Africa Open Data Jam

At the US-African Leaders Summit

**The Open Gov Lab
Washington, DC**

**August 5, 2014
9am-4pm**

Conference Topics

The Value of Open Data
  - Driving Economic Growth
  - Transforming Government Effectiveness
  - Attracting Foreign Investment
Use Case Examples
  - Open Agriculture & Water
  - Open Transportation
  - Open Contracting & Procurement
Open Data Jam
  - Empowering Skills & Capabilities

The Africa Open Data Jam

Dear Colleagues,

Open Data is a transformational trend in Open Governance that is generating empowerment and economic growth. Around the world, cities, states, and nations are publishing Open Data and creating new data supply chains and ecosystems that are managing scarce water resources, improving land use and agricultural security, enhancing transportation and traffic flows, and generating new high-tech jobs and tax revenues. Governments themselves are benefiting because published Open Data is free of organizational barriers that hold back departments from sharing information and collaborating.

The Open Government Partnership is hosting a one-day Open Data Jam as part of the US-African Leaders Summit to share global experiences in Open Data publishing, real use cases that demonstrate growth and empowerment, develop skills and capabilities, and build a global community of Open Data developers who can help Africa become an Open Data leader.

This Jam is designed to be interactive, informative, and fun. It will involve diverse skills and experiences, and showcase real live examples of how Open Data works, African Challenges and opportunities, example applications. There will be a mixture of keynote presentation, panel discussions, lightning talks, solution demonstrations, and problem-solving workshops. Participants should come out of the meeting with tangible experiences of what works, how it works, and how it can be deployed at home – with new relationships across Africa and the United States.

First and foremost, we are looking for African Open Data problems to study and explore that together with a larger international community can be addressed and solved as part of the Open Government Partnership.

Participants will include African Open Government Partnership members with existing Open Data programs, the US State Department, USAID, USDA, The World Bank, IBM, and many Open Data community groups.

The event will take place at the IBM Institute for Electronic Government in Washington, DC. We know we can't solve many problems in a day, but we think this will be an important first step towards building an international community who can work together to move Africa forward in the Open Government Partnership.

Please nominate members of your delegation to attend who are familiar with the concepts of Open Data and Open Government. *We particularly encourage participants to provide existing documents and records that will be used at the event to transform the data into Open Data sets. We would also welcome participation from members of your country's diaspora in the Washington DC area or nearby with relevant skills and interests.
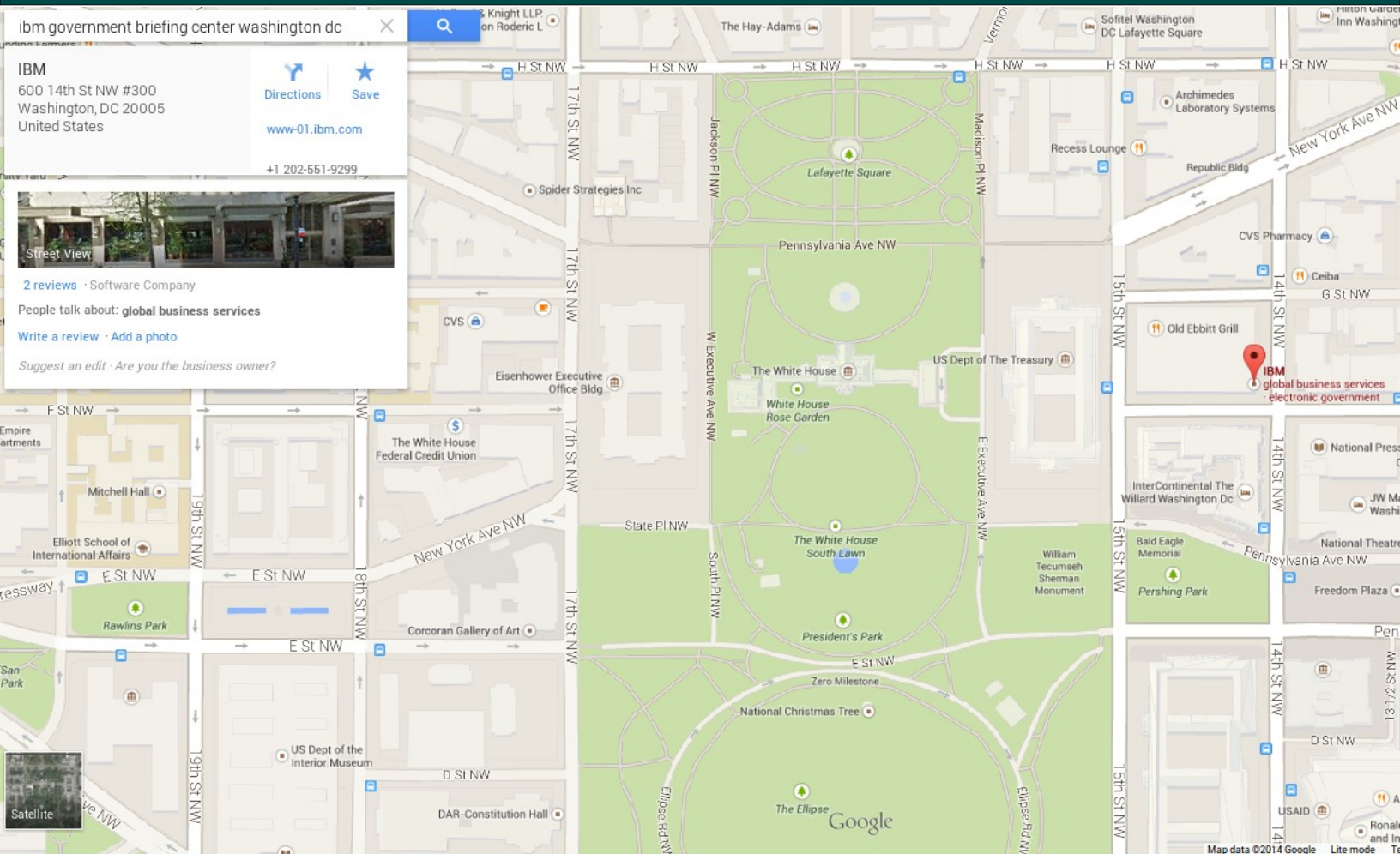
Please reply to Isabella Chan no later than Friday, July 19th to confirm your interest and participation.

