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MINISTRY OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AND

BCC*&i*
THE BENGAL CHAMBER

PRESENT



**INDO-PACIFIC
ECONOMIC
CONCLAVE
2023**

28TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Theme: Collaboration and
Regional Cooperation
towards common goals
in the Indo-Pacific



Ms. Melinda Pavek Consul General, U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata

Consul General Melinda Pavek, began her assignment at the U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata (India) from August 12, 2021. Her prior assignments included Counselor for Science, Innovation, and Development (U.S. Embassy Tokyo), Supervisory General Service Officer (U.S. Embassy Islamabad, Pakistan), and Deputy Chief of Mission (U.S. Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei). She also served overseas in Nepal (Kathmandu), Jamaica (Kingston), Iraq (Baghdad), and Pakistan (Lahore) as well as on domestic assignment in Washington, D.C. as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Administration. Melinda became a Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State in 2004. Before joining the Foreign Service, Melinda worked for Johnson & Johnson (J&J) as a supply chain senior analyst, was a consultant and project manager who implemented quality management systems using Six Sigma process improvement methodologies and ISO 9000 standards, and taught English as a Second Language in Miyagi, Japan. Raised in Minnesota and now a resident of Wyoming, Melinda earned a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) in Operations, Supply Chain, and Strategy from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Melinda earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana College (Rock Island, Illinois) in Political Science, Economics, and Asian Studies.





Ms. Rowan Ainsworth
Consul General, Australian Consulate
General, Kolkata, India

Rowan Ainsworth is a career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was most recently Counsellor (Political) at the Australian Embassy in Paris. She has previously had postings in Moscow, as Deputy Head of Mission, and in Tokyo covering domestic politics. In Australia, she has worked as Director of the Northern, Central and Eastern Europe Section; head of the Department of Foreign Affairs' State office in Tasmania; Assistant Director in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Branch; Assistant Convenor of the National Trade and Investment Outlook Conference; and on the Japan desk. Ms Ainsworth holds a Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sydney. As Consul-General in Kolkata, Ms Ainsworth is supporting Australia's expanding trade, commercial and investment interests in the eastern and north east Indian states of West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim and Tripura.



Ms. Mikiko Tanaka

Head, Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, United Nations ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

Ms. Mikiko Tanaka is the Director and Head of ESCAP Subregional Office for South and South West Asia Office, New Delhi effective 2 May 2022. Ms. Tanaka brings over twenty-five years of experience within the United Nations system. She most recently served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guyana and worked with UNDP in Guyana, Yemen, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, Benin, China, Lao PDR and New York. Prior to the UN, she worked for Care International in Thailand and the financial sector in Japan. Ms. Tanaka holds master's degrees in public policy and management from the University of London and in rural development management from Khon Kaen University in Thailand, and a bachelor's degree from the International Christian University in Japan.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta Former President, BCC&I and Senior Partner, Intueri Consulting LLP

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, a management consultant with more than 30 years of experience, is the senior partner and founder of Intueri Consulting LLP. He was the Partner and National Leader of Consulting of KPMG India. He was a member of the Global Management Consulting leadership team of KPMG. He was also a member of the India Leadership Team and Advisory Leadership Team, KPMG India. Before that, he was a Partner and National Leader of the Consulting Practice of PwC India. He was also a member of the India Leadership Team and Advisory Leadership Team, PwC India. He was also a part of the Global Management Consulting leadership team of PwC. He complete both Bachelors and Masters in Electrical Engineering from Jadavpur University. He has performed roles as State Public Policy and Strategy Planning Board member, Govt. of West Bengal; Principal Advisor of West Bengal IT department; An Executive Committee member of United Ways (UWOK), Kolkata Chapter; Associated with Advisory Committee of some Institutes and Universities; National Executive Board Member of AMCHAM (American Chamber of Commerce) India and Chairman of AMCHAM – Kolkata Chapter; Chairman of the Eastern Regional Council of NASSCOM; Immediate Past President of The Bengal Club. He was the President of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce (BCCI) for 2015-16.





