

**GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT (GES) 2016**  
**SILICON VALLEY**

On November 18, President Obama announced that the seventh annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) will take place in Silicon Valley June 22 – 24, 2016. He will lead the U.S. delegation to join 1,000+ attendees, including entrepreneurs, investors, educators, government officials, and business leaders who represent the full measure of entrepreneurial talent from diverse backgrounds across our nation and the world.

GES 2016 aims to showcase inspiring entrepreneurs and investors from around the world creating new opportunities for investment, partnership, and collaboration; connect American entrepreneurs and investors with international counterparts to form lasting relationships; and highlight entrepreneurship as means to address some of the most intractable global challenges. Hosting GES in Silicon Valley will highlight America's entrepreneurial spirit and allow American investors and entrepreneurs to see the talent, solutions, and opportunities that exist globally.

The three-day summit will include a wide range of workshops, panels, pitch competitions, mentoring, and networking sessions aimed to give participants tailored opportunities to gain skill and relationships that will help their ventures grow. Within the Summit there will also be demonstration areas, experiential learning exhibitions, and opportunities to connect with industry experts.

GES participants will be truly global, with at least one entrepreneur from every country and equal representation from every region of the world. Entrepreneurs will be chosen through a rigorous application process that ensures diverse representation of geographies, industries, business size, and scalability. Investors and representatives from organizations that support entrepreneurs will be hand-picked to catalyze investment, networking, mentoring, and hands-on activities. There will be a special emphasis on empowering youth and women entrepreneurs and the role they play in making communities more prosperous and secure through enterprise.

President Obama has called on the private sector, foundations, investors, incubators, universities, and entrepreneurs to work with the U.S. government to advance inclusive entrepreneurship in all of our countries and increase the possibilities for entrepreneurs who will join us at the 2016 Summit and beyond. To this end, many companies and organizations have offered to contribute to GES through sponsorship, in-kind learning opportunities, pre, post, and side events, as well as making longstanding, announceable commitments.

**Background**

The seed of Global Entrepreneurship Summit was planted in President Obama's 2009 speech in Cairo titled "A New Beginning". He announced that the United States would host a summit on entrepreneurship to identify ways to deepen ties between business leaders, foundations, universities, and entrepreneurs in the United States and Muslim communities around the world. President Obama hosted the first Summit in Washington, D.C. in 2010 and elevated innovation and entrepreneurship in the U.S. engagement agenda to drive economic growth and solve global challenges. GES has expanded to a global event, subsequently hosted by the governments of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Morocco, and Kenya. An estimated 16,000 participants from all corners of the world have attended the six Global Entrepreneurship Summits.