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Updates on U.S. National Quantum Strategy

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Biography

John Speaks, a career Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, currently serves as the State Department's Regional Technology Officer for East Asia, based in Tokyo Japan.
From 2022-2024, he served as the Deputy Minister Counselor for Energy, Environment, Science, and Technology Affairs (EEST) at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. In this role he led Mission India in the launch and implementation of the landmark U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology. He also partnered with the office of Special Presidential Envoy for Climate to launch the bilateral Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue. Mr. Speaks served as Acting EEST Minister Counselor from 2020-2022.
Mr. Speaks previously served as Head of the Economic Affairs Unit at the U.S. Embassy in Austria, Deputy Economic Counselor and Humanitarian Aid Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Turkey, Deputy Economic Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Egypt and held diplomatic posts in El Salvador and Venezuela.
Before joining the Department of State, Mr. Speaks enjoyed a successful career in banking and finance serving as a Vice-President at JPMorgan Chase Bank and as Director of Internet Services for American Express.
Mr. Speaks is a graduate of Columbia University in New York. He is married with two children.

Abstract

Under the National Quantum Initiative, launched in 2018, the United States is pursuing a whole-of-government to accelerate U.S. leadership in quantum information science (QIS). Across the government, agencies and departments are establishing centers and programs to foster QIS research

and development (R&D) in coordination with industry and the academic community.
The United States is making substantial investments in QIS R&D to explore a wide range of applications and nurture a culture of discovery. As the development of QIS technologies evolves, The U.S. recognizes it is a critical time to develop the scientific knowledge, infrastructure, ecosystem and workforce to create new applications for QIS-inspired technologies.
My remarks will provide examples of specific programs being undertaken to realize this vision.