HRH Princess
Dr Nisreen
El-Hashemite

I am a bird in a sky, my education and knowledge, are my wings! I am flying everywhere, to whomever is in need, without the need to cross borders and obtain visas.
ENJOY LIFE AT SWISSÔTEL THE BOSPHORUS, ISTANBUL

Designed with state-of-the-art technological facilities to reflect the modern living concept, Swissôtel The Bosphorus, Istanbul offers luxury, peace and sincerity together. Discover and enjoy its extraordinary world.
## Programme Overview

### World Congress 2020

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>9am – 11am</td>
<td>Global Exchange Forum</td>
<td>Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.30am – 11.45am</td>
<td>WBAF Code of Conduct</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.45am – 1pm</td>
<td>Exclusive Workshop</td>
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<td>1pm – 2pm</td>
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<td>2pm – 2.30pm</td>
<td>Interactive Round Table</td>
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<td>Grand Assembly Awards 2020</td>
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<td>3pm – 3.30pm</td>
<td>WBAF Global Action Plans 2020</td>
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<td>3.30pm – 4pm</td>
<td>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<td>4pm – 6.30pm</td>
<td>International Committee Board Meetings</td>
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<td>8.30pm – 10.30pm</td>
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<td>8am – 9am</td>
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<td>17 February</td>
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<td>The Grand Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>Main Hall</td>
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<td>12.30pm – 2pm</td>
<td>VIP Lunch, Fuji Hall</td>
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<td>2.30pm – 5pm</td>
<td>Angel Investors Summit, Masterclasses, Investment Readiness Workshop for Startups</td>
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<td>Coffee Break &amp; Networking</td>
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<td>5.30pm – 6pm</td>
<td>Plenary Session &amp; Closing Remarks</td>
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<td>7pm – 8pm</td>
<td>Chairman’s Reception for the World Excellence Awards</td>
<td>VIP Gala Dinner</td>
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<td>8.30pm – 11pm</td>
<td>World Excellence Awards VIP Gala Dinner</td>
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<td>9am – 12pm</td>
<td>Science, Technology &amp; Innovation Summit</td>
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<td>9am – 12pm</td>
<td>Global Startups Summit</td>
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<td>CEO Investors Summit</td>
<td>Zurich Hall</td>
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<td>9am – 5pm</td>
<td>WBAF Business School Workshops</td>
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<td>5.30pm – 6pm</td>
<td>Plenary Session &amp; Closing Remarks</td>
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### Additional Events

- **QBAC+ Qualified Angel Investor Executive Program**
  - by registration only
  - Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Acacia Hall
Shaping the 2020 Global Agenda of the Early-Stage Equity Markets of the World

17 February 2020

Dear WBAF Delegate,

On behalf of WBAF, I am pleased to welcome you to this year’s congress of the World Business Angels Investment Forum.

Today in Istanbul, we have hundreds of Angel Investors, Angel Network Managers, policymakers, academics, high-growth business owners, bank executives, presidents of international associations, and stock exchange executives — from 92 countries.

What is behind this meeting?

We are here to address a very important challenge: We all know that access to finance for startups, scale-ups, entrepreneurs and high-growth businesses is one of the critical issues of the 21st century. But today we also face another important challenge: easing access to finance for Angel Investors for their second or third or further rounds of investment.

Last year 320,000 business angels invested EUR 9.6 billion in Europe and $26 billion in the US. The total investment worldwide is expected to be $50 billion dollars in the coming years. If we want to increase the efficiency of these investments — along with market size — we have to leverage the investment capability of these Angels.

Why is this so important?

The reason is simple: Only angel investors have the know-how and the networks to fast-track startups and scale-ups into the world’s capital and equity markets. If we can create an innovative financial plan for early exits, this will mean more jobs in a shorter period of time.

So, at this year’s congress, we are focusing on how corporate businesses and wealth management institutions can foster open innovation and deliver more business value by setting up partnerships with angel investors, startups, scale-ups and SMEs.

As the global leaders of early-stage investment markets (stock exchange executives, experts, policymakers, academics, bank executives, active members of early-stage investment markets, and WBAF delegates), we are all coming together to create new ways for Angel Investors to access finance.

Today we are here to shape the global agenda of the early-stage equity markets of the world.

Welcome to WBAF World Congress 2020 and welcome to Istanbul!

I am delighted to welcome you to Istanbul for this special international event.

By working together across borders, with a common vision, and with these smart dynamics in mind, we are well placed to bring about positive change in the global economy. Your efforts to convert the world economy to a smart economy in cooperation with the World Business Angels Investment Forum is highly valued.

You are sure to find WBAF World Congress 2020 a rewarding experience!

Yours sincerely,

BAYBARS ALTUNTAS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WORLD BUSINESS ANGEL INVESTMENT FORUM

Baybars.Altuntas@wbaforum.org
WBAF Business School

It is the position of the WBAF Business School that when investors have had the advantage of training in the best practices of negotiating deals for early-stage investment, they are better equipped to ensure good returns on their investment. With this in mind, the WBAF Business School offers a wide variety of training programs using a range of input (case studies, panel discussions, and presentations, to name a few), all of which encourage active participation and interaction on the part of those attending.

Rector

Dr Paul Doany
Former Group CEO of Turk Telekom (TT), Chairman ICT / Renewable Energy Ventures

Department Head

Israel Pons
Honorary President of the Latin America & the Caribbean Angel Investors Federation (XCALA)

Department Head

Prof. Inderjit Singh
President of the World Entrepreneurship Forum

Department Head

Maryam Najafi
Founder and CEO of the Hoomaan Institute

Global Investment Department

Noomane Fehri
Former Minister of ICT & Digital Economy of Tunisia

Modwenna Rees-Mogg
Chair of Angel News & Advisory Board Member, United Kingdom Business Angels Association (UKBAA), UK

Asma Bashir
Chairwoman, Centuro Global, UK

Renata Brkic
Founder & Managing Director of Feelsgood Social Impact Investment Fund, Croatia

Paulo Andrez
Emeritus President of the European Business Angels Network & Investor of Toys R US IB Portugal
Marcel Dridje
Board Member EBAN, France

Mondher Khanfir
Advisory Board Member,
AM Acceleration @ Station, France

Fabrice Testa
Board Member of Luxembourg Business
Angels Network, Luxembourg

Moutasem Mismar
Senior Advisor, IFC - World Bank Group,
Jordan

Dr Abdul Malek Al-Jabaar
President of the Middle East Business
Angels Network, UAE

Sabur Khan
Chairman, Daffodil International
University, Bangladesh

Bulent Senver, Former Chairman of
Denizbank, Turkey

H.E. Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim
6th President of the Republic of Mauritius

Marie-Christine Oghly
World President, World Association of
Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM), France

Swati Mandela
President - Global Woman Leaders
Committee, South Africa

Dr. Hashim S. Hussein
Head of the United Nations Industrial
Development Organization – Investment &
Technology Promotion Office, Bahrain

Petr Sramek,
Managing Partner, Longevity Tech Fund,
Czech Republic

Ivan Jovetic
President of the Montenegro Television
Broadcasting Company (RTCG) and Co-
founder of MEBAN, Montenegro

Mario Ottiglio
President, Europe, Global Coalition
on Aging, Italy
Enriko Ceko
Dean of the Economics and Social Sciences Faculty, Kolegji Universitar WISDOM, Albania

Dr Mohammed Elhadi
National Consultant of the Social Entrepreneurship Program, Sudan

Deniz Misir
Family Officer, V22 International, Turkey

Arjan Goudsblom
Programme Director, Amsterdam Science Park, Netherlands

Roger Collantes
Former Director of the Singapore-Asia Pacific Group Office Regional Learning Center of the Citibank, Philippines

Young-Jin Choi
Mentor at Techstars Munich, Germany

Sertac Yeltekin
Chief Operating Officer at Insitor Partners Venture Capital, Singapore

Lars Andersen
Board Member of the Danish Commercial Lawyers Association, Denmark

Alicia Robb
Founder & CEO, Next Wave Impact, USA

Juha Perälampi
Manager of the Incubation Center of the Qatar University, Finland

Ingrid Vasiliu-Feltes
Chief Quality and Innovation Officer, MEDNAX Health Solutions, USA

Dr Norris Krueger
Delegate to Kauffman Foundation’s Landmark ESHIP Meet-up for Global Ecosystem Builders, USA

Dr Nikhil Agarwal
CEO, FIRST@IIT-Kanpur, India

Dr Eythor Ivar Jonsson
Lecturer, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite
President of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
The Global Innovation and Technology Leaders Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to connecting innovators with smart finance, creating a better environment for innovation, helping inventors commercialize their inventions, fostering the kind of creative thinking that leads to innovation by open learning and skill development, and accelerating technology transfer around the world.

HRH Princess
Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite
President of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Iraq

H.E. Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Mauritius

H.E. Prof Inderjit Singh
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Singapore

H.E. Noomane Fehri
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Tunisia

Dr Narong Sirilertworakul
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Thailand

Dr Paul Doany
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Jordan

Josep M. Piqué
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Spain

Marie-Christine Oghly
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
France

Paolo Sironi
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Italy

Sabur Khan
Board Member of the Global Science, Technology & Innovation Committee
Bangladesh
Swati Mandela
President of the Global Woman Leaders Committee
Global Woman Leaders Committee

The Global Woman Leaders Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to leveraging unique access to the world’s most influential woman leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and artists—uniting these global forces to harness their collective knowledge, address today’s critical issues, and generate innovative solutions to empower the world economy.

**Swati Mandela**  
President of the Global Woman Leaders Committee, South Africa

**Asma Bashir**  
Board Member  
UK

**H.E. Prof. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**  
Vice President of the Global Woman Leaders Committee, Mauritius

**Barbara Dietrich**  
Board Member  
Germany

**Marie-Christine Oghly**  
Vice President of the Global Woman Leaders Committee, France

**Danela Arsovska**  
Board Member  
North Macedonia

**Dr Tina Allton**  
Vice President of the Global Woman Leaders Committee, UK

**Gamze Cizreli**  
Board Member  
Turkey

**Mulemwa Moongwa**  
Secretary General of the Global Woman Leaders Committee, Zambia

**Lucy Chow**  
Board Member  
UAE

**Maryam Najafi**  
2nd Secretary General of the Global Woman Leaders Committee, Iran

**Rina Neoh**  
Board Member  
Malaysia
Global Startup Committee

The Global Startup Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to helping the next generation of great companies move forward and to showcase the world’s top startups and scaleups (typically, funded companies in the process of raising €100K–€1M) at the Global Fundraising Stage (GFRS), establishing a superior deal flow pipeline that connects investors with superior startups, and through training and mentorship, to help the next generation of companies that are seeking to raise funding in order to grow and scale their businesses.

Prof Inderjit Singh
President of the Global Startup Committee, Singapore

Israel Pons
Vice President of the Global Startup Committee, Mexico

Maryam Najafi
Vice President of the Global Startup Committee, Iran

Md Sabur Khan
Vice President of the Global Startup Committee, Bangladesh

Miguel Martin
Vice President of the Global Startup Committee, Spain

Dr Nikhil Agarwal
Vice President of the Global Startup Committee, India

Christoph Drescher
Secretary General of the Global Startup Committee, Austria

Deniz Misir
Board Member of the Global Startup Committee, Turkey

Ivan Jovetic
Board Member of the Global Startup Committee, Montenegro

Mohammed Elhadi Ahmed Elsayed
Board Member of the Global Startup Committee, Sudan

Mohammed Sh. Al-Rashidi
Board Member of the Global Startup Committee, Kuwait

Paula Petkova
Board Member of the Global Startup Committee, UAE

Septi Bukula
Board Member of the Global Startup Committee, South Africa
KEYNOTE SPEECHES
OVERVIEW
World Congress of Angel Investors 2020

MONDAY
17 February
Swissôtel The Bosphorus
Istanbul
Main Hall

KEYNOTE 1
2020 World Congress
Main Hall, 10.10am - 10.20am
JF Gauthier, Founder & CEO,
Startup Genome, USA
How public policy action supports startups

KEYNOTE 2
2020 World Congress
Main Hall, 10.20am - 10.30am
Swati Mandela, President - WBAF Global Woman Leaders Committee, South Africa
Freedom of thinking for more innovation

TUESDAY
18 February
Swissôtel The Bosphorus
Istanbul

Keynote Speech by
HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite, Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust
STI Summit, Fuji Hall
9am
Investment in STI for Inclusive Green Growth

Keynote Speech by
Mario Ottiglio, President - Europe, Global Coalition on Aging, Italy
STI Summit, Fuji Hall
9.15am
Navigating the transformational impact and opportunities of aging

Keynote Speech by
Martin Jerch, Ph.D., Division of Financing and Investor Relations ICEX Invest in Spain
FDI Summit, Fuji Hall
2.30pm
Spain: an interconnected ecosystem for both, investors and startups

Keynote Speech by
Ziad Alexandre Hayek, President, World Association of PPP Units & Professionals (WAPPP), Switzerland
FDI Summit, Fuji Hall
2.40pm
Largely Untapped Sources of Financing

Keynote Speech by
H.E. Noomane Fehri, Former ICT & Digital Economy Minister of the Republic of Tunisia
STI Summit, Fuji Hall
9.30am
Role of the business angel during the global digital transformation

Keynote Speech by
Dr Jarmo T. Kotilaine, The Chief of Planning and Monitoring at Bahrain’s Labour Fund (Tamkeen)
FDI Summit, Fuji Hall
2.50pm
How economic change will drive innovative entrepreneurship in the Gulf

QBAC+ QUALIFIED ANGEL INVESTOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAM (by registration only)
Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Acacia Hall

FOR REGISTRATION:
www.wbaf2020.istanbul/ticketing
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>18 February</td>
<td>QBAC+ QUALIFIED ANGEL INVESTOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAM (by registration only)</td>
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<td><strong>Keynote Speech</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>by Prof Inderjit Singh, President, World Entrepreneurship Forum (WENF), Singapore</td>
<td></td>
<td>9am</td>
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<td>Creating investment opportunities through ecosystem building</td>
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<td>by Derik Kim, Founder &amp; Honorary President, Global Entrepreneurs Foundation, South Korea</td>
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<td>9.15am</td>
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<td>How fast does Korean Startup Ecosystem grow and forward it to pay?</td>
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<td>by Dr Paul Doany, Former Group CEO, Turk Telekom (TT), Chairman ICT/Renewable Energy Ventures, Jordan</td>
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<td>2.30pm</td>
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<td>It’s high time chief executives put some of their own money, where their mouth is!</td>
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<td>by Sabur Khan, Chairman, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>2.40pm</td>
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<td>How can we mobilize CEOs to empower startup economies</td>
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<td>by H.E. Prof Armeenah Gurib-Fakim, 6th President of the Republic of Mauritius</td>
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<td>9am</td>
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<td>Delivering on the SDGs through empowerment of girls in STEM</td>
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<td>by Marie-Christine Oghly, President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM), France</td>
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<td>9.15am</td>
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<td>Challenges and opportunities for women entrepreneurs</td>
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<td>by Swati Mandela, President - WBAF Global Woman Leaders Committee, South Africa</td>
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<td>9.30am</td>
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<td>Women driving transformation and unlocking economic and social development</td>
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<td>by H.E. Eduard Shalsi, Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania</td>
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<td>Filling in the gap in the start-up ecosystem</td>
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<td>by Balazs Hendrich, CEO, HEPA: Hungarian Export Promotion Agency, Hungary</td>
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<td>This program is sZuper!</td>
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<td>by Marie-Christine Oghly, President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM), France</td>
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| 2.30pm | **Keynote Speech** by Matt Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum, IFC / World Bank Group  
         | Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Geneve Hall                        |
|        | SME Finance Outlook 2030                                                |
| 4.15pm | **Keynote Speech** by Nomusa Dube-Ncube, KwaZulu Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs, South Africa  
         | Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Geneve Hall                        |
|        | The importance of the early-stage investment market in the creation of new jobs and social justice through SMEs, entrepreneurs and start-up development |
| 4.30pm | **Presentation** by Ana Barjasic, Founder & CEO, Connectology, Croatia  
         | Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Geneve Hall                        |
|        | Identifying and managing startup-related bias using behavioral science techniques |
| 4.50pm | **Keynote Speech** by Antonio Grasso, Founder and CEO, Digital Business Innovation srl, Italy  
         | Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Geneve Hall                        |
|        | Digitization, Digitalization and Digital Transformation: impact on startups and SMEs |
| 5.30pm | **Keynote Speech** by Matt Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum, IFC / World Bank Group  
         | Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Main Hall                          |
|        | Globalization, Innovation and Angel Investment                        |
| 5.35pm | **Keynote Speech** by Carsten Borring, Associate Vice President Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets, NASDAQ  
         | Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Main Hall                          |
|        | Without risk capital – no growth!                                    |

QBAC+ QUALIFIED ANGEL INVESTOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAM (by registration only)  
Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Acacia Hall

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ANGEL INVESTORS SUMMIT 2020

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

17 February 2020, Monday

Master of Ceremonies
Andrew Work, Editor-in Chief - Harbour Times, Hong Kong

Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul
Main Hall

09:00  **Grand Opening Ceremony**
The World Congress of the World Business Angels Investment Forum starts with the Grand Opening Ceremony, an invitation-only event for special guests from around the world. The Grand Opening Ceremony features keynote speeches from renowned businessmen, entrepreneurs and investors, presidential and ministerial speeches, video messages, the formal signing of economic cooperation agreements and an opening bell that signals the official opening of the Congress. The ceremony will conclude with a ministerial round table on critical issues and the state of the world. The details of the agenda of the ceremony will be announced at 9am on 17 February, at the beginning of the Grand Opening Ceremony.

12:00  **Coffee Break & Networking**

12:30  **VIP Lunch with Ministers** – by invitation only
Fuji Hall

14:30  **Global Leaders Action Plans 2020:**
**Developing angel investment as an asset class and innovative financial instruments to empower early stage equity markets in the era of worldwide digital transformation**

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, along with a new set of goals that are collectively called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Agenda, the culmination of many years of negotiation, was endorsed by all 193 member-nations of the UN General Assembly, both developed and developing – and it applies to all countries. Then-UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon noted that ‘the new agenda is a promise by leaders to all people everywhere. It is an agenda for people to end poverty in all of its forms – an agenda for the planet, our common home.’

At the 2010 G20 Summit in Seoul, the G20 leaders, recognizing financial inclusion as a pillar of the global development agenda, endorsed a concrete Financial Inclusion Action Plan. Financial inclusion was prominently included in the Leaders’ Declaration and was highlighted as an important component of the Seoul Development Consensus and the financial sector reform
agenda. The leaders announced the establishment of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) to institutionalize and continue the work begun by the Financial Inclusion Experts Group (FIEG) in 2010. The GPFI, officially launched on 10 December 2010 in Seoul, is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders to carry forward the work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan, which was endorsed at the Seoul G20 Summit.

As an affiliated partner of the GPFI, the World Business Angels Investment Forum is hosting this roundtable as a global convergence of global leaders of early and post-early stage equity and capital markets. They will discuss in detail the G20’s agenda to increase financial inclusion worldwide and will share information about the 2020 action plans of global leaders of early and post-early stage equity and capital markets in their response to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals and the GPFI platform.

The discussants, prominent global leaders in the world’s investment value chain, will explain how they plan to encourage collaboration between the ecosystems they lead. They will also explore ways to develop an international dialogue between public and private institutions that will empower early and post-early stage equity markets in the context of the worldwide digital transformation.

14.30  **Round Table 1**  
**Developing angel investment as an asset class in the era of worldwide digital transformation**

**Moderator**  
Baybars Altuntas, Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum

- Dr Abdul Malek Al-Jabar, President, Middle East Business Angels Network (MBAN)  
- Harry Tomi Davies, President, African Business Angels Network (ABAN)  
- Paulo Andrez, President Emeritus EBAN  
- Tarek El Kady, Chairman, Mediterranean Business Angels Federation  
- Israel Pons, Honorary President, Latin America and the Caribbean Angel Investors Federation (XCALA)

15.15  **Round Table 2**  
**Developing innovative financial instruments to empower early stage equity markets in the era of worldwide digital transformation**

**Moderator**  
Israel Pons, Honorary President, Latin America and the Caribbean Angel Investors Federation (XCALA), Mexico

- Dr Hashim Hussein, Head of United Nations Industrial Development Organization - Investment and Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO-ITPO)  
- Prof Inderjit Singh, President, World Entrepreneurship Forum (WENF)  
- Itai Manyere, World President, Junior Chamber International (JCI)  
- Juan Torrents, President of the Free & Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA)
Panel

Developing a global dialogue between startup and FDI ecosystems to increase cross-border investment

In 2018, the estimated global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows were $1.3 trillion, which is a 13% decline compared to the previous year. This is the third consecutive drop in FDI flows and the lowest level since the 2008 global financial crisis. The FDI slide is concentrated mainly in developed economies, which experienced a staggering 40% decline in FDI inflows. By contrast, new types of investment – angel investment, venture capital (VC), corporate venture capital (CVC), sovereign wealth funds (SWF), family offices, and impact investments – offer new opportunities for countries to boost their development. VC and CVC investments in new companies with high growth potential are at record high levels, despite negative global FDI trends. An analysis of global venture funding by KPMG reveals a six-year growth in VC investments, reaching $254 billion in 2018. Additionally, CVC investments reached an all-time high, with corporations participating in 20% of all VC deals in 2018.

The digital revolution has had a profound impact on the overall global economy. Recent statistics show that half of the world’s population is online, and the internet industry has made a significant contribution to countries’ GDP. The agenda of the G20 leaders reveals that financial technologies will play a key role in increasing financial inclusion globally. The numbers confirm this. Worldwide investments in fintech jumped to $111.8 billion in 2018, a staggering 120% over the 2017 figure of $50.8 billion.

Early and post-early stage equity markets are developing rapidly as well. In 2018, 320,000 angel investors invested 9.8 billion EUR in Europe, and in the U.S., 340,000 angel investors invested $27 billion. The size of the global investment in early-stage businesses in 2018 reached $60 billion, up 20% from $50 billion in 2017.

These figures show that, worldwide, we have an increasing startup economy and a decreasing FDI economy. The implications of negative FDI trends are a significant concern for policymakers, as FDI is an essential element in a country’s efforts to stimulate and enhance economic development. It is particularly significant for the developing world and transition economies, owing to their need for capital to stimulate industrialization.

This panel will seek practical ways to develop a dialogue between FDI ecosystems and startup ecosystems to empower local economies through co-investment and to develop innovative financial policies that will enhance the capabilities of FDI and startup investors. It will also explore ways to encourage the FDI ecosystem to engage with the startup economy and ways to create a global awareness about the benefits of collaboration between the world’s FDI economies and startup economies.
Moderator
Skalar Boštjan, CEO, WAIPA - World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies, Switzerland

Bence Katona, CEO of Hiventures, Hungary
Carsten Borring, Associate Vice President Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets, NASDAQ Copenhagen, Denmark
Jacoppo Dettoni, Deputy Editor, fDi Magazine - Financial Times, UK
Dr Jarmo T. Kotilaine, Chief of Planning and Monitoring, Bahrain’s Labour Fund, Bahrain
Jeffrey Steiner, President, Angel Investors Ontario, Canada
Sergio Vella, Director of Financing and Investor Relations, ICEX-Invest in Spain

17:00 Coffee Break & Networking

17:30 Plenary Session & Closing Remarks
Main Hall
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION SUMMIT 2020

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

Master of Ceremonies
Andrew Work, Editor-in Chief - Harbour Times, Hong Kong

18 February 2020, Tuesday
Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul
Fuji Hall

09:00 Opening Ceremony and Key Note Speeches:

Mario Ottiglio
President - Europe, Global Coalition on Aging

H.E. Noomane Fehri
Former ICT & Digital Economy Minister of the Republic of Tunisia

HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite
Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust

09:45 Panel Discussion 1
The financial challenge in the innovation chain: The funding gap between research and the market

Innovations and innovativeness in a business context is a key determinant of competitive advantage due to its role in identifying new markets and driving revenue growth, among its other value propositions. Success will depend on a context that encourages innovation in general and nurtures entrepreneurial innovation in particular.

Early-stage startups looking for financing face particular difficulties. Such enterprises have little or no collateral to offer, and conventional financial intermediaries are unwilling to participate in the first stages of their development. For this reason, public funding is typically needed in the earliest stage of the innovation process: research and development.

This panel will focus on current challenges to entrepreneurial innovation financing, the chain of financing, equity gaps, and equity-based investments. The discussants will consider whether new types of investments such as international coin offerings (ICOs), crowdfunding, and angel investment can help bridge the equity gap in financing for innovative projects and under which conditions it is possible. They will also propose ways to bring more innovative ideas to market more quickly.
Moderator
Moutasem Mismar, Senior Advisor, World Bank / IFC

Dr Alex Lin, Deputy CEO of NTUitive, Singapore
Paulo Andrez, President Emeritus EBAN, Investor of Toys R US IB, Portugal
Rene Rojas, Founder of HubBOG Angel Investment Club, Colombia

10:30 Panel Discussion 2
Innovative techniques to maximise startup potential: Building a disruptive entrepreneur-friendly community through multi-stakeholder engagement

Building and supporting a successful innovation and startup community requires the participation of stakeholders involved in various entities (business incubators, science and technology parks, angel networks, startup associations, universities, technology transfer offices, VCs, private equity funds, angel investors, family offices and corporate ventures). Multiple stakeholders can take on a pivotal role of innovation leader and champion to connect startups, scaleups, SMEs, governments, industries, and other knowledge-based institutions. The aim: to grow promising businesses.

