

infra4dev

CONFERENCE

Speakers, Panelists and Moderators

Anas Charafi



Anas Charafi is a Senior Investment Director and Energy sector lead at Africa50, an infrastructure investment platform owned by African governments and institutional investors. Anas has led the development and investment in several transformative energy projects across the continent, including solar generation, hydropower, thermal power, power transmission, and midstream gas infrastructure. Before joining Africa50, Anas was the head of the financial advisory at INDEFI, a Paris-based consultancy, where he advised industrial and financial sponsors on large-scale infrastructure projects in power, transport, and ICT. He also has a background in management consulting and banking at Societe Generale. Anas is a graduate of Ecole Polytechnique and holds an MSc in Economics and Finance from Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées.

Anna Tompsett



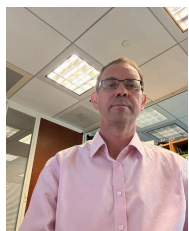
Anna is a Researcher at the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, an Affiliated Researcher at the Institute for International Economic Studies, and an Assistant Professor in the Economics Department at Stockholm University. Originally trained as a Civil and Environmental Engineer, she received her Ph.D. in Sustainable Development from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. She has worked or studied in the UK, the US, France, Spain, Sweden, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Bangladesh. Her research focuses on how public goods shape human development and societies and how communities and organizations can best provide public goods. Her research projects also create public goods for researchers and the public.

Anurag Gumber



Anurag Gumber is a doctoral researcher at the Climate Finance & Policy group at ETH Zurich. In his research, he looks at how asset development and financing evolve through the technology lifecycle. His research interests lie in Infrastructure/asset finance, capital markets, banking, technology innovation, energy policy and climate policy. He is a chartered financial analyst and holds a master's degree in public administration from Harvard. In previous roles, he has worked as an infrastructure developer, transaction advisor, and researcher for 8+ years in Africa, Asia, and North America.

Arturo Ardila-Gomez



Arturo Ardila-Gomez is the lead transport economist in the Middle East and Northern Africa Region of the World Bank. He was until recently the Global Lead for Urban Mobility at the World Bank's Transport Global Unit, where he led the Urban Mobility Global Solutions Group at the Bank. He oversees a portfolio of transport projects, primarily in Egypt. He also provides overall technical support to projects for all regions in the Bank on issues such as financing, fare collection, the political economy of reform, and the role of disruptive technologies. He is the author of several peer-reviewed articles and two books. Examples are Sustainable Urban Transport Financing from the Sidewalk to the Subway, Decarbonizing cities by improving public transport and managing land use and traffic, Improving Public Transport: Key Elements for Reform, and Smart Cities, ITS, Mobility, and Energy Efficiency. His research focuses on land use and transport, transport decarbonization, sustainable urban transport asset management, and improving monitoring and evaluation quality, including indicators, for transport projects. He holds a doctorate in urban transportation planning and a master's in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is also a civil engineer with a master's in economics from Los Andes University in Bogota (Colombia).

Astrid Manroth



Astrid joined the G20 Global Infrastructure Facility (GIF) as Head in September 2023. She brings to this role 25 years of experience in development finance and sustainable investments in the public and private sectors with a focus on infrastructure and climate finance, including through public-private partnerships. She is also a recognized expert in blended public-private finance. During her previous time at the World Bank (2003–2014), Astrid led the upstream preparation of infrastructure sector strategies, reform dialogues, and project pipelines and the downstream financing of complex projects in the energy sector in the Africa, Europe and Central Asia (ECA), and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) regions, and has previously been based in Cameroon and Ukraine. She also served as Director of Energy Partnerships and Director of Operations at the African Development Bank, based in Abidjan. In the private sector, Astrid held roles as Managing Director for Sustainable Investments in Europe and Africa at Deutsche Bank Asset Management and as Vice President of Emerging Markets Power at Shell Renewable Energy Services. In addition, she served as Director of Climate Finance at the European Climate Foundation in Brussels. Astrid holds an MBA from the WHU - Otto Beisheim School of Management in Germany and an MSc in Political Economy of Transition from the London School of Economics in the UK.

Atia Byll-Cataria



Dr. Atia Byll-Cataria, Senior Social Development Specialist, leads the implementation of the gender strategy at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the political risk insurance and credit enhancement arm of the World Bank Group. Her work involves integrating gender across the agency's portfolio at the corporate and operations levels, as well establishing strategic partnerships to further MIGA's gender work. She co-led the establishment of MIGA's Gender Leadership Award (formerly Gender CEO Award). She previously served as a Senior Environmental and Social Development Specialist at MIGA.

