also get a chance to meet with community leaders and gain a deep understanding of realities, challenges, and priorities in Iran.



The successful conclusion of the nuclear agreement with Iran, reached in July 2015, marks a critical turning point in relations for the United States, Europe and Iran, as well as a huge success for diplomacy. Meaningful engagement on non-nuclear issues, ones that top Iran's priorities' list in particular, can help underwrite the success of this historic agreement with Iran.

# THE BASICS



## WHO

**Business Executives**

**Impact Investors**

**Social Entrepreneurs**  
*with relevant & scalable business models*



## WHAT

**Meet** with political, community and cultural leaders to gain a deeper understanding of the country's priorities.

**Explore** and assess solutions to some of the pressing challenges, and identify ways to collaborate and partner.



## WHERE

**Tehran**

**Isfahan**



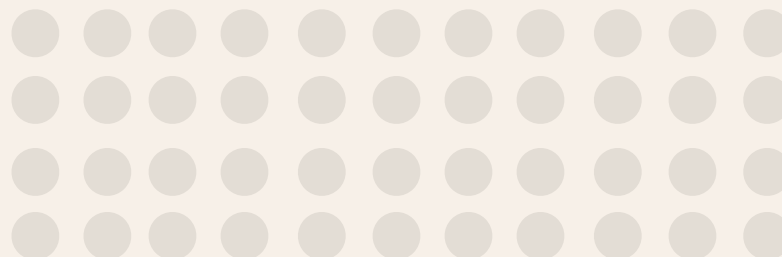
## TECH & WATER SYMPOSIUM

POD delegates with a focus on technology will participate in a specific symposium and exchange with Iranian tech entrepreneurs in Tehran and Isfahan, sharing experiences, ideas of common interests; explore and discuss technologies and solutions to address environmental issues, such as water shortage, soil erosion and pollution. etc

## PRICING

The cost of participation is \$10,000 per delegate. This price covers: hotels, meals, ground transportation, domestic flights & translators.

Subsidized participation based on scholarship availability.





# WATER INNOVATION IN IRAN

By 2050, fresh water availability in the Middle East and North Africa regions is expected to drop 50% in areas already considered the most arid in the world. Throughout the Middle East regions, economic and population growth will continually increase the demand for water and the energy needed to procure it. Iran has the 5<sup>th</sup> largest area of irrigated land used for agriculture, but its irrigation productivity is less than 37%. 90% of Iran's water consumption comes from irrigation but its agricultural output is only 25% of GDP.

This presents a significant strain on Iran's economy and investment in modernizing Iranian water supply management system, specifically for irrigation is a top priority. For 2015-2016, the Iranian government seeks to increase their budget by 29% for the agriculture sector with \$520 million specially allocated to modernizing Iran's irrigation system. In addition, Iran is also exploring desalination solutions that present enormous opportunities for companies specializing in water treatment. As water, particularly for irrigation becomes harder and more expensive to procure, actors from all sectors are seeking to find innovative solutions to manage risks.

The need for water innovation presents a unique opportunity for collaboration between the U.S., Iran and the region. Iran Water Innovation POD will serve as a platform to convene leading experts from the private sector, academia and civil society in the U.S., Iran and the region to explore opportunities to invest in water innovation strategies critical for Iran. This group will discuss and explore:

- Existing and new technologies for irrigation, purification, distribution and conservation to increase water access
- Opportunities to educate and train partners on effective irrigation methods
- Investment opportunities in Iran for the private sector in sectors of desalination and irrigation

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN IRAN



In 2009, Iranian government formulated a 15-year comprehensive national plan for science and technology focused on higher education and strengthening the links between academia and industry in order to promote a knowledge based economy. By 2030, Iran's research and development aims to increase spending by 4% of GDP from 0.59% of 2006 and increasing its spending on education to over 7% of GDP from the 2007 level of 5.49%, especially in areas of science and technology. It has seen high growth especially in engineering degrees, tertiary education, and in science and technology parks, incubators, and funding. Science and technology is also emerging as a critical sector for women's empowerment in the country, with over 70% of science and engineering students being women. In 2014, Iran ranked among the top 20 countries in the world in number of scientific publications.