This panel will discuss how innovative policies can be developed and what the role of public-private partnerships might be in this process. The discussants will put forth a concrete approach to changing the mindset of individuals who are in decision-making positions, both in public and private institutions. Any policy that supports entrepreneurs and SMEs directly—or that supports the supporters of entrepreneurs and SMEs—is useful, including converting public money to smart money by involving more angel investors and corporate ventures. A critical game-changer question will be addressed: How can we create an entrepreneurial ecosystem where all stakeholders come together around the same table to create more liquidity, ease access to finance and accelerate early exits?

Moderator
Mondher Khanfir, Advisory Board Member, AM Acceleration @ Station F, France

Chinwe Okoli, Founder, Grand Africa Initiative, Nigeria
Nawaf Mohamed Alkoheji, Chief Executive Officer, Tenmou, Bahrain
Mejra Juzbasic Bajgoric, Regional Director, Finance in Motion, Bosnia and Herzegovina

11:15 Panel Discussion 3
Launching an angel investor network for each science and technology park: A mechanism for accelerating the commercialization of innovative ideas and technology transfer

In the past, it was inventions that were important for economic development. In the 21st century, however, it is no longer invention that counts, but innovation. In earlier times, entrepreneurial skills were not needed to get an invention to market, largely because it was a seller’s economy, where customers were ready to buy anything new. Times have changed, and so have the rules of the game. Today’s inventors need more than just a clever idea. They need a complex set of skills to move their innovative idea into the market and to ensure that it succeeds.
One important skill they need is the ability to convert invention to innovation. To do that, they need access to finance. Virtually all types of finance sources beyond simple bootstrapping — corporate ventures, angel investors, crowd-funding platforms, accelerators, VCs, banks, public grants, co-investment funds, business plan competitions, technology transfer offices, family offices, private equity investors and stock exchanges — can easily be tapped for smart investing if they are paired with the right qualified angel investors and if they look beyond local financial ecosystems.

This panel will examine innovative policies that can ease access to finance for startups, entrepreneurs, SMEs and innovators. It will also discuss the creation of science park angel networks (SPAN), ways to identify potential angel investors in their ecosystem, and ideas for organizing them into angel investor groups. The aim is to involve investors with the mission of the technology parks, to connect them with innovators and entrepreneurs in these science and technology parks, and to develop co-investment structures.

**Moderator**

Dr Aylin Tumay, Chief Executive Officer, Antalya Technopark, Turkey

Dr Mohammed Elhadi, National Consultant of the Social Entrepreneurship Program, Sudan
Paulo Andrez, President Emeritus EBAN, Co-investor of Toys R US IB, Portugal
Vitaly Polekhin, President of International Investor Organization INVESTORO, Russia

**12:00 Coffee Break & Networking**

**12:30 VIP Lunch with Ministers** – by invitation only
Fuji Hall
FDI 2020

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

Master of Ceremonies
Andrew Work, Editor-in Chief - Harbour Times, Hong Kong

18 February 2020, Tuesday

Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul
Fuji Hall

14.30 Opening Ceremony and Key Note Speeches

Sergio Vella,
Director of Financing and Investor Relations, Invest in Spain - ICEX, Spain

Ziad Alexandre Hayek,
President, World Association of PPP Units & Professionals (WAPPP), Switzerland

Dr. Jarmo T. Kotilaine,
The Chief of Planning and Monitoring at Bahrain’s Labour Fund (Tamkeen), Bahrain

15:00 Panel Discussion 1
Leveraging the competitive advantages of investment promotion agencies and economic development boards in global startup value chain

The objectives of investment promotion agencies (IPAs) and economic development boards (EDBs) are changing rapidly. The number of mandates covered by IPSs and EDBs is growing and new trends are emerging in the startup and innovation economy around the world, but foreign direct investment (FDI) has been slowing down. To remain competitive, IPAs and EDBs will need to adapt to an ever-changing environment. They will need to optimise their performance by positioning themselves in the fast-growing startup value chain.

This panel will identify opportunities for IPAs and EDBs in early and post-early stage equity and capital markets to leverage a country’s FDI capacity. They will also explore innovative ways to develop collaboration between IPAs, EDBs and entities such as private equity funds, wealth management institutions, angel investor groups, corporate ventures and VCs, thus expanding co-investment opportunities. In addition, they will discuss how current trends in the global startup and innovation chain can facilitate world class investments.
Moderator
Fadi Saab, Founder & Chairman of Trans Capital Invest, Lebanon

Arijana Koskarova, Founder of the Creative Hub & Forbes Under 30 Listmaker, North Macedonia
Dražen Mršić, Senior Advisor for International Finance Institutions, Croatian Chamber of Economy, Croatia
Miguel Martin, Founder and Co-investor, Immerxing Hub, Spain

15:30  Panel Discussion 2
Foreign direct investment in SMEs from startup to scaleup to exit to boost cross-border investments: How can startups and scaleups contribute to FDI growth?

One of the biggest contributors to alternative investment markets is perhaps the startup phenomenon, which has taken hold globally to become a game changer for the world economy. With more and more people turning into entrepreneurs, policymakers have realised the potential of startups in the growth of the economy, and they have come up with various schemes that encourage startups by making it easy for foreign investors to venture into their startup ecosystem. The role played in the past by small-scale industries has been taken over by startups! Economy administrators and policymakers have been making the process easier for the young entrepreneurs, startups and scaleups that have the potential to attract foreign direct investment.

The surge in FDI will also go a long way in encouraging the already-booming startup scene around the world. In fact, investors worldwide who have been keeping an eye on startups and scaleups see that startups are generating a diverse range of innovative ideas. Governments have been very supportive of the growth and have devised numerous strategies to support startups. FDI can nudge the efforts of the government in the right direction by funding startups at different funding stages. Many entrepreneurs with a great idea who lose out on funding might find assistance through FDI. And this will give an excellent opportunity to the FDI industry to leverage their investment size and capacity.

In line with such benefits – and in order to give a fillip to foreign investment in startups – India, for example, through its Consolidated FDI Policy 2017, has allowed foreign venture capital investors to contribute up to 100% of the capital of startups, irrespective of sector. The investment can be made in equities or equity-linked instruments or debt instruments issued by the startups; if a startup is organised as a partnership firm or an LLP, the investment can be made in the capital or through any profit-sharing arrangement. Special provisions specific to startups have been created for the very first time with the goal of attracting foreign direct investment.

This panel will discuss what sorts of national investment policies can be developed to attract more and higher quality investments in the startup investment ecosystem and what factors determine how successfully IPAs and EDBs are able to attract more investment. They will discuss how early-stage equity markets can contribute to main FDI players (investment promotion agencies and economic development boards) through angel investors and how early-stage capital markets can contribute through angel investment funds, private equity funds, corporate venture capital and wealth management institutions such as family offices.
Moderator
Helena Matuša, Assistant Managing Director, Zagorje Development Agency, Croatia

Alisha Ma, Chief Executive Officer, Incubate Canada
Nobuo Sayama, Founder and Co-partner of Integral Private Equity Investment, Japan
Sakari Oikarinen, Co-founder and COO of Confidentum, Finland

16:00 Panel Discussion 3
Invest in Africa: Unleashing the real potential of the continent’s entrepreneurs and tailoring innovative financial instruments for Africa

Since the year 2000, Africa’s GDP has grown by 5.1% per year on average, nearly three times the growth rate in the OECD area during the same period. In spite of recent country-specific challenges and headwinds from the global economy, growth is set to remain strong. Africa’s recent economic dynamism has been underpinned by sound macroeconomic policies and strong partnerships with major emerging markets. The continent has become more resilient to shocks and has benefited from a strong demand for commodities, increased investment flows, and closer links to global value chains.

As an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum believes that Africa needs to transform its economic structures and unleash the potential of its startups and entrepreneurs through innovation and entrepreneurship so that its population can enjoy stronger, more inclusive growth.

Panel members to discuss how to unleash the real potential of the continent’s entrepreneurs, to tailor innovative financial instruments for Africa, and to lay out a roadmap for governments to convert their economies to ‘smart’ economies.

Moderator
Harry Tomi Davies, President, African Business Angels Network (ABAN), Nigeria

Cheick Keita, President, Chamber of Initiatives for the Development of Investments of the Groupings in Africa (CIDIGA), Guinea
Kassoum Coulibaly, National Coordinator of the SME Development Support Program of the Republic of Mali
Swati Mandela, President - WBAF Global Woman Leaders Committee, South Africa

16:30 Panel Discussion 4
Cross Border investing in the MED region - leveraging networks to make better decisions

The establishment of a Mediterranean Angel Investment Network is crucial to fill the gap in seed funding not only in each individual country, but across 21 countries of the Mediterranean Sea. Building a network of trust that promotes cross border investment through syndication is very much needed and will strongly connect Africa with Europe and the Middle East,” said Tarek El Kady, founder of Alex Angels and Med Angels. Angel investing in the MED countries has its challenges, amongst which the difficulty in accessing quality deal flow,
financing follow on rounds, finding exit channels and generally speaking the fact that many startups are addressing small national consumer markets. Therefore, angel investors in the MED region are naturally inclined to look at cross border investments and to syndicate deals with like minded angels if they want to improve their chances of making better returns.

**Moderator**

*Marcel Dridje, Board Member, EBAN, France*

Nazeh Ben Ammar, President, Carthage Business Angels Network, Tunisia

H.E. Noomane Fehri, Former ICT & Digital Economy Minister of the Republic of Tunisia

Tarek El Kady, Chairman, Mediterranean Business Angels Federation, Egypt

**17:00**  **Coffee Break & Networking**

**17:30**  **Plenary Session & Closing Remarks**

Main Hall
GLOBAL WOMAN LEADERS SUMMIT 2020

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

Master of Ceremonies
Mulemwa Moongwa, Secretary General, WBAF Global Woman Leaders Committee, Zambia

18 February 2020, Tuesday
Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul
Geneve Hall

09:00 Opening Ceremony and Key Note Speeches

Marie-Christine Oghly,
World President, World Association of Women Entrepreneurs (FCEM),
France

Swati Mandela,
President - WBAF Global Woman Leaders Committee,
South Africa

H.E. Prof Ameenah Gurib-Fakim,
6th President of the Republic of Mauritius

09:45 Panel Discussion 1
Why women-owned startups are a better bet

According to a recent study by the Boston Consulting Group, when women business owners pitch their ideas to investors for early-stage capital, they receive significantly less than men – a disparity that averages more than 1 million USD. Yet businesses founded by women ultimately deliver higher revenue – more than twice as much per dollar invested – than those founded by men, making women-owned companies better investments for financial backers.

One might think that gender plays no role in the realm of investing in early-stage companies. Investors make calculated decisions that are (or should be) based on business plans and projections. Moreover, a growing body of evidence shows that organisations with a higher percentage of women in leadership roles outperform male-dominated companies. Unfortunately, however, women-owned companies do not receive the same level of financial backing as those funded by men.

The panel will explore the real reasons for the gender-based funding challenge, ways to overcome the challenge, ways that women founders – while lobbying for long-term change – can operate intelligently in the current ecosystems. It will also discuss how women can be coached on the realities of the market and which institutions should play a more active role in easing access to finance for women entrepreneurs.
10:30 Panel Discussion 2
Future trends: The increasing role of women angel investor networks in early-stage equity markets

Notably, women entrepreneurs are stepping up to the plate: In a survey of 279 U.S. women entrepreneurs conducted jointly by Inc. and Fast Company, a surprising 42 percent said that in addition to running their own companies, they made personal investments in startups. On the flip side, of those who had raised outside capital, 38 percent said they specifically sought out female investors.

As of November 2017, according to the Angel Capital Association, 22 percent of angels are female. That percentage may sound low, but it is a lot higher than in the venture capital industry, where only 9 percent of decision-makers are female, according to CrunchBase. And the trend is upward: 30 percent of angels who began investing in the past two years are female. These women are more likely to consider the gender of the entrepreneurs they back than men are: 51 percent of female angels say an entrepreneur’s gender is ‘highly important’ in their investment decisions, compared to only 6 percent of male angels.

But more experienced angels tend to write bigger checks than newer ones. That may explain why the size of women’s checks are somewhat smaller: $26,500 on average in the U.S., compared to $37,700 for men.

All these statistics signal an increasing role for women angel investors in early-stage equity markets. The panel discussants will attempt to predict the trend for the coming years and come up with ways to include more women in investing in startups. They will consider issues such as the type of financial training women need and how women can be encouraged to take more risks in equity markets.

11:00 Panel Discussion 3
Opportunities and challenges for women entrepreneurs in the global innovation value chain

The time for women leadership has come. Women have made impressive marks in politics and the business world, making their voices heard and breaking the glass ceiling of boardrooms,
including those in the male-dominated tech industry.

More and more women parade into tech companies or even become startup entrepreneurs, making their mark in this male-dominant industry. In the 2017 Forbes list of the World’s 100 Most Powerful Women, 18 of these ‘she-bosses’ work in the tech industry. The rise of women startups is not a Western phenomenon. In China, where women are often relegated to a submissive back-seat role, 55% of startups are owned by women, according to the 2018 Mastercard Index of Women Entrepreneurs.

Women do not wait for the future. When one woman helps another, amazing things happen, and they become innovators. This panel will explore how more women can be included in innovation processes in the startup economy, and in research and development. The discussants will also touch on opportunities for women entrepreneurs in early-stage equity markets and the challenges women entrepreneurs face as they create their success stories.

**Moderator**

Mulemwa Moongwa, Secretary General, WBAF Global Woman Leaders Committee, Zambia

Adnan Akdemir, Vice President of the Turkish Trade Association of Business Angels (TBAA) and President - Sifisan Entertainment Investments, Turkey
Shaillee Chopra, Healthcare Technology Strategist, USA
Sonya Janahi, Board Member, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bahrain

**11:30 Panel Discussion 4**

**Board Room: Empowering the world economy by including more women in company boards**

The available data on gender diversity shows that, globally, women hold only 16.7% of public company board seats, with significant variations across regions. On the other hand, research shows that diverse boards take better decisions, which ultimately leads to better financial returns and long-term value creation. Organisations with the ability to innovate quickly and reach new customer bases faster have one thing in common; their board reflects the world around them. These organisations tend to be few and far between. A case in point: despite making up half the population, women continue to be poorly represented in the boardroom. As a result, we are finding that organisations and their boards are overlooking a strategic opportunity to drive value.

This panel will explore innovative ways to encourage all relevant parties to take the necessary steps to achieve diversity. It requires, for instance, a commitment from company leadership, investors and policy-makers alike. It will raise and aim to answer questions about how organisations can identify qualified women and create opportunities early in their career for sponsorship, mentoring and advancement, and equally important, how to promote a culture in organisations that will encourage and support diversity and inclusion.
Moderator
Dawn A. Hetzel, JCI USA Executive Director, USA

Arjan Goudsblom, Programme Director Co-Creation, International Startup Ecosystem Specialist, Netherlands
Raina Ghosheh Al-Jaber, Co-founder of Arabreneur, Jordan
Shori Zand, Chairwoman Avesina Investment Group, Sweden

12:00 Coffee Break & Networking

12:30 VIP Lunch with Ministers – by invitation only
Fuji Hall
FINTECH SUMMIT 2020

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

Master of Ceremonies
Modwenna Rees-Mogg, Non Executive Director, Albion Tech & General VCT & Former Director of United Kingdom Business Angels Association (UKBAA), UK

18 February 2020, Tuesday

Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul
Geneve Hall

14:30 Opening Ceremony and Key Note Speeches

Maria Marenco,
President of the Government Blockchain Association Sweden / Nordic

Carsten Borring,
Associate Vice President Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets, NASDAQ

Matt Gamser,
CEO of the SME Finance Forum, IFC / World Bank Group

15:00 Panel Discussion 1
The future of banking: How the digitalisation revolution is changing the role of banks

Fintech is a highly dynamic sector. Startups are working in incubation centres, accelerators and shared spaces in Berlin, London, Johannesburg, Singapore, and New York. Corporate giants such as Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Google are also part of the picture. But while market leaders have emerged, no one really knows where the next successful payment system or bitcoin wallet will come from. Many ideas will make it to the market, but just as many will fail. The services that succeed will be those that genuinely make life easier, perhaps by blending fintech with other technologies.

This panel will explore the future of the banking system and implications of digitalisation for the world’s economies. Essential questions include how banks can create holistic customer solutions that combine financial services with a wider range of digital offers and how they can increase financial inclusion through digitalisation.
Panel Discussion 2
Opportunities and challenges for fintech startups in emerging markets

Fintech services in developed countries focus on online customers, but startups in developing countries are addressing a much broader market segment: mobile phone users. According to the International Telecommunications Union, an estimated 95.5% of the world’s population has access to a mobile phone. Mobile money transfer services such as M-Pesa, an emergent technology that was first introduced in Kenya, have made major contributions in changing the economic situation of unbanked populations. In Bangladesh’s strong micro-finance industry (small-scale unsecured credit), the M-Pesa equivalent is called bKash, which makes sending payments via mobile phone quick and easy.

In 2013, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, became an equity partner in bKash and in 2015, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also invested in bKash to ensure access to an even broader range of financial services for the low-income masses of Bangladesh, with the ultimate aim of achieving broader financial inclusion.

Looking at the impact of fintech solutions in Africa, it is important to keep in mind that in 16 African markets, there are now more mobile money accounts than bank accounts. This panel will discuss the opportunities and challenges for fintech startups in emerging markets and address issues such as how fintech startups can position themselves as technology partners of banks and financial institutions and thereby support the world’s financial inclusion agenda through fintech.

Presentation by

Keynote Speech by
Nomusa Dube-Ncube, KwaZulu Natal MEC for Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs, South Africa
Presentation by
Ana Barjasic, Founder & CEO, Connectology, Croatia
Identifying and managing startup related bias using behavioral science techniques

Overconfidence bias in entrepreneurs can have serious implications on business decision making process, leading to startup failure. Lack of confidence and wrong estimation of business probabilities and entrepreneurial skills, on the other hand, can result with no action at all. Serial entrepreneurship in startup world is more often a synonym for serial failures, rather than successes, as more than 50% of startups fail within 5 years of their incorporation. When a startup fails, a so-called startup postmortem reports the reasons for the failure, such as running out of cash, no market need, or incompatible team. Looking beyond just the business reasons for failure, it is possible to identify certain behaviors and cognitive biases which kill startups. During the workshop, we will discuss the most common startup related biases as well as debiasing techniques to minimize their effect.

Presentation by
Alisha Ma, Chief Executive Officer, Incubate Canada
The UK Startup and Innovator Visa & Canada’s Startup Visa Programs

Entrepreneurs, especially in technology, can choose to locate their businesses where they can find the best conditions to create a global home base for their company - and themselves. Many don’t know that they can use their new business as a vehicle to gain themselves citizenship in countries like the UK and Canada. As leading tech and business hubs, London, Toronto, Vancouver and other places are options for aspiring entrepreneurs. Lifestyle, business environment, security and ease of travel are all benefits to be gained.

Canada’s Startup Visa program is designed to attract dynamic entrepreneurs around the world to Canada to build businesses in IT, clean technology, biotech or software that can compete on a global scale and provide jobs for Canadians. One of the unique things about the Canada start-up program is that you can get permanent residence immediately if you make a successful application, unlike many other start-up visa programs internationally.

The UK Startup and Innovator Visa programs are for non-EEA nationals wishing to set up a business in the country. To qualify for a visa in either category, applicants must first obtain an endorsement from an approved endorsing body which assesses the applicants for innovation, viability and scalability.

17:00 Coffee Break & Networking
17:30 Plenary Session & Closing Remarks
Main Hall
GLOBAL STARTUP SUMMIT 2020

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

Master of Ceremonies
Ivan Jovetic, President of the Council - Montenegro Broadcasting Company & Co-founder MBAN, Montenegro

18 February 2020, Tuesday

Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul
Zurich Hall

09:00 Opening Ceremony and Key Note Speeches

Derik Kim,
Founder & Honorary President, Global Entrepreneurs Foundation, South Korea

Prof Inderjit Singh,
President, World Entrepreneurship Forum (WENF), Singapore

H.E. Eduard Shalsi,
Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania

09:45 Panel Discussion 1
What is the best finance for startups and scaleups?

The demand for capital to fund the growth of their business is an essential consideration for all entrepreneurs who want to avoid ending up as ‘lifestyle entrepreneurs’. There are numerous funding options for ambitious entrepreneurs, ranging from debt to equity and new funding types such as Initial Coin Offerings (ICOs). Many entrepreneurs struggle to fully understand their funding options and the ramifications of taking on external finance; most will fail to raise external capital even if they are deserving of it, owing to factors both beyond and within their control.

The role of angel investors in entrepreneurial venture financing is increasing every day. Angel investors provide new ventures with much more than financial resources. By assuming different value-added roles, they also contribute considerable non-financial value to their investee companies during the post-investment phase. They act entrepreneurially through their hands-on involvement, but they often have their own distinct entrepreneurial experience.

This panel aims to answer the questions entrepreneurs ask about funding, including about the fundraising lifecycle from startup to scaleup to exit. The discussants will highlight the
pros and cons of different types of venture funding so as to help entrepreneurs understand how to win at fundraising and to help investors understand the entrepreneurial mindset so that they can engage successfully with each other.

**Moderator**

Ana Barjasic, Founder & CEO, Connectology, Croatia

Ismail Haznedar, Former Global President JCI, Turkey
Nambula Kachumi, Executive Director, WECREATE, Zambia
Stevica Kuharski, Head of Scouting, Fil Rouge Capital, Croatia

**10:30**

**Panel Discussion 2**

**Preparing an equity story for your startup venture: How to convert your jury member into an investor**

The equity story is really the foundation of any successful fundraising. The equity story creates a vision of the organization that also serves as a compelling rationale for investors to be interested in putting money into the startup venture. Angel investors will rely on the story to determine the marketability of the company and, most importantly, the company valuation. Angel investors will want to make sure that the business model and its future prospects 'hang together' with market growth and the company’s ability to monetize its customer base. It turns out that the fundamentals of the equity story play a primary role in whether an investor decides to invest.

This panel will spotlight the effects of the equity story on the decision-making of angel investors, with a particular focus on the early post-investment phase.

**Moderator**

Tahir Mahmood, Head of the Business Development Department of Nasdaq Dubai, UAE

Dr. Gerhard Hrebicek, President, European Brand Institute, Austria
Jean-Christophe Barth-Coullaré, Member of the Supervisory Board of the European Champions Alliance, Switzerland
Jo Robrechts, Founder, Chairman & CEO of Triamant, Belgium

**11:00**

**Panel Discussion 3**

**Attitudes to entrepreneurial investment: Finding an investment that works for both investor and entrepreneur**

Entrepreneurs may want funding, but do they deserve it? At the end of the day, that will be up to the investors who back them—or not. This panel will help angel investors understand what it takes to make a successful investment in a deserving entrepreneurial business. And by deserving, we mean one that has the potential to deliver an exceptional return to the investor that is commensurate with the risk they are taking with their capital.

From identifying an investable opportunity (that is, what to look for in the team, the business and the financials) to the finer details of what sources of information an angel investor can
expect, the discussion will be useful for both entrepreneurs and investors in understanding what it takes to set up a successful deal.

**Moderator**
Charles S. Sidman, Managing Partner of ECS Capital Partners, USA

Kevin Hin, Secretary General, JCI, Monaco
Michael Gold, Architect and Co-implementer, Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund (KCGF), USA
Rina Neoh, Co-founder of the Ficus Venture Capital, Malaysia

**11:30**
Panel Discussion 4
Increasing the role of qualified mentors to boost the startup culture and early-stage equity markets

Common wisdom has it that behind every great leader is a suite of great mentors and advisors. Steve Jobs had Ed Woolard and John Sculley, Bill Gates considers Warren Buffet a mentor, and Bob Iger credits his former boss Tom Murphy not only with his success at Walt Disney, but also for having inspired the mentorship program Iger introduced that pairs top Disney executives with leading tech start-up CEOs.

While most entrepreneurs don’t have world-famous executives mentoring them, the importance of such interactions is obvious. According to an analysis conducted by Endeavor, companies whose founders have been mentored by a top-performing entrepreneur are three times more likely to go on to become top performers themselves. However, connecting with mentors is important for everyday entrepreneurs as well. Research tells us that

- only 22% of small businesses have mentors when they start their business.
- 92% of small-business owners agree that mentors have a direct impact on the growth and survival of their business.
- 89% of small-business owners wish they had a mentor.