Ben Solis



Ben Solis holds a degree in Economics from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a Master's in Competition and Market Regulation from the Barcelona School of Economics. He is currently a consultant at the World Bank, working in the Utility Services team of the Business-Ready project. He was a consultant in the Infrastructure and Energy Sector at the Inter-American Development Bank. Previously, he worked in the areas of tariff setting, regulatory framework enhancement, and economic studies in the water and energy regulatory bodies in Peru (Sunass, Osinergmin). He is a professor in the Master's in Water Resources Management at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and the Diploma in Competition Law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

Binyam Reja



Binyam (Ben) Reja is the Global Practice Manager for the Transport Practice in the Infrastructure Vice Presidency of the World Bank. Mr. Reja oversees the World Bank's Transport Global Unit's program focusing on the decarbonization of the transport sector, the development of green, resilient, and inclusive mobility and logistics systems, and innovative financial instruments to meet the large financing gap for clean transportation in client countries. He leads a team of technical professionals and experts and directs technical support to operational units in developing innovative and high-impact lending programs and policy dialogue with client countries. Prior to being selected to this position in September 2020, Mr. Reja was the Regional Practice Manager for China, Mongolia, and Central Asia, where he oversaw a lending program totaling US\$8 billion in these countries and helped in developing new lending programs and policy reforms to support regional connectivity, innovative infrastructure financing, and addressing the impact of climate change on transport in these countries. Mr. Reja holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Irvine, and attended the Executive Education program at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Caroline Otonglo



Caroline Otonglo is a Senior Infrastructure Finance Specialist at the World Bank, based in Washington DC. Her primary role is to support government clients in developing infrastructure assets and deriving required services therefrom across various sectors through private capital mobilization, financial structuring and credit enhancement, as well as other forms of risk mitigation, to crowd-in financing on optimal terms. My unit also houses the World Bank's guarantees program. She has almost 20 years of experience in project finance, investment management and corporate governance, spanning origination, structuring, execution and closing of transactions in which she has deployed senior and subordinated debt, private and direct equity, technical assistance and credit enhancement products in projects across various sectors. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2020, she was an Investment Principal and Head of Legal at responsAbility Investments AG, based in Nairobi, and prior thereto, a Chief Investment Officer at the African Development Bank, based in Tunis and Abidjan.

Christine Zhenwei Qiang



Christine Zhenwei Qiang is the Director of the Digital Development Global Practice under the Infrastructure Practice Group of the World Bank. She heads a team supporting digital transformation in developing countries to drive shared prosperity and reduce poverty. Her team advises policymakers and regulators, works closely with the private sector and development partners, and designs investment and technical assistance programs to improve digital connectivity and use of digital technology to address development challenges in client countries. The team collaborates with other Global Practices and across the World Bank Group to expand access to digital infrastructure, boost digital industry and capabilities, ensure the availability and use of digital platforms, and help build the foundations needed for digital economies to thrive. The team also works to strengthen cybersecurity and data protection and leverage the potential of digital technologies to enhance environmental sustainability. Christine joined the World Bank Group in 1998. Prior to her role as Director, she was the Practice Manager in the Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation (FCI) Global Practice for West and Central Africa, Practice Manager of the Global Investment Climate unit in FCI, and Practice Manager of the Global Investment and Competition Unit in the Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment (MTI) Global Practice. She was also the Lead Economist at the Policy Division of the Global ICT Department of the World Bank Group. During her tenure, she edited the first two Global Information and Communications Reports (2006, 2009), and oversaw the publication of the first two Global Investment Competitiveness Reports (2017/18 and 2019/20). She has also published journal articles, book chapters and reports on broadband investment, private sector development, IT-enabled services, trade, foreign direct investment, competition, regulatory reforms, productivity and competitiveness. Christine holds a Ph.D. in economics and a Master's in computer science and engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Daniel Benitez



Daniel Benitez is Senior Transport Economist with the Transport Funding and Financing Group in the Transport Global Knowledge Unit of the World Bank. His work involves both analytical and advisory services on infrastructure economics, policy and financing since 2006. Daniel also worked on computable general equilibrium analysis and utility regulation as researcher at Center for Economic Regulation in Argentina. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Toulouse.

David Loew



David Loew is a Senior Energy Economist in the World Bank's Global Energy Knowledge Unit, where he works to enhance how the Bank and its clients measure and improve utility performance. He began his career at the Bank as a financial analyst, supporting utility financial recovery efforts for World Bank clients worldwide. Before joining the Bank, David worked in the private sector as a financial and management consultant for utilities, power projects, and SME clients in Europe and Africa.

Demetrios Papathanasiou



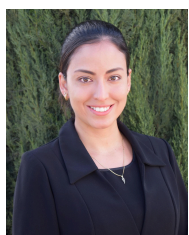
Dr Papathanasiou leads more than 100 professionals at the Global Units of the Energy and Extractives Global Practice of the World Bank. He coordinates the overall strategic direction of the Practice, advances the knowledge and learning agenda for the Bank's energy and extractives professionals, and oversees corporate reporting, trust funds, and partnerships for the Practice. Demetrios has worked for more than 25 years with the World Bank Group on Energy and Infrastructure in Africa, Latin America, East Europe and the Balkans, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific Islands. He has contributed to developing energy policies in several countries and worked on power generation projects using many diverse technologies: thermal, hydropower, solar, wind, and geothermal. He has led large teams on complex utility and sector reforms, as well as sizable public-private partnership transactions. As the Manager for the World Bank's Energy Practice in South Asia (2016-2020), he was responsible for a portfolio of more than \$10 billion and worked to increase renewable energy projects in the region, expand regional interconnections and exchanges, and modernize networks across the region. A professional Electrical Engineer, Demetrios holds an MSc in Environmental Technology and a PhD in Energy and the Environment from Imperial College in London, UK.