Shri Sanjeev Sanyal

Member of the Economic Advisory Council
to the Prime Minister of India (EAC-PM)

Shri Sanjeev Sanyal is currently a Member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). He was the Principal Economic Adviser to the Finance Minister for five years till February 2022 and the Co-Chair of the G20's Framework Working Group. Prior to joining the government, he spent over two decades in financial markets and was Global Strategist and Managing Director at Deutsche Bank. He is an alumni of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi, Mr. Sanyal later attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship in 2007 for his work on urban dynamics. In 2010 he was named as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum in Davos. Mr. Sanyal is the author of a number of best-selling books including Land of the Seven Rivers, The Ocean of Churn, India in the Age of Ideas, and the Indian Renaissance. He has also published over two hundred articles and columns in leading national and international publications.





Dr. Devyani Uttam Khobragade
Ambassador, Embassy of India,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dr. Devyani Khobragade, is currently the Ambassador, E/I, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Dr. Devyani Khobragade earlier worked as a medical doctor (MBBS), and then joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1999. During her diplomatic career, she has served in Berlin, Islamabad, Rome, and New York. She speaks English, Marathi, Hindi, and German, and is currently learning Mandarin and Spanish. At headquarters, she has served in several divisions: PAI (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran), Central Europe, Finance, CPV (Consular Passport, Visa), and States. Before taking up her assignment as Ambassador of India to Cambodia, she was heading the capacity building and cultural/heritage projects of the Ministry of External Affairs as Joint Secretary (Development Partnership Administration) since 2019. Dr. Khobragade has published a collection of short stories as well as a popular children's book, *The Adventures of Young Ambedkar*. A certified Yoga instructor and a distance runner, she also has deep interests in Vipassana meditation and Buddhism.





Smt. Neelam Rani, IFS

Director, Branch Secretariat, Kolkata, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

Ms Neelam Rani is a career diplomat. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2009. Before joining the current assignment as Director, Branch Secretariat in Kolkata, she was serving as Director, Southern Division in the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. She holds a Masters Degree in Economics and English. During her deputation to Govt. of Gujarat, she was in charge of 'Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit' and all major Investments Road Shows/Events. She joined Indian Foreign Service in 2009; became Third Secretary, Embassy of India , Moscow in 2013. She served as an Under Secretary, Head Quarters , Europe West Division from 2012-2015. In 2015, she became Regional Passport Officer, Ahmedabad. In 2019 she joined iNDEXTb (Deputation to Govt. of Gujarat) as MD & CEO. In 2022 she became the Director, Head Quarters, Southern Division and finally as Director, MEA Branch Secretariat, Kolkata in 2023.



Prof. Dr. Ajitava Ray Chaudhuri

Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University and Chairperson, Economic Affairs Committee, BCC&I

Dr. Ajitava Raychaudhuri is Professor Emeritus and Head, Department of Economics, Adamas University. Dr. Raychaudhuri is former Professor and former Head and Coordinator of Centre for Advanced Studies, Department of Economics, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He was a senior Fulbright Scholar at Economic Growth Center, Yale University and Reid Hall Scholar in Residence of Columbia University, Paris Campus. He was visiting faculty at Indian Statistical Institute (Calcutta), Calcutta University and Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (Calcutta) as well as a visitor to SOAS, University of London. He had undertaken several important projects from UNESCAP, ADB, World Bank, UNDP, PEP, GDN etc and had published widely in journals and books.



