Report of the Proceedings of the Global Solutions Summit
"The Future of Food – Impact of Technology and Innovation"
December 16–17, 2026

DRAFT# 3.0 (1/18/26)

For more than a decade, the Global Solutions Institute (GSI) has organized Global Solutions Summits, roundtables, briefings, and other convenings involving business, academic, government, NGO, and other thought leaders to develop a system to accelerate the deployment of technologies and other solutions to address global problems.

The consensus of these discussions—and the premise of GSI—is that the world does not have an **innovation problem**; it has a **deployment opportunity**. Proven technologies and other solutions already exist across food, water, energy, healthcare, the environment, and many other sectors. The opportunity is to deploy them faster and at scale.

GSI's work is different because it focuses on **execution**—deploying solutions that already work, using existing institutions and organizations that already have reach. This Global Solutions Summit focused on execution:

- narrowing the base of proven, ready-now solutions,
- utilizing a Global Deployment System to establish replication, and
- aligning that work with the GSI Fulbright Initiative–based model so domestic success can scale globally.

The ultimate success of the Summit will be measured by the technologies and other solutions deployed, the systems strengthened, and the impact replicated.

GSI's origins and credibility are rooted in the leadership of the former Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Club de Madrid, the P80 initiative initiated by King Charles, and the enduring vision of Senator Fulbright. These origins confer on GSI a unique moral and institutional authority.

Overview of the Summit

The **Global Solutions Summit – Future of Food: Impact of Technology and Innovation** was hosted at the Institute for Innovative & Integrative Research and was developed by the Global Solutions Institute (www.globalsinstitute.orgg), the Fulbright Association, The George Washington University School of Business, the University of Arkansas Fulbright College and other key partners. The Summit convened visionary leaders from academia, industry, government, and the international community to accelerate technology deployment and shape the future of food systems worldwide.

Over two days, participants examined cutting-edge advances across the entire seed-to-table continuum—from AI-enabled agriculture and sustainable supply chains to cell-based proteins, water innovation, bioscience solutions and next-generation commercialization pathways.

Through high-impact panels, focused presentations, and interactive sessions, delegates engaged directly with Fulbright scholars, CEOs, policymakers, researchers, investors, and technology pioneers who are designing solutions to feed a growing world amid climate disruption and shifting global demands.

The topic - **"The Future of Food – The Impact of Technology and Innovation"**-is critical. Many companies from around the world participated, showcasing innovative technologies and other solutions that make the production, storage, and transportation of food from field to table more abundant, safer, and more efficient.

As a key deliverable from the Summit, delegates committed to helping ensure that others learn about these technologies and solutions and join in accelerating their deployment. No matter how great a technology or solution is, if it does not get deployed, it cannot help people.

The GSI Fulbright Initiative

A major focus of the Summit was the **Global Solutions Institute Fulbright Initiative** (www.globalsinstitute.org/fulbright).

Over 80 years, the United States has invested multibillions of dollars in the Fulbright Scholar Program. More than 400,000 Fulbright Scholar alumni around the world have never been systematically engaged or given the opportunity in an organized manner to "give back" by helping deploy problem-solving solutions globally. The GSI Fulbright Initiative is now making this possible.

Key features:
- GSI Fulbright Committees in **165 countries** will be linked through a state-of-the-art IT/AI system.
- These committees will function as part of a **Global Deployment System**, helping companies, NGOs, and others with problem-solving technologies reach as many people and markets as quickly as possible.
- The Initiative provides a pathway for the USA to realize a measurable **return on investment** on its Fulbright investment by accelerating deployment and generating sales revenues for companies with proven solutions.

The Summit also examined how:
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** into the USA can be increased by using GSI "landing pads" as "launching pads" into other countries through the Fulbright network.
- New markets can be created for food produced by U.S. farmers and companies.

Delegates heard that many government ministers around the world are Fulbright alumni; during Congressional delegations, it is estimated that about 40% of ministers met have been Fulbright Scholar alumni.

Role of I3R and Institutional Partners

The Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research (I3R) at the University of Arkansas is a new kind of public research institute with a dual mandate:
1. advance research excellence, and
2. impact economic development.

I3R:
- Assists with the development and discovery of new technologies and solutions.
- Is equally committed to **deployment** of innovations through partnerships with industry, community, and philanthropic organizations.
- Works with foreign companies seeking to invest in the United States and establish facilities that hire American workers to manufacture and deploy their solutions.

Key institutional partners in the GSI Fulbright Initiative include:
- Fulbright Association
- University of Arkansas Fulbright College
- George Washington University School of Business
- Club de Madrid

Major Outcomes and Deliverables

While many important presentations and discussions took place, several key accomplishments and deliverables emerged:

1. **Sustainability Consortium Partnership**
    - Dr. **Christy Slay**, CEO of the Sustainability Consortium (SC) (www.sustainabilityconsortium.org), described SC's work in creating sustainability indexes to measure sustainability across many sectors, including agriculture.
    - SC is now exploring additional services for its members, such as helping identify new technologies and solutions to make member companies and their suppliers more sustainable, productive, and efficient.
    - SC and GSI will now collaborate to:
        - identify solutions,
        - enlist SC member companies to test them, and
        - share results across the consortium (including sharing with suppliers to SC members), with deployment input from GSI Fulbright Committees.