Agenda – August 5, 2014

08:30 — *Registration and refreshments*

09:00 — **Welcome - Steven Adler, IBM**

09:15 — **The Value of Open Data**
Speaker: Nick Sinai, US Deputy Chief Technology Officer
The White House is leading efforts to make more government data publicly available and easier to find and use. US Government Agencies must now inventory all their existing data and publish a list of all of their public data. Many organizations and people are using this information to innovate, grow our economy, and better plan for the future. In this presentation, Nick will share the US Government's experiences with Open Data and provide practical examples of how Open Data can yield innovation and growth.

9:30 — **African Open Data**
Speaker: Someone from Sierre Leone
Sierre Leone is a new member of OGP and is creating an Open Data School to build skills and knowledge in Open Data as part of our OGP Action Plan. The School of Data will educate Data Fellows who will focus on open budgets, contracts, access to information, extractive industries, gender and education. The fellows will help civil society members to boost their data capacities and transfer skills and experiences to enable and empower through Data Expeditions in target cities. Data expeditions will combine "learning by doing" and "working with real data" in participatory learning events that bring new skills to diverse needs.

10:00 — **Use Case Examples of Open Data Solutions**
Speaker: Beth Brownhill, Distinguished Engineer, IBM BlueMix
  - Open Contracting to improve government efficiency and attract investment
  - Transportation to improve travel, transport, and tourism
  - Agriculture & Land Use to improve food security, nutrition, and reduce environmental impacts

11:00 — *Africa Open Data Challenges – describing current challenges to publishing Open Data*

Speakers from:

- *Tunisia*
- *Ghana*
- *Malawi*
- *Kenya*
- *South Africa*

12:30 — **Working Lunch & Idea Jam - How can we address Open Data Challenges with Solutions and Community Development**
Participants choose which of the challenges they want to work on and work together in groups to brainstorm potential solutions, resource requirements, and opportunities for international community support.

14:30 — **Coffee Break**

15:30 — **Wrap Up**

16:00 — **End of Event**

IBM Institute for Electronic Government

The IBM Institute for Electronic Government Briefing Center is designed for domestic and international public sector executives managing the transformation of their organizations in a rapidly changing world. Since the Center's establishment in 1996, over 64,000 visitors from more than 120 countries have engaged in "thought leadership" discussions on the most important issues facing public sector organizations today. Building on these experiences, the Center has garnered unique insights to share on the best practices of innovation and transformation.

The Center serves as a host for customized events, briefings, video conferences, planning sessions, meetings, seminars, demonstrations and receptions, designed around clients' requests. The Center also includes a wide range of demonstrations on how existing and emerging technologies and solutions are used by leading public sector organizations to transform the way they conduct business.

Co-located with IBM's Center for the Business of Government, the Briefing Center brings clients and IBM leaders in public sector innovation together in a setting that stimulates new thought and introduces what the future may hold as organizations explore new ways to serve their constituents. In 2006 and 2007, the IBM Institute for Electronic Government Briefing Center was recognized as "Briefing Center of the Year" by IBM's International Sales Support Organization.

The Open Government Partnership

OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown from 8 countries to the 64 participating countries indicated on the map below. In all of these countries, government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

OGP's vision is that more governments become sustainably more transparent, more accountable, and more responsive to their own citizens, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of governance, as well as the quality of services that citizens receive. This will require a shift in norms and culture to ensure genuine dialogue and collaboration between governments and civil society.

OGP aspires to support both government and civil society reformers by elevating open government to the highest levels of political discourse, providing 'cover' for difficult reforms, and creating a supportive community of like-minded reformers from countries around the world.

Now that OGP is established and has grown significantly, our key objective over the next two years is to make sure that real change is happening on the ground in a majority of OGP countries, and that this change is benefitting citizens.

There are three primary ways for OGP to help make sure the right conditions are in place for countries to deliver ambitious open government reforms:

1)   Maintain high-level political leadership and commitment to OGP within participating countries
2)   Support domestic reformers with technical expertise and inspiration
3)   Foster more engagement in OGP by a diverse group of citizens and civil society organizations In addition, OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) seeks to:
4) Ensure that countries are held accountable for making progress toward achieving their OGP commitments.

HTTP://WWW.OPENGOVPARTNERSHIP.ORG