Eric VanLoo-Hsu



Eric is a development economist with interests in energy and the environment. Eric's work focuses on firm and household barriers to adopting technologies in low-income settings. Eric received a PhD in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, Eric is a postdoctoral associate and lecturer with Y-RISE at the MacMillan Center at Yale University.

Estefania Vergara Cobos



Estefania Vergara Cobos serves as an Economist within the Chief Economist Office for the Infrastructure Vice-Presidency at the World Bank. Her focus lies in researching various aspects of digitalization in developing countries. She is a published author, presently leading a study on Cybersecurity Economics for emerging economies and the benefits of digital infrastructure investments. Estefania holds a Ph.D. in Economics along with advanced studies in Computer Science. Prior to joining the World Bank, she worked as a University Economics lecturer at Santa Clara University and Stony Brook University in the U.S.A., as well as Universidad de Las Américas in Ecuador.

Fathima Hussain



Fathima Hussain is Managing Director and Head of the Africa Project Finance team based in London and has over 26 years banking experience in the project & structured finance arena covering Africa, Europe, Asia and Latin America. During her career, Fathima has structured and led the execution of a number of award-winning debt arranging and advisory mandates in the energy, natural resources and infrastructure sectors. Fathima joined SCB in October 2005 and in her current role as Head of the Africa Project Finance team, she is responsible for leading a project finance business spanning energy, natural resources and infrastructure. Fathima was previously with ANZ Investment Bank in London working on project advisory mandates, limited recourse finance and loan syndications in the Oil & Gas sector including reserves-based lending, LNG, Petrochemical and Fertiliser projects with a specific focus on the Middle East & South Asia. In 2002, Fathima relocated to Singapore where she worked with the Leasing & Structured Asset Finance team primarily focusing on offshore transportation and FPSO projects across Asia. Fathima holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from Cambridge University and a BSc (Hons) Degree in Financial Services and is a qualified Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers.

Guangzhe Chen



Guangzhe Chen is the World Bank's Vice President for Infrastructure. He leads the Bank's global efforts to build sustainable infrastructure in developing and emerging economies and supports the World Bank Group's strategic priorities such as the climate change action plan and the private capital mobilization and enabling efforts. He oversees the Bank's work across energy and transport sectors, digital development, and efforts to provide access to renewable energy, low-carbon transportation, digital connectivity, and quality infrastructure services to communities through public-private partnerships. Infrastructure represents around US\$77 billion of the Bank's portfolio. An economist by training, Mr. Chen has over 25 years of international experience in the field of sustainable development, infrastructure finance and management with the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. He worked extensively in Africa and the South Asia Region. He graduated from Harvard University and Zhongshan University, in China.

He He



He He is an Economist in the Office of the Infrastructure Chief Economist focusing on the transport sector. His areas of expertise include transport demand modelling, land use-transport interactions, accessibility, and agglomeration economies. His current work additionally explores transport sector decarbonization, vehicle and fuel policies and taxation for transport demand management, and applied urban models. He holds a BSc in Engineering Science (Infrastructure) from the University of Toronto and an MS and a PhD in Transportation from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Henri Blas



Henri is leading the Global Infrastructure Hub (GIHub) program under the WBG Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility. He is a Senior Infrastructure Specialist and is based in Singapore. Prior to joining the WBG, he was the Chief Content Officer at the GIHub - leading the strategy and delivery of initiatives as well as being the GIHub representative at the G20 Infrastructure Working Group and Sustainable Finance Working Group. Prior to joining GIHub, Henri was the COO and Resilience Finance Lead for the Resilient Cities Network – an initiative across 100 cities pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. He had previously been leading AECOM transport and economics advisory practice in Asia, advising on asset valuations and sale/acquisitions for Macquarie Funds in North America and developing transport strategic models and solutions across Europe and APAC for Systra.

Jean Pesme



As Global Director, Finance in the Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation (FCI) Global Practice, Jean leads the World Bank's work to promote the development of sound, stable, sustainable, and inclusive financial systems. His global team of experts works with governments and partners to make financial systems more resilient, to open access to finance for poor and vulnerable people, to support economic activity and to develop financial markets. Their strategy and its implementation emphasize the development of digital financial services, addressing climate change and sustainable finance and creating opportunities for women by bolstering their financial inclusion.