2. **Strengthening the GSI Fulbright Initiative in 2026 (the 80th year of the Fulbright Program)** Collaboration among the Global Solutions Institute, the Fulbright

Association, George Washington University School of Business, and the University of Arkansas Fulbright College will produce many projects in 2026 to strengthen the GSI Fulbright Initiative and help celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Fulbright Program.

These efforts will:

- identify, organize, and mobilize select Fulbright alumni globally, and
- involve the GSI Fulbright Committees to accelerate the deployment of problem-solving technologies and other solutions that can drive substantial global economic growth.

3. **Planned 2026 GSI Fulbright Activities**

A. Additional Global Solutions Summits

- A future Summit is planned: **"The Future of Healthcare and Public Safety – The Impact of Technology and Innovation"** (anticipated in 2026).

B. "Fulbright Pilgrimage"

- Invitations will be extended to the **49 International Fulbright Commissions** (https://www.fulbrightprogram.org/fulbright-commissions/) and other Fulbright-related entities to visit the USA in 2026, including Washington, DC, and Arkansas (Home of Senator Fulbright and the Fulbright College).
- The gathering will:
    - explores ways to deepen involvement in the GSI Fulbright Initiative,
    - support formation of GSI Fulbright Committees in 165 countries, and
    - consider a Fulbright Ideas Exchange.

C. Re-launch of the Ambassadors Briefing Series

- Briefings will be held with ambassadors in Washington and Arkansas, in cooperation with Fulbright partners and universities. In the past over 30 countries have participated in the Briefing Series

D. Fulbright Regional Center Meetings

- Starting with Washington, DC at George Washington University School of Business, involving current Fulbright scholars from multiple Universities in the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Additional Regional Center meetings are planned such as with:
    - UC Irvine (California),
    - University of Georgia System (Georgia),

    - University of Arkansas System (Arkansas), and
    - FIU and University of Miami (Florida).
  - Fulbright Association Chapters will be key partners in each region.

E. Re-launch of the Fulbright Award for International Trade Development

- GSI and the Fulbright Association will revive this award to recognize corporate CEOs whose initiatives significantly expand international trade opportunities (such as past Award Winners such as the late Fred Smith of FedEx).
- Former Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Club de Madrid are expected to be involved.

F. Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FFSB) Advisory Council

- In cooperation with the U.S. Department of State, the establishment of an FFSB Alumni Advisory Council is anticipated, made up of past Board members from both parties.
- This Council will provide non-partisan advisory continuity for the Fulbright Program.
- The Secretariat would be housed at the Fulbright College, with support from GWU and others.

G. Capitol Hill Roundtable Forum

- A potential Roundtable Forum, in a Congressional hearing room on Capitol Hill, will further explore Summit remarks from:
    - Senator **John Boozman**, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.
    - Congressman **Rick Crawford**, Chair, House Intelligence Committee.
    - Congressman **French Hill**, Chair, House Financial Services Committee.
- They highlighted how the GSI Fulbright Initiative can help realize a direct economic return on the longstanding U.S. investment in the Fulbright Program.
- Transcripts of their remarks are included in this Report and video links in the Appendix.

4. **Expanded Role of NASDA in Technology Deployment**

- Former President of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), **Secretary Ward**, stated that NASDA can become much more active in deployment by sharing successful technology deployments from one state with all member states.

5. **Engagement of State Economic Development Offices**
    - State economic development offices can share technology deployment successes through organizations such as the National Governors Association and World Trade Centers.

6. **Examples of Problem-Solving Technologies and Opportunities** Some of the Academic experts from universities and corporate representatives discussed specific solutions and deployment opportunities including those related to:
    - Tyson Foods
    - JB Hunt Transportation
    - KETOS Water Testing
    - Simple Planet Cell Based Protein
    - CarnotFleet Cold Storage
    - Westrock Coffee
    - RAFT Saltwater Irrigation

    > Epic Glass Beverage Recycling
7. **NGO Roles in Deployment** NGOs described their deployment roles, including:
    - Winrock International
    - Peacework
    - Center for the Digital Transformation of Africa
    - American Catfish Farmers Association
    - Brightwater Center for the Study of Food (inspired by Ms. Alice Walton)

8. **Role of AI in Technology Deployment** Presentations from:
    - TAZA AI
    - Luminark
    - Piller Resilience
    - Noetic Partners covered how AI can support solution registries, risk assessment, and deployment logistics.

9. **Global "Landing Pads" and "Launching Pads"**
    - The GSI Fulbright Initiative can help technology companies such as **Simple Planet** and **Exoxemis** use GSI "Landing Pads" in the USA as "Launching Pads" into other countries through partnership, research, and deployment.

Day One Proceedings

A. Opening Session

Day One began with welcomes and opening remarks by:

- **Dr. Ranu Jung**, Associate Vice Chancellor and Founding Executive Director of I3R.
- **Mr. Mark W. Grobmyer, Esq.**, Chairman of the Global Solutions Institute.

