



IRELAND AMERICA SCIENCE FORUM

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Washington, D.C.

Ireland's Transatlantic Innovation Agenda Thriving- High-Level Forum in Washington D.C.

Three of Ireland-America's powerful women in science and innovation took stage at the Embassy of Ireland in Washington D.C. last night to discuss transatlantic relations in science and technology. Organized by the Ireland America Science Forum with the Embassy of Ireland and InDC, Network, the event featured Dr. Deborah Brosnan, President at Deborah Brosnan & Associates in conversation with Dr. Orlaigh Quinn, Secretary General at Ireland's Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation, and Dr. Aoife Ryan, International Development Manager at Science Foundation Ireland, San Francisco. The occasion was Ireland's first ever research mission outside of Ireland - a weeklong event to the US that took the group to high-level meetings at the headquarters of companies including Google, LinkedIn, Facebook and to institutions such as Stanford University and the National Science Foundation.

Ambassador Dan Mulhall's opening remarks highlighted the evolving relationship between Ireland and America. The evening featured a lively discussion among the trio of women and a series of Q&A involving the audience. In response to Dr. Brosnan's question of how Ireland is poised to take advantage of its ambitious innovation agenda, Dr. Quinn noted that Ireland's unique collaborative approach, its ability and willingness to seamlessly engage research and industry set it apart. Under the US-Ireland R&D partnership 75million Euro (\$83M) has been invested across Ireland, N. Ireland and the US. Dr. Ryan added that the Island is small enough to be a test bed and large enough to be a proof of concept. Ireland is now 12th in the global scientific ranking for overall quality of scientific research up from 48th position just 13 years ago. The event came on the day that Ireland announced an 801 million Euro (\$887M) investment in 2019, a 5.5% increase over last year.

Ireland is now considered an emerging leader in AI, genomics and data and ranks 18th on the Global Connectivity Index. 1/3rd of all European data is stored in Ireland. The panel explored how the nation can position itself to successfully leverage its technological advances and bridge the divergent governance approaches across the US and Europe. SFI has recently announced an 8 year program to fund 700 new Ph.Ds in these emerging sciences.

While most indicators point to Brexit's harsh impacts on Ireland, the panel noted that it will leave Ireland as the only English-speaking and common law country in the EU. Science and technology indicators suggest positive outcomes and Ireland is already developing joint Ireland-UK faculty positions based in Ireland and continuing to attract talent and investment.

The discussion with the audience ranged from Ireland-America's potential to lead in sustainable financing and establish itself as a financial center, to the role of ethics in science. The event's leadership in having a panel of accomplished women was commented on, and sparked a discussion of how the Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation and SFI can help to support greater gender diversity on Boards and at senior executive levels- the caliber of the all women panel lit up Irish Twitter.

The Ireland America Science Forum seeks to forge links between Ireland and America in science and technology and welcomes all who are interested in participating in the mission. It can be reached at irelandamericascienceforum@gmail.com.

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