

## Speaker Profiles



### **Hon. Mr. Abebe ABEBAYEHU CHEKOL**

Commissioner  
Ethiopian Investment Commission

Hon. Mr. Abebe Abebayehu Chekol is currently serving as the Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission. He served as Senior Legal Advisor at the Office of the Prime Minister before he assumed his current position. He also served as Deputy Commissioner at the Ethiopian Investment Commission where he led the policy research, investment promotion and investment climate reform workstreams of the Commission.

Hon. Abebayehu Chekol has more than 15 years of experience working on private sector development, economic policy and regulatory reform, negotiation of international trade and investment agreements, academic research and teaching. Before he joined the Commission, he was working at the International Finance Corporation (IFC)/ World Bank Group where he spearheaded the effort to establish a structured public-private-dialogue in Ethiopia and supported IFC's work on improving Ethiopia's investment climate.

Hon. Abebayehu Chekol obtained his first degree in law from Addis Ababa University where he finished top of his class and received the Chancellor's Gold Medal Award. Hon. Abebayehu Chekol has LL.M in International Trade and Investment Law from the University of Western Cape, South Africa and LL.M in Energy Law and Policy from the University of Dundee, the UK.

## Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Hiroyuki AKAHORI**

CEO

ITOCHU Textile Prominent (Asia) Ltd

Dedicated for the apparel manufacturing and global trading at Itochu Corporation for more than 25 years, Mr. Hiroyuki Akahori has served as CEO of ITOCHU Textile Prominent (Asia) Ltd since 2017.

Akahori oversees the operations in Hong Kong, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Bangladesh, and spearheads the digitalisation of the supply chain and global development of sustainable materials.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Hon. Mr. Azamat ASKARULY**

Adviser to the First Deputy Prime Minister  
Republic of Kazakhstan

Mr. Azamat Askaruly is Adviser to the First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan starting from December 2016.

From July 2014 to 2016 he was a General Director of KTZ Express Hong Kong, Kazakhstan Railways Group of Companies. Based in Hong Kong he was responsible for KTZ Express's overall business performance and strategy in China, which includes the growth of the company's customer base and sales in China, including working with 11 provinces in China to open container block trains from China to Europe via Kazakhstan.

Prior to that position, Askaruly was the Head of International Projects in Samruk-Kazyna Invest, fully-owned subsidiary of Samruk-Kazyna Welfare Fund. Prior to Samruk-Kazyna Invest, he was Advisor to CEO of Samruk-Kazyna Welfare Fund.

Askaruly has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard University and MBA from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

# Speaker Profiles



## **Mr. Anson BAILEY**

Head of Consumer & Retail, ASPAC; Head of Technology, Hong Kong  
KPMG China

Mr. Anson Bailey joined KPMG in Hong Kong in 1999 and is currently a Partner heading up the Consumer & Retail Practice in the ASPAC region, driving a number of thought leadership reports and executive briefings for senior executives covering innovation and consumers in China and across Asia. He has worked with many corporates to understand the complex markets we live in and current levels of disruption being seen with recent reports, including Global Mobile Payments, Consumers & Convergence, and Mobilising Innovation.

Not only does he mentor the next generation of go-to-market professionals at KPMG, but continues to work with a number of C-level executives as a trusted advisor in providing the best in client innovation being the Lead Partner for a number clients in both the consumer and technology arena across the Asia Pacific region.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Han BEKKE**

President  
International Apparel Federation

Mr. Han Bekke worked for more than 40 years for several trade associations in the Dutch clothing and knitting industry. In March 2013, Bekke was elected as Chairman of the Board of Dutch Trade Association for Fashion and Textiles (MODINT) and re-elected in June 2017.

From 2006 till 2013 he also served as Secretary-General of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) and became its President in October 2016.

Bekke currently serves as Member of the Executive Committee of Confederation of Dutch Industries (VNO-NCW), Chairman of the Federation Dutch Creative Industries, Member of the Board of TMO Fashion Business School, and Chairman of the Board of Meesteropleiding Coupeur (Amsterdam Tailoring School).

Bekke is also Member of Rotary Club Amsterdam - Zuidas and was its President in 2003.

Since 2000, he has been Freeman of the City of London and Member of The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters.

In 2007, Bekke was knighted by Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands in the Order of Orange Nassau. In 2013, he received a special recognition linked to the highest fashion award in The Netherlands, 'The Grand Seigneur.'