These statistics highlight a need in the entrepreneurial community to find and connect with qualified mentors who can deliver solid advice to help a business over those shaky first years.

This panel aims to clarify the increasing role of qualified mentors to boost the startup culture and early-stage equity markets in local economies.

**Moderator**
Maryam Najafi, Department Head - Global Mentorship Department, WBAF Business School

Francisco Malesela Kgoboko, Founder & Chairman, FMK Trust, Botswana
Prof Enriko Ceko, Dean of Economic & Social Sciences Faculty at University College Wisdom, Albania
Israel Pons, Co-founder & CEO, Angels Nest Holding, Mexico
12:00     Coffee Break & Networking

12:30     VIP Lunch with Ministers – by invitation only
           Fuji Hall
14:30 Opening Ceremony and Key Note Speeches

Sabur Khan, Chairman,
Daffodil International University,
Bangladesh

Balazs Hendrich,
CEO, HEPA Hungarian Export Promotion Agency,
Hungary

Dr Paul Doany,
Former Group CEO of Turk Telekom (TT), Chairman ICT/Renewable Energy Ventures,
Jordan

15:00 Panel Discussion 1
Contributing to the social good through corporate venturing

Corporate giants Amazon, Berkshire Hathaway, and J.P. Morgan announced a new, independent health care company in late January that will remain ‘free from profit-making incentives and constraints’ – a move that leverages their corporate reach to ensure long-term economic and social equality by offering low-cost medical care for millions of people. Separately, BlackRock CEO Larry Fink recently sent his annual letter to thousands of BlackRock’s portfolio CEOs, saying that ‘to prosper over time, every company must not only deliver financial performance, but also show how it makes a positive contribution to society’. As the world’s largest investment management firm with $6.3 trillion in assets under management, BlackRock certainly draws attention when it suggests how companies can deliver better financial performance.

This panel will discuss whether corporations can produce social good while operating within the bounds of market-based capitalism and whether corporate venturing is a good way to engage with the principle of giving back to society. They will outline innovative ways of producing social good such as launching corporate venture departments, crowdfunding...
platforms, mentorship programmes and angel networks for startups and scaleups. They will ask whether corporate venturing departments will encourage utilizing the idle capacity of corporations for veritable business activities where they collaborate with startups – and how such strategies might influence corporate innovation.

**Moderator**

Zsolt Katona, Former CEO of Budapest Stock Exchange & Chief Executive Officer, Solus Capital, Hungary

Leyla Alaton, Board Member of Alarko Holding & President of Alvimedica, Turkey

Mario Ottiglio, President - Europe, Global Coalition on Aging, Italy

Ugur Talayhan, Regional Vice President, Accor Hotels & CEO of Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Turkey

15:30 **Panel Discussion 2**

A new role for corporations in fostering innovation and developing new value chains

In 1919, Ford Motor Company founder Henry Ford advocated channelling his company’s revenue into investments that would benefit employees and fund business production, rather than provide returns for shareholders. However, Ford’s largest shareholders, John Francis Dodge and Horace Elgin Dodge, sued him for neglecting to make dividend payments.

Since 2013 the number of corporate investments in startups has nearly tripled – from 980 in 2013 to 2,795 in 2018, and their value has risen from $19 to $180 billion, according to GCV Analytics, a company that tracks corporate venturing deals.

Now in 2020, we will be discussing Ford’s proposal as a new way for corporations to empower innovation and support the startup culture, thus creating more jobs and more wealth and social justice. The panel will discuss how CEOs should position themselves in this trend, how to eliminate conflicts of interest between a company’s CV unit and a startup, how to create a working pipeline to engage outside innovative business startups with the corporation, and how to boost the value of venturing to the rest of the business so that investing in startups will be a meaningful response to both shareholders and society.

**Moderator**

Michael O’Connor, Chief Executive Officer, CorkBIC, Ireland

Amy Yoshida, Former Vice President, Goldman Sachs Japan

Etienne Kouadio Doh, General Manager, Francophone West Africa, MainOne, Cote D’Ivoire

Pongrácz Ferenc, General Manager of Innovation at Tungsram Group, Hungary

16:00 **Panel Discussion 3**

The increasing role of corporate venturing in entrepreneurs’ financial journey

Corporate venturing is the practice of directly investing corporate funds into external startup companies. This is usually done by large companies that wish to invest small, innovative startup firms. They do so through joint venture agreements and acquisition of equity stakes.
The investing company may also provide the startup with management and marketing expertise, strategic direction, and/or a line of credit.

Corporate venturing strives to achieve goals both strategically and financially. A strategically driven corporate venture aims primarily to increase the sales and profits of the venturing company by making deals with startups that use new technologies, by entering new markets, by identifying acquisition targets, and accessing new resources. Financially-driven corporate ventures, on the other hand, invest in new companies for leverage. Both strategic and financial objectives are often combined to bring higher financial returns to investors.

This panel will discuss how startups can be funded by corporate venture capital at different stages of an entrepreneur’s financial journey – early stage financing, seed capital funding, expansion financing, initial public offerings and mergers and acquisitions. They will identify the value-added benefits of corporate ventures to startups in each step of the entrepreneurial journey.

**Moderator**

Asma Bashir, Chairperson, Centura Global, UK

Dr Abdul Malek Al-Jabar, President, Middle East Business Angels Network (MBAN), UAE

Fabrice Testa, Board Member, Luxembourg Business Angels Network (LBAN), Luxembourg

Hugo Mendes, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Macauto Group, Taiwan

**16:30**

Panel Discussion 4

**A startup CEO + a multi-million-dollar corporation CEO = a better return of investment**

Founding and growing an industry-transforming company is probably one of the hardest jobs anyone could ever do. There are no fixed rules for startups. Their mentors always seem to give them conflicting advice, and the books and blogs are so full of useful tips that it is hard to know what to prioritise. Sometimes startups find themselves staring into space wondering if they are working on the right things. Founders of startup businesses are entrepreneurs.

CEOs of multi-million-dollar corporates, on the other hand, do have fixed rules to follow, and they know exactly what they have to do. They come with a good financial package and a vast network that they have built over the years. But they are not founders of the corporations they lead. It is not uncommon for them to lack know-how about founding a company from scratch. CEOs are not entrepreneurs.

This panel will identify the pros and cons of these two very different types of CEO joining forces. How can we facilitate a knowledge transfer between these two very different types of CEO? How can CEOs prepare themselves to be qualified angel investors after they retire? How can they empower economies by investing in start-up businesses? How can they learn to be a qualified angel investor by taking minimum risk? How can they learn from the startup co-founders they invest in the basic principles of launching a company from scratch?

**Moderator**

Roger Collantes, Former Director of the Asia-Pacific Learning and Development Center of the Citibank, Philippines
Deniz Misir, Family Officer - V22, Turkey
Gordana Nikolić, Founder of Par University College and Business Academy Rijeka, Croatia
Yemi Keri, Co-Founder of Rising Tide Africa, Nigeria

17:00  **Coffee Break & Networking**

17:30  **Plenary Session & Closing Remarks**
   Main Hall
# WBAF Business School Program Overview

## World Congress of Angel Investors 2020

### Monday
17 February  
Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masterclass 1</td>
<td>14.30 – 15.45</td>
<td>Luzern Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress</td>
<td>Executive Masterclass: A practical roadmap to developing public and private partner ships (PPP) to convert public finance to smart finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterclass 1</td>
<td>15.45 – 17.00</td>
<td>Luzern Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress</td>
<td>Masterclass: Developing a Credit Guarantee Fund (CGF) for developing economies</td>
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### Tuesday
18 February  
Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive Workshop 1</td>
<td>09.00 – 09.45</td>
<td>Acacia Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress, Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
<td>Entrepreneurial Investing – Connecting sophisticated capital with talented small businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive Workshop 2</td>
<td>10.00 – 10.45</td>
<td>Acacia Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress, Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
<td>Positioning export agencies in global startup value chain to empower local economies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusive Workshop 3</td>
<td>11.00 – 11.45</td>
<td>Acacia Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress, Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
<td>Anatomy of an SME IPO: Planning and structuring a public offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusive Workshop 4</td>
<td>14.30 – 15.15</td>
<td>Acacia Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress, Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
<td>A health check for the entrepreneurship ecosystem of your country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive Workshop 5</td>
<td>15.30 – 16.15</td>
<td>Acacia Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress, Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
<td>Increasing start-up success through innovative capacity building techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive Workshop 6</td>
<td>16.30 – 17.15</td>
<td>Acacia Hall</td>
<td>2020 World Congress, Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul</td>
<td>Managing multibillion-dollar companies with a start-up mindset</td>
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QBAC+ Qualified Angel Investor Executive Program (by registration only)  
Swissôtel The Bosphorus Istanbul, Acacia Hall

For registration:  
www.wbaforum.org/registration
These days it has become critical to ensure collaboration between public and private sector can solve the diverse challenges faced at the global, regional and local level. Much can be done by governments and the private sector on their own, but for complex matters, we need public–private partnerships (PPPs). In this masterclass, participants will receive a practical WAPPP roadmap that leads to the creation of better public and private partnerships to boost economies. Barth-Coullaré will explain the important facets of the roadmap, which range from good policy guidance to technical support, to capacity building, to PPP promotion and to PPP investments—all of which will foster knowledge exchange and harness the power of public–private partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goals outlined by the United Nations.

About Jean-Christophe Barth-Coullaré
Jean-Christophe Barth is Executive Director of the World Association of PPP Units & Professionals (WAPPP) and the owner of HASE Solutions, a boutique specialized in board advisory and deal mediation. He has 19 years of experience in banking, legal affairs and project management in various industries, including work with Bombardier Transportation on complex infrastructure contracts. He serves as Board Advisor for APIA Swiss to establish early-stage governance in scaleups, SMEs and non-profits. He is an accomplished international mediator and was elected co-president of the Swiss Chamber of Commercial Mediation in 2017. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, he builds bridges for a more efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through smart public–private cooperation (3P+ facilitation) with the World Association of PPP Units & PPP Professionals. He holds adjunct professorships at the Haute École de Gestion in Geneva and at the Geneva School of Diplomacy.
The European Association of Guarantee Institutions recently reported that the Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund, in such a short time, is already one of the most impactful guarantee programs in all of Europe. Even in the 21st Century, access to adequate finance remains a major obstacle for startups, early stage companies and established businesses alike. The finance gap for startups and SMEs is well over $2 trillion USD. Many banks around the world have excess liquidity, but various factors prevent them from mobilizing that liquidity in lending to the businesses that need it to launch new products and services, scale up, increase exports, and create employment. Guarantees can efficiently unlock that liquidity and dramatically increase the amount of capital available to startups and SMEs on attractive terms and conditions. This masterclass will detail the critical factors in establishing a successful, sustainable credit guarantee fund/scheme, including form of legal entity, ownership, regulation, independence, corporate governance, capital structure, level of guarantees, staffing and MIS. Mr. Gold will illustrate these principles by presenting a case study of the Kosovo Credit Guarantee Fund (KCGF) of which he was the architect and co-implementer. In only its first 3 years of operations, KCGF has guaranteed over 120 million EUR in new loans to startups and SMEs that would not otherwise have received finance.

**About Michael Gold**

Michael Gold is a finance & business expert with 43 years of experience, 28 years in the emerging markets of Central/Eastern Europe, Balkans, Africa, Asia, Latin America & former Soviet Union. He was the co-lead investment banker on the successful privatization of the Macedonia Electricity Distribution and Supply Company and assisted on the Pristina Airport and Kosovo Route 7 Roadway PPPs.
The founder and CEO of the MBH Corporation PLC discusses how investors can profit from a trillion-dollar opportunity and explains how MBH grew its revenue from zero to $150m in 18 months and added nearly $13m of EBIT.

By Callum Laing,
Entrepreneur, investor and best-selling author

Small businesses make up 50% of the world’s GDP. A single new client can sometimes double or even triple the profits of a small business, and yet there are no products available that allow sophisticated investors to access these returns. Because these are too risky and too illiquid on their own, a new approach allows investors to make a positive impact (job creation) and get above-market returns (PE level and beyond), coupled with all the liquidity of public markets. This new approach marries the flexibility and liquidity of capital markets with the entrepreneurial zeal of successful small-business owners around the world. Imagine being offered stock in a good, well-run, profitable small business the day before it goes public, with a guarantee that your money will go into the business to fuel future growth. Now imagine having that opportunity 10–20 times each year. In a model that can be replicated anywhere in the world, Laing will show how combining several well-known listing strategies in a unique way is allowing small companies to go public without any cost. He will also describe how investors can access a trillion-dollar new asset class. In this workshop, Laing will lay out the fundamentals of the model and present a case study of MBH, which was able to add more than $1m of EBIT every month in its first year of listing.

About Callum Laing
Callum Laing is a successful entrepreneur, investor and director of public companies. Founder and CEO of MBH, he is a partner in a private equity company (Unity Group), ambassador for DealGateway.com, and High Commissioner for the WBAF. He is the author of 3 best-selling business books.
Exclusive Workshop

Positioning export agencies in global start-up value chain to empower local economies

An Innovative Approach: Creating a new export revenue for economies through attracting foreign investors for local startups

By Balazs Hendrich,
Chief Executive Officer, Hungarian Export Agency (HEPA)

The objectives export agencies are changing rapidly. The number of mandates covered by export agencies are growing and new trends are emerging in the startup and innovation economy around the world. To remain competitive, export agencies will need to adapt to an ever-changing environment. They will need to optimise their performance by positioning themselves in the fast-growing startup value chain. This workshop will identify opportunities for export agencies in early and post-early stage equity and capital markets to leverage a country’s export capacity. Hendrich will also explore innovative ways to develop collaboration between export agencies and entities such as private equity funds, wealth management institutions, angel investor groups, corporate ventures and VCs, thus expanding co-investment opportunities. In addition, he will discuss how current trends in the global startup and innovation chain can facilitate world class investments.

About Balazs Hendrich
He is a business strategist, a management consultant and a business developer, but also the head of Hungarian Export Agency (HEPA). He graduated in International Business School with Oxford Brookes University and got his second degree from Corvinus University in Budapest. During his professional career he worked for commercial banks, Hypobank and Erstebank focusing on corporate and asset based financing, leasing. Since 2001 he worked, as an entrepreneur, running his consulting company, Grid Consulting, which mainly has been working for the energy industry in Central and Eastern Europe. From 2014 he worked for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, as a consul general in Istanbul, before he became the director of HEPA. Balazs is a proud father of 4 boys, whom keep him always on the edge.
Traditionally, an IPO has not been top of mind when young companies were looking to raise capital, expand and grow. This has changed. Today, most exchanges offer a junior market option where simpler rules and regulation make it possible for SMEs and startups to begin life as listed companies. In Europe, Nasdaq operates its Nasdaq First North market where more than 500 young companies have started their journey, raised capital and grown since First North launched in 2005. This exclusive workshop will show you what to look for and how to execute, and will address some of the following topics: How to successfully plan and structure a public offering? When is the right time to list? What are the key considerations companies should take before listing?

By Carsten Borring,
Associate Vice President Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets, NASDAQ Copenhagen

Traditionally, an IPO has not been top of mind when young companies were looking to raise capital, expand and grow. This has changed. Today, most exchanges offer a junior market option where simpler rules and regulation make it possible for SMEs and startups to begin life as listed companies. In Europe, Nasdaq operates its Nasdaq First North market where more than 500 young companies have started their journey, raised capital and grown since First North launched in 2005. This exclusive workshop will show you what to look for and how to execute, and will address some of the following topics: How to successfully plan and structure a public offering? When is the right time to list? What are the key considerations companies should take before listing?

About Carsten Borring
Carsten Borring is Associate Vice President Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets, NASDAQ Copenhagen. Carsten has gained a broad knowledge of financial transactions in Corporate Finance departments at Gudme Raaschou and Alfred Berg before joining the Copenhagen Stock Exchange. - Copenhagen Stock Exchange is together with the exchanges in Sweden, Iceland, Finland and the Baltic countries today part of Nasdaq. Mr. Borring were the architect behind the establishment of the Nasdaq First North market in 2005 - today the Nasdaq junior market has more than 350 companies listed in the Nordics. Carsten is a member of the governments Entrepreneur Panel, the Danish national jury of Entrepreneur of the Year by EY and the jury of FSRs CSR/ESG award, and a board member of the independent think tank Center for ESG Research. Carsten was born in 1968 has an educational background as a cand.merc. in Finance & Accounting from CBS, and Essentials of Management Certification Program from Wharton, University of Pennsylvania.
In this fast-paced, interactive, hands-on workshop, Goudsblom will do a health check on your entrepreneurship ecosystem by posing critical questions: What makes your ecosystem unique? Who are the key stakeholders and what programs do they have in place? What activities are being deployed? What’s working and where is there room for improvement? And most importantly: What is the level of collaboration between ecosystem players for a better return on investment for startups? Guided by a structured approach and with plenty of use cases from around the world, you will dive into your own entrepreneurial ecosystem and gain insights into where the opportunities might be. You will walk away from this workshop with:

- An assessment of your country / region’s growth potential for entrepreneurship
- A blueprint of key development and opportunity areas
- Inspiration for activities that will take your ecosystem to the next level of maturity

**By Arjan Goudsblom**
Programme Director of Co-Creation, University of Amsterdam & Amsterdam Science Park

After being a corporate ‘intrapreneur’ at companies like Holland Casino in the Netherlands and IAG in Sydney, he decided it was time to work with ‘real’ entrepreneurs, so he took on the role of Head of Global Growth and Mentoring at Cicada Innovations. During his tenure, this Sydney-based incubator was voted ‘Best incubator in the world’ by INBIA twice in 5 years. Back in his home country of the Netherlands, Arjan is now pursuing his ambitious agenda to connect scientific knowledge to business and social challenges on behalf of the University of Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Science Park.
It is no secret that global startup survival rates are still below expectations; most of the recent research concludes that only a small percentage of global startup businesses are able to create success stories. The reason for this can be understood by taking a look at 3 characteristics of startups that were not able to make it: incompetence, lack of experience, and external influences on the startup business owner. These factors are strongly related to the capacity level of startup business owners. This workshop will therefore shed light on the following capacity-related topics: What startup business owners should avoid if they want to increase their chances of success (Taking biased decisions, over-confidence, illusion of control over events, copying others, etc.) Assessing the capacity building needs of startup business owners (How to measure a startup business owner’s the level of knowledge, skills and abilities and ways to identify gaps) Developing and delivering customised capacity-building programs for startup business owners, based on the gaps identified (What tools, methods and techniques to use and when to use them)

At the end of the presentation, the following question will be open for a 10-minute general discussion: Is investing in building the capacity of startup business owners as financially rewarding as investing in startup businesses?

**About Moutasem Mismar**
Over 25 years of experience in banking operations, SME credit and Banking / Microfinance Consultant & Master Trainer at IFC - WORLD BANK Group
Big companies are often agnostic to innovation and change. This type of attitude has killed many great companies that failed to adapt to changing markets—a situation we witness almost daily. Experts and management consultants believe that significant changes in a strong company culture are impossible, largely because making the necessary changes means that management must leave their comfort zone. By applying a startup mindset and by mitigating risk, says Paulo Andrez, we can indeed bring about a culture change in big companies. He will present examples from real companies he has invested in, with a main focus on Toys R Us Iberia. Toys R Us Iberia has 62 large toy stores in Portugal and Spain, more than 1,200 employees and annual sales in excess of 170 million USD. The turnaround of Toys R Us Iberia involved challenging the existing culture and bringing the company to new levels in terms of IT, logistics, product assortment, services, and customer relationship management.

A clear response to the economic challenges of big companies comes from Paulo Andrez. The risk mitigation methodology that Paulo Andrez applies to start-ups has also proved to be workable in big companies. In this workshop, he will describe his techniques for making a company a ‘star of the economy’ in a short period of time by creating a new mindset in the management.

About Paulo Andrez
Paulo Andrez is a serial entrepreneur and angel investor. In the last two years, he has made 6 successful investment exits. Apart from Toys R US, Paulo has investments in companies in a variety of sectors, including chemicals, biotechnology, real estate, tourism, and IT. Paulo is President Emeritus of the European Business Angels Network.
QBAC+
QUALIFIED ANGEL INVESTOR
EXTENSIVE COURSE

Certification Programme with the Proficiency Test

World Congress 2020
Unlocking the Potential for Innovation as Developing Global Partnerships for Economic Development

19-21 February 2020

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul Acacia Hall

QBAC+ has quickly gained a global popularity, making its way from London to Doha and now Istanbul. Soon after the Qualified Angel Investor Course (QBAC+) concluded at the London Stock Exchange Group, development agencies in Turkey decided to make the programme available to their staff. Then the Qatar Development Bank hosted it in Doha. And now the programme is scheduled to run in Istanbul at the World Congress 2020 for anyone wishing to become an angel investor.

It is the position of the WBAF Business School that when investors have had the advantage of training in the best practices of negotiating deals for early-stage investment, they are better equipped to ensure good returns on their investment. With this in mind, the WBAF Business School offers a wide variety of training programs using a range of input (case studies, panel discussions, and presentations, to name a few), all of which encourage active participation and interaction on the part of those attending.

What is behind this training?
The objective of the course is to introduce the angel investment system to those considering investing in start-ups, SMEs and high-growth companies, using their own money and their own know-how. The course aims to give the basic principles of angel investment and the do's and don'ts when investing as a qualified angel investor.

This course introduces the angel investment system to those considering investing in start-ups, SMEs or high-growth companies, using their own money and contributing their own know-how. The basic principles of angel investment are discussed, along with practical advice for investing as a qualified angel investor. This is an ideal course for professionals from listed companies who can invest a minimum of 10,000 USD per year, CEOs of companies who can invest a minimum of 10,000 USD per year, anyone with an entrepreneurial background who can invest a minimum of 10,000 USD per year. For anyone new to angel investing, this is an invaluable training session covering the basics of investing, aiming to help investors avoid the pitfalls new business angels often encounter.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Course</strong></td>
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</table>
| **10:30** | **Session 1**<br>Angel Investment Market<br>
• Introduction to the Angel Investment Market<br>
• Becoming a business angel<br>
• Identifying opportunities<br>
• Sourcing deal flow<br>
• Interpreting the pitch<br>
• Valuing the company<br>
• Creating a portfolio of investments<br>
 coffee break at 11am|
| **12:30** | **Lunch Debate**                                                     |
| **13:30** | **Session 2**<br>Due Diligence and Risk Management<br>
 • Commercial<br>
 • People<br>
 • Legal<br>
 • IP<br>
 • Financial<br>
 • Exit<br>
 • Co-investors<br>
 • Their due diligence on you<br>
 coffee break at 4pm|
| **17:30** | **Closing Remarks**                                                  |
| **10:00** | **Session 3**<br>Setting the deal terms<br>
• Valuing the business<br>
• Negotiating the deal<br>
• Term sheets<br>
• Conducting the negotiation<br>
• Other paperwork<br>
• Post investment governance and deal monitoring<br>
 coffee break at 11am|
| **12:30** | **Lunch Debate**                                                     |
| **13:30** | **Session 4**<br>New funding rounds<br>
• The Exit<br>
• The Role of Government and policy makers<br>
• Setting up a business angel network or syndicate<br>
 coffee break at 4pm|
| **17:30** | **Closing Remarks**                                                  |
| **10:00** | **Session 5**<br>• Case Study<br>
• Proficiency Test<br>
• QBAC+ Certificate Ceremony<br>
| **12:30** | **Lunch Debate & Closing Remarks**                                   |
Kindly note that this biodata section includes all information that was available on the date of printing (15 January).