Mr. Andalib Elias

Deputy High Commissioner for the
People's Republic of Bangladesh,
Kolkata

Mr. Andalib Elias is currently the Deputy High Commissioner for Bangladesh in Kolkata, India from March 2022. He has experience of more than two decades in the diplomatic service of Bangladesh, working mostly in multilateral stations. His area of expertise includes trade and development, climate change issues, migration, LDC graduation, and South-South cooperation. He was Chair of the LDC Group in Geneva and New York, and worked as Chief Negotiator of Group of 77 on economic and financial issues on several occasions. He also had the opportunity to closely observe the often-complicated mechanism of European Union during his three-year tenure at the Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels. He served in the following roles as: Supply Chain Executive at Exxon-Mobil Corporation, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 1999-2001; Assistant Secretary at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2001-2005; Second Secretary at Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to UN, Geneva, Switzerland from 2005-2008; First Secretary at Embassy of Bangladesh, Manila, the Philippines from 2008-2011; Director at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka, Bangladesh from 2011-2013; Counsellor at Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to UN, New York, USA from 2013-2016; Minister at Embassy of Bangladesh, Brussels, Belgium from 2016-2019; Director-General in charge of West Europe & European Union at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka from August 2019 – March 2021; Director-General in charge of Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka from March 2021 – March 2022. He received professional trainings like Civil Service Foundation Course at Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2001); Specialized course on diplomacy and international affairs, Foreign Service Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh (2002); Training on multilateral diplomacy (Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats), Ministry of External Affairs of India, New Delhi, India (2004); Training on multilateral negotiations, UNITAR, Geneva, Switzerland (2005) and Training on conflict resolution, IPI, New York, USA (2015). He completed Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Economic from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (1997) and Master of Social Science in Economics from University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (1999).





Mr. Byungguk Park

Director General, Korea Trade -
Investment Promotion Agency, Embassy
of the Republic of Korea (KOTRA)

Mr. Byungguk Park boasts a distinguished career spanning over 24 years in the domain of international trade. Throughout this illustrious journey, he has played a pivotal role in fostering economic collaborations between Korea and the global community. His unwavering commitment to excellence is evident through his consistent expertise in the fields of trade facilitation and international relations. Presently, Mr. Park holds the esteemed position of Director General at KOTRA Kolkata, where he has been leading the organization's efforts in the eastern part of India since 2022. His prior role was as Director at KOTRA Frankfurt, Germany, from 2019 to 2022, a period of significant importance in Korean- German trade relations. During his tenure as Director of KOTRA in Hanoi, Vietnam, spanning from 2014 to 2019, Mr. Park played a pivotal role in expanding economic cooperation between Korea and Vietnam. Additionally, he assumed the role of Deputy Director at KOTRA in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 2009 to 2014, during a period of dynamic economic growth in Europe. Mr. Byungguk Park's distinguished journey with KOTRA commenced in 1999, marking the inception of his remarkable career in international trade. Over the years, he has ascended through the organization ranks, consistently demonstrating unwavering dedication and unparalleled expertise in the field.



Ms. Carey Arun
Principal Commercial Officer,
U. S. Consulate General, Chennai

Ms. Carey Arun has served as a Commercial Officer since 2017. Carey arrived in summer 2022, as the Commercial Consul in Chennai, India where she leads a team of nine local specialists responsible for bilateral commercial affairs between Southern India and the United States. Previously, Carey has served in Mexico, Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, USA. Prior to joining the Commercial Service, Carey managed strategic programs for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS), worked for Lockheed Martin in business development and program management, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Navy. Carey has a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Baltimore and holds two post graduate certificates, Multinational Financial Management from Thunderbird at Arizona State, and the Mechanics of Project Finance from IFF & Middlesex University. Carey is fluent in English and Spanish.





Dato' Ramesh Kodammal Co-Chair (ASEAN), ASEAN-India Business Council and Chairman, Goldtex Group of Companies

Dato' Ramesh Kodammal is the Chairman of Goldtex Group of Companies, a company which he founded since 1973 specializing in import & export of garments and textiles, as well as manufacturing of home furnishings. Dato' Ramesh is the Founder and Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council Malaysian Chapter and the Co-Chairman of ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC). He is currently a Council Member for the Malaysia Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MAICCI). He is also the Member of the Malaysia National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (MANCPEC). Dato' Ramesh actively promotes the interests of the business community between ASEAN-India and he has been actively involved in the visits by Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi to Malaysia as part of this initiative. He has actively participated in various international forums and seminars representing Malaysia as a moderator and speaker. Among the posts which Dato' Ramesh has held previously include the Deputy President of Kuala Lumpur Selangor Indian Chambers of Commerce (KLSCCI), Vice President of Malaysia Associate Indian Chambers & Industries and Treasurer of National Chambers of Commerce and Industries of Malaysia (NCCIM). He currently still holds various positions in other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).





