

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves will commence his working visit to the United States of America today, where he will be telling Estonia's e-success story in a presentation at the World Bank, holding digital society lectures at a number of prestigious universities, meeting with American technology entrepreneurs and receiving an honorary doctorate from St Olaf College in Minneapolis.

At the World Bank the Head of State will be talking about the rapid developments in Estonia's information society and about the effects of the state's e-governance and e-services on both the public and private sectors.

President Ilves will also discuss the developments in, opportunities presented by and threats related to the digital society during lectures at Stanford and George Washington universities, giving audiences an overview of the latest trends in cyber defence, including cooperation between Estonia and the United States and the importance of NATO and other strategic partners in this field.

During his visit the Head of State will be meeting with a number of Estonian and American technology entrepreneurs operating in the United States, including representatives of Microsoft, Pipedrive, Marinexplore, Fortumo, DraperFisherJuvetson and Guardtime. The main topics of discussion during the meetings will be the development of cloud technology and cyber defence and the latest trends in the field of technology.

President Ilves will be meeting with Singaporean IT Minister Yaacob Ibrahim in San Francisco, while in Washington he will meet with representatives of Georgetown University and a number of respected foreign policy analysts.

Mrs Evelin Ilves will be visiting both the Stanford University and San Francisco Osher medical centres, which have adopted an integrated approach to medicine – combining ordinary and alternative medicines in the treatment of patients. In San Francisco she will also visit the Benioff Children's Hospital of the University of California, while in Washington she will be a guest at the George Washington University medical centre, which is also focussing on integrated medicine.

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In Washington the President and First Lady will attend a concert at the Kennedy Center at which the music of world-famous Estonian composer Arvo Pärt will be performed by the Tallinn Chamber Orchestra and Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir under conductor Tõnu Kaljuste. The composer himself will also be present at the event.

President and Mrs Ilves will return to Estonia on 29 May.

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