For biodata statements that were supplied after the printing date, please visit www.wbaf2020.istanbul for the latest update.
Abdulaziz Bin Nasser Al-Khalifa
Chief Executive Officer, Qatar Development Bank (QDB), Qatar

In addition to his role as CEO of QDB, Mr. Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Khalifa is Chairman of ELAN Qatar and a Member of the Board of Directors at Qatar Science & Technology Park. He is also Chairman Qatar Business Incubator Center, and the Bedaya Center for Entrepreneurship and Career Development. Before being appointed CEO of QDB, Mr. Al-Khalifa was Executive Director of Strategy & Business Development for three years, serving simultaneously as Vice-President of several internal and external committees. Prior to joining QDB, Mr. Al-Khalifa worked at Qatar Shell as a Business Development Manager for nearly three years, and held technical and managerial positions at the Qatar General Electricity & Water Corporation (KAHRAMAA) for six years prior to that. Mr. Al-Khalifa has vast experience in the SME, private and entrepreneurship sectors. He played a leading role in the launch of several flagship development initiatives, including the AL-DHAMEEN Partial Guarantee Program, TASDEER (Qatar Export Development Agency) and the Housing Loan Program for Qatari citizens. Mr. Al-Khalifa holds an MBA from Qatar University and a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering from California State University, and has received several specialized diplomas from Harvard University and INSEAD.
Dr. Abdul Malek Al Jabaar has a wealth of experience and a long record of achievements locally and regionally in the ICT, Services and Financial industry. Dr. Al Jabaar is the Founder and Chairman of MENA Apps, the former COO of Zain Group and CEO of Zain Jordan. Prior to joining Zain, Dr. Al Jabaar served as CEO and Vice Chairman of Paltel Group where he was also responsible for profits growth from $15 million to $100 million in a record time. During his tenure, the Paltel Group became the first Palestinian company and 2nd in MENA to adopt the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards on Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Practice and Reporting, as well as the first company in the country to form a corporate foundation. Dr. Al Jabaar serves as chairman of the Golden Wheat Mills Company and is Chairman of Middle East Payment Services, leading payment processor and acquirer in the Middle East. He also sets on a handful of regional and global boards of companies and institutions. In 2010, Dr. Al Jabaar was ranked by Global Telecoms, # 62 on its annual power 100 list. He is the first Jordanian recognized on this list. Again and in 2011 the same organization ranked him # 69 and # 70 in 2012. In addition to this, he was also ranked number 21 in the top 50 most powerful people in the Media, Marketing and Advertising in June 2011. He was also awarded by HRH Sheikh Mohamed Bin Rashid PM of UAE as Best Arab Manager. Dr. Al Jabaar is a member of the Arab Business Council, WEF, The Arab Technology Forum, YPO and the Global Agenda Council. Dr Al-Jabaar is a member of the Advisory Council of Kuwait National Fund for Entrepreneurship, Chairman of Oasis Venture Fund and Founder or Arabreneur.
Adnan Akdemir is a third-generation entrepreneur in the entertainment business. After graduating from Istanbul Technical University in Management Engineering and obtaining an MBA from National University in Los Angeles, he attended the UCLA Film School. In 1993, after his return home, he founded AFM Cinemas, which has since become the leading cinema operator in Turkey. He has introduced a true quality cinema experience to Turkey, resulting in rapid national growth in the 90s as the market-maker. In 2000, he completed the first-ever private equity deal in Turkey, with AIG’s Blue Voyage Fund. In 2001, he co-founded the Istanbul Independent Film Festival as a prestigious international event to rejuvenate the Turkish film production industry. In 2004, Adnan completed the IPO of AFM Cinemas, becoming the first entertainment company to list on the Istanbul Stock Exchange. Adnan also co-founded the first Turkish film distribution company, Kenda (with top Turkish producers) to support the development of local productions. In just 3 years, Kenda became the main driver behind more than half of the local content in Turkish cinema. He has since sold the majority of AFM Cinemas to Russia’s largest group, Alfa, eventually exiting AFM. Adnan has become the CEO of Eurasia Cinemas, which, in its third year, has grown to 305 multiplex screens to become the leading cinema chain in the Russia-Ukraine-Turkey region. Adnan exited his cinema ventures in 2011 to focus on his family entertainment business and founded www.ilsvision.com, the largest YouTube multi-channel network in the Middle East region. He is the co-founder of the Turkish Business Angels Association and Turkish Cinema Owners Association and an active member of the Young Presidents Organization. He has held a Group A pilot’s license since 1984 and an open-sea captain license since 1989. In 2012, Adnan received a Red Cross / Crescent Golden Mercy Medal for his lifetime contributions.
Dr. Alex Lin is an Innovation Ecosystem builder, who help build startup & innovation ecosystem in various countries. He is currently the Deputy CEO of NTUitive, which is the technology & commercialization unit of the globally 11th QS ranked Nanyang Technological University. Alex was formerly the head of a USD200 million government venture fund under Infocomm Development Authority (IDA). Since 2014, he has funded more than 380 start-ups and accelerated more than 170 start-ups to series-A. This massive effort boosted Singapore’s tech start-up ecosystem from a ranking of 17th place to 10th place within 2 years, contributing to the vibrant start-up nation everyone is enjoying now.
Alisha Ma, RCIC, B.SC (Pharm), MBA, CFP is the Founder and Managing Partner of Halcyon Counsel Ltd. She is experienced and stays on the cutting edge as a registered Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant (RCIC). For the past twelve years, Alisha has been advising and helped successful entrepreneurs, high net worth individuals, professionals, business elites and their families with sophisticated immigration and education planning, helping them to start new lives in Canada.
Ameenah Gurib-Fakim has been the Managing Director of the Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research and Innovation as well as Professor of Organic Chemistry with an endowed chair at the University of Mauritius. Since 2001, she has served successively as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Pro Vice Chancellor (2004-2010). She has also worked at the Mauritius Research Council as Manager for Research (1995-1997). Ms Gurib-Fakim earned a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Surrey (1983) and a PhD from the University of Exeter, UK (1987). During her academic journey, she has participated in several consultation meetings on environmental issues organized by international organizations. Between 2011-2013, she was elected and served as Chairperson of the International Council for Scientific Union – Regional Office for Africa, and served as an Independent Director on the Board of Barclays Bank of Mauritius Ltd between (2012-2015). As a Founding Member of the Pan African Association of African Medicinal Plants, she co-authored the first ever African Herbal Pharmacopoeia. She has authored and co-edited 30 books, several book chapters and scientific articles in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. She has lectured extensively across the world; is a Member of the Editorial Boards of major journals, has served on Technical and national committees in various capacities. Elevated to the Order of the Commander of the Star and Key by the Government of Mauritius in 2008, she has been admitted to the Order of the Chevalier dans L’Ordre des Palmes Academiques by the Government of France in 2010 and is the recipient of 5 DSc (s). Elected Fellow of several academies and societies, Ms Gurib-Fakim received several international prizes including the 2007 l’Oreal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science, the African Union Commission Award for Women in Science, 2009. On 05 June 2015, she was sworn in as the 6th President and the First Female President of the Republic of Mauritius and served in that capacity until March 2018.
After graduating from New York University, joined at the finance department of Toyota Motor Corporation as the first professional woman and then was scouted by Morgan Stanley as the 1st female FX trader and again scouted by Goldman Sachs as an institutional sales for FX and Fixed income, achieving the top sales there. Then I was invited to become a senior VP at corporate sales in Deutsche Bank and enjoyed No.1 sales. After spending 10 years at financial institutions, I decided to retire earlier to start my own 3 business by setting up my company for investing in international properties and startups, publishing 20 books and consulting with VCs for fund raising in Japan.
Ana Barjasic has been working with a number of entities within the international startup, high-tech and investment ecosystem such as European Commission and Global Entrepreneurship Network. Since 2013, Ana was coordinating Business Angel Week, an initiative created by the European Business Angel Network. In its five editions and under her supervision, BAW became the world’s largest initiative on promoting angel and early stage investment, with over 1200 events in 60 countries in Europe, Middle East and Africa. Ana created Connectology, an international boutique agency which supports entrepreneurship and investment projects and also invests into early stage companies. Ana is frequently invited to speak on topics of investment readiness, startups and innovation, and has participated as a speaker or a panelist to various events in more than 20 countries worldwide, such as USA, Belgium, UAE, South Africa, Portugal etc. Recent interests include startup risk mitigation in combination with behavioural science.
Andrew Work is the Asia-Pacific Head Content Strategist at NexChange, the social platform connecting the world to finance and innovation. Andrew is also the co-creator of the Fintech O2O brand and events. Mr. Work stewards the content of the NexChange and Fintech O2O websites and events with a content team across Asia. Andrew has spoken on, hosted, and moderated panels at a wide range of business, finance, fintech, and innovation-related events around the world. These have included the Fintech O2O Global Summit, the World Bank/IMF SME Finance Forum, the World Business Angel Investment Forum, the Baring’s relaunch in Asia, Qualcomm’s 4G/5G Summit, RISE Hong Kong, the Canadian Crowdfunding Summit, Standard Chartered events, and many more. Mr. Work founded the Hong Kong economic policy think tank and The Lion Rock Institute, where he remains an active board member. He is the former Executive Director of The Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and has worked for The Economist, Penton Media, and on Parliament Hill with a senior cabinet minister in Ottawa. He has written extensively on public policy as it impinges on the growth of business and flourishing of technology. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from McGill University and an MBA from the University of Victoria.
Founder and CEO of Italian start-up Digital Business Innovation srl, Antonio is regarded as one of the top Digital Transformation influencers on artificial intelligence, cyber security, digital transformation, the Internet of Things, and blockchain. He is an advisor, and enterprise and public sector consultant and mentor to numerous startups. He is currently collaborating with Siemens, Intel, The European Commission, Atos, Cisco, Ericsson, IBM, Talend, Huawei, Automation Anywhere, and many other as Content Advisor, B2B Influencer and Software Innovator.
Arijana Koskarova

Founder of the Creative Hub & Forbes Under 30 Listmaker, North Macedonia

Arijana Koskarova, MBA, Forbes under 30 2019, Founder of leading disruptive training hub Creative Hub in Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo. Creative Hub is non formal education and cowork center providing real world skills for aspiring professionals in area of marketing and pr, graphic design, web design, data science, e-commerce etc. Founder of Balkan Entrepreneurship Summit, speaker and entrepreneur. Founder of Cruisekpi, a key performance indicators app for cruise lines and ex corporate exec for Royal Caribbean Cruises.
Arjan Goudsblom  
*Programme Director Co-Creation, International Startup Ecosystem Specialist, University of Amsterdam and Amsterdam Science Park, Netherlands*

After being a corporate ‘intrapreneur’ at companies like Holland Casino in The Netherlands and IAG in Sydney he decided it was time to work with ‘real’ entrepreneurs, hence he took up the role of Head of Global Growth and Mentoring at Cicada Innovations. During his tenure this Sydney based incubator was voted ‘Best incubator in the world’ by INBIA for the second time in 5 years. Back in his home country of The Netherlands Arjan is now pursuing his ambitious agenda to connect scientific knowledge to business and social challenges on behalf of the University of Amsterdam and Amsterdam Science Park. As programme director Co-Creation his aim is to accelerate the application of new technologies into workable solutions that have impact. In addition he assists start-up agencies, governments and universities in building thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems worldwide, most recently in Bahrain and Belarus on behalf of ACE Incubator. In Albania he assists local universities in developing their entrepreneurial education capability in order to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.
London, United Kingdom She is a legal professional having started her career within one of the largest law firm's in the world. Asma then went on to establish her own business from a start-up, acting for some of the largest multinational companies in the world offering global services to worldwide jurisdictions. Her clients included Fortune 500 companies and UHNW individuals. Asma’s company was acquired at the end of 2014 and she continued to lead the growth within the newly acquired structure, integrating new companies, setting up new global offices and growing the team around the world. She is now focussing on business growth, mergers and acquisitions and working with fast growing companies on scaling their business and finding investment. She works with both private and institutional investors as well as investing in opportunities directly. She is also an authorised on the Mayor of London’s International Business Program supporting companies with their growth needs. Asma’s experience includes business transformation, innovation and technology, managing risk and compliance and international expansion. She has worked on many government initiatives having contributed to the Migration Advisory Committee’s report on shortage occupations in the UK, government stakeholder events to support companies with their recruitment challenges and worked with leading trade associations to lobby government on their behalf. She was also a judge for UK Business Awards, London and Partners IE20 program and the start-up awards in London.
Dr. Aylin Tümay has graduated from Istanbul Technical University. She has more than 20 years of professional experience in engineering and project development and management consultancy. Throughout her professional career, she was involved in numerous water and wastewater treatment projects in the field of construction and consultancy. Relevant to her degree and experience, she has an extensive knowledge on developing and costing the environmental projects. She served as an environmental consultant to foreign investors as due diligence expert in her own company. After she moved to Antalya in 2007, she started as a lecturer in Engineering Faculty of Akdeniz University until 2009. She worked in Antalya Chamber of Commerce and Industry as Deputy General Secretary until 2018. During this period, she managed different departments and organized events also being the coordinator of EU Funded project; first Vocational Knowledge and Skills Testing and Certification Centre (VOC-TEST Centre) in Antalya. Between 2014-2018, she worked as SME Consultant in the Chamber. She organized the sectoral and funding sources seminars and workshops for SMEs also entrepreneurs’ training programs funded by KOSGEB (Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization). She served as a consultant to SMEs about financial opportunities related with their projects and investments. She was responsible all activities and events of Antalya Entrepreneur Committees of Young and Woman of TOBB (Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey). She was certified the mentoring program by TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey) in Advanced Engineering in 2016. After retired in December 2018, she restarted a new adventure as General Manager of Antalya Organized Industrial Zone Technopark. AOSB Technopark will be ready for entrepreneurs in 2021 and will host to WBAF2021 MED Summit in Antalya.
He is a business strategist, a management consultant and a business developer, but also the head of Hungarian Export Agency (HEPA). He graduated in International Business School with Oxford Brookes University and got his second degree from Corvinus University in Budapest. During his professional career he worked for commercial banks, Hypobank and Erstebank focusing on corporate and asset based financing, leasing. Since 2001 he worked, as an entrepreneur, running his consulting company, Grid Consulting, which mainly has been working for the energy industry in Central and Eastern Europe. From 2014 he worked for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, as a consul general in Istanbul, before he became the director of HEPA. Balazs is a proud father of 4 boys, whom keep him always on the edge.
Baybars Altuntas
Chairman of the Board of Directors, World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)

Former Senior Advisor of the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) for the Elite Program, Chairman of the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) – an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) chaired by the Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, Co-chair of the Washington DC-based Global Business Angels Network (GBAN), Vice President of the Brussels-based European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Funds, and Early Stage Market Players (EBAN), President of the Business Angels Association of Turkey (TBAA), the World Entrepreneurship Forum Ambassador to Turkey and the Balkan countries, and President of Deulcom International Inc. Star of the Turkish version of the television show Dragons’ Den / Sharks Tank. Recipient of the European Trade Association of Business Angels (EBAN) award for the Best Individual in Europe Globally Engaging with the Global Entrepreneurial Ecosystem in 2014 (Ireland), 2015 (Netherlands), 2016 (Portugal), 2017 (Spain) and 2018 (Bulgaria). The only entrepreneur to be granted a personal audience with former President Obama at the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship in Washington DC. Developer of the world-renowned entrepreneurship theory, the Altuntas Start-up Compass Theory, researched by Sheffield University and used in numerous MBA programs. Appointed as JCI Ambassador, following Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations. Profiled regularly by leading international media such as CNN International, Bloomberg, BBC. A co-author of Planet Entrepreneur: The World Entrepreneurship Forum’s Guide to Business Success Around the World, published by Wiley (2013). Author of Off the Bus, Into a Supercar! How I Became a Top TV Star and Celebrated Investor, published by Balboa Press (2014) and translated into Chinese, Croatian, Albanian, and Macedonian.
Bence Katona is the CEO of Hiventures. Hiventures’ mission is to support the cutting-edge ideas of freshly established startups and innovative businesses to strengthen the entrepreneurial culture in Hungary. Katona finished his PhD studies at The Small Business Development Centre of the Corvinus University of Budapest. He was one of the first teachers of the International Entrepreneurship course focusing on the development of early-stage startups. Before being appointed as the CEO (previously Deputy CEO) of Hiventures he was working on development policies of the Prime Minister’s Office for the Hungarian Government. In 2015 he founded a university based incubation programme called Startup Campus. He was the leader of the programme aiming to support Hungarian innovators of the Imperial College of London. He was among the first organizer of the global startup competition called Get in the Ring! As a mentor and founder he actively takes part in the development of numerous succesfull Hungarian startups.
Callum Laing is an entrepreneur and investor. He is partner in Unity Group Private Equity, Co-Founder and Chairman of MBH Corporation PLC, and is the originator of ‘Accelerated Venture Capital’ (AVC). Author of two best-selling business books, publisher of more than 700 interviews with entrepreneurs and investors, he is also the WBAF High Commissioner for Singapore.
Carsten Borring is Associate Vice President Listings EMEA and Head of Listings & Capital Markets, NASDAQ Copenhagen. Carsten has gained a broad knowledge of financial transactions in Corporate Finance departments at Gudme Raaschou and Alfred Berg before joining the Copenhagen Stock Exchange.

- Copenhagen Stock Exchange is together with the exchanges in Sweden, Iceland, Finland and the Baltic countries today part of Nasdaq. Mr. Borring were the architect behind the establishment of the Nasdaq First North market in 2005 – today the Nasdaq junior market has more than 350 companies listed in the Nordics. Carsten is a member of the governments Entrepreneur Panel, the Danish national jury of Entrepreneur of the Year by EY and the jury of FSRs CSR/ESG award, and a board member of the independent think tank Center for ESG Research. Carsten was born in 1968 has an educational background as a cand.merc. in Finance & Accounting from CBS, and Essentials of Management Certification Program from Wharton, University of Pennsylvania.
Charles S. Sidman, MBA, PhD, is an angel investor and managing partner of ECS Capital Partners, LLC, an innovative early-stage venture fund based in Bar Harbor, Maine, USA, but operating globally. He is a founding member of the American Angel Capital Association, past president of the Crowdfunding Professional Association, and a frequent advocate for, contributor to and speaker on financial and entrepreneurship issues in Washington, D.C. and beyond. Dr. Sidman retired as Professor of Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry and Microbiology from the College of Medicine at the University of Cincinnati, where he also served for many years as Professor of Management in the College of Business and in the university-wide Honors Scholars Program. His education includes a PhD in Immunology from Harvard University, an MBA specializing in Management from the University of Cincinnati, and sabbatical study in Complex Systems at the Santa Fe Institute.
He is the founder and President of B.O.I. (Bridge Of Innovations). B.O.I. is a company that identifies innovative start-ups in Africa and supports them through its network of Business Angels and Ventures Capital to initiate their emergence. To this day, have joined the bridge, six innovative start-ups in Africa. As part of its HOPE FOR NEW AFRICA initiative and for the promotion of entrepreneurship in Africa, Mr Keita plans to create with the international partners, the P.E. (points entrepreneurship), a place of meeting of entrepreneurship in agreement with the international partners on convention of the states in each African country. Mr. KEITA recently created OBA (Open Business Africa), to promote partnerships and joint ventures between companies in the South and North for the establishment of new structures for transforming local products and assembly factories and essential equipment for the development of critical sectors in Africa. M.KEITA continues to participate in many international conferences on Africa and the ACP as contributor and panelist in international organizations: OECD, UNESCO, French Ministry of Finance, World Bank, France and in the world. He is UNESCO’s ambassador for the UNESCO event for Guinea, the book capital of the world. Since 2017, Mr. KEITA Cheick is ambassador of IHRC (International Human Right Commission) in charge of the Africa zone to follow the new strategy of this institution for the promotion of the good governance, the prevention and the resolution of the conflicts, the promotion education for all, sustainable development, the promotion of new technologies applied to education and education for all, the socio-economic promotion of women for a better world. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and French.
Chinwe Okoli is an expert in building innovation ecosystems and integrating the academia on the concept of triple helix model. Her experience spans business incubation/acceleration, angel investor networks, research commercialization and setting up innovation hubs and science parks. She is the Founder of Grand Africa Initiative, a pan-African organisation that grooms, empowers and mentors (GEM) the youth to explore their unique talents in education, entrepreneurship and innovation with special attention to girls and youths in the rural communities. Her passion and wealth of experience in building innovation ecosystems has resulted in her contributing to global high level discussions on innovation and entrepreneurship policies as a Guest speaker in Nigeria, France, United Kingdom, Ethiopia, Senegal, Kenya and Hong Kong. Her previous positions involved building innovation ecosystem in a university environment, data pooling and analysis. She was the Manager of Roar Nigeria and the Pioneer Manager of Lion Science Park, the first university-embedded innovation hub and Science Park in West Africa respectively. A Coach and an Author of two books-The Ladder to Academic Excellence and A Daunting Odyssey. Chinwe holds a B.Sc. in Economics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria; M.Sc. in Public Policy and Management from the University of London, United Kingdom, and a Diploma in Management of Higher Education from Galilee International Management Institute, Galilee, Israel. She is also certified on business incubation, business acceleration and fundamentals of Science Park.
Christoph Drescher has over 20 years of management experience in system integration and various technical driven industries building up companies from scratch to 150 employees in 9 months to be fully operational. He gets things off the ground, being responsible in management positions for designing and improving multiple areas along the value chain from an end to end perspective. Christoph builds on a technical education combined with project management, sales, business development and an MBA in Entrepreneurship. He uses his leadership skills to inspire and guide his employees as well as share his knowledge as mentor and coach in various organizations, specifically with startups. Thinking in solutions and scenarios is one of his biggest assets to turn plans into accomplishments.

After exiting DealMatrix, an online innovation scouting platform in 2019, Christoph is now building up, as Managing Partner, the Company MyPrivacy – Premium Data Protection. High secure encrypted storage, sharing and workflows for files, data and embedded systems.
Christopher Mbanefo  
*Founder of the OXÏ-ZEN Program, Switzerland*

He is an entrepreneur, innovator, disruptor, aerospace engineer (MSc) and professional pilot (ATPL) - with work experience in Americas, EU, Africa. A seeker of wisdom and peace while treading the path of life...... realizing that we are but custodians with a responsibility to hand over to our children a better world than what we were given ... ensuring a net positive contribution to the quality of lives while respecting and caring for our human and natural resources ... bringing to reality ideas and designs that balance beauty, efficiency and quality of life ... supporting true craftsmanship and cultural preservation as part of man's positive footprint on our planet ... working consciously for social justice as the only way through which to realize true and sustainable peace ... convinced through experience that luxury, technology and wealth can indeed be inclusive and sustainable through positive change and intelligent design solutions ... passionate about ideas, opportunities, partnerships, rights, education, including my first passion for aviation, through all of which positive and sustainable contributions can be made ... smiling in the knowledge that there is greatness in the small things...! An Advocate that sustainable growth can indeed be achieved through conscious change, thinking out-of-the-box and the realization that we are ultimately all different and beautiful manifestations of the ONE and the SAME. There is truly enough for all... but that demands the concept of sharing :) ... a humble follower of those Great Souls, who have demonstrated that Love, Compassion and Forgiveness are indeed the most powerful forces in the universe!
Over the years he has distinguished himself as a committed cadre of the African National Congress. He (Kaunda) has served in various leadership roles in both the ANC Youth League and Provincial structures. Born in iNanda north of Durban, he gained political consciousness early and became active from the tender age of 15. He was involved in student politics and youth political activism during the hard days of violence. Cllr Kaunda, obtained his Diploma in Governance and Leadership from the University of South Africa and an Advanced Diploma in Advanced Governance and Public Leadership from the University of Witwatersrand. From 2000-2006, Kaunda served as a Ward 57 Councillor in Inanda.
Danela Arsovska is the President of Macedonian Chambers of Commerce, Chair of the Macedonian Union of Employers’ Organizations and General Council Member of the ICC World Chambers Federation. As President of MCC which is the Union of national chambers of commerce and the largest national business organization, Arsovska continuously represents the interests of the business sector and promotes national and international trade based on principles of free and fair competition. She is devoted on creating opportunities and better conditions for investments in all sectors and through policy creation she enhances the public-private dialogue on national level. She is currently Representative at the Assembly–Parliament of Republic of North Macedonia, National Council for European Integration and Member of the Public Private Partnership Council in the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia. In International positions she is currently Member of the World Bank ICSID in Washington, Court Member of OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in Geneva and Court Member of ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris. Arsovska is an advocate for human rights, one of the Macedonian Women Entrepreneurs Association founders, as well as initiator of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in the national business sector.
Honourable Minister Datuk Darell Leiking is the Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia who was elected into office since July 2018. He was born on 23rd August 1971 in Sabah, Malaysia. He holds an LL.B (Hons) from the University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom. He qualified as a Barrister-at-Law through Lincoln's Inn, where he was called to the Bar in United Kingdom. In 1998, he founded a legal firm Messrs Leiking & Associates where he is the Principal Partner. He was also an active member of Sabah Bar.

Minister Datuk Darell Leiking has been a Member of Malaysian Parliament for the constituency of Penampang, Sabah since 2013, a position which he continues to hold. He co-founded Parti Warisan Sabah in 2016, which is a coalition party of the ruling Pakatan Harapan Government. He is currently serving as Parti Warisan’s Deputy President. Prior to that, he was the National Vice President of Parti Keadilan Nasional from 2013-2016. He was also the Deputy Secretary General, Parti Keadilan Nasional from 2010-2013.

Minister Datuk Darell Leiking is also the Charter President of Rotary Club Penampang which has organised many activities that benefited the less fortunate segment of society in Sabah. In 2018, Minister Datuk Darell Leiking was awarded the Darjah Panglima Gagah Darjah Kinabalu (PGDK) which conferred the title “Datuk”.