Mr. Eshor Raj Poudel

Consul General, Consulate General of Nepal,
Kolkata, India

Mr. Eshor Raj Poudel joined Nepalese Civil Service in the year 2003. He served as an officer. Since 2003 to 2009, from the year of 2009 to 2016, he served in the post of under secretary. Since the year 2016, he is serving at the capacity of Joint Secretary. He has gained the wide range of experience while working in the different Ministries of Government of Nepal. Before assuming the position of Consul General in Kolkata he was the Director General of Department of Immigration in Nepal. He also served as the CEO of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. In his tenure, he introduced the holistic immigration reform program, considered a landmark reform program of Nepal. Mr. Poudel got his degrees in Public Policy and English from Tribhuvan University Nepal, Furthermore, he has got governance and leadership courses from USA, Japan, China, India, Brazil, Philippines and many other countries. He has been appointed as the Consul general of Nepal in Kolkata for four years term. He assumed his post in 20th July 2020, West Bengal and Kolkata the Port City is the gateway for Nepal for the Import and Export from Third Country. This Mission is mainly mandated to facilitate the trade and Transit via West Bengal to Nepal.





Mr. Indronil Sengupta
Chairman, Indian Business Chamber
in Vietnam (INCHAM)

Mr. Indronil Sengupta is the Co-founder and CEO of Invesify Company Limited, a boutique advisory firm based in Vietnam. He is also serving his second term as Chairman of the Indian Business Chamber in Hanoi (2023-2024). With over 30 years of experience, Mr. Sengupta previously held a 26-year career with Tata Group, where he led multiple business divisions across metals, minerals, infrastructure and energy. During his tenure, he was based in India, Bangladesh and Southeast Asia, and served as CEO of Tata Sons Vietnam. Under his leadership, Tata significantly expanded its presence in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Mr. Sengupta is highly regarded for his expertise in investment advisory, EPC projects, market entry strategies and M&A. Since founding Invesify in 2018, he has guided the firm's growth across these sectors. Mr. Sengupta also sits on the Boards of VP Bank Securities and Operational Smile in Vietnam. Through his diverse and accomplished career, Mr. Sengupta has developed a strong network across Southeast Asia and India. He remains actively involved in supporting business and investment initiatives between the regions.



Mr. Omar Hazzaz

President, The Chittagong Chamber of
Commerce & Industry (CCCI)

Mr. Omar Hazzaz is the elected President of The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI)- one of the oldest and premier trade bodies in the country, for the tenure 2023-2025. He is the Managing Director of Reliance International, Managing Partner of GD Harbour- Ship Handling Operator at Chattogram port, Managing Partner of Globe Engineering- a Ship Building and Maritime Construction Company. Earlier, Mr. Hazzaz successfully served as CCCI's Senior Vice President for the term 2019-2021 and Director for 2017-2019. Mr. Omar Hazzaz completed his Bachelors in Communications and Mass Media Studies from Sunway University, Malaysia. Mr. Hazzaz is the director of Chattogram Abahani Limited, a reputed sports club in the country. He is also involved in various social & cultural organizations.



Mr. Piyapan Atipatya
Deputy Consul-General, Royal Thai
Consulate-General in Kolkata

Mr. Piyapan Atipatya, is presently the Deputy Consul-General, Royal Thai Consulate-General, Kolkata. He started his career as Attaché, Department of Protocol, MFA from September 2001 – August 2004. Between August 2004 – July 2008 he was the Second Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy, Moscow, Russian Fed. During July 2008 – December 2010 he served as the Second Secretary, Department of European Affairs, MFA. Between December 2010 – December 2014 he became the First Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy, The Hague, The Netherlands. From December 2014 – December 2016 he was the Counselor, Personnel Management Bureau, MFA. During December 2016 – January 2021 he became Consul, Royal Thai Consulate- General, Penang, Malaysia. From February 2021- June 2022 he served as the Head of COVID-19 Task Force, Department of Consular Affairs. He completed his Bachelors' in International Relations from Chulalongkorn University, the Kingdom of Thailand and Masters' degree in International Relations from Thammasat University, the Kingdom of Thailand.