Jeff Delmon



Jeff Delmon has advised governments, sponsors and lenders on infrastructure finance, PPP and construction across Western and Eastern Europe, East Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, Africa and Central America since 1994 and has been a senior PPP specialist with the World Bank since 2005. He is currently based in Singapore. Jeff's work has included legal and regulatory enabling environment, PPP programs, municipal PPP programs, infrastructure funds and private financing projects in telecoms (fibre cables, submarine cables, data centers and satellites), transport (light rail, bus rapid transit, airports, roads, tunnels), power generation (thermal, hydro, geothermal and nuclear), water (concessions, affermage and BOT), municipal services (sanitation BOT, waste to energy, conference facilities, low cost housing, transit oriented development, parking), educational facilities, hospitals, tourism and special economic zones. Prior to joining the World Bank, he spent 11 years in Paris and London advising lenders, sponsors and governments on project finance and PPP projects globally at the law firms of Allen & Overy and Freshfields. He is the author of 14 books and numerous articles and blogs, including most recently, Innovative Funding and Financing for Infrastructure: Addressing Scarcity of Public Resources (Cambridge University Press, 2024) and Private Sector Investment in Infrastructure: Project finance, PPP projects and PPP programs (4ed Kluwer International 2021). Jeff is an adjunct professor at the Singapore Management University, he lectures at the National University of Singapore, is a qualified mediator and is a member of the International Advisory Panel of the Climate Impact Exchange (an exchange for trading high-quality emissions reduction credits). Jeff is leading a new World Bank initiative called the Emissions Reduction Program (ERP), that helps developing countries to engage strategically with global carbon markets.

Jevgenijs Steinbuks



Jevgenijs Steinbuks is a Senior Economist in the Office of Chief Economist for Infrastructure Practice. His areas of expertise are in economic development, energy and extractives, and urban and regional development. His current knowledge and operational work focuses on sustainable resource use, electric power, and infrastructure and economic development. Dr. Steinbuks has extensive experience in academia, the public sector, and international institutions.

Joyce Liyan



Joyce Liyan is Head of Advisory Division at EIB Global, the European Investment Bank's lending arm for countries outside the European Union (EU). She leads the team responsible for developing and implementing EIB Global's advisory services strategy and implementation in support of the Bank's financing operations outside the EU. Joyce has a 20-year experience in development finance, policy and technical assistance. She has been working at the EIB since 2006 where she held several positions in strategy and operations. Between 2011 and 2013, she worked as Advisor to the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM). Before joining EIB Global, she worked for the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UNESCO. She holds a Master's Degree in International Affairs from the Institut d'études politiques in Paris and La Sorbonne-Paris 1.

Justice Mensah



Justice is an economist at the Africa Chief Economist Office of the World Bank, in Washington DC. His research focuses on issues around Digitization, Firms, and Infrastructure.

Karim El Aynaoui



Karim El Aynaoui is Executive Vice-President of Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and Dean of its Humanities, Economics and Social Sciences Cluster. He is also Executive President of the Policy Center for the New South. Karim El Aynaoui is an economist. From 2005 to 2012, he worked at the Central Bank of Morocco, where he held the position of Director of Economics, Statistics, and International Relations. At the Central Bank of Morocco, he was in charge of the Research Department and equally a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Previously, he worked for eight years at the World Bank as an Economist for its regional units of the Middle East and North Africa and Africa. Karim El Aynaoui has published books and journal articles on macroeconomic issues in developing countries. His recent research has been focused on growth and the labor market in Morocco, as well as on reforming the international development economy. Karim El Aynaoui holds scientific and advisory positions at various institutions. He is currently a member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel, the Scientific Council of the Moroccan Capital Market Authority, the International Board of Leonardo Med-Or Foundation, the Advisory Council of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy of the American University of Cairo, Morocco's Chapter of the Confrérie des Compagnons de Gutenberg, and a global member of the Trilateral Commission. He serves as an advisor to the CEO and Chairman of OCP Group and is a board member of OCP Foundation. Karim El Aynaoui holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Bordeaux in France, where he taught courses in Statistics and Economics for three years. He is Commendatore of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Luciana Guimaraes Drummond e Silva



Luciana Guimaraes Drummond e Silva is an Infrastructure and PPP Specialist with over 13 years of experience implementing and managing a portfolio of investment and advisory services on public-private partnerships (PPPs) and commercial and project finance. She has extensive experience in legal, regulatory, and institutional reforms to foster private sector participation in all infrastructure sectors in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Currently, Luciana is the gender specialist as well as overseeing the global knowledge portfolio for both QII and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF). She also provides support to various governments across the globe regarding their PPP programs. Prior to joining the World Bank, Luciana worked for the private sector, developing healthcare PPPs and advising multinational enterprises on competitiveness and innovation challenges and on market intelligence strategies in Brazil. Luciana is a lawyer who also holds a bachelor's degree in International Relations and a master's degree in International Economics from Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Ludovic Delplanque



Ludovic is a Senior Infrastructure Specialist with a focus on energy and transport for both the QII Partnership and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) and is a senior member of the World Bank's Infrastructure, PPPs & Guarantee (IPG) team based in Singapore. Ludovic has over 25 years of experience in PPP transactions and institutional advisory and a multifaceted background in managing stakeholders and structuring and financing power projects, of which the model case Nam Theun 2 hydroelectric project in Laos is a particular highlight. Before joining the World Bank, Ludovic spent almost 20 years in the private power industry, starting in 1996 with the founding of the Asian branch of Siste Energies, a leading IPP company. In recent years, Ludovic has independently advised numerous governments in South

and East Asia and East Africa on their respective PPP programs and projects. A French and Australian national, Ludovic holds a Master of Science in engineering and international development and a post-graduate degree in marketing and finance from ESSEC business school France.