B. Panel One – History and Mission of GSI: Accelerating Deployment of Technology and Other Problem-Solving Solutions

1. **Ms. Tammy Hettinger**, Executive Director, Fulbright Association (www.fulbright.org)
    - Summarized key accomplishments of Fulbright alumni over 79 years.
    - Noted there are over 400,000 Fulbright Scholar alumni in the U.S. and worldwide.
    - Expressed the Association's willingness to work with GSI and the U.S. Department of State to enhance outreach to alumni through U.S. embassies and Fulbright Commissions.
    - Signaled interest in collaborating with Fulbright College and GWU to organize Ambassador Briefings at GWU, Fulbright College, and the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.
    - Highlighted the many Fulbright Chapters across U.S. states and their potential role in GSI Fulbright Regional Centers and in working with Consuls General in major cities.

2. **Dean Brian Raines**, University of Arkansas Fulbright College
    - Provided background on Fulbright College and its connection to Senator Fulbright's legacy.
    - Described international programs and the College's openness to strengthened relationships with Fulbright alumni around the world.
    - Discussed creating a Secretariat for a Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board Alumni Advisory Council and interest in co-hosting a 2026 pilgrimage/conclave for Fulbright Commissions and others, to showcase Senator Fulbright's legacy in Arkansas and the Fayetteville area.

3. **The Honorable Bob Nash**, former White House Advisor and Under Secretary of Agriculture
    - Reflected on the connection between President Clinton and Senator Fulbright.
    - Based on his experience in the White House, the Rockefeller Foundation, South Shore Bank, and USDA, he emphasized the benefits of engaging

Fulbright alumni in technology deployment worldwide and in identifying foreign technologies suitable for deployment in the U.S.
- As a former state-level economic development official, he underscored the value of GSI's Technology Deployment Bridge "Landing Pad/Launching Pad" Initiative to attract FDI into the USA.

4. **Assistant Dean Joseph Miranda**, George Washington University School of Business
   - Described Senator Fulbright's connection with GWU and the university's initiative to involve GSI Fulbright Committees in countries where GWU School of Business (GWUSB) has academic partnerships.
   - This includes work on the proposed **Clearinghouse for the Digital Transformation of Africa Initiative**.
   - Outlined GWUSB's agreement for:
     - serving as a GSI Fulbright Regional Center in Washington, DC, to gather Fulbright Scholars and Fulbright Alumni in the Region for an annual meeting with GSI to discuss the GSI Fulbright Initiative.
     - engaging with other partners such as the World Bank Group and hosting the Ambassador Briefing Series.
   - Emphasized how these efforts can significantly benefit businesses seeking to deploy technologies.

5. **Mr. Mark Walsh**, CEO Ruxton Ventures, and Former Director US SBIR Program.
   - Shared his experience investing in young technology companies and the value he sees in utilizing the GSI Fulbright Initiative to help companies enter and test markets in 165 countries.
   - Discussed his work with the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program at the U.S. Small Business Administration, which has distributed hundreds of millions of dollars to companies to help commercialize solutions in areas such as agriculture and food sustainability including providing specific examples of SBIR supported technologies that needed more assistance in deployment.

C. Panel Two – New Proven Deployable Technologies for Food Production

Moderator: **Dr. Ranu Jung**, Vice Chancellor, I3R

1. **Ms. Heidi Solomon**, Vice President of Global Strategy, Tyson Foods and Tyson Ventures

- Presented Tyson as a great example of a company that:
  - seeks technologies to deploy,
  - actively deploys technologies, and
  - invests directly in technology companies and funds that support deployment.
- Shared specific examples of technologies that Tyson has deployed or expects to deploy in the near term.

2. **Dr. Brian Fugate**, Fulbright alumnus, Associate Dean, Walton College of Business, JB Hunt Department of Supply Chain Management
   - Shared his Fulbright experience and its impact on his professional development.
   - Discussed technologies that can improve food supply chains and logistics.
   - Expressed willingness to engage with GSI on problems in need of solutions related to supply chains, particularly in international contexts.

3. **Dr. Parker Cole**, Associate Director of Technology Commercialization, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Research and Extension
   - Described specific technologies he has helped commercialize to:
     - solve agricultural challenges,
     - make the food supply more abundant, healthier, and more profitable and productive.

Luncheon Program – GSI Fulbright Initiative and Governmental Impact

The luncheon began with remarks from:

A. Senator John Boozman

Senator John Boozman, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, stated:

"I would like to thank the Global Solutions Institute and the University of Arkansas Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research for hosting this important summit. Strengthening our food systems is critically important—especially for Arkansas, where agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Your focus on technology and innovation to shape the future of food is both timely and essential, here at home and around the world. Today, new tools—from artificial intelligence to advanced robotics—are transforming how we grow, process, and deliver food.

These advancements are increasing productivity, reducing waste, improving safety, and creating new economic opportunities for producers. I am proud to highlight Arkansas's leadership in this space, including the establishment—through federal support—of the Center for Scalable and Intelligent Automation in Poultry Processing. This center is studying how AI and robotics can be more widely used in poultry processing to reduce waste, detect pathogens, and improve consistency in product specifications, while mitigating threats that impact food safety. It is just one example of the many agricultural innovations taking place in the Natural State.

I also want to recognize the Global Solutions Institute Fulbright Initiative. For decades, the United States has invested in the Fulbright Program, producing more than 400,000 alumni worldwide—many of whom are leaders in government, education, and business. This initiative offers a new and meaningful way for Fulbright alumni to make a global impact. Through GSI Fulbright committees in 165 countries, and access to state-of-the-art information systems, this network will enable stronger connections and faster deployment of problem-solving technologies and solutions.

