

DAY 1: TOP TEN LIST OF LESSONS LEARNED

Top ten lessons learned on day 1 of the digital leadership colloquium...

10. Learned that I need to be a much more interesting person OR at the very least, learn to be a better story teller in order to become a leader in the digital age.
 - a. Those who spoke about the three case studies yesterday were excellent story tellers, and I believe you'll agree that this is an important characteristic of leadership. Each of you is engaging, passionate, and clear in conveying your experiences and vision. This is a model for how to communicate information to citizens in general as well as to potential leaders.
9. Other characteristics of a leader are that they must also know how to build social/intellectual capital among other leaders and citizens (requires trust), know the trends of how information is currently consumed (requires expertise), know the trends of how information will be consumed (requires vision), know how to lessen the conflict inherent in any network (requires consensus-building skills), know how to support change (requires resources), know how to be responsive to the needs and leverage the assistance of other leaders (requires connectedness and the ability to cross-borders), and know the limits of their leadership and when to exit the stage (requires flexibility and perspective from the outside).
8. Challenges to digital leadership that vary across countries and which must be overcome, or at the very least confronted, including cultural receptivity to new technologies, regulatory environments for existing as well as new technologies, and the knowledge and political hierarchies that exist within countries.
7. The Quad is not a perfect (and I think here Dr. Wilson will agree here) but useful conceptual tool to map out socio-political interrelationships of the digital leadership necessary for a global information revolution. What remains unclear is how it can be applied, how flexible it is as a model without losing its characteristic four sector quality, and what its impact will be.

6. The Quad, in theory, is distinct from the Quad in practice, as in the case of S. Africa where all the features of the concept seems to exist, but the voice of certain sectors is too often ignored. This distinction and ways to remedy it cannot be forgotten if the Quad is concretely applied to further the information revolution.
5. Digital leaders or information champions can be from any sector of the Quad, including entrepreneurs in the case of Washington DC, or the government in the case of India, but also those in the NGO and R&D sectors.
4. Common links and relationships across sectors of the Quad must be forged with clear roles and responsibilities assigned. This may require a shift away from the recent rhetoric of public-private partnerships.
3. The public/citizens need to be more involved in the decision-making process of leaders in order to provide transparency to that process, to cultivate future leaders, and to help citizens understand the significant impact of communication using these technologies on their personal and political lives. A concise and common understanding of ICTs would also be useful.
2. The future and direction of the information revolution is uncertain and that this uncertainty is not lessened by the fact that the traditional understanding of leadership may likely change for a number of reasons, one of which is the rise of peering.
1. Communication—the exchange of thoughts, messages, and information—is central to these technologies and to the information revolution. However, what still remains are a series of normative questions, a few of which include: for what should the information be used? Should leadership have a role in determining this? If so, what should be its role? Will it vary across countries or is there a certain set of underlying values that should guide these technologies and the global information revolution as a whole?