Maria Vagliasindi



Maria is the Lead Economist in the Infrastructure Chief Economist Office at the Group, World Bank. She leads analytical work and policy dialogue on energy and infrastructure reforms in several developing countries worldwide. She has written widely on the economics of competition, regulation, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and governance of state-owned enterprises. Before joining the World Bank, she worked in the Chief Economist's Office of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development. She had also been a Lecturer of Economics at the University of Edinburgh. Maria holds an MPhil in Economics from the University of Oxford and a PhD in Economics from the University of Warwick.

Martin Rama



Martin Rama is currently a consultant for the Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions Vice Presidency at the World Bank in Washington, DC, and a Senior Economic Advisor for EnCity Group in Singapore. He served as Chief Economist for the Latin America and Caribbean region of the World Bank from 2019 to 2021 and as the Chief Economist for its South Asia region (based in Delhi) from 2013 to 2018. Previously, he was the Director of the World Development Report (WDR) 2013, on Jobs.

Matias Herrera Dappe



Matías Herrera Dappe is a Senior Economist and the Global Lead on Transport Economics and Policy at the World Bank, where he leads policy research programs on infrastructure with a focus on transport. He has published extensively on a wide range of topics, including infrastructure economics, economic development, trade and logistics, public-private partnerships, state-owned enterprises, competition, auctions, and fiscal policy. Before joining the World Bank, he worked for consulting firms and think tanks, advising governments and companies in Latin America, North America, and Europe. He holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Matthew Jordan-Tank



Matthew Jordan Tank, Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Policy and Project Preparation, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). Matthew is Director of Sustainable Infrastructure Policy and Project Preparation at EBRD, covering the energy, transport and municipal sectors. His work covers upstream policy support, PPP transaction advisory, and project preparation/technical due diligence and implementation issues. Matthew also leads the Bank's Sustainable Infrastructure advisory activities, dedicated to improving the quality of advice and efficiency of project preparation for both PPPs and public sector-based projects. He is also active in various MDB, G20 and OECD working groups on global infrastructure support initiatives. Previously, he was Head of the Infrastructure Policy Unit at

EBRD from 2014-2018 and Senior Urban Transport Specialist at EBRD from 2008-2013. Prior to joining EBRD, he worked as a Transport Specialist for Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC and San Jose, Costa Rica, from 1999-2007. He holds a Masters in Planning from the University of Maryland, USA.

Murtaza Syed



Murtaza Syed is the Head of the Ecosystem in the Economics Department at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in Beijing. Murtaza has more than 25 years of experience in macroeconomic research and policy making. Most recently, he served as Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) during 2020-2023. At the SBP, he oversaw monetary policy, research and human resources. He also served as Acting Governor during May-August 2022. Prior to his stint at the SBP, Murtaza worked with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for 16 years. He reviewed IMF programs and surveillance of emerging markets and advanced economies—including Australia, Canada, Colombia, Euro Area, Germany, Greece, Morocco, Portugal, Tunisia, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. He also served as IMF Deputy Resident Representative in China during 2010-2014 and as IMF mission chief to Macao. Murtaza began his career in the late 1990s as a Senior Policy Analyst at the Islamabad-based Human Development Center under former Finance Minister of Pakistan, Mahbub ul Haq. Later, he worked for the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), a London-based public policy think tank, where he conducted research projects on business investment and employment behavior, as well as evaluations of Latin American antipoverty programs. Murtaza has a PhD in economics from Oxford University (Nuffield College). He has published papers on a variety of macroeconomic issues, including fiscal and monetary policy, financial stability, economic crises, investment, demographics, poverty and inequality. He has also delivered lectures on public policy at Cambridge and Oxford.

Mounssif Aderkaoui



Mounssif Aderkaoui is an expert in the field of economics and public policy with an extensive career spanning more than two decades. He held various leadership positions in both the public and the private sectors. His most recent position was Director of the Department of Studies at Morocco's Ministry of Economy and Finance. Throughout his career, Mr. Aderkaoui has led a multitude of economic studies and policy evaluations in a wide array of subjects, including fiscal policy, structural reforms, sectoral strategies, and regional integration. He has also supervised different large-scale projects in partnership with international organizations, such as the World Bank, IMF, OECD, The French Development Agency, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and UN-Women. Mr. Aderkaoui has served as a member of several scientific committees focusing on critical economic issues.