Food security is national security, and in the 21st century, technology and innovation are cornerstones of our efforts to feed our nation and the world. I am confident that by continuing to invest in innovation, we can ensure access to safe, reliable, and affordable food—now and in the years ahead. I am grateful for your contributions to this important work and for your continued support of the policies, infrastructure, and relationships vital to its success."

B. Congressman Rick Crawford

Congressman Rick Crawford, Member of the House Committee on Agriculture and Chair of the House Intelligence Committee, stated:

"I would like to thank the Institute for Integrative and Innovative Research at the University of Arkansas for hosting this gathering and for creating a space where industry leaders can come together to tackle one of the most pressing challenges of our generation: how to leverage technology and innovation to make our food systems healthier, more efficient, and more accessible. I am encouraged to know that many of the companies represented today are leaders in the technologies vital to achieving these goals. Our ability to produce safe, high-quality, and nutritious food—while also increasing efficiency—is not only a matter of food security, but of national security. We cannot afford to be complacent.

That is why I am especially pleased to see the Global Solutions Institute Fulbright Initiative highlighted during this summit. The United States has invested billions of dollars in the Fulbright Scholar Program, which has produced more than 400,000 scholars recognized worldwide for their excellence. Throughout my travels with colleagues in Congress, I have often met ministers and leaders who are proud Fulbright alumni— many of whom recognize and commend the important work being done right here at the University of Arkansas. Through this initiative, Fulbright alumni will have the opportunity to give back by contributing to problem-solving efforts with global impact. Across 165 countries, Fulbright committees will be equipped with state- of-the-art systems to support a global deployment network—sharing ideas and technologies developed by universities, companies, NGOs, and other problem-solving organizations. These efforts will allow solutions to reach more people, faster than ever before.

Additionally, landing pads in the United States will help track direct foreign investment and serve as launching points into other international markets. This summit is just the beginning. If we are to secure the future of our food systems, it is critical that the work continues long after this gathering concludes. Effective deployment and widespread accessibility must remain our focus. No matter how advanced a technology or solution may be, if it is not implemented and utilized effectively, it might as well not exist.

The challenges ahead are significant, but this work is essential to delivering real and lasting improvements for the people of Arkansas, the United States, and communities around the world."

Following these remarks, the luncheon panel discussion began.

C. Luncheon Panel – Governmental Impact on Deployment

The Panel Co-Chairs were Mr. Mark Grobmyer, Chairman of GSI and Mr. Mark Walsh, CEO of Ruxton Ventures

1. **Secretary Alex Beehler**
    - Drew on his service at the Pentagon in the Department of the Army and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

- Emphasized that **food security and sustainability are critical military concerns**.
- Described the military's role as a deployer of non-lethal technologies, including food, energy efficiency, water, and healthcare (especially nutrition).

2. **Dr. Dominic Jung**, CEO Simple Planet
   - Described Simple Planet's **cell-based protein technologies**, how they were developed, and current and future applications, including feeding people in less developed countries as well as improving human health and lifestyle in more developed countries. The same Simple Planet protein can be used in animal feed to generate more rapid healthy growth and reduce overall cost in operation that raise fish, livestock, poultry. It can also be used to improve the health and longevity of pets.
   - Highlighted how the GSI Fulbright Initiative can assist deployment of Simple Planet technologies and their plans to:
     - use the GSI Technology Deployment Bridge as a Landing Pad to establish a U.S. base, and
     - then use the GSI Fulbright network as a Launching Pad to deploy worldwide.
   - Noted Simple Planet protein's potential use in **military meals** (MREs).

3. **Mr. Steve Stephens**, CEO, Exoxemis
   - Described Exoxemis bio-technology solutions that reduce infections in surgery and other wounds (including military trauma), benefiting humans and livestock without antibiotics using non-toxic, more efficacious, and safer solutions than existing technologies. Discussed how controlling infection without antibiotics reduces zoonotic risk and antimicrobial resistance across the food chain. Discussed how policy makers should view this as a food security issue (which Chairman Crawford discussed in his remarks) rather that a narrow medical one. Discussed the how the Exoxemis Technology Platform can protect sources of protein without overreliance on antibiotics, antiseptics and chemical controls thus protecting and making the food chain safter.

   Discussed how the same basic technology can also be applied to safely destroy any cancer cells remaining in the margins of surgical areas or cavity after surgery removes cancer cells. This technology was described in a recent Scientific Publication Research Article.
   - Addressed institutional deployment barriers encountered and how the GSI Fulbright Initiative working with Fulbright Scholars in agriculture, veterinary medicine, public health and policy might help overcome non-scientific

institutional barriers accelerate domestic and international deployment, including in countries such as Singapore where Simple Planet is active and other countries that are facing immediate protein and food security pressures (protein systems are also disease systems).

Panel Three – International Roundtable on Global Agricultural Tech Innovations and Deployment

Chair: **Dr. Eugene Yun, Managing Director of GSI Technology Bridge Initiative and Former Advisor to the Asian Development Bank**

1. **Mr. Arvind Chandaka**, CEO CarnotFleet
    - Discussed **CarnotFleet Cold Storage** technologies, including AI, data applications, and innovative hardware to reduce the need for more extensive refrigeration.
    - Outlined benefits for customers needing cold storage and described innovative solutions for monitoring and cleaning containers, reducing bacterial load, and controlling bacterial growth.