Minister Datuk Darell Leiking is married to Datin Jennifer Jongiji. They have 3 children and live in Penampang, Sabah.
Dawn Hetzel is a global leader with a proven track record of inspiring individuals and teams toward success around the world. She is a focused change maker who is not afraid of a challenge. Utilizing a combination of motivation and empathy, she assists in the development and empowerment of everyone around her. Dawn has 17 years of experience in public speaking and facilitation in front of groups of all sizes—from 2 to 4,000 people. She has delivered keynote speeches, provided motivational sessions, and facilitated trainings in over 60 different countries. As a team leader, Dawn has 12 years of experience leading, managing, and building teams. She has worked with international teams spanning multiple countries and has experience facilitating individuals working and interacting remotely. Dawn also has 15 years of experience in advocacy and negotiation, having worked as a lobbyist at the Indiana State House for six years and an Assistant Attorney General in Michigan for four years. In addition, Dawn has spoken and advocated in front of large international entities such as the International Chamber of Commerce and the United Nations. Dawn is passionate about giving back to her community and building up the next generation of leaders. Dawn joined Junior Chamber International (JCI) Indianapolis in 2002 and over the last 18 years has served in leadership roles at the local, state, national and international levels of the organization. She has dedicated herself to moving the organization forward, while providing support and encouragement for new and emerging leaders. Her notable roles within the organization include 2008 JCI Indiana State President, 2009 JCI USA State Presidents’ Coach, 2012 JCI USA National Vice President, 2014 JCI Executive Vice President for the Americas and 2017 JCI President. In 2018, while serving as the JCI Immediate Past President, Dawn also led the JCI Strategic Planning Committee to develop and present the JCI Strategic Plan for 2019-2023. Dawn continues to support JCI as an alumni member and is currently working for JCI USA as Executive Director.
Deniz MISIR is a global family office and investments specialist. Deniz is a purpose-driven entrepreneur, who established Turkey’s first internationally operating trusted advisory V22 International Advisory J. S. Co. in 2013. V22’s mission is facilitating “Financial Wellbeing” and serves with wealth preservation, growth and excellence packages. V22 also provides financial wellbeing mentoring & consulting for family business owners, next-generation members and executives. Deniz is a sought-out speaker in global family office, private wealth, and family business conferences and brings in the “expert generalist” know-how from both the developed and emerging markets and across disciplines. She compiled a wealth talk series, delivered via Mirador Speaker Agency. Before V22, Deniz served the Netherlands Government in roles of “Area Director to Turkey at Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency” and as “Senior Investment & Economic Officer”. Educated for both at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul/Turkey; Deniz holds a B.A. degree in Economics and an Executive M. B. A. degree. She also completed Pictet’s “Family Office Masterclass” and Wilson’s “Qualified Family Office Professional Program”.
Dae Jin (Derik) Kim is the founder and honorary president of Global Entrepreneurs Foundation (“GEF”) and also a co-founder and partner of HSR ANGEL LLC (“HSR”) located in Korea, which has done angel investment and company build-up. GEF is the firstly registered non-profit accelerator and first Scalerator in Korea and now runs three HSR EPICENTERS and Songpa ICT Youth Startup Center since 2016, June. Before GEF, Mr. Kim was serial entrepreneur to found five start-ups, three of which were established in Korea, and two in the USA. Also he has served as CEO and Executive officer of several companies in Korea and USA, including EVP of Talon-International, Inc. During his career, he has worked as International sales man and global marketing specialist for 14 years, besides his entrepreneurship experience. Nowadays he concentrates on making GEF the Gateway between Korea, Asia and Global start-ups ecosystem and so is serving globally as a partner of Entrepreneurs Without Borders based in Sweden, Faster Capital in UAE, Co-organizer of EU Startup week and Co-chair of India Korea Economic Development Board. He is also speaker, mentor and juror at international conferences including Uludag Economy Summit in Turkey, Delta Summit in Malta, Startup Ole in Spain, Startupbootcamp Energy in Australia, India-Korea Business Summit and China-Korea Investment Forum, Asian Leadership Conference etc. He has also consulted UNDP Africa Youth Connect research, as well as Korean ODA projects related to the startup ecosystem of countries such as Rwanda, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.
Dražen Mršić's rich professional experience includes corporate as well as government sector. He was building up his professional career in the banking sector in several international banks. His corporate banking experience included management and board member positions in charge of investment banking and important infrastructure projects such as for example the EBRD projects financing railway infrastructure, regional road network and agricultural business. After a period of practicing own private law office, Dražen joined the Croatian Chamber of Economy as Deputy Director in charge of financial institutions, economic analysis in which capacity he was representing Croatia the ICC Banking. His current position as Deputy Director of the Croatian Pension Fund focuses on the implementation of the EU regulations and international contracts. Dražen holds the degree from the Faculty of Law. Furthermore, he obtained the postgraduate degree in International finance and trade law as well as Bar Exam. He is professionally project oriented and specialized in international finance law.
H.E. Mr Elias Bendodo is the President of the Three Cultures of the Mediterranean Foundation, President of Extenda, the International Promotion Agency, and Ministry of the Presidency, Public Administration & Internal Affairs in addition to Spokesman of the Andalusian Government (Junta de Andalucia). Previously, he had been during several years President at Malaga Provincial Government (Diputacion de Malaga) and also City Councillor of the Malaga Hall in charge among others of the Tourism, Sport & Youth Policies. He holds a Law Degree from the University of Malaga and also has several postgraduate & executives studies from ESESA, San Telmo International Institute, IESE Business School and ESADE Business & Law School.
A lawyer by profession, she is a Board Member of Erdem Holding since 1985 and served as a Chamber Counsel for Turkish Airlines between 1990 and 2017 until her retirement. She is the President of KAGIDER where she has been a Board Member since 2013. Successively, she worked as the President of Soroptimist International of Turkey (2008-2010), Board Member (2013-2017) and Vice President (2015-2017) of Soroptimist International of Europe and President of Soroptimist International Convention (2015.) She is the Vice President of SEDEFED, one of the founders of UNESCO-Istanbul Center for Global Ethics and Sustainable Development and a member of the Advisory Board of Association of Women Candidates. She is a member of UNESCO Turkish National Commission Gender Equality Monitoring Committee. She has also worked as the Assistant Coordinator of Istanbul Women’s Platform, and her other civil society memberships include International Federation of University Women and Foundation of Turkish Women in Legal Profession. She has been a spokesperson at several international meetings such as International Federation of University Women Conference (2013), 6th World Water Forum (2012) and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Equality Commission Meeting (2009). She speaks French and English.
He has graduated the Agronomy Faculty and Economy Faculty (Agriculture University of Tirana 1989, 1996), Faculty of Law (University of Tirana 2002). He has graduated MBA the Nebraska Lincoln University & Tirana University, He holds a PhD diploma in Management (Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana 2005). He has about 29 years working experience and about the same experience lecturing, specialized with about 45 training courses (Albania, USA, UK, Israel, Germany, Austria), etc. He is Dean of Economic and Social Sciences Faculty, University College “WISDOM”, President of Conservative Academy, Executive Director of Albanian Center for Sustainable Development, Executive Director of Albanian Center for Waste Recycling, (previously successful experiences as Commercial Officer British Embassy Tirana, World Bank Infrastructure Projects Supervisor, News-paper’s Editor, etc). He is the author of around 5000 articles and over 30 scientific journal articles, participating in more than 50 international scientific conferences, author of “Total Quality Management” Book, “Quality Management Tools” Monograph, etc. His work focuses on public and private organizations consultancy, ISO Standards included, heading several NGO’s etc.
Having enjoyed a leadership position as Country Director of a Pan-African telecom group, Alink Telecom, in Niger, Ghana, and Cote d’Ivoire from 2006 to 2013, Etienne Kouadio is now playing a leading role in the ICT sector as Chief Operating Officer at VITIB SA, the first technology park in Western Africa. VITIB SA is a government and private joint venture company in charge of promoting and managing the ICT and biotechnology free trade zone of Côte d’Ivoire. His role consists of attracting investors, analysing business plans, and supporting business incubation and development. With a background in international marketing, Etienne worked for Unilever as a Regional Brand Manager. He is currently leading the national and international promotion strategy of the Technology Park of Côte d’Ivoire. Etienne has been ranked by IT newsAfrica as among the top 10 telecom leaders in Africa. He is also the President and the Founder of Ivoiro Suisse, an NGO that is active in education and the empowerment of women and youth for social justice.
Fabrice Testa is a serial entrepreneur, a business angel and a deep tech expert who successfully founded, co-founded or participated in the launch of multiple tech startups which created hundreds of jobs and generated multi-millions revenues. Fabrice has almost 30 years of international experience with extensive know-how in:
- Strategy and development plans
- Technology validation and roadmap
- Business development, sales & marketing
- Operational organization & optimization
- Business models & financial plans
- Talent recruitment & building multicultural and decentralized teams
- Fundraising
- Corporate finance
- Investor relationships & governance
- Exit strategy & acquisition

He is knowledgeable in the following markets/technologies:
- Space Industry (upstream, downstream and exploration)
- Connectivity (Satellite, Broadcast, IoT)
- AI & Robotics
- Transport & Renewable Energy
- Cryptocurrencies, blockchain and Fintech

Fabrice is a trusted coach/advisor/mentor with experience with following organizations:
- LuxInnovation
- Astropreneur
- Business Mentoring of Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce - Luxfactory (Luxembourg) - Founder Institute Luxembourg - European Commission Copernicus Accelerator and Galileo Competition - e-Plus Ecosystem (Startup Europe) - WSL (Belgium) As a business angel (LBAN, EBAN, LSTA), he has been often part of the jury of startup competitions: Fit4Start, EBN, EBAN, EC, MIT TECHNOLOGY REVIEW INNOVATORS UNDER 35 EUROPE 2019, MINDS & TECH CHALLENGING MINDS COMPETITION

Fabrice holds a Master in Business Management from Solvay Business School of Brussels as well as a M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from University of Liege.
Fadi Saab has an enriching professional track record over the past 40+ years in Private Equity, Investment Banking, Corporate Finance, Aviation, Tourism, Hospitality, Logistics, and Strategic Management Consultancy. An active board member in major business associations and professional NGO’s specializing in the promotion of Business Ethics, Anti Corruption, Corporate Governance, Transparency, Accountability, and Quality Principles/ After graduating from INSEAD in Fontainebleau with a MBA in Finance, he started a banking career at Saudi International Bank (SIB - London) and JP Morgan Guarantee (MGT - New York), to become later one of the youngest VP’s of Bankers Trust (BTCo - NY) responsible for the International Investment Management Group in the MENA region/ Established Trans Capital Holding in the late 80’s and was Chairman & CEO of several companies operating between the USA, Europe and the Middle East in the fields of aviation, tourism, hospitality and technology (Contitronix USA, NBC - ME, North African Aviation, TransMed Airlines, TransAlsace Airlines and Trans Tourism International). In mid 1990’s he provided consultancy services to the Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL) - Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Public Works & Transportation, Minister of Tourism as well as a number of other major private sector companies. For 12 years (till 2008) Fadi was Chairman & CEO of Trans Mediterranean Airlines (TMA) Lebanon’s national cargo airline, thereafter was Founder/Chairman and/or CEO of several investment and operating companies in The UK, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, Denmark, and Lebanon (Top Capital Finance, Aqua Capital Invest, Midtown Hotels; Arab Leasing, United Food Technologies Group, Aqualife A/S, AquaCulture Technologies). In addition to being Founder & Chairman of Trans Capital Finance (UK), Trans Capital Invest (UK), and The Pine Development (Lebanon), he is an active participant in various economic or business associations, and numerous NGO’s promoting Integrity; Anti-corruption.
Bachelor Degree in Business Administration, Bahrain University - Master Degree in Political Economics, Stanford University - Founder & Chairwoman, Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization (BEO) - Founder & Chairwoman, Bizgrow Incubators and Accelerators - Vice Chairman of ASEAN Bahrain Council - Board Member of Bahrain Khaireya Charity Society - Board Member of Entrepreneurs Organization (EO), Bahrain Chapter - Former President, Bahrain Businesswomen Society, Term 2016-2018 - Masterclass Social Entrepreneur of the Year Awardee, 8th Middle East Business Leaders Awards - International Women’s Entrepreneurial Challenge (IWEC) Foundation Awardee - Executive Director, Nass The Group (for past 27 years-present) - Founder & CEO of Design District Trading W.L.L. - Founder & CEO of Ma Maison Interiors - Founder & Owner of Smart Creative Factory - Head of Thailand Committee, ASEAN Council - Head of Women’s Committee, Khaireya Charity Society - Member of Equal Opportunities between Supreme Council for Women and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry Joint Committee - Head of Advisory Council for the Interior Design Curriculum – Applied Science University, Kingdom of Bahrain - Advisory Board Member for Retail Sector, Tamkeen - Member of Organizing Committee in Bahrain International Garden Show, 2006-2010 - Member in the National Initiative for Agriculture Development Planning Committee, 2010-2011 - Former Member of National Committee for International Commerce - Participated in international law business conferences - Worked for several BCCI committees and other joint committees - Activist in voluntary work and charity societies.
Francisco Malesela Kgoboko is an Entrepreneur, Chemical & Mineral Processing Engineer, Founder and CEO of FMK Global Holdings Engineering Consultancy, Vice President of the Global Startup Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum, World Business Angels Investment Forum High Commissioner, Founder of FMK Trust, Farming Entrepreneur and Youth & Economic Empowerment Activist, Chair Person, Patron. Francisco is recently been elected as a candidate for Member of Parliament for the ruling Botswana Democratic Party for the 2019-2014 Botswana Parliament. Francisco has also been appointed Director of Entrepreneurship at the Pan African Chamber of Commerce which fosters a vibrant and interconnected business community where collaboration increases capacity, education enhances ability and advocacy influences authority. The PACC vision is to be a catalyst in transforming the African Business landscape through creativity, Innovation and entrepreneurship. Francisco recently launched the FMK Trust that seeks to empower communities towards Sustainable Economic Development and Positive Social Transformation by providing access to vital information through formal and informal education. Francisco strongly believes that through this mission, every person, young and old, Male or Female, shall live a dignified life. Within a period of Sixty days after being launched, the FMK Trust has already launched two life changing initiatives being Bobirwa Code Week, as part of Africa Code Week for all the 13070 learners followed by the Bakery and Confectionery Certificate Coarse for over 15 Babirwa youth. Francisco has organized the Bobonong Youth Entrepreneurship Development Workshop aimed at empowering youth with entrepreneurship skills and develop a thriving ecosystem for Bobirwa and the SPEDU region. Francisco is the Founding Chair Person of Botswana Alumni Association with over 500,000 learners and Patron of Botswana Primary Schools Sport Association (BoPSSA) with over 765 Schools and about 300 000 learners.
KR DI Dr. Gerhard Hrebicek, MBAPresidentEuropean Brand Institute -studied Mechanical Engineering and Business Administration at Technical University Vienna -graduated as MBA with specialisation in Marketing und Finance at University of Toronto -obtained his Ph.D. on „value-based management with special emphasis on intangible assets in particular brands” at the University of Graz -Founder and President of the European Brand Institute -President BRAND GLOBAL SUMMIT, Chairman BRAND GLOBAL Council -Chairman of the Austrian Committee for Brand-und Patent Valuations -Developed the standards ONR 16800, ÖNORM 6800 und ÖNORM 6801 -Chairman of the ISO Development Committee on ISO 20671: Brand Evaluation -Member of the Board of Austrian Standards Institute -Partner SummerLightCapital Partners, Chairman EBI BRANDINVEST -EBI UNIDO Partnership program “Branding for Competitiveness and Sustainable Growth” -Publicly appointed and sworn expert to Austrian courts for brand valuation.
Gordana Nikolić, PhD, is a founder of Business Academy Rijeka, which has promoted lifelong learning since 2007 via various projects. This has resulted in the formation of an institution of higher education, PAR University College, in August 2011, the only private university college in the North Adriatic region accredited by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports in Croatia. Currently, Gordana is the Dean of PAR University College. She also established the PAR Institute for Lifelong Learning, the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the Entrepreneurship VET Center and other companies. Gordana is a member of the European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors and Entrepreneurship Croatia, and she was participated in the Support Systems for Women Entrepreneurs of South-East Europe programme. In 2014, she was elected a WED Ambassador as a part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW). For her work she has received a several awards, the most important of which is Women Entrepreneur of the Year in Croatia in 2014. In 2015 she was the recipient of an award for outstanding international achievements in promoting science and education and the entrepreneurship of women. In 2016, she won the special award for extraordinary contributions in the field of higher education and entrepreneurship and the establishment and launch of the first private higher education institution. She is still the only woman in Croatia who owns a higher education institution. Apart from management, Ms Nikolić also leads a successful science career. She is an author and co-author of several books and more than 40 scientific and professional papers and has been working on a number of programmes and projects. She was a guest professor at the Iacocca Institute of Lehigh University at the Global Village Program for future leaders of business and industry and, since 2012, she has been president of the Program and Organizational Committee of the PAR International Leadership Conference (PILC). She is also a member of many professional and scientific associations and summer schools.
Harry Tomi Davies (TD) is an ICT Expert with a background of technology management for FTSE 100 level companies in the UK, US and Africa. He directs and advises a broad range of organisations globally, writes and blogs (occasionally) while maintaining a significant network of connections across most of the major social media platforms. He is a regular public speaker and mentor of a broad range of individuals with a personal goal of “maximizing the creation of social and economic value using digital technologies better”. He is an acclaimed expert in project management of technology systems analysis, design & implementation, an area that is the subject of his 2014 book “The African Project Manager”. TD’s focus in the last decade has been on technology based entrepreneurship in Africa where he invests, mentors and continues to work on developing an ecosystem of technology start-ups around co-working spaces, incubators, accelerators, angel funding, VC Capital, entrepreneur capacity development, national and state government policies. He is the founder of the Lagos Angel Network and President of the African Business Angels Network (ABAN).
Dr. Hashim S. Hussein is the Head of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization – Investment & Technology Promotion Office (UNIDO-ITPO) and Director of the Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment Training (ARCEIT) – Kingdom of Bahrain. Dr. Hussein has acquired rich experience in the field of Industrial Development as well as Investment and Technology Promotion in the last 22 years. He has had extensive experience of over 20 years in SME and Entrepreneurship development and He is an international advocate for Women’s Economic Empowerment. He holds a PhD (Honors) in International Law from the Universite de Nantes, France. He obtained a Doctoral Research Programme from the University of Maryland at College Park, Centre for International Development and Conflict Management (CIDCM), Maryland, U.S.A in the year 1989. He has worked at various responsibility levels in different countries like USA, Egypt, Sudan, Austria and the Kingdom of Bahrain. He joined UNIDO in 1991 as a Program Officer posted in the Kingdom of Bahrain to eventually become the Head of UNIDO-ITPO in 1996. Dr. Hussein is also the Director of the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment (AICEI) in which he played an instrumental role in its establishment in Bahrain in 2001. Through AICEI, he initiated and developed the Enterprise Development & Investment Promotion Program (EDIP) which is currently implemented in over 49 countries from Uruguay, Africa, the MENA region and all the way to China.
Helena Matuša's experience comes from tackling with preparation and management of public and private investment projects as well as introducing strategic planning approach to regional policy level in Krapina Zagorje County, Croatia. As a team member of Zagorje Development Agency since 2007, Helena participated in bringing entrepreneurial investment to the County as a certified member of Croatian Investor Friendly Region program and supported entrepreneurs in preparation and implementation of EU funded projects. Helena's expertise includes strategic planning, design thinking and financial modelling in project preparation and implementation. In las few years, Helena is actively included in major strategic projects of Krapina Zagorje County that have impact on Croatian economy, education and quality of life. Helena is also a proud mother of two girls and one boy.
Eduard Shalsi was born in Korça on April 1, 1968. He is married with Ms. Era Shalsi and they have three children, Patrick, Samuel and Kler. Mr. Shalsi graduated from Faculty of Natural Sciences, Biology and Chemistry, University of Tirana, in 1990. Mr. Shalsi has gone through a complete cycle of qualifications, in and out of the country. During the period from 1996-2002, he has taught numerous seminars and training on Banking issues such as Deposits, Import-Export, Credit, Accounting, Business Card. Mr. Eduard Shalsi was the Chairman of Committee of Productive Activities, Trade and Environment, in the Parliament of Albania (2017-2019), also former Minister of State for Local Government and Anticorruption Issues, during 2017. In 2003, after 7 years in the banking sector, became CEO of Insurance Institute SA (INSIG SA), the first insurance company of Albania, and a year later appointed firstly as Chief of Staff of Edi Rama, (at that time, Mayor of Tirana) and after in 2007 came into office as Deputy Mayor of Tirana, period during which he led some important projects for the capital. Has been elected MP in the district of Tirana in 2009, also in District of Berat in 2013 and has been active in parliamentary life. Actually is elected MP in the 2017 elections, but this time in the district of Korca. As MP, is also in charge as Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Member of the EU-Albania Association-Stabilization Commission. Mr. Eduard Shalsi was appointed Minister of State for Protection of Entrepreneurship on January 2019. Minister Shalsi speaks three foreign languages: English, Italian and Greek. In 2016, Mr. Shalsi was also elected President of the Albanian Chess Federation.
Hugo Mendes is currently the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Macauto Group, the second-largest producer of automotive sunshades in the world; the company is listed on the Taiwan OTC Exchange (TWO) and headquartered in Tainan, Taiwan. He serves as a senior strategy advisor to the CEO and senior executives. Prior joining Macauto, he was CFO of the Asia Supply Chain for the Hong Kong-based Vivarte Group, and North China CFO for Decathlon Group, where he was based in Shanghai. He is a national Certified Public Accountant (CPA) of the Portuguese Order of Certified Accountants (OCC). Having graduated from the Oporto Polytechnic business school with a double degree in Accounting and in Finance, Mr Mendes is also a real estate developer, investor and entrepreneur. He is the founder and Managing Director of a real estate boutique and consulting firm that is committed to helping foreign investors find the best investments in Portugal. Furthermore, he is a member of the Lisbon Business Angels Club and a regular panel speaker at CFO roundtables, the CFO Innovation Hong Kong Forum, the FP&A Innovation Summit–Hong Kong as well as in investing and business angel-related events.
Prof, Dr. Inderjit Singh serves as Chairman of NTUitive, the Innovation Company of the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Solstar International Pte Ltd, a multinational company from Singapore. Prof. Singh was the founding President of the Singapore Chapter of The Indus Entrepreneurs, a network of entrepreneurs and professionals founded in 1992 in Silicon Valley, California. From 1995 to 2012, he was the Deputy Chairman of Action Community for Entrepreneurs (ACE), a Singapore national committee involved in Entrepreneurship Policy and Advocacy. Previously, Prof. Singh founded United Test and Assembly Centre Limited, or UTAC, a Singapore-based semiconductor test and assembly company, and served as UTAC’s President and Chief Executive Officer. UTAC was a Unicorn 3 years after Inderjit started the company. Before founding UTAC, Prof. Singh served at Texas Instruments Singapore (known as Micron Semiconductor Asia since 1999) for 13 years, holding the post of Director of Assembly and Test Operations for the Memory Division from 1996 to 1998. Prof. Singh also served as a Member of Parliament (MP) in Singapore, from 1996 to 2015 and was the Chairman of the Singapore Government Parliamentary Committee for Finance, Trade and Industry for a duration of his term as an MP. Prof. Singh serves as a Member of the Board of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and in the past served as a board member in several Statutory and Public Bodies, including the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board and Spring Singapore. He is an active angel investor and also holds directorship positions and investments in a number of start-up companies. Prof. Singh holds a degree in Electronics Engineering from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, an MBA from the University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom and a Honorary Doctorate from the Amity University, India.
Ismail Haznedar is a Strategist and a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and Fellow Member of Strategic Planning Society (SPS). Born in 1976 in Tetovo, Macedonia, Ismail Haznedar graduated from Middle East Technical University (METU), earning a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Business Management in 2000. He also completed Masters Degree on Marketing from Marmara University in 2005. He speaks Turkish and English. Presently he is President of JAIN Global, a New York based Angel Investing Network, and Managing Director of Stratejik Isler, a management consultancy company based in Istanbul, Turkey. He is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC) and Fellow Member of Strategic Planning Society (SPS). Ismail Haznedar is Former President of Junior Chamber International (JCI), leading global network of active citizens. Haznedar was elected as 2015 President of the JCI, leading global organization during 100th Anniversary and served as 2016 JCI Senate Chairman. He is honored to be a life time member and Senator, is Foundation Member and Certified National Trainer (CNT).
Israel Pons is CEO and co-founding partner of Angels Nest LATAM, an angel investment network operating in Mexico and Latin American countries. It was cited by XCALA as the most active angel network in Latin America. They also have more than 400 angels from Latin America, Canada, the US and the United Kingdom. The organization has been operating across Mexico since October 2015. Angels Nest has led the largest first angel round for the first cross-border investment in a Latin American start-up, for $1.2 million USD. They also hold the record for achieving one angel investment per month. Israel is also the President of the National Entrepreneurship Committee of the Mexican Institute of Financial Executives (IMEF).