Ms. Prim Jitcharoongphorn President, Thailand-India Business Council

Ms. Prim Jitcharoongphorn is the Chairman of the Executive Board at Allied Metals (Thailand) Co., Ltd. a company her father founded 50 years ago. The company is one of the forerunners in Asia providing effective and innovative total solutions for high-end professional kitchen for leading hotels and restaurants. Founded in 1971, the company has established their name in the business for effective design, high quality equipment and impeccable workmanship in addition to their certified repair and maintenance service technicians. Their work can be seen at many leading hotels, restaurants, and flight kitchen in Asia. The company has expanded regionally covering ASEAN countries, India, Sri Lanka and Maldives where tourism industry scene is being developed. Her passion and devotion to social work earned her directorship at The Board of Trade of Thailand where she started serving as a Public Relation Director and moved up to serve as Deputy Secretary General until present. Prim played an active role in developing Young Entrepreneurs Chamber of Commerce (YEC) nationwide which is instrumental to build next generation leadership at Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand. She was appointed as Chairperson of Thailand India Business Council since 2019. Her task is to help grow trade and investment between Thailand and India. She has been recently appointed as Chairman of Corporate Communication Committee and Chairman of Innovation and Research Promotion Committee at Thai Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade of Thailand.



Mr. Sanjeev Nandwani

East India Chapter Chairperson and Vice President,
Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce (IACC)

Mr. Sanjeev Nandwani is a former Civil Servant, and in a career spanning three decades as a member of the Indian Trade Service (1986 batch), he has worked inter alia, as Executive Director, CAPEXIL, Additional DGFT and Zonal Development Commissioner, SEZ's for East and North-East India, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana under the Union Commerce Ministry. He took an early separation from the Government in 2016 after thirty years of service, and thereafter had a stint of three years as President of a Steel and Mining Company based out of Mumbai and Odisha. He then moved on to join Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPIC), under the Ministry of Textiles, as their Secretary General where he served till October, 2020. He was a 'Chevening Gurukul Scholar' at the London School of Economics and a 'Mason Fellow' at the Harvard Kennedy School where he did his Master's in "Public Policy and Management". His strengths lie in people and process management and he also has a keen interest in teaching, as a regular visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, and occasionally at the Indian Institute of Management and IIT's. He is currently a 'Strategic Advisor' to multiple businesses, and focuses primarily on International Trade, as an Advisor at East India Trade Advisors (EITA), a boutique Consulting firm.



Ms. Shreejana Rana
President, Nepal India Chamber of
Commerce & Industry (NICCI)

Ms. Shreejana Rana is a key figure in Nepal's tourism and hospitality sector, Ms. Shreejana Rana is a dynamic leader with a strong performance record in an often-volatile business and natural environment. She combines business with a strong commitment to ensure women's development, empowerment, and safety. She has over 30 years of experience and contribution in the hotel and tourism sector. Ms. Rana, with her knowledge, experience, and expertise, is supporting the Government of Nepal to uplift the travel and tourism industry. She is the Executive Director of The Annapurna Group of Hotels, the President of the Nepal-India Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Immediate Past President of Hotel Association Nepal. Ms. Rana uses incisive analysis and insight to drive best practices and improvement in the organization, and believes in empowering and developing personnel to realise their full potential. Currently, she is the Governor of District 25 of Zonta International. She also contributes to strengthening trade and cooperation in the SAARC region through her engagements and she is the Founder Member of national and regional women's associations such as the SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council, Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association Nepal and South Asian Women Development Forum. She is also a Board Member of the Nepal Youth Foundation and Vice Chairperson of the Jayanti Memorial Trust. As a strong believer in women's empowerment, she has been active in her pursuit of raising awareness on women's issues through various platforms.