He was notably appointed in 2021 as President of the Mediterranean Integration Centre (CMI) and in 2019 as Vice President of the OECD Initiative in "Global Value Chains, Production Transformation, and Development". He is a graduate of Ecole Polytechnique (France), University of Bristol (UK) and Telecom Paris (France).

Nicolas Peltier



Nicolas Peltier-Thiberge is the Global Director for the Transport Sector in the Infrastructure Practice Group of the World Bank. Mr. Peltier-Thiberge joined the World Bank in 2002 as a Young Professional, and he has since held various positions in the Transport Global Practice, managing World Bank-financed transport investments in multiple regions, including North Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa. Between 2012 and 2015, Mr. Peltier-Thiberge was a Portfolio Assistant in the Office of the World Bank Group President. From 2015 to 2022, Mr. Peltier-Thiberge has been a Practice Manager in charge of the World Bank's Transport business in North Africa and the Middle East, West and Central Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. In May 2022, he became the Global Director for the Transport Sector. Prior to joining the World Bank, Mr. Peltier-Thiberge worked in the French Ministry of Economy and Industry and in the French Treasury. Mr. Peltier-Thiberge holds graduate diplomas in science and civil engineering, as well as technology and policy from Ecole Polytechnique (France), Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (France), and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (United States).

Omar Chaudry



Omar is a Manager in IFC's Economics Vice-Presidency, with a focus on infrastructure and overseeing the areas of impact management and strategy. In this role, Omar oversees a multidisciplinary team of professionals across 4 continents. These include (i) strategy for infrastructure – via a multifaceted approach to the scale-up of solutions in emerging markets; (ii) convening for IFC in the infrastructure space, within the MDB/DFI community, as well as representation on global fora, including the G20; and (iii) impact and additionality assessment & monitoring - via the deployment of IFC's AIMM system for investment and advisory operations, as well as continued oversight for its ongoing implementation. Omar has been with the World Bank Group since 2000 in a variety of regional and sector-focused roles and is based in Washington DC.

Paul Noumba Um



Paul Noumba Um is the Regional Director of the World Bank's Infrastructure Department in the Middle East and North Africa region. He is an infrastructure (energy, transport and water), telecommunications and private sector expert with over three decades of experience in infrastructure policy regulation and finance. He has advised governments, utility companies and private sector partners on energy security and efficiency, transportation, telecommunication, good governance, PPP and Privatization. Dr. Noumba Um has held technical and leadership roles within the World Bank – as Country Director for Southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and as the Country Director for Mali, Chad, Guinea, Central Africa Republic and Niger. He also served as the Practice Manager for Private Sector Development and Finance for Western and Central Africa. In the early 2000s, he led the Bank's Infrastructure Regulation and Public Private Partnerships Capacity Building Program and held the first global Summit of PPP Units in 2006.

Paul is a Cameroonian and French national based in Washington, D.C.; began his career in 1987 with government of Cameroon before moving to France to work with France Telecom (Orange Labs). Paul joined the Bank in 1998 in the then Energy, Mining, and Telecommunication Department and has since held positions with World Bank Institute, Middle East and North Africa, and after 2010, as Finance and Private Sector Development Sector Manager in Africa. He holds a PhD in Economics from Rennes University (1995); Master's degrees in Engineering and Economics from IMT Atlantique (1987), France; a BA in Engineering from the Cameroonian National Post and Telecom School (1983); and an Executive Program Certificate in Managing Sustainability (Climate Change and Development) from University of Cambridge, UK.

Peter Blair Henry



Peter Blair Henry is the Class of 1984 Senior Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, Senior Fellow at Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) and Dean Emeritus of New York University's Leonard N. Stern School of Business. The youngest person ever named to the Stern Deanship, Peter served as Dean from January 2010 through December 2017 and doubled the school's average annual fundraising. Formerly the Konosuke Matsushita Professor of International Economics at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business from 2001–2006, Peter's research was funded by an NSF CAREER Award, and he has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles in the flagship journals of economics and finance, as well as a book on global economic policy, *Turnaround: Third World Lessons for First World Growth* (Basic Books). Chair of the Board of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Peter also serves on the Boards of Citigroup, Nike, and Analog. In 2015, he received the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the organization, and in 2016 he was honored as one of the Carnegie Foundation's Great Immigrants. With financial support from the Hoover Institution and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Peter leads the Ph.D. Excellence Initiative (PhDEI) a post-baccalaureate program designed to address underrepresentation in economics by mentoring exceptional students interested in pursuing doctoral studies in the field. For his leadership of the PhDEI, Peter received the 2022 Impactful Mentoring Award from the American Economic Association. Peter received his PhD in economics from MIT and Bachelor's degrees from Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead-Cain Scholar, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a reserve wide receiver on the football team, and a finalist in the 1991 campus-wide slam dunk competition. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1969, Peter became a U.S. citizen in 1986. He lives in Stanford and Düsseldorf with his wife and four sons. Read his article on "*The Global Infrastructure Gap: Potential, Perils, and a Framework for Distinction*" [here](#).