Israel pursued his academic and professional career during his 24 years in the UK, where he served 5 years as Operations Director for the largest leisure company in Europe. He became an entrepreneur and founded 4 companies in the UK, 3 of which were sold successfully. He became an angel investor and decided to move back to Mexico. Israel was named the National Lead Member for the Global Business Angel Network–Mexico (GBAN), where his duties include speaking in public events about what angel investment is all about and how it can help entrepreneurs find success in their projects. He is an active member of the Association of Mexican and German Business association (EMAAC). Israel firmly believes that angel investment is about people and values, not about money.
Serving as the 75th JCI President, JCI President Itai Manyere was elected and inaugurated as the 2020 JCI President during the 2019 JCI World Congress in Tallinn, Estonia. Born 37 years ago in Gweru, Zimbabwe, JCI President-Elect Manyere joined JCI Harare, Zimbabwe in 2004. He served on the Local Board and as JCI Harare Local President in 2006. From 2008, he served on the JCI Zimbabwe National Board in various capacities, eventually becoming the 2014 JCI Zimbabwe National President. At the international level, JCI President Manyere served as the 2015 JCI Vice President for Africa and the Middle East and was later appointed to the 2016 JCI Skills Development Committee, 2017 JCI Growth and Development Committee for Africa and the Middle East and elected the 2018 JCI Executive Vice President for Africa and the Middle East. Currently, JCI President Manyere serves as the Chief Executive Assistant to the 2019 JCI President. As JCI President-Elect Manyere leads in 2020, his theme is Bridge the Gap. He firmly believes, “As young people, we are responsible to shape the future we want, and it is up to us to take advantage of the opportunities presented. We must turn around the fortunes of present-day society to deliver a tomorrow fit for future generations to enjoy.”
Prof Ivan Jovetic is an entrepreneur and researcher. He holds an MSci degree in Entrepreneurial Economy and is a PhD candidate in International Economy at the UDG. Ivan Jovetic is the cofounder of MSI INVEST Ltd., through which he has been executing his own and his partners’ entrepreneurial ideas, involving himself in several sectors. Since 2007, he has been working at UDG’s Faculty for International Economy, Finance, and Business as a Teaching Fellow. Since 2013, he has also been acting as Vice Dean at the UDG Faculty for Sports Management. Mr Jovetic is co-founder of the Montenegrin Business Angels Network (MEBAN). He has also been working at the Institute for Strategic Studies and Prognoses since 2005, where he has been involved in and led numerous national and European projects. He is Executive Director of the Centre for European Education and Studies and an ECSA World member. In addition, he is a member of the working groups for negotiations with the European Union. Mr Jovetic’s primary areas of interest include entrepreneurship and business development, international economy, investments, cyber and defence, and the EU and NATO. Mr Jovetic was Vice President of the Board of the Euro-Atlantic Club of Montenegro from 2006 to 2009. He is also a member of the Society of Economists and Managers of Montenegro as well as the World Entrepreneurship Forum.
Jacopo Dettoni is the deputy editor of fDi Magazine, a specialist publication from the Financial Times. In his role, Jacopo produces multimedia content for the title's print magazine and online portal, also hosting the fDi Podcast since its inception in December 2016. Jacopo lived and reported from Europe, Asia and Latin America, keeping a close eye on patterns of investment during boom-and-bust cycles triggered by developments in the commodity markets. He is a frequent speaker at events focusing on foreign investment. He chaired the latest “Panama: The Gateway to Latin America” investment summit in London and co-chaired the past two editions of “The Mongolia Investment Summit” in Hong Kong. He holds a Masters Degree in Economics and Finance from the Catholic University of Milan, Italy, where he focused on trade policies and economic welfare.
Dr Jarmo T. Kotilaine
The Chief of Planning and Monitoring at Bahrain's Labour Fund (Tamkeen), Bahrain

Jarmo Kotilaine is the Chief Planning and Monitoring Officer of Tamkeen, having joined the organization in 2016. He has served as the Chief Economist of the Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) since 2012. He previously worked as Chief Economist of the National Commercial Bank (NCB) of Saudi Arabia, having initially worked on setting up the research function for NCB Capital, the investment arm of the NCB Group. Dr Kotilaine worked for a number of years as an economic and financial consultant with a primary focus on emerging markets. He advised the Spanish stock exchange, Bolsas y Mercados Españoles (BME) and headed the financial services practices of UK-based global consultancy firms. During this time, Dr Kotilaine's main clientele consisted of banks, stock exchanges and financial regulators. Dr Kotilaine studied economics and economic history at Oxford, Cambridge, and Harvard. He subsequently joined the faculty at Harvard where his primary research focus was the long-term economic and institutional development of Eurasia as well as on international trade and finance.
Jean-Christophe Barth is Executive Director of the World Association of PPP Units & Professionals (WAPPP) and the owner of HASE Solutions, a boutique specialized in Board Advisory & Deal Mediation. He has 19 years of experience in Banking, Legal Affairs and Project Management gained in varied industries, namely with Bombardier Transportation on complex infrastructure contracts. He acts as Board Advisor with APIA Swiss to establish early stage governance in Scale-ups, SMEs and non-profits. He’s an accomplished international ADR Neutral and has been elected Co-President of the Swiss Chamber of Commercial Mediation in 2017. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, he builds bridges for a more efficient implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through smart public-private cooperation (3P+ facilitation) with the World Association of PPP Units & PPP Professionals. He is an Adjunct Professor of Governance at Haute Ecole de Gestion and of Transformational Leadership at the Geneva School of Diplomacy.
Jeffrey Steiner
President, Angel Investors Ontario, Canada

Jeffrey is a Canadian corporate director and lawyer involved in finance, the film & TV industry, global asset management and foreign investment. He serves as President of Angel Investors Ontario (AIO) in Canada that is the coordinating organization for its 13 regional angel groups of 1,500 accredited (sophisticated) investors. Mr. Steiner is also the lead independent director on the board of FinDev Canada Inc, the new overseas Development Finance Institution (DFI) that is a subsidiary of Export Development Canada (EDC), which is Canada’s Ex-Im Bank. Jeffrey recently completed two terms (8 years) on the board of directors of EDC, and chaired its Business Development & Strategy Committee. Locally, Jeffrey joined the board of directors of the Toronto Parking Authority; and globally he is a Strategic Advisor to Aberdeen Standard Investments (ASI) plus serves on advisory boards of Canadian resource exploration companies. Jeff is an active member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO) and earned a corporate director designation ICD.D. Since 2010, as CEO of New Franchise Media Inc he owns the world-wide film, TV & digital streaming rights to adapt many of the bestselling novels of UK writer Lord Jeffrey Archer. Mr. Steiner previously led the Toronto Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) as its President & CEO from 2002 to 2009 which focused on real estate & industrial development and promotion of foreign direct investment. As leader of TEDCO, he is well-regarded for getting things done on Toronto’s very complex waterfront including as developer of the Corus Entertainment HQ building, the master developer of Canada’s largest film studio located in the Port Lands (now operated by Pinewood Studios & Bell Media), and obtaining land and environmental clean-up for redevelopment. Earlier in his career he served as Chief of Staff to Canada’s Defense Secretary and to the Minister of Indian Affairs & Northern Development. Jeff has a unique combination of business and public policy experience with a keen interest in how the public and private-sectors can work together in job creation, R&D, infrastructure and other strategic investments.
JF Gauthier, Founder & CEO of Startup Genome, is the world’s leading voice in innovation ecosystem development. He has both advised and learned from government leaders across more than 50 cities and 30 countries. Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur, JF has founded five businesses and led others on two continents, with two successful exits, two ongoing ones, and one miserable failure, a source of much learning. He is also an active angel investor. He started in banking then worked in tech strategy and corporate innovation, advising top tech companies (IBM, Cisco, Agilent/HP...) for the firm of Kim Clark, former dean of Harvard Business School, alongside Clayton Christensen and other thought leaders. Harvard MBA.
Jo Robrechts is an entrepreneur driven by sustainability and innovation. Currently he tackles a worldwide societal challenge: “Healthy Aging” by turning Neighborhoods into man-made Blue Zones® focusing on a increased sustainable level of quality of life. As founder and executive chairman of award-winning Triamant®, he redefines the boundaries of current solutions in traditional living and care and creates the community of tomorrow, offering Life-as-a-Service®. Earlier on in his career he had a multinational life, primarily with Johnson and Johnson. He assumed the role of founder and investor as well as managing director or chairman in about 30 start-ups, SME and large companies and entities sofar. Board memberships over the last 20 years included the Belgian telecom operator Belgacom and the Flemish Institute for Technological Development. Jo founded and built a number of non-profit organisations. He created Plato, the today European widespread entrepreneur coaching program. He has been a keynote speaker at worldwide conferences and a teacher at various educational events. He was nominated in Tokyo in 1992 by Junior Chamber International as one of the three finalists “Outstanding Young Persons of the World”. Joe earned a MBA degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, holds a Commercial Engineering Degree magna cum laude and a Real Estate Degree from Louvain University and studied at Vlerick, Gent (Belgium), Insead (Fontainebleau, France), Babson College as well as Harvard Business School (Boston, USA).
H.E. Mr Juan Espadas, Major of Seville, lawyer and expert on European Law, Sustainability and Climate, Social Economy and Territorial Planning policies. Former National Senator for the Kingdom of Spain and Ministry for Housing & Territorial Planning at the Andalusian Regional Government. Currently, he is Member of the Regions Committee at the European Union and President for the Climate Committee at the Federation of Cities and Regions in Spain Excmo Sr Juan Espadas, Alcalde de Sevilla, abogado y experto en Derecho Europeo, Politicas de Sostenibilidad y Economia Social ademas de Ordenacion del Territorio. Ha sido Senador Nacional y Consejero de Vivienda y Territorio de la Junta de Andalucia. Actualmente es miembro del Comite de las Regiones de la Union Europea y Presidente de la Red de Ciudades por el Clima de la Federacion de Española de Municipios y Provincias.
Juan Torrents, from Barcelona, Spain, senior adviser on international trade, free zones and export processing zones, offered consulting services since 1986. For 25 years, Mr. Torrents gained private sector experience in sales, logistics, finance and management, creating a worldwide Network as Managing Director, in different economic sectors as Textile Machinery, Paper Mill, and Logistics. Entered the public sector during the decade 1986-1996 as Manager Director of Barcelona Free Zone and led it to diversify, develop, expand and increase its influence worldwide, gaining public recognition in 1989 as best Barcelona promoter of the year. In particular, during his administration of Barcelona Free Zone Mr. Torrents presided over the establishment of: The first Coffee and Cocoa, London-Fox Port Tender recognized in the Mediterranean, a Car Terminal as a transit Hub for Import and Export cars with capacity for over 6,000 units in a 134,000 m², A 40,000 m² Warehouses Special for commodities as Cotton and Metals, “The Gold House” a safe area including latest technologies for import and export trade in jewellery and gems, a warehouse for hazardous and flammable products, as a zone of safety and maintenance of the environment, an Area of 100,000 m² for Logistics, Trade and Public Services in Barcelona. Mr. Torrents has generously dedicated time and effort to international education about free zones and their potential, helping the start-up of Shanghai-Pudong Development Zone, today China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone in 1990-1995, as external expert consultant. His International public service led to his election as president of FEMOZA.
A global thought leader, disruptor and innovator with an entrepreneurial flair. As an international development banker I have conceptualized and developed new institutions and business models in challenging environments. My core competencies include New Ventures, MSME Banking, Project Finance, Team Building, Strategy Formulation, Digital Transformation, Change Management, Business Development and Good Governance. I am a strategic thinker with strong ethical standards and focus on results. With exceptional business acumen and broad experience on a global stage I have served on the boards of several international companies and provided strategic advice to senior management and business owners. With an MBA in Finance from the Asian Institute of Management in Manila, an MS in Metallurgical Engineering from Moscow Institute of Steel & Alloys, a certification on “Strategy in the Age of Digital Disruption” from INSEAD, and over 35 years of international experience in development banking and finance, I have developed a network of diverse professionals in every corner of the globe whom I leverage to ensure that the UN Sustainable Development Goals are at the center of all business decisions.
He is an economist, a strategist, an intellectual and social entrepreneur motivated and committed for the global economic progress, the global sustainable development and the universal peace promotion with more than 15 years working experience with Youth and Women across Africa and the World. He is now dedicating all his life for the promotion of and protection of Human Rights, Women’s Rights, Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women Worldwide. And engaging men and boys. Mr. Coulibaly is the Founder, President and CEO of the Global Institute for Women’s Empowerment Group (GIWE GROUP), a member of MenEngage Global Alliance and also the National Coordinator of MenEngage Network Mali and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of MenEngage Africa Alliance. He is also a UN Women’s HeForShe Initiative Member and the Co-Founder of the African Development Group (ADG), the African Mining Alliance (AMA), the Alliance for African Renaissance (ARA) and the African Youth Center (AYC). In 2019, Mr. Kassoum COULIBALY is recently appointed as the National Coordinator of the Small & Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Support Program of Mali and Senator for Mali (Africa) at the World Business Angels Forum (WBAF). He obtained an Associate’s Degree in Economics and Development at the University of Bouaké (Côte d’Ivoire), Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Management at the University of Bamako (Mali) in 2000. He also obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights from the Centre Universitaire Henry Dunant (CUHD) in Geneva (Switzerland) in 2008, a Certificate in Mineral Policy and Contract Negotiation from the University of Johannesburg (UJ) in South Africa in 2013 and a Certificate in Business and Human Rights in 2016 and a Certificate in Advanced Course in Human Rights on the role of Men and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality in 2018 at the University of Pretoria (UP) in South Africa.
Kevin Hin is the Secretary General of the Junior Chamber International (JCI), a global organisation of young leaders, entrepreneurs and active citizens with over 150,000 members in 120 countries. His role is to oversee the global headquarters and to engage with partners from government, business and civil society. He has 20 years of experience as an entrepreneur and particular expertise in sales and marketing, notably in the fashion and luxury retail sectors. From 2012 to 2018, he was the Deputy Sales Director of the APM Monaco jewellery brand.
Leyla Alaton is one of the brightest figures of Turkish business life. She comes from a strong tradition of family business. Alaton draws attention with her unique style and brave ideas. She works tirelessly to help women achieve success in their business careers and improve their social status in a self-sufficient manner. Alaton specifically speaks on and helps larger audiences understand the issues of entrepreneurship, innovation and women employment with her vast experience. Leyla Alaton was actively in business life since 1986 and climbed the steps up her career fast thanks to a sophisticated analytic skill. Following her education in USA, she started her career in 1986 at Alarko Holding, founded by her father Ishak Alaton and his partner Dr. Üzeyir Garih and managed promotion and marketing of Alkent – Etiler Uyduşehir and Alsit Villakent projects. She was named as the “Businesswoman of the Year” by the National Center for Productivity in 1992. She was listed among the “Leaders of the Future” at the Davos World Economic Forum in 1993. In the same year, she founded Megatrend Public Relations and Consulting Company. She provided consultancy service for global giants including Aérospatiale and Alcatel. Alaton is an active member of many non-governmental organizations including GYİAD (Young Businessmen Association) Founding Membership, GIF (Global Relations Forum) Membership, WPO (World Presidents’ Organization) Membership, Make A Wish Association Board Membership, Darüşşafaka Education Institutions Consulting Committee Membership, Contemporary Art Istanbul Consulting Committee Membership, “Cartier Women’s Initiative Awards” jury membership. She was also a jury member of the TV show “Do You Have An Idea” where she helped young entrepreneurs with their fresh ideas using her years of experience. Supporting women employment Alaton is a known advocate for women in business and social life.
Lucy Chow

Director, Women's Angel Investor Network (WAIN), UAE

Lucy is focused on the innovation space, both in terms of supporting founders and as an investor. She is a Director of WAIN (Women’s Angel Investor Network) and sits on the Advisory Board of Mindshift Capital. WAIN has won several awards: Arabian Business Startup Awards 2018, Funding Initiative of the Year and FinX 2018 Award for Fintech Investor of The Year. She is also an investor with NextWave Ventures and the Founder Institute, both based out of the US. Recently Lucy was honored to be a Judge for the GEMS Global Innovation Challenge (student entrepreneurs), the MIT Enterprise Forum Pan Arab & Challenge 22 Prize (an innovation award that promotes creativity in the Arab world), Gulf Customer Experience Awards and the Annual SpeakFluence Cup. During her 12 years in Dubai, Lucy has garnered a strong reputation for originating business focused events that target captains of industry, as well as trendsetters in the UAE through her firm, The Elements Group. She is Chairman of the Steering Committee with The Capital Club (a prestigious private business and social club located in the Dubai International Financial Centre), and founded the Dubai Chapter of Room to Read. Previously, she sat on the UAE committee for Acumen, was Non Executive Director for Educate Girls Globally and was a Co-Chapter Chair for Techfugees (UAE) and Ellevate. Lucy was featured in the photography book, Women of the UAE and was one of Ahlan!’s Hot100 in 2012, under the Entrepreneur category.

Lucy contributes regularly to entrepreneurship, corporate innovation, and investor events and forums as a speaker, moderator and judge. She is also passionate about developing entrepreneurial skills in students. Lucy has degrees from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management Northwestern University and HK University of Science & Technology and the University of British Columbia.
Lütfi Elvan was born to A. Nuri Elvan and his wife Samiye at Ermenek town in Karaman Province on 12 March 1962. He studied mining engineering at Istanbul Technical University graduating in 1983. Elvan received a scholarship from the state-owned mining company Etibank for further study abroad. He continued his education earning a Master’s degree in the fields of mining engineering and operations research with a thesis on “Determination of Optimal Production Systems in short-term Mining Production Planning” at University of Leeds, United Kingdom in 1986. In 1995, he received another Master’s degree in economics at University of Delaware, USA. Elvan began his professional career in 1987 as an engineer working in the operations research department at Etibank. There, he was instrumental in implementing computer-aided mining applications. In 1989, he moved to State Planning Organization (DPT), and worked until 1996 as specialist. Appointed Head of Department for Regions with Development Priorities in 1996, he served at this post until 2002. He was promoted to Deputy Undersecretary of DPT in November 2002. In July 2007, he resigned from his post to enter politics. He joined the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), and was elected into the Grand National Assembly of Turkey in the 2007 general election as an MP from Karaman Province. He became one of the party leader’s head advisors. In the parliament, Elvan was appointed Head of the Hungary-Turkey Interparliamentary Group. Elvan was re-elected into the parliament in the 2011 general election. He served as the chairman of the parliamentary Budget and Planning Commission. He is currently the President of the Committee on Planning and Budget and Former Elvan is married and has two children.
A seasoned European Sales Executive, Marcel has substantial field experience helping IT and Telecom start-ups in the US and EMEA. Marcel has a broad range of experience in all aspects of sales, marketing, communication and management with direct experience with Fortune 500 enterprises (IBM, Nortel, Lucent, Cisco, EMC, ALU) and start-ups (Quantum, Andrew Networks, Pluris, Corvis, Ascend and Airespace). During the course of his career he has held VP roles most notably as VP EMEA Corvis (first all optical router) where he grew the team and business to an outstanding success. Of French-Algerian and British origin, Marcel launched his career after completing a BSc in Electronics and Computer Science from Portsmouth Polytechnic UK. He walked away from his first position with IBM UK as an Applications Engineer greatly relieved to embark on a career in sales... his forte and passion. Bi-Lingual in French and English with a working knowledge of Spanish, Italian, German and Arabic. Three major highlights from his career include helping Airespace to be the #2 WLAN in EMEA market share and positioned Cisco to be #1 WLAN vendor worldwide. He has helped start promoting Cisco VCE alliance (VMware, EMC, Cisco) and the BMC OEM relationship to Kick Start their first SP IaaS Cloud offering on a worldwide basis. He also pioneered the French ISP Internet business while leading Ascend’s insertion into FT/Orange first ISP business to include ISDNET, OLEANE and Internetway back in 1995-1999. Marcel most recently left CISCO Systems in 2013 after 30 years in IT and Telecom Sales to start his new venture as a Business Angel to help start-ups with seed money, VC connections and International Business development & GTM Strategy. Ivas Systems, FAVEEO, Digitalarti, OnePulse, Mpearl, Netwookie and Cyberflowanalytics ( Just acquired by Webroot Inc) are some of his star ventures. Currently focusing on the new AI investments projects.
Maria Marenco, born in Latin America, grew up in Sweden and is currently based in London. Mrs. Marenco is a Blockchain Strategist and advisor, Healthcare Informatics expert and a Mental Health professional. With her multidisciplinary and international background, Maria brings extensive experience and knowledge having worked with a global not-for-profit Health IT organization in the capacity of an in-house SME on Blockchain and AI technologies, and respective public affairs and communications. Mrs. Marenco has spent most of her professional career in the broad overlapping fields of health and informatics. She is inspired by a holistic vision of human wellbeing, encompassing both physical and mental health. Guided by this vision, and with several years of accumulated and valuable experience in the pharma industry (i.e. large corporations), Maria launched her own consultancy company – MentFort Ltd. In addition to her entrepreneurial background, Maria is involved in the Swedish Blockchain Association as a vertical lead for the eHealth/Health sectors, and is the Sweden/Nordic Chapter President for the Government Blockchain Association as well as an international keynote speaker on related subjects. Maria takes part in various specialist groups that explore the potentials and challenges of DLTs primary to the healthcare and wellness domains, with special focus on the cultural and ethical considerations of technology adoptions and the importance of stakeholders’ value and successful ROIs of social and socio-economic impacts. She is engaged as a board member in various health, wellness and green tech commercial endeavours, strategic planning and related government/public services of same, and currently serves as Senator for Sweden at the World Business Angels Forum (WBAF) and board member of the Global Woman Leader Committee of the WBAF Grand Assembly.
Awarded a diploma in Hydrology and an MBA at the Business School of Nancy, she began her career in 1980 in Public Relations in ELF Group. In 1986 she entered Amazon Technology as Marketing Manager Europe, and pursued her ascent to Managing Director. In 1992, she created Fluid Dynamics International and in 1997 Flowmaster France. In 2006 she became President of Esteco France. In 2008, she created EnginSoft France specialized in Numerical Simulation Engineering. Besides her professional commitment, she continues her involvement in the civic and associative activities. In 2001 she was elected councilor at Gennevilliers city hall. In 2004 she was elected National President of Femmes Chefs d’Entreprise and became Director of Nafems Board «International Association for Engineering Analysis. In 2007, she became President of Micado, she is also Vice President of AFNET and Board Member of Syntec Federation. In January 2008, she was appointed President of MEDEF Ile-de-France and Executive Board Member of MEDEF until 2014. In January 2010, she was elected President of Solendi, the major actor in social housing and Vice President of Immobilière 3F. She is French Foreign Trade Advisor (CCEF) and Economic, Social and Environmental Regional Councilor. She became FCEM General Secretary together with Vice President in 2013. She is Vice-President of FFSE (Fédération Française du Sport en Entreprise). Since 2014, she is Vice-President of International Pole and Commission of MEDEF and elected President of Les Femmes de l’Economie. In June 2016 she became President of CRAL Ile de France. In March 2017 she was elected World President of Femmes Chefs d’Entreprises (FCEM). She is Chevalier of Legion d’Honneur and Officer of National Order of Mérite.
Mario is a Managing Director for the High Lantern Group, a strategic positioning firm. He also serves as the President, Europe of the Global Coalition on Aging, an innovative business alliance inspired by the opportunity of longevity and committed to leading the global conversation about aging. Mario serves as strategic advisor on several private sector alliances, such as the Business Alliance Against Malaria and the Alliance for Advancing Bioelectronic Medicine, among others. Mario advises firms, international institutions and global trade associations on their reputation and sustainability strategies, in particular in healthcare and life sciences sectors. Mario holds experience in building consensus among diverse interests for creative public affairs solutions, working seamlessly across the public and private sector. Mario is involved with high profile processes within global governance systems (i.e. United Nations, G7, G20, etc.), stakeholders and media, bringing to life several innovative initiatives and featuring as author of several thought pieces. Prior to High Lantern Group, Mario served as a spokesperson at the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), the global trade association of the R&D biopharmaceutical industry, promoting active, cross-sector dialogue with key stakeholders. Prior to that, he worked in public institutions and private firms across a range of issues. An Italian national, he holds a MA in Political Sciences and International Relations. Mario speaks English, French and Italian.
Martha Delgado is currently the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where she promotes a multilateral foreign policy agenda. Martha is a recognized environmentalist leader at the national and international levels. She has 28 years of consecutive professional experience in various areas of national public service: in the Federal Public Administration, leading non-profit organizations dedicated to environmentalism and human rights, as an independent member of the Mexico City congress, as Secretary of the Environment for the Mexico City government, and as General Director of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate at Fundación PEN-SAR. Martha has served on the boards and advisory committees of various international and multilateral organizations and has led global networks on urban and environmental issues. She is currently the President of the first UN-Habitat Assembly (2019-2023), and also serves as Sherpa for the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy (2019-2020), representing Mexico. Martha is certified in Environmental Policy and International Development by Harvard University (2017). In addition, she has written numerous scientific articles and has published opinion pieces in nationally recognized newspapers and specialized media such as El Universal, El Economista, Milenio, Foreign Affairs as well as the magazine Este País.
Maryam Najafi is a business designer and developer. She is an active player in the Iranian startup ecosystem and strongly believes that entrepreneurs are the fuel of economic and social growth in all countries. She found angel investment a very powerful platform to foster entrepreneurship and support startups. As the first executive manager of Karaya Angel Investors, she built up all requirements of creating an Angel investor group, which lead to the formation of the biggest angel network in Iran. To follow her vision she co-founded Hoomaan institute, which delivers management consultancy services and aims to help startups and SMEs achieving their goals. She is an energetic fighter and believes that “there is no dead end, there is always a solution”. This attitude leads to acceptance of new business challenges. She is the business development advisor of Kaarmaan, Iran’s first business club. She’s building a vibrant community of professionals, entrepreneurs, traders and investors in Kaarmaan, as she did in Karaya. She is also the member of advisory board in some Iranian VCs and CVCs. She is an EFQM (European foundation for quality management) prize assessor in Iran which is held by Institute of productivity and Human Resource development. As her social responsibility she dedicates 3-6 hours a week to mentoring or evaluating startups as a pro bono activity. She is providing mentorship to all startups who approach her, not only Iranian ones, she enjoys helping business owners achieve their visions and make this world a better place. She is also Iran’s WBAF Senator and Secretary General in Global startups committee.
Matthew Gamser is CEO of the SME Finance Forum, the world’s leading center for knowledge exchange, good practice promotion and networking for the finance industry in this field. The SME Finance Forum is managed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, for the G-20 countries’ Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion. The SME Finance Forum has over 170 banks, fintech companies and development banks, operating in over 190 countries, as its members and industry partners and serves as a key partner for the G20, APEC, OECD and other multilateral institutions in small business financing. Dr. Gamser has over 40 years’ experience in private enterprise and financial sector development. He has worked for IFC, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, for 15 years in various positions from Washington, DC, and Hong Kong, where he has focused on SME finance and on financial sector development. Prior to that he spent 25 years in management consulting and in senior leadership in an international NGO. He holds A.B. and A.M. degrees from Harvard University, and M.Sc. and D.Phil degrees from Sussex University (UK), where his work focused on the management of technological change.
Mejra Juzbasic Bajgoric
Regional Director, Finance in Motion, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mejra is a regional director for Southeast Europe at Finance in Motion. Finance in Motion is one of the world’s leading impact investment managers focusing exclusively on development finance across five impactful funds. Mejra manages the Southeast European investment and technical assistance portfolios of the European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE) and the Green for Growth Fund (GGF). Mejra has more than 18 years of experience in banking and microfinance in Southeast Europe, the Caucasus, and the Middle East and North Africa. Before joining Finance in Motion, Mejra was a Senior Auditor for Deloitte. Mejra holds an MA in Economics from Bowling Green State University, and a BA in Business Administration from Bluffton College, United States of America.
Mr. Utku was born in Ankara in 1968. He graduated from Mechanical Engineering Department of Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, 1990). He completed his graduate studies in London School of Economics (1990-1992) and Master’s Degree on economic development in Marmara University (Istanbul, 1998). In 2004, he served as a consultant to General Manager of Albaraka Turk. In 2006-2007, he was the head economist in Albaraka Turk. In addition, he was an economics columnist for Yeni Şafak newspaper for over 10 years (1995-2009). He later worked as Investor Relations Manager between 2007 and 2009. He continued as CIO-Assitant General Manager in December 2009 and was appointed as CFO-primarily responsible for Financial Affairs, Budget and Financial Reporting and Corporate Communication Departments. He was a board member of Borsa Istanbul from 2013 to 2016. As the General Manager of Albaraka Turk as of October 2016 Utku continued his duty, as well as Chairman of the Board of directors of Bereket Varlık Kiralama A.Ş., Albaraka Portföy Yönetimi A.Ş., Katılım Emeklilik ve Hayat A.Ş. and Albaraka Kültür Sanat ve Yayıncılık A.Ş. He is a member of Executive Committee, Credit Committee, Remuneration Committee and IT Governance Committee. On 2018, he has been appointed as a board member of the Marmara University Technopark.
Michael Gold is Managing Director of Crimson Capital Corp., an international development firm founded in 1991. He has 38 years of experience, 23 of which have been in emerging markets, and specializes in increasing access to finance, innovation, entrepreneurship, competitiveness, privatization, trade, SME development, and legal, policy and regulatory reform. His activities have resulted in over $7 billion USD in debt and equity financing, FDI, privatizations, PPPs and export transactions in developing countries. He has been active in the Balkans since 1995. Mr. Gold serves on the boards of development oriented organizations and helped found several innovation, ICT and renewable energy centers and associations. He is currently a founder and member of the board of the Kosovo Business Angels Network (KosBAN), a member of the board of the American Chamber of Commerce in Kosovo, and chairman of the board of the Local Development Fund.
Michael O’Connor is CEO of CorkBIC, specialising in high tech businesses involving international growth. He started in marine and arctic exploration in the UK, Spitsbergen, Nigeria and the Caribbean before moving to high-growth manufacturing and sales start-ups with Raychem Corporation in Menlo Park, California. He co-founded Intepro, a venture capital-backed Irish IT start-up. He led the Europe and U.S. market entry, building a team based out of Boston and San Diego and with several rounds of international venture capital before a successful trade exit. Since returning from the USA, he has advised over 500 start-ups. He graduated from Cambridge University in Engineering and earned an MBA from the London Business School and the Wharton School, USA. He is a chartered Engineer in London. Michael has created and runs a regional HBAN business angel network that has completed 80 deals with 2 syndicates and 150 investors investing over €40m in primarily start-ups. He was awarded as the best performing new EBAN member in 2015. He is the founder of the International Security Accelerator as a private investment fund under AIFMD. Funded by VC, angels and a corporate partner and identifying Scaling and Deep Tech teams in cybersecurity, AI, blockchain and data analytics. He has been a board member of several private and public companies in the last 30 years, including EBAN. His interests include governance and building effective boards in the hi-tech field of play. He has been an international judge and umpire in the sailing world for major events. Michael and his team at CorkBIC have an enviable track record of selecting and guiding successful start-ups over many years and achieving good exits.
Miguel Martin is a qualified lawyer, international eMBA and angel investor. He has 15 years’ living and working experience across Europe, LATAM, CEE and MENA, focusing on international business development and investment for MNCs such as Carrefour and Mecalux, and start-ups in Spain and Poland, not to mention his own projects. He is the founder and co-investor at Immerxing Hub, an innovative tech and talent accelerator offering a one-stop specialised space with a VR/360/AR academy, demolab, co-working space, and an investment program to boost the immersive talent and start-ups ecosytem. Immerxing Hub already has two hubs in Spain and is now expanding to the UK, Mexico, and Morocco. In collaboration with WBAF, Miguel Martin is leading the establishment of the first cross-border, vertical business angels network. Miguel is specialised in immersive tech, project management, and early-stage investment, whilst also being an active speaker and an investor in major VR/360/AR tech events such as the Asia VR/AR Fair, World VR/AR, Telefonica VR Hackaton, and Spain-VRStartups. In addition to his keen interest in immersive tech, Miguel’s expertise, networking, and investment interests focus on EdTech, PropTech, and TravelTech. Miguel is a proactive member of the Spanish start-up and business angel community, and regularly features as an investor, mentor, and judge in start-up events such as Telefonica AOF and Bolt Accelerators, MWC/4YFN Investor Network, South Summit, and various business angel industry events.
Modwenna Rees-Mogg
Former Director of the United Kingdom Business Angels Association (UKBAA)

