TRANSCRIPT
Event
LeadershIP 2024
Welcoming Remarks

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CSIS EXPERTS
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John J. Hamre: OK, folks out in the hall, come on in. We’re going to get started. Good morning, everybody. My name is John Hamre, and I’m the president here at CSIS. A lot of times we have conferences with defense guys, and I don’t worry about starting late with them. But I can’t afford your billing hours – (laughter) – so we got to get going here, you know? You guys are at the top of your game.

We’re delighted to have you here. This is the first time that CSIS has hosted LeadershIP here in Washington. I’ve participated in your conferences the last couple of years, but this is the first time that you’re here. And that’s because, in a conversation with Kirti Gupta over the last year or so, because she decided to leave Qualcomm, wanted to keep this community going – and it is a community, I think; that’s the most important thing – she asked if CSIS would be an administrative base for LeadershIP. And I said, yeah, very much so.

I’ve been on the most remarkable intellectual journey these last three years. It started when Walt Copan came. He called me. And we had – we had gone out to – I’d taken a couple of my guys out to NIST, and that’s when I first met Walt. And it was just – it was just opening up a horizon that I didn’t have any real consciousness about. And so for the last three years this has been a remarkable journey for me. You know, I’ve been in Washington for 45 years and pretty much a defense guy, you know, but it was my first opportunity to see one of these real foundations of what’s been the success for America through the years. And it’s been this innovation economy that’s been created because we took important steps to protect people’s intellectual property as part of that.

And so when I met Kirti and participated in the LeadershIP sessions, I started to realize how really important this is. And it’s a giant debate that’s only understood by a small group of people, but there have been these raging things going on. I mean, we’ve had march-in rights made, you know? I mean, this is churning around. You all – it’s very familiar to you. It’s amazing how many times when I explain to people what it is, it’s just like a light bulb comes on. They just have never heard of it before. And then, of course, we had TRIPS waiver, which was a big battle. We had – standard essential patents became a big battle. These are – these are now issues that I’ve come to realize are profoundly grounded in America’s future productivity and success and prosperity, and ultimately national security, because the real foundation of national security, it’s not guns and aircraft carriers and stuff like that; it’s the vitality of your economy. It’s the strength of your – of your creative industry. And so this is really important. And we’re really – we’re really proud to have this affiliation with LeadershIP.

But I’m only an ornamental feature on your conference today. So I – (laughter) – where is Kirti? Kirti Gupta is going to get us really started.
Kirti Gupta: Hi. (Laughs.)

Dr. Hamre: Here she is. Welcome, Kirti Gupta, the real leader of this thing. (Applause.)

Dr. Gupta: Thank you, Dr. Hamre, for giving LeadershIP a home at CSIS at a time where it’s really important we bring the community that works on innovation and intellectual property in our nation – which is a lot of you in the room; I think it’s a unique community – along with national security and economic competitiveness nexus. I think the timing is exactly right. So we are really thrilled to have this new home at CSIS.

And from here, this is the beginning of this new chapter of LeadershIP and this community where it can come together and evolve with CSIS. So we have – you know, we have our day’s program that reflects that. We’ll talk about a number of things today that affect U.S. firms’ competitiveness, because, frankly, national competitiveness today is the competitiveness of our firms and of our thriving private sector where a lot of R&D comes from, along with the public-private partnership. And we are looking at global developments, not just national developments, in the IP innovation space to think about how they affect our industries and what we should be doing vis-à-vis an innovation policy in the United States.

That’s kind of what the day’s program reflects. We have an excellent lineup. And what I would like to suggest – because I see so many experts in the room in this field in your own right, I would love to have a day where we can really come together, participate, discuss, have an active discussion. You know, LeadershIP tag lines is discuss, debate, unite, lead. It’s not written there, but it’s somewhere. (Laughter.) But that’s the spirit, really, of bringing everybody together.

I do want to say a couple of other programming things for your awareness. The event is being livestreamed at the CSIS website. We will also have proceedings of the conference run by Competition Policy International, CPI. They have a desk right now. Sam Sadden, who is the editor, is sitting somewhere in the room. There’s Sam. So if you want to – if you’re interested in a related topic at the innovation and national security, please speak with Sam, let him know your interest.

And with that, I would love to start the day. Very quickly, the program is in front of you. And we have panels through the day that have a certain narrative arc.

We are – we are looking at – we are starting the day with thinking about what are the different initiatives today that are affecting U.S. industries’ competitiveness. I think Dr. Hamre mentioned march-in rights. He mentioned
standard essential patents. There are different other IP policy initiatives we should be thinking about. And Walt Copan is leading that panel.

We’re going to move on to – well, we are in 2024, so we can’t not talk about AI. (Laughs.) But there is a lot happening at the intersection of IP and AI. We’ll have a panel on that.

After lunch, we’ll move on to a discussion about call to action – what does or what should a comprehensive innovation policy look like, what are the current initiatives on the table, and how we pull them together.

And then we have Dr. Hamre on a panel with – it’s more like a fireside chat with two other national security experts and innovation experts to really talk about that nexus at the end of the day.

So I would love to have a call to action at the end of the day with this group and think about what the next steps for this community should be. So as you sit through the day and participate in the program, please keep in mind what your thoughts are about how to make this discussion an actionable plan. And we would love to circle back on that in the end.

With that, enjoy the day. And, Walt, I would love to invite you up on the stage. Thank you. (Applause.)

(END.)