



George Hara

- Group Chairman and CEO, DEFTA Partners
- Chairman of the Board, Alliance Forum Foundation
- Special Advisor to the Ministry of Finance (Government of Japan)
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, IIMSAM Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (retired)
- WAFUNIF Representative Ambassador (UN)
- Special Advisor to the President of the Republic of Zambia

George Hara was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1952. After graduating from Keio University's Faculty of Law, Hara became involved in archaeological research in Central America until the age of 27, following which he enrolled in the Stanford MBA Program in California. After a period serving as a United Nations Fellow, Hara received a Master of Science degree from the Stanford University Graduate School of Engineering.

In 1984, Hara founded DEFTA Partners and went on to become one of the most prominent Silicon Valley venture capitalists in the field of telecommunications and technology in the 1980s and '90s. Hara has led more than twenty companies competing with Microsoft for dominance in the software industry – including Borland, PictureTel, SCO, Tradex, and Unify – to success. Since 2000, Hara has served on the board or helped to manage a number of successfully U.S. and European companies such as Oplus Technologies (Merged with Intel in 2005), Broadware (merged with Cisco in 2007), and Fortinet (NASDAQ IPO in 2009). Hara currently serves as Chairman of XVD Technologies and is internationally known as a leading edge technology capitalist and visionary architect in the field of post-computer technology which he has termed “Pervasive Ubiquitous Communications” or PUC.

In addition to his work in the private sector, Hara is extensively involved in the public sector both in his native Japan and internationally through his work with the United Nations. In Japan, Hara serves as Advisor to the Ministry of Finance, the Prime Minister's Special Commissioner on the Government Tax Panel, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and as a member of various government committees, including Japan's Industrial Structure Council of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Hara is also involved with the United Nations serving as an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of IIMSAM, Permanent Observer Delegation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, a intergovernmental organization that works to combat malnutrition across the world. He is also a Representative Ambassador of WAFUNIF.

Over the last few years, Hara has been focusing his efforts on his vision to create scalable initiatives in developing countries that can reduce the digital divide and improve health and education. In Asia, Hara established bracNet to provide low-cost, wireless broadband communication in Bangladesh using state of the art WiMax technology. bracNet's pioneering social business model began in 2005 as a joint venture between DEFTA Partners and BRAC, the world's largest NGO. Last year, KDDI – the second largest cellular operator and Wireless ISP in Japan, acquired a 50% stake in the company recognizing the enormous potential and scalability of the bracNet model to create an effective broadband infrastructure and improve the quality of life in Bangladesh.

In Africa, Hara is currently spearheading a number of innovative initiatives aimed at improving education and healthcare on the continent. As Chairman of the Board of the Alliance Forum Foundation, Hara recently launched the world's most advanced distance learning system in Zambia, linking the University of Zambia and Copperbelt University using XVD technology. This system, capable of transmitting high definition video in real-time at less than 1Mbps, is expected to be adopted by other countries in Africa as it enables a broad range of distance learning and telemedicine applications in low bandwidth conditions. Hara was recently appointed as a Special Advisor to Rupiah Banda, President of the Republic of Zambia.