Modwenna is a graduate of St Andrews University. She has two decades of business experience working in corporate finance in the City of London and in business angel investment and venture capital. She set up her own business in 2003 as an online media and live events business. From £1,000 of start up capital working out of her front room, she has grown the business to become the leading information provider and commentator on the business angel market in the UK at www.angelnews.co.uk. In recent years her business has also launched Pitching for Management www.pitching4management.com, a live recruitment series, the VCT & EIS Investor Forum www.thevctandeisinvestorforum.com, The Great British Private Investor Summit www.privateinvestorsummit.com and The Great British Workforce Revolution www.workforcerevolution.co.uk. She is a non executive director of Albion Tech and General VCT, which is quoted on the London Stock Exchange, a board member of the UK Business Angels Association and a Visiting Fellow at the Bettany School of Entrepreneurship, Cranfield University. She is the author of Crowdfunding, How to raise money and make money in the crowd – a guide to operating a business in, raising money from and being an investor in the crowdfunding market. She is also the author of Dragons or Angels, the unofficial guide to Dragons’ Den and a handbook for people wanting to become or raise money from business angels. She regularly contributes articles to the press and has contributed to Business Gurus, which was published in March 2012 by Crimson Publishing.
Dr. Mohammed Elhadi Ahmed Elsayed is a University Professor in Aeronautical Engineering who contributed to the graduation of hundreds of students in his country - Sudan, since 2003, but chose to leave and devote himself to start learning again and to work hard with the community to spark the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. Mohammed Elhadi is a strategic thinker, innovator, and technology and innovation management expert. He worked quite long time for both private and government sectors, became a member of the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Infrastructure in Sudan, and contributed to establishing many R&D and Innovation institutions in his country. He is a recognized practitioner in TRIZ and FORTH innovation methodology. In pursuit of his dream of seeing a “new Sudan through innovation”, he founded RoodMap Group in 2014, which then became a member in the International Association of Science Parks and areas of Innovation since 2015. He contributed to many national initiatives aimed at enhancing the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Sudan. Recently he was announced as the National Consultant of the Social Entrepreneurship Program launched by the British Council in Sudan aiming at the formulation of a national strategy and roadmap for the program. Dr. Mohammed Elhadi is the High Commissioner of the World Business Angels Investment Forum in Sudan, and a Faculty Member at its Business School.
Mohammad Ramin Komeilian is an entrepreneur who is active in several sectors. Abern is the name of Ramin’s company, which is home to a variety of investments. Ramin’s main focus is technology, and he is one of the founders of Iran’s first angel network. Ramin also heads his family home appliances business, which is now in its second generation. Formerly known as Forouzan, the company is now named Jenova. It is extremely well known in the home appliance business in Iran for its forward thinking management and transparent staff. Ramin has an MBA with a focus on investment banking. He is also an avid runner and home-trained chef. Mohammad Ramin Komeilian is WBAF High Commissioner Iran.
Mondher Khanfir is an Impact Investor, motivational speaker and advisor, in addition to his involvement as Entrepreneur, with a special devotion for innovation. Thanks to his strong background in governance and strategic planning, he’s acting as director in several organisations. His concern for social and economic development had driven him to public policy advocacy in EMEA region, where he is regularly appointed as expert by different international institutions such as the World Bank, OECD, UN-ESCWA, AFD, GIZ and EBRD. He is assisting governments to design and implement programs to develop effective startups ecosystems. He published several reports and delivered studies on technology transfer, IP protection, business acceleration and capital market development in emerging economies. Among his publication, “The financing guide for innovative startups” and “The Digital Startup implementation handbook”. Mondher has been appointed recently as a faculty member at WBAF School of Business.
Moutasem Mismar
Senior Advisor, IFC/World Bank, Jordan

Over 25 years of experience in Banking Operations, SME Credit and microfinance • Certified Trainer of Trainers / Master trainer by NGO Management School – Switzerland • Certified Trainer of Trainers / Master trainer by the American Bankers Association – USA • Occupied several positions in outstanding Banks and financial institutions:
1. Banking / Microfinance Consultant & Master Trainer at IFC – WORLD BANK Group
2. Operations manager/Senior restructuring manager - JCBank
3. Head of SME & Retail Credit - Societe Generale Bank
4. Senior credit and operations officer - The Arab Bank Plc. • Consultant / Master Trainer to:
   2. Frankfurt school for business and management - Germany
   3. Business & Finance Consulting (BFC) – Switzerland
   4. Institute of Banking - Saudi Monetary Authority ( SAMA ) – Saudi Arabia
   5. Arab Academy for Banking and Financial Sciences – MENA Region • Holds BA in Business Administration - Yarmouk University • Holds professional Certifications from:
   - NGO Management School – Switzerland in Training the Trainers - American Bankers Association – USA in Training the Trainers - Frankfurt Business School-Germany in Home Improvement financing
Having started her entrepreneurial journey at age 21, Mulemwa leverages her 15 year journey to support startups in her home country Zambia. Mulemwa owns and manages a flourishing Events Consultancy that specializes in high profile public/private partnership projects. Significant in her achievements has been the success of the National Financial Inclusion Project that she has overseen for the last seven (7). Although established in the Events and Tourism Industry, Mulemwa is extremely passionate about youth development and devotes her time working on projects that are focused on harnessing and optimizing the youth population. Mulemwa continually utilizes her network to source funding and opportunities for startups at different stages of growth. Mulemwa a devoted member of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) has extended her leadership experience by serving as the Secretary General of the WBAF Women since February 2019.
Nambula Kachumi is Executive Director of WECREATE, a women’s entrepreneurship Center focussing on addressing gender barriers to entrepreneurship, increasing access to economic resources, and supporting female owned businesses in emerging markets. She is a Private Enterprise Development Professional with over 12 years’ experience in entrepreneurship ecosystem support and inclusive development. Passionate and eager to see African women entrepreneurs succeed and create wealth in mainstream economies, Nambula has influenced impact and program design in key development areas ranging from co-designing financial products and business development strategies for emerging markets, resource mobilization for impact funds, convening entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystems, catalysing public private partnerships among others. Through various program and policy work, Nambula has significantly contributed to the design and roll-out of a number of gender-integrated enterprise development initiatives in Zambia and in the region. Prior to co-establishing WECREATE, her previous engagements included projects addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as the EU’s Mining Sector and Energy Diversification Program (MSDP), the DFID supported Adolescent Girls Empowerment Program, inclusive innovation projects with Making Cents International, among others. These and a few others have fed her passion and interest in women’s entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development. Nambula has played a leading role within the Zambian entrepreneurial ecosystem and across the region in influencing policy around financial inclusion, business leadership, private enterprise development and women’s participation and access to quality education, training and business support. She currently sits on two boards; the National Advisory Board for impact capital (NABS) and the SME Development Consortium.
Nawaf Mohamed Alkoheji is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Tenmou. He is committed, driven and dedicated to developing a start-up culture in Bahrain and to work together with key stakeholders to benefit entrepreneurs and encourage companies to grow and scale up. Nawaf started his entrepreneurial journey by launching Foods Limited now called the Culinary Company, a specialized catering company in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Nawaf also has several years of startup and SME experience, while was working in Tamkeen. Nawaf graduated with a BA in International Relations from Webster University London, and an MBA from the University of Incarnate Word in Texas.
After graduating from Purdue University with a double major in Industrial Engineering and Mathematics, Operation Research, Mr. Ben Ammar pursued a master degree from Stanford University in Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management. Mr. Ben Ammar’s thesis on start-ups and entrepreneurship. Mr. Ben Ammar started his career as a service engineer in the oil industry to develop it rapidly afterwards into a family business company. He held the chairman position of MAMI Holding one of the leading trade house and turnkey factory supplier for the textile industry. Mr. Ben Ammar is also the president and chairman of Excellencia, the BtoB partner of Samsung in Tunisia for the Air Conditioning, IP-TV, LFD, and security products, Mateba the partner of the multinationals Hilti, the construction tools and application, and Panasonic for the electrical equipment manufacturer. Mr. Ben Ammar has certain numbers of honours and awards as the - Alpha pi Mu - Industrial Engineering Honorary - Distinguished Student – Dean’s List - Certificate of Honour from Purdue University University’s Mathematics department - International Students Scholarship – Purdue University. Mr. Ben Ammar is the past president of the Tunisian American Chamber of Commerce and the past Vice President of the AmCham MENA Council. He was also the president of the Rotaract Club of Carthage, Tunisia. He is among the founding members of CONECT (Confédération Nationale des Entreprises Citoyennes de Tunisie, Employer Association), Carthage Business Angel, and Wiki Start up. He is also a member of board of the Tunisian German Chamber of Commerce (AHK). Mr. Ben Ammar is the present president of Carthage Business Angels. Mr. Nazeh Ben Ammar is also the president of a philanthropic NGO, les Coquelicots de Thala, to help deprived children from the region of Thala, Tunisia. Mr. Ben Ammar is married and father of one child.
Dr Nikhil Agarwal
CEO, FIRST@IIT-Kanpur, India

Dr Nikhil Agarwal is India's foremost Innovation and Policy expert. He is currently CEO of FIRST @ IIT-Kanpur. Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (FIRST) is responsible for all the incubation, innovation, research and startup activities at IIT-Kanpur. In 2018, he is appointed as Vice Chairman, Mahaashmita Livelihood Rural Accelerator Program (MILAP), Govt of Maharashtra – a program in joint collaboration with MSRLM and FICCI. In 2014, Indian Prime Minister urged Indian diaspora to return to the country to serve the motherland. Dr Agarwal responded to the call to join Govt of Andhra Pradesh as Chief Executive Officer, Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (CEO, APIS) to kickstart the statewide innovation agenda between 2015-2017. He was involved in developing large scale innovation projects such as cyber security innovation park, rural innovation labs, incubation centers, startup ecosystem, setup INR 1 billion startup fund to name a few. He is instrumental in forging important national and international relationships for the state. He is also the founder of Entrepreneur Café – a global movement spread in 110 cities and six continents, connecting over 45,000 entrepreneurs. Dr Agarwal has founded businesses and advised firms on strategic matters in last 20 years of his career. He has worked with global multinationals like Cadbury’s, FIC and Zensar (RPG Group). He has lectured at leading universities like Virginia Tech Polytechnic & State University, University of Bradford and University of Cambridge. His articles, interviews and work has been extensively covered in international media including Harvard Business Review Blog, Forbes, CNN Money, BBC Radio, The New York Times and Economic Times.
HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen El-Hashemite

Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust

HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen Bint Prince Mohammed Bin King Faisal (I) Bin El-Sharif Hussein El-Hashemite’s origins combine history, religion, politics and education, since she is from the Hashemite Family; the Princess Nisreen is the granddaughter of King Faisal (I) Bin El-Sharif Hussein, the first King of Iraq and founder of the Modern State of Iraq, where the Iraqi Nation with all of its diversified ethnic origins and religions for the first time, in its history became united under the King’s leadership and his commitment to democratic values, implemented through education, tolerance, mutual respect, and upholding good relations between neighboring and other international countries. Following in the steps of her ancestors, and vowing to preserve the traditions of her family; Princess Dr. Nisreen not only dedicated herself to serving mankind, but also is an internationally recognized medical doctor and scientist and winner of awards in the fields of science, arts, literature, and humanitarian affairs. In 2007, Princess Nisreen left her scientific career at Harvard Medical School, to which she was very committed, to devote herself to serving Science Technology & Medicine Education and Research in the world, throughout RASIT and its programs. Currently, she is working on establishing an International Institute of Medicine and Public Health for Science and Innovation in the MENA Region. She also is working on serving the children and women of Iraq in particular and those in need of help in all aspects of their lives. At present, Princess Dr Nisreen is the Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), and President of the Women in Science International League.
Nobuo Sayama
Founder and Co-partner of Integral Private Equity Investment, Japan

He is a founder and co-partner of Integral which is a Japan based private equity investment, (1st result was 26% IRR, and 2.6% MOI) and currently the asset under management of 3rd fund is USD 700 mil with operating 18 portfolio companies including Skymark airlines, Yoji Yamamoto (Clothing), QB house (Quick Barbershop, USD 10 cost) and so on. Integral is regarded as the best turnaround manager in Japan.

Job History:
1. Teijin Corporation (Research Division of Polyester, Ehime 1976-87)
2. Mitsui Bank (General Manager at M&A Dept, Tokyo 1987-90, NY 90-96, Tokyo 96-98)
3. Unison Capital (Founded as the 1st Japanese PE funds, Co-CEO, 1998-2004)
4. GCA (Co-founder, CEO, 2004-13, 1st IPO as M&A Advisory in 2006)
5. Integral Corporation (Co-founder, Partner, 2007-today)
6. Skymark Airlines Inc. (Chairman, 2015-today)
7. Hitotsubashi University, Business School of Business Administration (Professor 2004-2018, Visiting Prof. 2018-today)
8. Kyoto University, Graduate Schoold of Management (Adjunct Professor, 2007-today)
9. Kyoto University, Graduate Schoold of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability, (Specially Appointed Professor 2019-today)

Education:
1. Kyoto University (Dept. of Engineering Polymer Chemistry, BS in 1976)
2. New York University (Stern School of Business, MBA in 1994)
3. Tokyo Institute of Technology (Dept of Industrial Engineering, Ph.D in 1999)

Association:
1. The Japanese Association of Turnaround Professionals (Executive Director)
2. Japan Corporate Finance Association
3. The Japanese Association of Management Accounting
4. A member of committee of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Inc. MBOcomitte and pre-packagedfiling comitte).
Honourable Nomusa Dube-Ncube is the newly appointed Member of the Executive Council responsible for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; having served as a Member of the Executive Council for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs for 2 terms since 2009. She holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is currently studying towards her PhD. She serves as a Member of the KwaZulu-Natal Climate Change Council and also as a Board Member for the 911 Fund - a New York-based Non-Profit Organisation, established by former US President Barack Obama in the wake of one of the most devastating disasters in modern history and human development, the aerial attack on the landmark Twin Towers in New York in 2001. Apart from providing strategic policy direction for the department as its political head in this portfolio, Honourable Dube-Ncube’s has also assumed the critical position of being the Leader of Government Business within the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal. In this position she will oversee the day to day running of the provincial government as it discharges its constitutional mandate. More critically, in at EDTEA, Honourable Dube-Ncube is charged with ensuring that the province’s economic growth is sustained from SMMEs to big business and industries. Also that as the prime destination for tourism, KwaZulu-Natal retains its pole position while striving for way to create more products. Also topping her agenda is the issue of environment; its sustainability of the ecosystem as well as the wild life. She has already demonstrated her passion for the environment in her previous deployment where utilised every platform she got to highlight the negative impact of climate change on the environment and communities. She has been piloting policies that emphasise the radical shift from unsustainable economic practices to eco-friendly business operations.
Noomane Fehri is currently the CEO of B@Labs, launched by BIAT, the first privately-owned bank in Tunisia. B@Labs is a new economy incubator. He was Minister of Information and Communications Technologies in Tunisia from 2015 to 2016, and is known for being a reformer and a leader in the digital economy. Noomane, a geophysics engineer, held several management positions at Schlumberger in France, Libya, Norway, Algeria, Indonesia and Singapore. In 2000, he moved to London to join Atos, a European technology firm. After an international career in technology, he became involved in politics just after the Tunisian revolution. Among his achievements are the launch of 4G, the technology cards and the nationwide mobile development projects. His mandate has initiated the emergence of a Tunisian startups ecosystem which Noomane is now supporting through B@Labs.
Dr Paul Doany

Former Group CEO of Turk Telekom

Chairman ICT/Renewable Energy Ventures

He served as Group CEO of Türk Telekom (TT) for a total of 8 years, in two terms (2005-2011, and 2016-2019), helping the company expand services, reaching 47 million customers / 34k staff, and expand its CVC (corporate venture capital arm, focusing on health, education and energy verticals). In his first tenure, he led its public BIST listing (Istanbul Stock Exchange) in 2008, including full acquisition of four IT/technology companies (Argela/Innova/Sebit), and international wholesale operations. In the intervening period (2011-2016), and to date, he managed VC investments in various startups and early stage technology companies. Prior to 2005, he was the Oger Group as founding CEO of their Telecom company, where he led the successful bid for including operational startup until the full launch of ‘Cell C’ in South Africa, as well as other IT/internet acquisitions (e.g. Cyberia in Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia).
Paula Petkova
Co-Founder, Wethaq, UAE

Paula is a serial entrepreneur and an angel investor. She had previously structured both conventional and Islamic cross-asset instruments in a top-tier UAE bank, introducing innovation and exotic structures to the Shariah space. In 2018, Paula co-founded a UAE/KSA Fintech startup in the Shariah Capital Markets space, aiming to lead the industry initiative of standardization and automation. Paula is a Managing Director in international commodities and chemicals trading company, with offices in Istanbul, Dubai, and Karachi. Previous achievements in research and trading spread across MENA and Frontier Markets. She holds a B.A. in International Finance from Istanbul, Turkey, an MSc diploma in Financial Engineering with a concentration in automated trading systems from the USA, and a current Ph.D. candidate in the derivatives field.
Paulo Andrez is a serial entrepreneur and angel investor. In the last two years, he has made 6 successful investment exits. Apart from Toys R US, Paulo has investments in companies in a variety of sectors, including chemicals, biotechnology, real estate, tourism, and IT. Paulo is President Emeritus of the European Business Angels Network.
Petr Sramek
Managing Partner, LongevityTech Fund, Czech Republic