Ms. Sing Jheng

Director, Taipei World Trade Centre, Liaison
Office in Kolkata

Ms. Sing Jheng is currently the Director of Taipei World Trade Centre, Kolkata. She worked in TAITRA Global (Taiwan External Trade Developing Council) as the Project Manager- West Asia and Africa Section, Market Development Department from Aug 2021- Feb 2023 and as eCommerce Project Manager from Nov 2016- March 2022. she also played roles as Destination Sales and Marketing Project in Taipei from Nov 2013- Oct 2016); as marketing Specialist in Taipei from Jun 2009- March 2011; as Executive Assistant in Taipei from Sept 2006- Oct 2007. She completed Master of Arts- MA in Arts Management and Cultural Policy from Goldsmiths, University of London (2012- 13) and Bachelor of Arts- BA in Chinese Literature from National Central University (2002- 2006).



Mr. Tandy Wangchuk

President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Mr. Tandy Wangchuk is currently the President of Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI). He was elected as the President of BCCI during the 33rd Annual General Meeting held on 26th August, 2021. Mr. Tandy is the seventh in series as the President of BCCI, but has been actively serving the private sector of Bhutan from day one. Mr. Tandy graduated from Don Bosco, Madras, India in 1985 with Diploma in Mechanical Engineering. Prior to his post as the President of BCCI, Mr. Tandy was the Vice President of BCCI and has wide knowledge about the Chamber and private sector scenario of Bhutan. He has good working relationship with the Royal Government of Bhutan as well. Mr. Tandy has served in various posts in different organization apart from his businesses that he has to take care. He served as the President of Body Building Federation of Bhutan from 2008 to 2013. He also served as the Vice-President for Construction Association of Bhutan from 2013 to 2015. He owns one of the exports and import houses which deals in various products. Mr. Tandy has a travel and tourism business and is also involved in real estate business. Apart from his professional background, Mr. Tandy enjoys being in gym and keeping himself fit and ready for adventures and can be seen in golf course during his free time.



Mr. T I M Nurul Kabir

Executive Director, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

Mr. T I M Nurul Kabir is the executive Director of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) with 36+ years of career in leading role as the Social & Industry evangelist for e-Development, Telecommunication, ICT for Development (ICT4D), Business Development and ICT Consultancy. He has a unique experience and contribution in an inclusive manner in multi-stakeholders of Public Sector Policy Makers, Private Sector, NGO & Civil Society, Academia and Media and a Rotarian since 2001. He stands as one of the independent Director in Genex Infosys Ltd., one of the largest BPO and Technology service company in Bangladesh. He played an instrumental role in the implementation of policy & process between Government and Private sector in Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Public Private Dialogue (PPD), which contributed to a major change in policy for Public & Private sector development. As a national ICT expert, he contributed to the National ICT Policy formulation committee and Telecommunication Policy and played a role in formulating the National ICT Roadmap for Bangladesh and national e-Commerce policy. Currently he is serving roles as Chair e-commerce Standing committee of FBCCI; Chair International Market Development of BASIS; Ambassador & Global Strategy Team Member of UN Global Cyber Peace Academy; Ambassador & Global Strategy team Members of Industry 5.0; International President of Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF). He has played a leadership role in different leading organizations like Secretary General & CEO of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators of Bangladesh (AMTOB); Senior Vice-President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industries (DCCI); Senior Vice President of Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS); One of the founders of Bangladesh Telecentre Network (BTN); Founder and Vice president of Intellectual Property Association of Bangladesh (IPAB); He served as Deputy Finance Controller & Head of IT of a Dutch Multinational Company; Member Global Advisory Council of Top-Level Domain; Member of Global Advisory Council of Top Level Domain.