The government recently laid out an agenda for collaborating with international communities to improve and facilitate its business environment, promote foreign investment, and participate in global technological and market-driven cooperation. Iran seeks to increase collaboration with developed and developing countries in science and technology. The Vice President of Science and Innovation in Iran has also been spearheading several new initiatives within the country including the Innovation and Prosperity Fund that has handed out \$600 million in low-interest loans to 1650 technology startups and to other firms seeking to branch out in new directions.

# HISTORY



## PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY DELEGATIONS

8

NUMBER OF PARTNERSHIP  
OPPORTUNITY DELEGATIONS TO-DATE



PODs are focused and targeted delegation exchanges aimed at creating business, cultivating entrepreneurship and investment opportunities in communities often left without the benefits of business engagement. PODs result in direct investments, community development and lasting partnerships. By integrating investors, executives and social enterprises, PODs create a powerful engagement package and an effective experience.

Since November 2013, PODs have been activated in emerging markets across the world; each POD had a specific area of focus. Efforts included angel and early investments in Colombia, water distribution and alternative energy in Myanmar, agri-tech early tech and alternative energy in Tanzania, and alternative energy, waste management, early tech and business development in Cuba.

The October POD in Iran will be the first of its kind, and a building block for future engagement.





# PARTICIPANTS

## A FEW PAST & CURRENT PODS PARTICIPANTS

**Mara Abrams**, Social Innovator and Entrepreneur; former Manger of Global Partnerships, Nike Foundation

**Karl Alomar**, COO, Digital Ocean

**Marcelino J. Alvarez**, CEO, Uncorked Studios

**Alex Becker**, VP, Real Estate Consultant of Colorado

**John Burchett**, Senior Director Public Policy, Google

**Vanessa Camones**, CEO & Founder, TheMix Agency

**Peter Corne**, Managing Partner, Asia Practice Group, Dorsey and Whitney LLP

**Michael Cox**, Managing Director, Impact Hub

**Camilo Ferro**, Partner, Renew Packaging and Toss Group

**Kathleen Flaherty**, K21 Communications

**Nathan Fletcher**, Qualcomm

**Joey Gonzales**, CEO, Barry's Boot Camp

**John Hamilton**, CEO and Managing Partner, The Onyx Company

**Mark Hanis**, Social Entrepreneur

**Rehan Hasan**, Attorney, Strategic Advisor and Entrepreneur

**Karen Hennessy**, Director, Salesforce.com

**Angelina Ho**, Partner & VP, Agility.IO

**Dora Hsu**, CPO, SmartThings

**Peter Kasprowicz**, Kingo

**Jonathan Keidan**, Co Founder & President, InsideHook

**Astri Kimball**, Policy Counsel & Internet Regulation, Google

**Cynthia Koenig**, Founder, Wello Water

**Eric Leenson**, Founder and President, Sol 2 Economics

**Dafna Lifshitz**, CEO, Appleseeds

**Olga Malyuk**, International Fashion Model

**Julie McDermott**, Angel Investor, LP, Fixed Income Trader

**Will McDonough**, Investor and Entrepreneur

**Allison Mooney**, Head of Trends & Insights, Google Marketing; Editor-in-Chief, Think with Google

**Olivia Nava**, Co-Founder and CEO, Juabar

**Chok Ooi**, CEO, Agility IO

**Nick Parish**, President, Americas, Contagious

**Mark Quinn-Newall**, Investor

**Jonathan Rollo**, Owner, Greenleaf Gourmet Chopshop

**Linda Rotunno**, CEO, American Council of Young Political Leaders

**Erin Schrode**, Green Girl | Co-Founder, Turning Green

**Mouhsine Serrar**, Founder and CEO, Prakti

**Paul Sohn**, Founding Partner & CIO, Mont Alto Capital

**Courtney Spence**, CEO, CSpence Group; Founder, Students of the World

**Eric Stonecipher**, Lawyer

**Kai Tao**, Investor

**Dave Taylor**, former CEO, Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp

**Alexandra Visher**, Strategic Philanthropy Consultant



## ASPEN INSTITUTE GLOBAL ALLIANCES PROGRAM

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