Petr Sramek is a Czech visionary, a serial entrepreneur of over 30 years. Petr helps innovative startups in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Longevity technology to grow into confident companies with global ambitions. Petr is a founder of LongevityTech fund, Entrepreneur in Residence at Singularity University, CEO of Whytics, co-founder of the Platform on Artificial Intelligence at the Confederation of Industry, member of Peter Diamandis’ organization Abundance 360, Lifeboat Foundation, and a Senator for Czech Republic in the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF). Petr is a founder of the AI Awards project in a co-operation with Economia – a leading business media publishing house. Petr has been featured in the group of 28 AI leaders in the flagship World Intellectual Property Organization study.
Ferenc is responsible for discovering and nurturing new business opportunities and partnerships and build emerging new product and service lines for Tungsram Group in order to support the growth strategy of the company and enable the transformation of Tungsram into a world class, innovation driven, lighting and technology company with extended and continuously improving offering portfolio. Ferenc is joining Tungsram from IBM where recently he was Business Development Executive at Central and Eastern Europe collaborating with business partners including leading enterprises, universities, R&D institutes, startups, scale ups, incubators, investors, government officials and NGOs with special focus on Cloud and Artificial Intelligence related innovation projects. Ferenc has extended international management experience in positions like Managing Director of one of the IBM subsidiaries in Hungary, Acting Country General Manager of IBM Hungary and multiple international C level business, operation and finance roles in Central and Easter Europe, Austria and Switzerland. During his more than 17 years at IBM under the leadership of Ferenc his teams completed multiple projects that become global reference stores. Previously Ferenc had worked for PwC in multiple management roles. Ferenc is member of the board and President of Information Technology Section of the Hungarian Economist Association a high prestige organization with more than 5500 members. He is former president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary where currently he is the leader of the Investment Policy Task Force. Between 2014 and 2018 he was member of the Innovation Board of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office. He is a frequent business speaker of professional and scientific conferences and published long list of articles, interviews and papers about smart cities, innovation and related topics.
She is a founding member and senior Partner of Ittqan Law Firm, largest law firm in Palestine. Partner and legal consultant for Mena Apps L.L.C. (ICT start ups accelerator and Angel Investor), Jordan. She was Co-founder of Arabreneur (ICT business accelerator in Palestine) and served as ambassador of the global competition SeedsStarsWorld (seedstarsworld.com) in Palestine. Investor in Rising Tide Europe1. Mentor for start-ups in legal and business matters throughout the region. Regionally and globally, she participates as judge in pitching competitions. Rania Ghosheh Al-Jaber is Managing Director of GirlsInTech Palestine and Jordan Chapters. Business Lawyer and human rights activist, she is involved in social activities in different sectors mainly entrepreneurship and human rights. Adv. Rania Ghosheh Al Jaber completed her graduate studies international law at the University Paris I, La Sorbonne – France and speaks Arabic, English, French and Hebrew.
Renata Brkić is a serial entrepreneur and impact investor; as well as CEO and owner of a company active in licensing, consulting, and organization of worldwide supply-chain operations for licensed products. She is strongly devoted to fostering social impact orientation in businesses that are science, women, education, and children oriented. In her capacities as President of the General Assembly at ZEZ center, and Head of the Social Impact Investment Hub Professor Balthazar, Renata is responsible for the revival of the Professor Balthazar character as a unique, artistic, socially responsible brand. For this role she is also a TBAA award-winner for the best social impact investment in South East Europe. As founding partner of Feelsgood Social Impact Venture Fund, she has been playing a leading role in the process of bringing the European Investment Fund (EIF) to the Fund as principal investor. As WBAF high commissioner and focal point for impact, she is active in promoting the European Investment Fund Social Impact Accelerator (EIF SIA) programs for social enterprises to impact investors. She is also a Qualified Angel Investor Certificate holder. Personally, she invests in wonderful ideas that do not necessarily have fast payback, but that can change the world for the better and push the human race forward. Renata is also a mother of three. Across the last 9 years his focus has been on building and deploying a regional innovative strategy starting from Jordan. Worked on developing innovative funds to deliver solutions that address the region to be well positioned as an “open lab” a term he coined for early adoption that can take solutions globally.
Rene Rojas is Founder and CEO at HubBOG (the first CAMPUS FOR STRATUPS in Latinoamerica, including investment, acceleration, Academy, and coworking in one place), Founder of HubBOG Angel Investment Club and Cofounder of HB Investment Capital. Serial Entrepreneur, Mentor and Angel Investor for startups. Founder of 6 companies. Co-founder of Bogotech, Bogodev, AI Hub, three of the most consolidated Startup communities in LatinAmerica. Seven years Investment Banking experience. Experience at executive positions and board member at companies in the Financial, Education, Manufacturing, and Government Industries. Researcher and professor in exponential Innovation, strategy based in new technologies and innovation based in Startups for several international MBA programs in France, Spain, Peru, Dominican Republic and Colombia. Degrees in Industrial Engineering, Finances, Banking and MBA. Certificate from Singularity University at Exponential Innovation Program.
She is a seasoned entrepreneur and multi-awarded startup advocate in the ASEAN region, with proven expertise in setting up and developing innovation-driven companies, including brick-and-mortar and technology-enabled enterprises. With more than 20 years of experience in both the corporate and entrepreneurial world, Rina is an expert in incubating new businesses, finding new markets, creating unique value propositions and creating sustainable revenue streams. She was instrumental in introducing two IPOs in the Australian Stock Exchange and helped execute complex cross border mergers and acquisitions strategy within the Asia Pacific region. Rina co-founded Mercatus Capital PteLtd, a homegrown incubator and venture accelerator based in Singapore since 2006. Through its angel networks, provided seed financing to promising new ventures, with more than 80 startups seeded and incubated in Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, India, China and Hong Kong.

Rina holds strategic management roles, directorships and equities in MercatusCapital, Ficus Venture Capital, FintechLab, Synapse EduTech Ventures, Global Learning Solutions, MindChampsInternational Pre-Schools, Smarter Robotics, Asia CEO Community, and Unlimited Brands. Serves as executive coach and senior adviser to several business advisory boards, non-governmental organisations and educational institutions.
He is a best-selling author, a highly regarded international speaker and a senior executive coach with more than 30 years of experience as a Global Learning Leader, an Organisational Transformation Expert, and an EduTech Entrepreneur and Angel Investor. Roger was formerly the Asia-Pacific Learning and Development Director for Citibank, covering more than 30,000 staff across 13 countries. He founded and managed Citibank’s training consultancy company, the Institute for Learning Excellence and Accelerated Development (ILEAD), based in Shanghai, China. Roger founded three innovation startups which he currently heads as Founder & CEO of Global Learning Solutions (based in Singapore & Hong Kong), Master Franchisee & CEO of MindChamps International Preschools Philippines, and Co-Founder & CEO of Smarter Robotics (with presence in Singapore, Philippines & Malaysia). Smarter Robotics was awarded by the prestigious CIO Advisor APAC as one of the “10 Hottest Artificial Intelligence Consulting Services Company in Asia Pacific” for 2019. Roger is a multi-awarded industry icon and thought leader who has won 8 regional and international awards during his professional career, including the “Leading HR Professional Award” from the Singapore Human Resources Institute (2007); the “Learning Leader Award in Organizational Management Excellence” from Bersin Associates USA (2008); the “Best Training, Learning & Development Award” from the Marketing Institute of Singapore (2009); the “Most Outstanding Contribution to HR Industry Award” from HRM Singapore (2011); and the Gawad Maestro “Most Outstanding Learning Leader Extraordinaire” from the Philippine Society for Training & Development (2013). Roger conducts the highly motivational Personal Resiliency Program called “The Thrivers Seminar”, based on his best-selling book, where he teaches people how to “thrive, not just survive” in the midst of life’s inevitable crisis and disruptive technological changes.
Mr Md. Sabur Khan, Chairman of the Daffodil Family has involved himself with numerous challenges during his attachment as the President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, President of the Bangladesh Computer Samity, Member of Prime Minister’s ICT Task Force, etc. He has made great contributions to the establishment of such entities as the ICT Ministry, IT Incubator, and BCS Computer City. The Bangladesh government has awarded Mr Khan the status of ‘Commercially Important Person’ for his role. Mr Khan is the Chairman of the Global Trade Committee and Director of the World IT and Services Alliances, the world’s largest IT organization. During the year 2013, Mr Khan initiated a project to create 2,000 new entrepreneurs. He has written and published several books, including Uddokta Unnoyon Nirdeshika (Bengali), Art of Living, A Journey Towards Entrepreneurship and Employability 360°. To develop a self-employed generation, he aims to create more job opportunities; his initiatives to promote entrepreneurship include business incubators, start-ups, venture capitals, a department of Entrepreneurship at the university level. His commitment to development in the field of business, entrepreneurship, leadership and human resources development has led to appointments as Visiting Professor at numerous universities in such countries as Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Kyrgyzstan, and so on. He has received honorary professorships from Adam University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and Issyk-Kul State University in Karakol, Kyrgyzstan; and he holds honorary doctorates from two Kyrgyz universities: Ala-Too International University in Bishkek and Naryn State University in Naryn. In recognition of his contributions, Mr Khan has received many national and international awards. He established the Daffodil Foundation for underprivileged people.
Minister Safia Boly has spent fourteen years at the United Nations (New York, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda) working on improving the management and governance of peacekeeping funds. She ran the UN’s first shared service center established in Uganda to provide efficient support to UN missions in Africa.

In August 2018, she returned to her home country to become Minister for the Reform of Administration and Transparency of Public Life. Since May 2019, Minister Safia Boly is serving as Minister for Private Investment, Small and Medium Enterprises and National Entrepreneurship. Her mandate includes the development of the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Mali including the promotion of microfinance as an alternative means of financing for SMEs.
Sakari Oikarinen is the co-founder and COB of Confidentum Ltd that operates in the area of M&A. He is also Senior Advisor in Export Maker Ltd helping startups and scaleups in opening new markets. Transaction Services and Investor Relations for startups and scaleups. He has over 30 years of experience in entrepreneurship and he is awarded for his work as the CEO of Startup Agency Finland. He is also recognized and awarded expert in the field of M&A and Family Business Successions. He was nominated the best M&A Expert in Finland by the M&A professional’s conference in 2012. He is also awarded by Transeo-Association for his contribution in fostering the entrepreneurial dynamics in Europe. Since 2008 Sakari Oikarinen has also been one of the experts for EU-Commission in screening the Small Business Act Policy Program. He has also been given the recommendation from the Finnish Government for his work.
Sergio Vela is Director of Financing and Investor Relations at ICEX-Invest in Spain, where he had also served as Secretary of the Executive Board. Previously he served as Trade Commissioner of Spain in Muscat for five years and as Deputy Director for Research and Action Plans at the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Commerce. During his extensive professional career, he has also held senior positions at the Ministry of Economy where he was Senior Advisor to the Director for International Economy, and at the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism where he was Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State for Commerce, Assistant Deputy Director of Studies and Evaluation Department, and Technical Advisor to the Deputy Director of Research and Strategy.
I am a healthcare technology strategist by trade. I have over 25+ years of experience in global digital healthcare and analytics space wherein I have held various operational roles such as Chief Data Officer, Chief Global Strategist, Global lead for digital health and transformative care. I specialize in developing and activating innovative digital solutions that generate measurable value and create performance excellence. I currently run a healthcare strategy firm based out of U.S.A. I have proven track record to help multinational organizations in developing strategic plans that leverage digital health innovations (including but not limited to automating care pathways for women’s health, mental health, community health and engagement in global markets; integrating artificial intelligence, blockchain driven and medical device integrated health ecosystems that create broad outreach and captures market share that is in accessible while generating positive ROI against investments) to create market advantage, activate tangible impact. Through my experience in global markets, I am adept at factoring in social, economic, cultural and political/policy impact on health care pathways that must be planned for in the strategy and activation framework. I have designed and led many multi layered governance structures that engage stakeholders in decision making, monitoring and execution of actionable strategies. I am also a fierce advocate of mental health and wellbeing. I believe that this silent epidemic of our modern society has gaps in adequate focus/funding and innovation due to stigma and lack of resources. Through global advocacy on digital platforms and via speaking opportunities, I endeavor to highlight programs and organization that are putting in place programs that tackle normalizing the conversation, elevating focus, leveraging innovation and creating widespread access to coping and treatment so we can make tangible IMPACT.
Shori Zand
Chairwoman Avesina Investment Group, Sweden

Grundare avesina healthcare group at 2000 most innovative healthcare providers and digitalization. Company sold 2015 and created investment company.( Avesina Investment Group),Served on multiple public and private boards.

Senior advisor to minister of enterprise and minister of health. Today senior advisor Karolinska Innovation Institutet and part of Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Angelinvestor at STING (Stockholm Innovation and Grow )

Sweden. Chairwoman Avesina Investment Group, chairwoman Inflammation Lab, Vice Chairman Funkis Group, Boardmember Holista, Board member Founders Alliance.
Boštjan Skalar is a CEO of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. WAIPA is the umbrella organization of worldwide investment promotion agencies established in 1995 in Geneva with UNCTAD’s initiative. Previously he served as a Director of Slovenian Public Agency for Promotion of Investment, Internationalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (SPIRIT). He is also a former Consul for Economic Affairs in Turkey. He studied in the Faculty of Economics in Maribor where he graduated in marketing. He has effectively managed companies in the automobile sector, the printing industry, worked with cladding materials and also worked in the real estate sector where his travels took him to many countries. He has over 20 years of management experience and is one of the global leaders in investment promotion with a private-sector focus.
Sonya Janahi
Board Member, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Bahrain

Board Member of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry Board Member of the Social Insurance Organization Founder & CEO, Maya La Chocolaterie & The Living Concepts Sonya Janahi is the Founder & CEO for Maya La Chocolaterie and its parent company, ‘The Living Concepts’, a hospitality and F&B consultancy mandated to inspire home-grown innovative concepts with vast potential to turn them into international franchise names. Sonya founded Maya La Chocolaterie over 10 years ago as the first artisan chocolate brand in Bahrain and has since evolved it into a successful GCC-wide franchise synonymous with some of the best chocolatiers in the world. Her love for chocolate inspired her to pursue a qualification in Ecole Chocolate and she is a Certified Professional Chocolatier and a mentor and guide to the Chefs of Maya. Boasting a distinguished career that spans over two decades working in the banking and telecom industries, and with specialised know-how in the areas of retail, investment, oil & gas and real estate, Sonya has applied her expertise to strategically diversify and evolve the family business, carving its growth path beyond Bahrain, to international territories, through best in class partnerships and Mergers & Acquisitions. In addition to her integral role in expanding the reach and breadth of the Maya brand, Sonya is actively involved in the rest of the Group’s subsidiaries which extend to investment and financial, administration, HR and IT consultancies; architecture and interior design; and construction, where she also holds senior advisory positions as a member of the Board. Sonya is widely commended for her entrepreneurial spirit; she has sought to make a difference as an enabler of change, advocating for the region's SME sector and using her own story of achievements to stimulate progress in the realm of entrepreneurship as well as to empower women. In March 2018, Sonya won a board seat at the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry and her role is focused on supporting the F&B and hospitality sector of Bahrain.
Stevica Kuharski has a background as a developer and a serial founder: Habbits, Locodels and Alamo (robotic landmowers) are just three from his extensive portfolio. He is seriously involved with the Croatian start-up scene. In 2012 with the support from US Embassy and later organisational support from STEP Ri, he founded Startup Camp; a program for early stage startups. Dozen of start-ups managed to raise $2.2m USD after the program. In 2015 he attended International Visitors Leadership program; the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. During those two months in the USA he met numerous investors, start-up founders and entrepreneurs from both the States and all over the world. In the late 2018 he joined Fil Rouge Capital, 45m EUR strong venture capital fund as part of the team, leading scouting operations. Locodels, his latest venture, was acquired by Croatian Post in the late 2019, making Croatian Post as a recognized and strong player in Croatian startup ecosystem.
Swati Dlamini Mandela is the granddaughter of Nelson and Winnie Mandela. She is the daughter of Zenani Mandela, Ambassador to Mauritius. Swati co-authored the autobiography 491 Days with the Nelson Mandela Foundation about her grandmother published by McMillan Publishing Company. Swati is co-producing, with Mandy Jacobson, an authorized documentary about the life of Winnie Mandela for release in 2019 with the Ichikowitz Family Foundation’s African Oral History Archive. She recently participated in the publishing of The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela in which she wrote the forward. Swati is the Founding Partner and Shareholder of Qunu Workforce, South Africa’s leading consultancy creating equality in the workforce for those living with disabilities. She served as a spokesperson for 21 Icons - a visual celebration of South Africa’s most iconic people capturing human achievement through photography, film and narratives. She is a co-founder of the Long Walk to Freedom Brand, a non-profit that delivers container libraries to disadvantaged communities in South Africa. A business developer, public speaker, she launched her luxury fashion range, Swati by Roi Kaskara, in 2017.
With over 15 years of experience in the financial industry, Tahir Mahmood heads the Business Development department of Nasdaq Dubai, overseeing the development and growth of products including equities, futures, Sukuk, bonds and Murabaha. His role revolves around creating new relationships with key stakeholders such as issuers, regulators, lawyers and bankers, to help the exchange grow. Tahir works with the team to bring new listings to the exchange, as well as offer new products to the market, and has been instrumental in making Dubai the leading Sukuk listing venue globally. Playing a key role in the regional capital markets, Tahir engages with various organisations looking to raise funds. Whether it is through an IPO, private equity or debt financing, the network he has built extends globally. Through his roles at a number of start-ups and companies in their early stage, Tahir has gone through the process of growing a business to achieve success and profit. His interest in angel investing comes from his experience in capital markets and working with start-ups looking to grow their business.
Tarek El Kady is a leading entrepreneur and angel investor. Tarek is the Executive Chairman of KD Group, a group of marketing and advertising agencies serving various clients in the Middle East. He is the Founder and CEO of Techne Inc. and founder & Chairman of both Alex Angels & The Mediterranean Business Angel Networks. Tarek is passionate about helping young people start their businesses. As Founding Curator of the Global Shapers Community Alexandria hub, he spends part of his time “giving” to the next generation of business owners in the region.
Dr. Tina Allton is the President and CEO of the Chamber for Africa Diaspora Relations (CADR). She is a disruptive visionary tackling World’s challenges of the 21st century. As a multi-award winning Serial Entrepreneur, author, keynote speaker, and an educational psychologist, she is catalysing sustainable economic development through her endeavours, has mentored over 5000 entrepreneurs and empowered more than 35,000 women on entrepreneurship. She also currently the Vice President for the Global women leaders committe for the World Business Angels Investment Forum. She supports, mentors and trains entrepreneurs and global leaders to succeed in life and business through her global consultancy practice called 160 Consultancy. As the former High Commissioner to Ghana for the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) an affiliated partner of the G20 Financial Inclusion Committee, her objectives were to develop relationships within the financial institutions, government and global financial markets and institutions such as the London stock exchange group. She helped identify key partners within the government of Ghana to deliver a comprehensive Africa Master plan developed by the WBAF officially launched in Istanbul in 2019. She earned her QBAC+ at the London Stock Exchange group. She's the co-founder of Undefeated, a fastest growth diabetes nonprofit inspired by her daughter, which launched in the UK in 2015, within 5 months won an award for Best Not for Profit organisation and has done so for 4 years running, a year to date in 2016 it had achieved an unprecedented 6.7 Million global reach. For over a decade Tina led the multi-award-winning Circle Podiatry together with her husband to win over 15 awards nationally including Best Small business in London for service excellence. Tina has a proven track record in global leadership, change management, business growth, women’s empowerment, sales and global business expansion. She has personally done over 2.2 million pounds in sales in her own family business. Her core values are integrity, loyalty, hard work and perseverance.
With 27 years of experience in the hospitality industry, a veteran Turkish & British hotelier has started his career as Chef at 17 years old then moved to London and where he was appointed as an Executive Chef in London at 27 years old, then as Food & Beverage Manager then respectively moved from London to Portugal, Dubai, China that he had various management roles and finally back to Istanbul after 21 years, as of mid of 2017 where his journey has started. He returned back to home with a worldwide hospitality experience that to be utilized at his recent appointment within the Accor Hotels as being Regional Vice President, Luxury Brands, Accor Hotels, Turkey and General Manager, Swissôtel The Bosphorus, Istanbul. He became a pioneer in Turkey with his worldwide achievements and initiatives in his field. In spare time, he enjoys cooking for friends and family and socializes with colleagues, he is married with one son of 11 years old.
Vitaly Polekhin
President of International Investor Organization INVESTORO, Russia

Wangeci Kanjama is a Kenyan born national with an extensive and solid financial background. She has held different positions within the telecommunications industry in a career spanning close to two decades. Among her various key roles, she evaluates and monitors potential startups. As an angel investor herself she has led and run a stable investment company which was founded over 10 years ago and has grown its assets into real estate, stock market and money markets investments. In her philanthropic capacity she spends time supporting women lead businesses in Kenya. She is part of a Kenyan networking group called Women in Business and its overall goal is to enable women to grow their entrepreneurial capacity and scale their business. Her specific area of focus is equipping women with critical financial skills that go beyond their capacity to raise money. As a trustee on a school board in Kenya she oversaw an investment to expand dormitory and classroom facilities. The school caters exclusively to supporting free education for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds and is a personal mentor to some of the girls. She is a certified executive coach and uses this skill to coach both middle and C-suite executives. She greatly enjoys networking, mentoring, reading and travelling.
Yemi Keri is one of the foremost Women in Technology in Nigeria. She is the Chief Executive Officer of Heckerbella Limited, a Technology Business Transformation company, and also a Partner at Holmen Consulting, an Information Technology Consulting firm. Yemi Keri has over 22 years’ experience in Information and Communications Technology sector at top management levels in both the public and private sectors. She was the Director and Regional Manager, West Africa for SAP Africa and was the pioneer Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Edo State Directorate of Information Communications & Technology Agency. Yemi Keri is the co-founder of Rising Tide Africa, a women’s movement initiated with a vision to increase women’s participation in angel investing as an asset class and promote education, cross-border investing and investor-mentoring across Africa. She is also a Director of the Lagos Angel Network and serves as a mentor to various digitally and technology-enabled start-ups. She is also an Expert in Residence (EIR) at the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) of the Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos. A multidisciplinary graduate of Accounting (University of Maiduguri), and Masters in Information Technology Project Management from the American InterContinental University, Illinois, Strategic Decision Making for Management from the London School of Economics and Political Science, London, and an alumnus of the Lagos Business School/IESE Business School, Barcelona and China European International Business School. Yemi holds membership of several professional bodies including IOD, ICAN, CIBN, CITN and the Nigerian Computer Society (NCS). She also holds various certifications in Risk and Project management and received the Centenary Award for the Most Outstanding Public-Sector CIO in Nigeria in 2014.
Ziad Alexandre Hayek has 38 years of experience in Public Policy, Economic Policy, International Development, Investment Banking, International Finance, Structured Finance, Project Finance, Corporate Strategy and Corporate Governance. He is the President of the World Association of PPP Units and Professionals; Vice-Chair of the Working Party on PPP of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; Managing Partner of Hayek Associates LLC; and ex-Secretary General of Lebanon’s High Council for Privatization and PPP. In early 2019, Hayek was nominated to the Presidency of the World Bank. Hayek is member of the Board of Trustees of USEK University, the Investment Committee of YMCA World Alliance, and the governing boards of several NGOs on behalf of the Carlos Slim Foundation. Previously, Hayek was CEO of Lonbridge Associates (London), a boutique investment bank specializing in telecom technology and renewable energy; Senior Managing Director of Investment Banking at Bear Stearns (New York); Managing Director of Banque Indosuez Capital Latin America (Paris); President of Indosuez Mexico (Mexico City); Vice President of Salomon Brothers (New York); and Vice President of Citibank NA, where he occupied posts including Treasurer for West Africa, structured finance specialist for Latin America and finally Head of the Bank’s International Securitization Department. Hayek was also a member of the US Council on Foreign Relations; a Senior Consultant to the Reagan Administration’s Enterprise Program; and member of the board of directors of various local and multinational companies. He holds an MA in International Management from the University of Texas at Dallas and studied Business Administration at the University of Houston and at the Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. Hayek is conversant with 11 languages.
MFB Invest, a subsidiary of the Hungarian Development Bank (MFB), provides development and venture capital funding on the Hungarian capital market, covering a wide range of sectors such as machinery, manufacturing, energy, health care, services and technology. Apart from greenfield projects, MFB Invest focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises in an established phase of their life cycles with growth potential and capex plans. Hiventures sets-up and performs fund management for venture capital funds dedicated for investing in innovative, start-up and early-stage growth small- and medium-sized enterprises. Hiventures aims at incubation (pre-seed), seed, and growth stages, thus fostering young or to-be-established companies with focus on research, development and innovation. Top executive management position in running the day-to-day operation of the Budapest Stock Exchange (BSE), part of the CEE Stock Exchange Group including Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Hungary. Formulating the company’s strategy, as well as developing the overall Hungarian capital market, including projects of creating dedicated SME market for easy access to capital for Hungarian and regional SMEs thus supporting economic growth and job creation. Joined ING’s Hungarian securities trading, research and corporate finance effort in 1995 after setting-up local entity. Developed ING’s local presence to highest standards as well as gaining top market share in stock exchange trading. Participated in several corporate finance and investment banking transactions, including bond issuances and M&A deals.
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