

Ambassador James Costos
Opening Remarks - IN3 Gala Dinner
8:30 PM, Thursday, June 18th, 2015

Thank you, Eric, and thanks to you and your team for hosting us tonight. I could not be more excited to be here in front of this amazing group of people. Tonight, together we are creating not just an event, but a movement. This is just the beginning.

When we learned that Google was planning to open a new Campus here in Madrid, we immediately knew there could be no better place to hold an event highlighting the next generation of entrepreneurs. Everyone knows that Google is an entrepreneurial success story, and now you are paying that success forward through Google for Entrepreneurs and other partnerships. Your support of the ecosystem here in Spain helps to build new connections between innovators, like our partner Chamberi Valley, and institutions like the U.S. Embassy and Spanish government.

When I was appointed Ambassador, President Obama gave me some advice. He told me to travel this great country and meet its people, to understand it through the voices of its citizens and learn by listening. I took that advice to heart, and we have asked young business leaders all over Spain: What can we do for you? How can we help each other? Our Chamberi partners were among the first to tell us that what they needed most was connection - connection to investment, connection to talent, and connection to other entrepreneurial ecosystems that have exploded in places like California's Silicon Valley, New York City and other centers of innovation. They want to take their ideas, energy and world-class operations to a global scale.

We're here to accelerate that collaboration by building relationships and bridging these ecosystems. We'll engage the incredible people gathered here in a conversation about building businesses, discovering unseen opportunities and finding the right partners for continued growth. We want to hear from those that have already achieved success and those whose stories are still unfolding, and how they can work together.

Look at the people seated at your table tonight; they are there for a reason. Established leaders and entrepreneurs, side-by-side – don't miss this opportunity to learn something new from someone unexpected. Serendipity has launched millions of successful partnerships. But this event is also about more

than making new connections. We want to see ideas created, ventures started, deals made. We are here to work. Together let's build something amazing, a new forum where we'll continue to collaborate for years to come.

Of course no great change can occur without leadership and vision, and I am proud to say our guest of honor possesses both in abundance. We are greatly privileged to have His Majesty King Felipe here tonight, on the eve of the anniversary of his proclamation, to discuss his vision for Spain. The King is a strong supporter of entrepreneurship as an engine of economic growth, and has said that it offers the clearest path to prosperity. There is no-one better qualified to discuss this country's future and unlimited potential.

I now present to you King Felipe.