Mr. Yuji Sanada

Deputy Director General,
Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO),
New Delhi

Mr. Yuji SANADA is a Deputy Director General at JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) New Delhi, a Japanese government organization promoting mutual trade and investment between Japan and other countries. He joined JETRO in 2004 and has been contributing to many projects to support Japanese companies expand their business from Japan to overseas as well as foreign companies advance into the Japanese market at Tokyo & Osaka HQ, Kobe office, Chennai office in India and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI). He holds a master's degree in business administration from Ritsumeikan university. He has been the Chief, JETRO Kobe in 2006; Officer, Planning Division, Planning Department, JETRO Tokyo in 2009; Director, JETRO Chennai in 2011; Officer, Business Promotion Division, JETRO Osaka in 2015; Deputy Director, Invest Japan Division, JETRO Osaka in 2016; Deputy Director, Investment Facilitation Division, Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Economic, Trade and Industry in 2017. He has been posted in the New Delhi office since August 2019 and manages general affairs of 5 JETRO offices in India.





Dr. Nagesh Kumar
Director and Chief Executive,
Institute for Studies in Industrial
Development (ISID)

Prof Nagesh Kumar is Director and Chief Executive of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID), a New Delhi-based public-funded, policy think-tank. Prior to taking up this role in May 2021, Prof Kumar served as Director at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), holding several senior management roles during 2009-21 including as Chief Economist, Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division and Social Development Division at the UNESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, and as Head of the South and South-West Asia Office located in New Delhi, that he also had the privilege of establishing. Prof Kumar also serves as the Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Boston University Global Development Policy Centre (BU/GDPC), Boston, Mass. USA. During 2002-09, Dr. Kumar served as the Director-General of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a policy think-tank of the Government of India (Ministry of External Affairs). He has also served as an Economist at UNU/INTECH (now UNU/MERIT) in Maastricht, the Netherlands during 1993-98. Dr Kumar has served on the boards of the EXIM Bank of India, the International Centre for Trade & Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva; the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS), Kathmandu, and as a consultant to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Economic Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Commonwealth Secretariat, Commission on Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN-DESA, UNIDO. Dr. Kumar has researched extensively on different aspects of economic development, resulting in the publication of 18 books and over 120 peer-reviewed papers. He has contributed a popular column 'Trading Ideas' in The Economic Times, Business Standard, and Financial Express in different periods over 2002-11 along with occasional popular writings in The Hindu, Jakarta Post, Hindustan Times, among others. He is an economics PhD from the Delhi School of Economics, Dr Kumar is recipient of the Exim Bank's first International Trade Research Award in 1990, and GDN's Research Medal awarded by the World Bank and the Japanese Government in Tokyo in 2000.





Mr. Tarun Sharma

Deputy Managing Director, Export-Import Bank of India (India EXIM Bank)

Mr. Tarun Sharma took charge as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of India Exim Bank on April 18, 2023. Prior to this, he was the Chief Financial Officer of the Bank and also led the Bank's technology initiatives. He has over two decades of global experience in trade, competitiveness, industry and infrastructure development and policy, and recently conceptualised and developed a new trade facilitation initiative, viz., Trade Assistance Programme (TAP), which credit enhancement to trade instruments to enhance the capacity of commercial banks to support cross-border trade transactions. Mr. Sharma is the Chair of the BRICS Financial Services Working Group, India Chapter since March 2022, and has earlier led the Task Force on SME cooperation. Prior to being the CFO, Mr. Sharma was heading the Bank's New Delhi Office, with responsibilities covering structuring finance for enhancing capability of Indian companies; recovery and debt resolution; supporting socio-economic development projects in partner countries; handling government affairs and contributing to policy formulation. During this time, he was also responsible for launching a new initiative 'Ubharte Sitaare Programme' to identify and support enterprises that have latent potential by way of technology, product or process, through a mix of debt, equity and technical assistance. Mr. Sharma also established and managed a programme to support strategic projects globally under a concessional financing scheme of the Government. Mr. Sharma has worked in various functional groups across the Bank, and has also served as the Bank's Resident Representative (Americas) based in Washington DC, followed by a stint as a consultant with the World Bank's Capacity Development and Partnerships Unit. Mr. Sharma has authored a book 'Project Exports: Connecting Continents with Indian Expertise', exploring the instrumental role that project exports are capable of playing in India's quest for a sustainable rapid economic growth. Mr. Sharma has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Pune, followed by a postgraduate programme in management studies from Mumbai. He has also completed advanced executive management programmes from Cornell University in the U.S. and the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore.