2. **Mr. Kafuti Talahumbu**
    - Described his work with the **US/UK African Business Council** on technology deployment, including collaboration with Fulbright alumni committees in the DRC and several African countries.
    - Reviewed the potential of the **Clearinghouse for the Digital Transformation of Africa** at GWU.
    - Discussed a new investment fund he is developing to support technology deployment.
    - Highlighted the importance of **strategic minerals** for the U.S., within the context of a U.S.–Africa Technology Deployment Bridge.

3. **Mr. Courtney Little, Esq**, CEO, EPIC Recycling and ACE Glass
    - Discussed technologies that **EPIC** has brought from Germany to Arkansas to recycle glass into aggregates.
    - Described **Revalyu Technologies** (India/UK/Germany) that can recycle plastic bottles into **FDA-certified food wrap**.
    - Expressed interest in developing **plastic bottle flaking plants** to support this process.

4. **Mr. Julio Cesar Orenco, Global Project Manager and Business Liaison, World Trade Center**
    - Discussed the work of the **World Trade Center Association** in enhancing deployment of problem-solving technologies and solutions.
    - Noted the number and reach of World Trade Centers globally and their potential to collaborate with GSI Fulbright Committees to strengthen technology deployment bridges.
    - Highlighted his work with the **Central American Food and Beverage Association** and its relevance to technology deployment.

Panel Four – Seed-to-Table "Row Crop" Agriculture and AI

Panel focus: Deployment of technologies and innovations related to **row crop agriculture**, including AI across the food system.

Panel Chair: Mark Grobmyer, Chairman of GSI

1. **Mr. P.J. Haynie**, CEO Haynie Family Farms
    - Described his family's historic row crop operations in Virginia and Arkansas.
    - Reviewed the history of their farming business and technologies they use (and would like to use) to enhance productivity, safety, and sustainability.
    - Technologies include:
        - highly automated, AI-enabled equipment, and
        - modern irrigation solutions that use significantly less water.

2. **Dr. Jason Davis**, Remote Sensing and Pesticide Application Specialist, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
    - Discussed remote sensing and pesticide application technologies, particularly **drones**.
    - Highlighted a **new drone-mounted device** that lowers from the drone to apply treatments and avoids backwash from the rotors.

3. **Ms. Marla Johnson**, Tech Entrepreneur-in-Residence, University of Arkansas Little Rock
    - Discussed AI's many applications in agriculture.
    - Explained how IT/AI can link GSI Fulbright Committees globally and support creation of searchable data bases including:
        - a registry of solutions,
        - a registry of financing sources, and
        - a registry of deployers that can assist with deployment.

4. **Ms. Mary Wilson**, CEO, TAZA AI
    - Described building a **database of thousands of sustainable solutions** accessible to those seeking solutions, including GSI Fulbright Committees and GSI-connected associations such as the National League of Cities and the National Governors Association.
    - These partners can work with GSI's Partnership with the Sustainability Consortium to source and match solutions.

5. **Mr. Zak Morris**, Co-Founder, Luminark; former Walmart M&A Security Risk Expert
    - Shared his AI background and immediate opportunities to deploy AI in agriculture and food services, drawing on his experience at Walmart and elsewhere.
    - Emphasized that **every company (including farming operations) needs an AI strategy** as part of its overall business strategy.

6. **Mr. Rod Sweetman**, CEO, Piller Resilience
    - Discussed efforts to address **disaster mitigation and recovery** challenges increasingly affecting farmers—floods, droughts, heat, and other weather extremes.
    - Outlined how farm infrastructure can be modified and resilience mitigation plans developed using AI and other technologies.
    - Cited his extensive experience in disaster mitigation and management with **James Lee Witt**, former FEMA Director, advising the United Nations and many countries.

Reception and Dinner Program at I3R

Introduced by **Dr. Ranu Jung**, Executive Director, I3R. Both evening speakers helped lay the groundwork for the next Global Solutions Summit on The Future of Healthcare – Impact of Technology and Innovation

1. **Mr. Marshall Shafkowitz, Executive Director Brightwater Center for the Study of Food**
    - Discussed the life-changing work of the **Brightwater Center for the Study of Food** and other food and health initiatives inspired by Ms. Alice Walton.
    - Highlighted the **Whole Health Institute** and the **Alice Walton School of Medicine (AWSOM)**, which will focus on food, integrative research, and medicine.

2. **Dr. Ron Hart**, GSI Technology Chair and former White House Science Advisor; former Director, National Center for Toxicological Research
    - Condensed a 50-plus year career in science and management into 30 minutes. Touched on his role in shaping the **Bayh–Dole Act** and the **Federal Technology Transfer Act, 1986** and how this ultimately fostered growth in science and discovery.
    - Reviewed his ongoing research with Univ. of Colorado on the impact of caloric restriction on increasing health span and lifespan; emphasizing the reduction of age-related degenerative diseases including neural diseases such as Alzheimer's. .
    - Summarized by noting that after decades of research, the only tool found to reliably increase both health and life span is caloric restriction and that research is now focused on examining how this works at the molecular level using genomic and proteomic techniques. Projected that this area is where research into health- and life-span will be concentrated in the future with food viewed not only as basic nutrition but a basic tool of managing health. Concurrently this will necessitate development of new regulatory approaches.