Philippe Benoit



Philippe Benoit, managing director of Global Infrastructure Advisory Services 2050, is an accomplished senior professional with more than 25 years of experience in international energy, finance, development and sustainability, including management and strategic positions in the public and private sectors and academia. Mr. Benoit's experience spans a wide spectrum of countries, from advanced economies in Europe and North America to emerging economies in Asia, Africa and Latin America to least-developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. One of his current areas of focus is engaging state-owned enterprises in climate action.

Mr. Benoit, among other things, worked for over 15 years at the World Bank (including as Energy Sector Manager and advisor to the Managing Director), at the International Energy Agency as Division Head for Energy Environment and Energy Efficiency, and at SG Investment Bank as Director in the Energy Project Finance group. He most recently worked as Adjunct Senior Research Scholar at Columbia University-SIPA's Center on Global Energy Policy. He also served as Senior Associate (non-resident) with the Center on Strategic and International Studies: Energy Security and Climate Change Program. He holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School (cum laude), a B.A. in economics and political science from Yale University (magna cum laude), and a masters degree in trade law from the University of Paris-Sorbonne.

Reynaldi Hermansjah



Reynaldi Hermansjah is currently the Chief Executive Officer of PT Indonesia Infrastructure Finance. Previously, he was the Chief Financial Officer of PT Jasa Marga (Persero) Tbk, Indonesia's State-Owned listed Toll-Road Company from 2006 until 2016, and from 2016 until 2019, he was the CFO of PT Pembangunan Jaya Infrastruktur. Within ten years of tenure at PT Jasa Marga (Persero) Tbk, has brought the Company public through an International Global Offering and has extensive knowledge in the Infrastructure Industry, especially in the Toll-Road sector. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from Trisakti University and Master's Degree from Pelita Harapan University. In 2021, he acquired a Doctoral Degree of Management from Pelita Harapan University. He has more than 20 years of experience in the financial sector, especially in the field of Investment and Capital Markets. He began his career in 1991 at Nomura Securities and afterwards held several senior key positions at several national and multinational companies, such as Mees Pierson Finas, BII LendLease Investments and Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency. Prior to being assigned at Jasa Marga, he was the President Director of PT PNM Investment Management. Aside from attending and speaking at international conferences, He is an Honorary Fellow at the Asean Federation of Engineers Organization.

Ronald Fischer

Ronald Fischer is a Professor in the Industrial Engineering Department of the University of Chile. He received a PhD in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and a BSc in Applied Mathematics from the University of Chile. His research interests include the economics of infrastructure and regulation, especially its applications to the electric sector. His research includes political economy models linking wealth distribution to economic performance and welfare. His research has been published in the Journal of Political Economy the Quarterly Journal of Economics as well as in the main field journals in Public, International, Urban, Development, Transport and Environmental Economics. Has consulted for the IMF, the World Bank, the IABD and other multilateral institutions for Chilean government institutions, as well as for private corporations. Has been a member of various Presidential Commissions and of the Panel of Experts in Energy and the Expert Panel in Infrastructure.

Sebastian Molineus



Sebastian-A Molineus is the Director, Strategy and Operations, for the Infrastructure Practice Group, where he helps to: implement global strategic priorities, including for Private Capital Facilitation, the Just Energy Access and transition agenda, and transport decarbonization; oversees the day-to-day operations of the Practice Group; contribute to corporate priorities; and promote regional and global partnerships. Sebastian also currently serves as the Acting Director for the Infrastructure Finance, PPPs, and Guarantees Global Practice (IPG). Sebastian joined the International Finance Corporation in 2002, where he managed corporate governance reform programs in Russia and across the Middle East & North Africa region, based in Moscow and then Cairo. In 2008 he joined the World Bank in Washington as a Senior Operations Officer responsible for financial and private sector development and then became a Practice Manager for the Capital Markets Global Practice in 2012. He was appointed as Director to the Finance & Markets Global Practice in 2014 and in 2018, became the Director for the Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice. From 2019 to 2023, Sebastian served as Country Director for the South Caucasus. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Sebastian worked at the OECD in the Financial, Fiscal, and Enterprise Affairs Division. Sebastian holds an MBA from the HEC School of Management in France and a Masters from the University of Passau's School of Law in Germany. He is married with four children.

Shahrukh Wani



Shahrukh Wani works with policymakers, researchers, and development partners to support evidence-based policy decisions and reforms. He has worked with governments in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Uganda, and Zambia to deliver actionable research, strategy, and policy advice focusing on urban development, public finance, public sector management, poverty reduction, and infrastructure financing. He presently leads the International Growth Center's engagement in Zambia, based at the London School of Economics and Lusaka. The program's efforts involve enhancing the use of data analytics in public policy, addressing challenges in agricultural productivity, promoting the mining sector's contribution to the economy, place-based economic policies, and positioning Zambia for the global energy transition. He has been quoted widely on economic, tax, and urban policy, including in the Financial Times, Africa Report, BBC, Fortune, and Al Jazeera.