Dr. Prabir De

Professor, Research and Information System
for Developing Countries (RIS)

Dr. Prabir De is a Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. He is also the Visiting Fellow of the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi. He has been the Founding Head of the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC). He has over three and half decades of full-time research and teaching experiences in India and abroad. He works in the field of international economics and has research interests in international trade and development. He has been conducting policy research for the Government of India and several national and international organisations including UN agencies and multilateral development organisations such as the World Bank and ADB. He did his Ph.D. in economics from the Jadavpur University, Kolkata. He was a Visiting Fellow of the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Japan; Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo; Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Seoul; and Visiting Senior Fellow of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok. He has contributed several research papers in international journals and written books on trade and development. His recent book include “Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations: Towards Indo-Pacific”, published by the Knowledge World in 2023 and also reprinted by the Routledge in 2023.





Mr. Pranav Kumar

Vice President, International Trade
Policy & Compliance,
Reliance Industries Limited

Mr. Pranav Kumar has over 27 years of professional experience in International Trade Policy advocacy including international business strategy for private sector, teaching, research, project management with primary expertise on trade and development, multilateral trade negotiations under the aegis of WTO (World Trade Organization), regional/bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), geo-political developments and their impact on businesses. Since September 2022, he has been working with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) as Vice President looking after International Trade Policy and related compliance. RIL is India's largest business conglomerate, having its business operation in petroleum, petrochemical, telecommunication, retail, textile, and new energy sectors. Prior to joining RIL, he has worked as head of International Trade Policy with India's apex business chamber Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). As a head of International Trade Policy division of CII, he engaged closely with the Government of India (GoI) and Industry members across all sectors on all aspects of trade negotiation and policy formulation and builds Indian Industry position on International Trade Policy which feeds into the negotiation process for the GoI. Previously he worked as a Senior Trade Policy Advisor with the joint International Trade Policy team (India Trade Policy Unit) of British High Commission, New Delhi and DFID India. As a member of the India Trade Policy Unit (ITPU), he was responsible for feeding/advising Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) of UK on India's trade policy, its stance on WTO Doha round of trade negotiations, EU-India FTA, and IPR (intellectual property rights) related policy changes in India. He was also a member of team responsible for DFID major trade programme with Government of India – UNCTAD-India project on Capacity building on trade and globalization in India. He Holds an M. Phil degree in Economics from Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.





Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee

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Dr. Shiladitya Chatterjee is an international development economist with extensive experience in India and Asia and the Pacific. Educated at Presidency College, Calcutta (BA); Delhi School of Economics (MA); and Boston University (Ph.D.), he taught economics at St. Stephen's College, Delhi University; Boston University; and University of Massachusetts. His professional career has spanned academics; public administration (in the Indian Administrative Service from 1976–1994); and international development (at the Asian Development Bank from 1994 to 2013). In India, he worked on development issues in Assam both at the field level (as Subdivisional Officer Sibsagar, and Deputy Commissioner Nowgong) and at state level (Secretary Finance); and at the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) on Centre-State financial relations, and as Director, Prime Minister's Office in supporting the economic reforms of 1991 to 1994. At ADB, he supported its investment operations (as Country Team Leader for Philippines, and Indonesia); and offered policy advice on development issues to ADB's 44 developing member countries. Since 2004, he began increasingly focusing on international efforts at poverty reduction. As ADB's Head of Poverty Unit, he helped forge an Asia-Pacific regional partnership between ADB and the UN agencies to achieve the MDGs and supported the UN Secretary General in the formulation of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At present he is advising the UN agencies and the Government of Assam on implementing the SDGs. He has a large number of publications and reports on development issues.