Day Two – Morning Session

Welcome by **Dr. Ranu Jung,** and summary of the previous day's discussion and introduction of **Mr. Clint O'Neal**, Executive Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC), with thanks for AEDC's support of the Summit.

1. **Mr. Clint O'Neal**, Executive Director, AEDC
    - Described Governor Sanders and Arkansas's efforts to develop **technology deployment bridges** with countries such as Japan, Korea, Israel, Germany, France, the UK, and others.
    - Explained how these state-level efforts collaborate with and complement the GSI Fulbright Initiative.
    - Formally welcomed foreign and domestic companies participating in the Summit and offered support in developing business in Arkansas.
    - Cited the success of companies in Arkansas (Walmart, JB Hunt, Tyson Foods, steel companies, and the emerging lithium industry) and how this showcases the logic of utilizing Arkansas as a GSI Landing Pad – Launching Pad.

Panel Five – The Future Is Now: Food Distributors, Transporters, and Retailers

Panel Chair: Mark Grobmyer, Chairman of GSI

1. **Dr. Janeth Gabaldon**, Walton College of Supply Chain Management
    - Discussed supply chain technologies and solutions that can make food chains more productive, reduce waste, and enhance safety.
    - Explained how AI and other technologies improve shipment tracking and retailer outcomes.
    - Offered to share expertise with delegates in the future.

2. **Dr. Christy Slay**, CEO, Sustainability Consortium (SC)
    - Reiterated SC's work building sustainability indexes across sectors, including agriculture.
    - Discussed plans to add services that help member companies and suppliers become more sustainable, productive, and efficient.
    - Outlined how SC will work with GSI to:
        - identify solutions,
        - test them at SC member companies and suppliers, and
        - share results across the network, with deployment insights from GSI Fulbright Committees.

3. **Mr. Cordell Heldenbrand**, Vice President, JB Hunt Transportation
    - Described JB Hunt's business and some of the technologies they use to lower transportation costs for food and inputs while enhancing security.
    - Highlighted how theft and related risks cause losses, higher food costs, and food waste.
    - Showed how new technologies and solutions can reduce these problems and improve the security of the food supply system.

4. **Mr. Arvind Chandaka**, CarnotFleet
    - Further explained **Fleet Cold Storage technologies** and their relevance to companies such as JB Hunt that has many units that utilize cold storage in transporting food for members of the Sustainability Consortium and others.

Panel Six – The Future of Food in the Less Developed World

Chair: **Mr. Steve Darr**, CEO, Peacework (www.peacework.org)

Mr. Darr described Peacework's efforts to connect many universities, faculty and students with Peacework projects in less developed countries which involve technology deployment.

1. **Mr. Brian Barnett**, CEO, Barnett Companies
    - Discussed work with less developed countries in Africa, Central Asia, and Central America on technology transfer and deployment.
    - Identified ongoing needs for additional solutions, especially to help improve efficiency and reduce corruption.

2. **Ms. Elizabeth McLaughlin**, CEO, Red Wagon Group
    - Shared more than a decade of experience developing coffee businesses in 17 less developed countries on behalf of **WestRock Coffee Company**.
    - Described solutions developed to increase farmer efficiency and connect farmers with markets in more developed countries.
    - Noted that deployment of technologies and improved business practices has impacted thousands of people and helped build a business that is now a very fast growing publicly traded company.

3. **Ms. Lucy Jodlowska**, Senior Director, Winrock International
    - Discussed Winrock's work in the U.S. and more than 40 less developed countries to improve technologies, organize farmers, and strengthen markets.
    - Confirmed Winrock's role as a partner in domestic and global technology deployment.
    - Described potential support for the **GSI Global Lease Finance Initiative**, aimed at improving farm organizations and farm family livelihoods through technology deployment, such as **SunspotPV** solar electric cooking systems (www.sunspotpv.com), which improve health and reduce deforestation.

4. **Mr. Kafuti Talahumbu**
    - Discussed his work at George Washington University and with the International Finance Corporation to organize **Africa Trade and Investment**

conferences, bringing new technologies and solutions to Africa and linking African countries with the U.S. and other developed economies.
- Reviewed his efforts to help develop GSI Fulbright Committees and the Ambassador Briefing Series at GWU.

Day Two Luncheon Program – Remarks by Chairman French Hill

During the Day Two luncheon, delegates heard from **Congressman French Hill**, Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, which oversees the U.S. Department of the Treasury and institutions such as the World Bank and International Finance Corporation.

Chairman Hill stated:

"I am grateful to the Global Solutions Institute and the University of Arkansas for hosting this summit and for the opportunity to share a few thoughts on this important topic.

This summit could not come at a more opportune time. For more than eight decades, the United States has made a multibillion-dollar investment in the Fulbright Scholarship Program—an investment that has strengthened global partnerships, expanded knowledge exchange, and elevated American leadership around the world. The Global Solutions Institute Fulbright Initiative builds on that legacy by helping companies, nonprofits, and innovators bring proven technologies and solutions to more people and more markets—more quickly and more effectively. This work is focused on practical, real- world solutions to some of the most significant global challenges we face today, including energy and water, the environment, healthcare, public policy, and food systems.