Stéphane Straub



Dr. Stéphane Straub is the Chief Economist for the Infrastructure Vice-Presidency, where he brings his wealth of knowledge and expertise to drive forward the economic dimensions of transformative infrastructure projects. Previously, he was a professor at the Toulouse School of Economics, where he remains an associate member. He has held academic and teaching positions in Latin America, the United States, United Kingdom, and France, worked as a Lead Economist with the World Bank's Sustainable Development Practice Group in 2016-17, and as a consultant for several international institutions such as the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Union, and the Asian Development Bank, among others. His focus on infrastructure, procurement, and institutions in developing nations highlights his commitment to sustainable and equitable development. Research into infrastructure's societal impact, public-private partnerships, and corruption underscores Stéphane's multidimensional approach. As a former President of the European Development Network and Secretary of the Jean-Jacques Laffont association, he champions academic excellence and positive global change.

Sudatta Mandal



Sudatta Mandal joined the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as the Deputy Managing Director 3rd May 2021. Before joining SIDBI, he was the Chief Financial Officer of the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank). In Exim Bank, he has experience of more than 25 years across different functions (Assets, Liabilities, Risk Management, Compliance and Strategy), including operational experience in International Trade and Investment Finance, Project Finance, SME lending, including Cluster Finance, cross-border Development Finance, resource raising in both Indian and international debt capital markets, and enterprise-wide risk management. In SIDBI, he has played a leadership role and stewarded the Bank's initiatives in Treasury & Resources, Direct Credit, Institutional Credit, Digital Lending, Venture Finance (both equity and debt), Risk Management, Human Resource Development, Corporate Strategy and Information Technology. He is a B-Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

Ufuk Akcigit



Ufuk Akcigit currently serves as the Arnold C. Harberger Professor in Economics and the College at the University of Chicago. In addition to this role, he is also Head of the Research Group: The Economic Gap between East and West Germany, at the Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH). Akcigit's research focuses on understanding the drivers of innovation and technological progress and how these factors impact economic growth and development. His work often combines theoretical models with empirical analysis, providing insights into the dynamics of innovation-led growth. Akcigit's contributions to the field have been recognized by several awards, including the Global Economy Prize through the Kiel Institute and the Max Planck Humboldt Research Award. In 2021, he was named a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, elected as a member of the Turkish Academy of Sciences, and honored as an Economic Society Fellow. His most recent publication, co-edited with John Van Reenen, is titled *The Economics of Creative Destruction*, published in 2023 through Harvard University Press.

Vivien Foster



Vivien is a Principal Research Fellow in the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College London, where she lectures on the Environmental Technology MSc. She is an infrastructure economist working on the economic, financial, environmental and social dimensions of energy and transport systems in low- and middle-income countries, and the associated implications for the climate transition. Vivien serves as International Partnerships Lead for the Climate Compatible Growth Initiative, a major FCDO research program harnessing the know-how of major UK universities to support decarbonization of energy and transport systems in the developing world. She is also affiliated with ODI, where she is a Senior Research Associate. Previously, Vivien spent over 20 years at the World Bank where she played a variety of research-oriented leadership roles, including: Chief Economist for the Infrastructure Vice-Presidency of the World Bank (2018-2023); Global Lead for Energy Economics, Markets and Institutions (2016-18); Practice Manager of the Global Energy Anchor (2012-16); and Lead Economist for Infrastructure in the Africa Region (2006-11). Throughout, she has engaged on a wide variety of analytical, advisory and operational engagements with client governments in some 40 countries across Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Younes Issami



Younes Issami is the Director of the Monetary and Foreign Exchange Operations at Bank Al-Maghrib, the Central Bank of Morocco. He oversees the implementation of monetary policy operation, foreign exchange markets, management of foreign exchange reserves. Prior to his appointment as Director, Younes was the head of the market operations department. He also served as head of the foreign exchange reserve management division. Before joining the central bank in 2006, Younes was at the Moroccan Pension Fund (CMR) where he held different position as an actuary and head of research department at portfolio management division. Younes holds an MBA from Cranfield University and a graduate actuary from Mohammed V University. He also holds a DESSS from the National School of Social Security.

Yue Li



Yue Li is a senior economist at the Office of the Chief Economist for the Infrastructure Vice Presidency of the World Bank. Previously, Yue was a senior economist at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for three years, leading the research function in its Economics Department. Prior to joining the AIIB, Yue also served in the World Bank's research department, economists' network, Office of the Chief Economist for South Asia, and global investment climate unit. Her research centers on economic geography, urban economics, international economics, and firm dynamics. She holds a PhD in economics from Rutgers University, a master's degree in economics and political science from Syracuse University, and a bachelor's degree from Peking University.