



## Understanding the New Multi-Stakeholder Models for Global Cooperation, Problem Solving and Governance

There is a fundamental change underway in how we govern ourselves on this shrinking planet. Emerging non-state networks of civil society organizations, private companies, governments and individuals are coming together in powerful new ways, achieving new forms of social cooperation and implementing effective solutions for global problems.

These *global solution networks* address every conceivable issue facing humanity from poverty, human rights, health and the environment, sustainable economic policy, war and even the governance of the Internet itself. Yet to date there has been no systematic study of this phenomenon or an attempt to understand the potential for improving the state of the world.

The Martin Prosperity Institute at the University of Toronto, in collaboration with The Tapscott Group—an international think tank headed by **Don Tapscott**—has launched a new, multi-million dollar landmark investigation of new models for global cooperation, problem solving and governance. This timely and essential **Global Solution Networks (GSN)** program is personally led by Tapscott, one of the world's leading authorities on innovation, media and the social and economic impact of technology, and ranked #4 on the Thinkers50 list of the world's most influential management thinkers.

Those who join the **GSN** Program will join a select group of private sector, government, global institution and foundation investors as a Member of the **GSN** program. Membership in this international non-profit program underwrites the cost of research and delivery and gives you a voice in understanding, shaping and applying the new models that are increasingly important in solving global problems.

Through a series of major research projects led by global experts, **GSN** will identify and explain key issues, strategies and approaches that help the new platforms scale and become material on the global scene. Nearly two dozen of these projects are already completed and available at [www.gsnnetworks.org](http://www.gsnnetworks.org). These projects will ultimately produce a series of publications, tools, videos and ultimately a book authored by contributing members to increase the impact of these new approaches.

**GSN** program research will help you and your clients and customers build roadmaps for implementation and interaction with multi-stakeholder networks and related decisions and investments by:

- Developing and applying a robust taxonomy of 10 network types -- emerging models of global cooperation
- Analyzing the challenges and obstacles to these new platforms, including legitimacy, accountability, participation, representation, power and relationship to international organizations and states
- Gathering a rich set of global case studies surrounding this taxonomy

## The Research Agenda

Through a series of major research projects and lighthouse case studies led by global experts, **GSN** will identify and explain key issues, strategies and approaches and deliver related tools that can help these new platforms scale and become material on the global scene. There are five research streams in the complete Research Agenda:

### **STREAM ONE: What Makes GSNs Tick?**

Projects in Stream One focus on understanding how global solution networks function, their strategies for success, their interactions with stakeholders, their use of technology, the challenges they typically encounter and the broader implications for global problem solving.

### **STREAM TWO: The Five Pillars of Global Solution Networks**

Projects in Stream Two focus on understanding how the different classes of stakeholders that participate in GSNs can unleash the potential of global web-based networks for cooperation, problem solving and governance. The five classes of stakeholders—that is, the five pillars of global solutions networks—are: Government, Business, Philanthropy, International Institutions and NGOs/Individuals.

### **STREAM THREE: Investigating the 10 Types of Global Solution Networks**

Stream three projects will investigate the unique characteristics, dynamics and strategies of the 10 network types identified in our landmark piece, *Introducing: Global Solution Networks*. The following questions will be addressed in an investigation of *each* of the ten network models:

How does the network function? What are some great examples? What technologies do they use? How do they handle the tough issues of legitimacy, accountability, representation, resilience and transparency? How do they measure their success? How do they interact with States and state-based institutions? What can we learn from them? What is needed to take them to the next level of impact or scale?

## STREAM FOUR: Network Solutions for Global Issues

Today's challenges demand solutions that transcend the traditional boundaries of the nation-state—solutions that include authentic stakeholder participation and new initiatives in social innovation that extend beyond communities and nations to the global stage. These reports focus on how various types of GSNs are addressing a wide range of global issues.

## STREAM FIVE: GSN Case Studies

Case studies organized by network type and led by global experts will identify and explain key issues, strategies and approaches that can help GSNs scale and become material on the global scene.

## Deliverables and Events

In this global public/private partnership, members will have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of leaders from around the world and have a place reserved for them at our capstone meeting in 2015. **GSN** sponsors represent government, business and civil society and include the Rockefeller Foundation, Google, MasterCard, HP, Government of Ontario, LGI, The Royal Bank of Canada, Seagate and Qualcomm.

Deliverables in addition to the extensive research agenda include:

- Executive Briefing by Don Tapscott
- Quarterly research updates delivered by webcast to member organizations
- Toronto Summit: Solving the World's Problems Differently — Toronto, January 29-30, 2014
- London Summit — June 23-24, 2014
- Washington DC Summit – January 15, 2015



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