Food, of course, holds particular importance for both this summit and for Arkansas. I am pleased to see so many companies from around the world gathered to discuss how technology is improving food production, storage, and transportation—from field to table—making food more abundant, safer, more affordable, and healthier.

Ultimately, the GSI Fulbright Initiative strengthens the return on America's Fulbright investment by accelerating the global deployment of solutions that work. In

addition, initiatives like this have the potential to attract increased foreign direct investment into the United States by helping companies that invest here expand into other countries through the GSI Fulbright Network. It is my hope that the opportunities identified during this summit are viewed not as an endpoint, but as a meaningful step in an ongoing journey to improve lives in Arkansas, across the United States, and around the world. Thank you again to the Global Solutions Institute and the University of Arkansas for convening so many thoughtful leaders and innovators. I appreciate the important work you are doing on behalf of all of us, and I wish you a productive and successful summit."

Panel Seven – Financial Conduits for Technology Deployment

Panel focus: **Co-investment vehicles**, institutional investors, and innovative financial products to support deployment.

1. **Mr. Bobby Kia**, Chair, GSI Financial Initiatives; Senior Advisor, S.K. Hart Management
    - Shared lessons from many years working with innovative financial products in the global financial system.
    - Described how **family offices** (e.g., NEXIS, CREO) can invest in less developed countries and in deployment of technologies and solutions.
    - Explained how the GSI Fulbright Initiative can help create markets for companies funded by family offices, both in direct portfolios and in the funds they support.

2. **Mr. Peter Cook**, Senior Advisor, Equinox Energy Partners; former Global Agriculture Lead, International Finance Corporation
    - Discussed his IFC experience and financial innovations related to agriculture.
    - Described Equinox Energy Partners' activities.
    - Reviewed financing mechanisms for agricultural solution deployment in less developed countries, including the **Global Lease Finance Initiative**.

3. **Dr. Eugene Yun**
    - Former Advisor to the Asian Development Bank; discussed work in Korea and other countries to develop technology deployment bridges.

- Reviewed his efforts with the **P8 Group** (initially conceived by King Charles) to encourage pension and sovereign wealth funds to create innovative financial products that enable deployment of technologies and solutions.
- Explained signing of the **Little Rock Accord** on behalf of the P8 Group with the **Club de Madrid**, which includes 115 former presidents and prime ministers from 86 countries and is a core partner in building the Global Deployment System.

4. **Mr. Jim Hurd**, CEO and Founder, Green Science Exchange; Hurd Family Office
    - Discussed frequent engagement with multi-family and ultra-high net worth multigenerational family offices.
    - Described what family offices seek in investments and gave examples of technologies under development and in the deployment stage in family-office portfolios.

5. **Ms. Paola de Almeida**, Head of Food, Agriculture and Water, Pegasus Capital Advisors (www.pcalp.com)
    - Outlined Pegasus Capital Advisors' investment thesis and their creative use of finance to support technology deployment.
    - Noted Pegasus's involvement in innovative environmental finance projects and initiatives worldwide and stated willingness to work with GSI to accelerate the deployment of technology and other solutions.

Panel Eight – The Future of Water in Agriculture

Panel focus: Oceans, water reclamation, irrigation, and aquaculture.

1. **Dr. Marty Matlock**, Panel Chair
    - Brought many years of experience in innovative water technologies, domestically and internationally.
    - Served as special key advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture on sustainability and other issues.
    - Discussed his work with Native American tribes as Senior Advisor to the **Cherokee Nation** on sustainability and environmental issues.

2. **Mr. Neal Sparkman**, RAFT Company
    - Discussed innovative methods to irrigate with **saltwater** where freshwater is scarce or unavailable.

- Highlighted innovative projects in Mexico and other countries involving crops that can be grown with saltwater for animal feed and human consumption.

3. **Mr. Chad Causey**, The Rose Group; American Catfish Farmers Association
   - Presented work with the **American Catfish Farmers Association** and the aquaculture industry.
   - Described new technologies developed in research projects with the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff.
   - Noted the potential use of **CarnotFleet cold storage technologies** to reduce fish spoilage, especially in less developed countries where refrigeration more is limited.

4. **Dr. Chris Henry**, Assistant Professor of Water Management and Engineering, University of Arkansas
   - Discussed innovative solutions for irrigation and water applications in agriculture, including:
     - disposable and recyclable plastic tubing,
     - precision AI-regulated holes that control irrigation water volume,
     - integration with sensors for moisture for precise data-driven irrigation.

5. **Ms. Aditi Padhye**, Head of Solutions Engineering and Customer Experience, KETOS Water Testing
   - Described KETOS systems for remote monitoring of water quality in food production and wastewater treatment and how it can improve efficiency and reduce costs.
   - Emphasized the unique benefits of the KETOS Technologies in ensuring wastewater from food production plants meets standards and that input water used in food processing is safe.
   - Explained how KETOS improves efficiency, lowers costs, and enhances food safety.

Concluding Session

The final session Chaired by Mr. Grobmyer, Chairman of GSI included:
- **Assistant Dean Joseph Miranda**, George Washington University School of Business
- **Ms. Tammy Hettinger**, Executive Director Fulbright Association
- **Mr. Kaleb Turner**, Chief of Staff, Fulbright College

They discussed next steps for the GSI Fulbright Initiative and plans for 2026, including:

1. **Major 2026 Fulbright Activities**
    - Ambassador Briefing Series
    - Pilgrimage of Fulbright scholars and Commissions to the United States
    - Creation of GSI Fulbright Committees in many countries
    - Fulbright Regional Center meetings at:
        - University of California, Irvine
        - George Washington University School of Business
        - University of Arkansas Fulbright College
        - Additional universities

2. **Institutional Frameworks**
    - Reestablishment of the **MOU** between the U.S. State Department and the University of Arkansas for the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, once reconstituted.
    - Housing of the **Fulbright Foreign Board Alumni Advisory Council** at the University of Arkansas Fulbright College.

3. **Development of Shared Resources**
    - Creation of major resources to be shared with:
        - Fulbright Association
        - University of Arkansas Fulbright College
        - Club de Madrid
    - These will support full implementation of the Global Deployment System, including needed technology innovations.

4. **Fulbright Award for International Trade Development**
    - Plans for a program to present this award in December 2026 to a leading corporate CEO whose efforts have promoted and sustained international trade, resulting in enhanced deployment of problem-solving technologies and innovations.

Next Steps

In closing, participants emphasized that this Summit is **not the end of a journey** but the **beginning of a new phase**.

“It is my hope that the opportunities identified during this summit are viewed not as an endpoint, but as a meaningful step in an ongoing journey to improve lives … across the United States, and around the world.”

---Chairman French Hill, Chairman US House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services.

The next major step will be a planned 2026 Summit on: **“The Future of Healthcare and Public Safety – The Impact of Technology and Innovation.”**

In the interim:

- A **Summit Implementation Task Force** will be created to implement the findings and recommendations of the delegates as reflected in this Report of Proceedings.
- Specific deployments of technologies and solutions are expected to emerge from the Summit, along with the partnerships formed and announced at the event.

The purpose of this Report is to encourage delegates and others to view these findings as the **starting point** of a sustained, practical effort to improve the lives of people in the United States and around the world through accelerated deployment of proven solutions.

Final Summary

The Global Solutions Summit on *“The Future of Food – Impact of Technology and Innovation”* brought together leaders from government, industry, academia, finance, and civil society to confront a central challenge: the world does not lack innovation; it lacks deployment at scale. Over two days, participants showcased proven technologies in food production, logistics, water, finance, and AI, and aligned around a practical model for taking them to market more quickly and more broadly.

At the core of this model is the GSI Fulbright Initiative and its emerging Global Deployment System, which will mobilize Fulbright alumni in 165 countries, supported by a state-of-the-art IT/AI platform, to help companies, NGOs, and governments deploy ready-now solutions. The Summit produced concrete commitments—from new summits and regional Fulbright centers to financial instruments and public–private partnerships—that together form a roadmap to move from pilots to widespread impact.

Summit Takeaways

- **Deployment, not invention, is the bottleneck.** The Summit confirmed that many food, water, and agricultural technologies and other solutions are already proven and ready; the challenge is deployment to markets and communities at scale.
- **Fulbright Alumni Globally are an underutilized global asset.** With more than 400,000 alumni worldwide, Fulbright scholars organized into GSI Fulbright Committees and mobilized by GSI and its partners can become a trusted, on-the-ground deployment network in 165 countries.
- **A Global Deployment System is emerging.** The GSI Fulbright Initiative, Collaboration with Associations and technology/finance registries form the backbone of an IT/AI operational system to match solutions, capital, and local partners.
- **Public–private collaboration is essential.** Governments, companies, investors, and NGOs each hold part of the puzzle—no single actor can deploy solutions at scale alone. GSI serves as the HUB and "switchboard" for all the parties and organizations to join together in a more efficient Global Deployment System.
- **Food security is national and global security.** Technology and innovation in food systems are now central to economic resilience, geopolitical stability, and climate adaptation.

Call to Action This report should not be read just as a record of what has been discussed, but as a mandate for what must now be done. The frameworks, relationships, and examples presented at this Summit will matter only to the extent that they lead to **real deployments**—farms adopting better practices, processors using safer and more efficient technologies, communities gaining reliable food and water, and investors backing scalable solutions.

We invite:

- More **Companies and entrepreneurs** to bring forward proven technologies, other solutions and business models that can be deployed through the GSI Fulbright network and the Global Deployment System.
- **Fulbright alumni and institutions** to join or form additional GSI Fulbright Committees in their countries and regions and to help serve as deployers by examining new technologies and other solutions as well as identifying local needs, partners, and opportunities.
- **Governments and development agencies** to align policies, financing, and trade tools with this Global Deployment System so that what works can scale.

- **Investors and philanthropies** to co-create and fund financial vehicles—such as lease-finance structures and blended-finance platforms—that make deployment viable in both developed and less developed markets.

The next Global Solutions Summit on *"The Future of Healthcare and Public Safety – The Impact of Technology and Innovation"* will build directly on the commitments made here. Between now and then, our success will be measured not by additional convenings but by the number of **technologies deployed, systems strengthened, and lives improved**. We invite all Summit participants—and new partners who share this vision—to treat this report as an action plan and to join our Summit Implementation Task Force turning its recommendations into measurable results.