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Gareth BROOKS**

Managing Director

VF Asia Ltd

Mr. Gareth Brooks is the Managing Director at VF Asia Ltd based in Hong Kong. He is responsible for developing and executing VF's product supply strategy supplying \$4.0B products to all VF's brands including The North Face, Vans, Wrangler, Lee, Timberland, Jansport, Dickies, Icebreaker, Kipling, EastPak, Eagle Creek and Altra.

Prior to this role Brooks was Vice President Footwear Product Supply, based in Hong Kong responsible for the supply strategy for Timberland, Vans, The North Face and Reef. Previously he was Vice President of operations at Timberland where he was responsible for developing and implementing the strategy for Timberland's operating business system in North America, overseeing planning, forecasting, procurement, materials, quality, logistics and distribution.

Brooks joined Timberland in March of 2011 following nine years with Pentland Group, where he served as vice president of sourcing and product development, where he helped shape the company's global supply chain strategy and was responsible for product development and Asian operations.

Prior to joining Pentland Group, Brooks spent six years at Nike, Inc. as a manufacturing manager responsible for manufacturing in their operations in Vietnam. He also held a variety of positions based in their European and Asia Pacific headquarters responsible for quality assurance and operations.

Before Nike, Brooks spent ten years at Clarks International. As a graduate of their technical training programme, he held a variety of positions in manufacturing, sales, product marketing and sourcing.

Brooks is active in the footwear and apparel industry in Hong Kong. He is currently the Chair of the Apparel & Footwear Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong and on the Committee for the Global Apparel, Footwear and Textile Initiative (GAFTI).

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Dieter BUCHINGER**

Area Manager Silk Road and Branch Manager, GW East Plus  
Gebrüder Weiss Gesellschaft mbH

An experienced logistic manager with 30 years of experience, Mr. Dieter Buchinger has been involved in executive management positions in China since the last 10 years. During this time, he developed solid know-how and experience through an active engagement in business with and in markets along the 'New Silk Road.'

# Speaker Profiles



## **Mr. Hans M. BUEHR**

CEO, HMB Consulting, Hong Kong

HMF Handel, Uzbekistan

With over thirty years of global experience in textile and apparel industry specialised in purchasing and manufacturing, material design and development, ERP systems, quality assurance, supply chain management, factory startups, Mr. Hans M. Buehr studied industrial management in Germany.

As consultant since 2013, Buehr has delivered several lectures in universities, besides advising companies interested in matters from product development, to supply chain related as well as sustainability initiatives.

Invited for setting up a garment factory in Uzbekistan, Buehr realised the enormous potential of the local textile and garment industry towards supplying to the western world, as currently the majority of its exports are to Russia and neighbouring countries only.

In 2019, his wholly-owned company in Ferghana, HMF Handel LLC, was formed to assist western companies on sourcing from Central Asia.



## Speaker Profiles



### **Hon. Dr. Bernard CHAN Pak-li, JP**

Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development  
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government

Hon. Dr. Bernard Chan Pak-li was Political Assistant to the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development from March 2013 to June 2017.

Before joining the Government, Dr. Chan spent about 10 years working in the technology sector, gaining experience in intellectual property trading and crossover collaboration. From 2008 to 2013, Dr. Chan served as a member of the Kwun Tong District Council.

Dr. Chan holds a bachelor degree in electrical engineering and a PhD degree in biomedical engineering from Duke University, the US.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Paul CHAN**

Managing Director, Hanin Garment Manufactory  
Vice Chairman, Hong Kong Apparel Society

An economics graduate from the University of Rochester, the US, Mr. Paul Chan worked in the finance field as a research analyst for two and a half years.

He started working in Hanin since 1995. Since then, he has been actively involved in the Hong Kong Apparel Society and trade promotional activities by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, contributing to the betterment of the apparel industry.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Ms. Candace CHEUNG**

Senior Manager, APAC, Merchandising and Strategic Marketing  
eBay

Ms. Candace Cheung is responsible for providing leadership and direction for the cross-border trade functions with collaboration of all platforms within eBay global sites, including France, Italy, Spain, Global Buying Hub, Australia, the UK and US. She currently leads a team of merchandising specialists in Hong Kong and China and creates strategies for deals and promotions to drive ecommerce revenue growth for merchants in the Asia Pacific region.

Prior to this, she worked for the Economist Intelligent Unit and was responsible for business development for over 4 years.

Cheung spent seven years in hotel industry on client management and room sales inventory, after receiving her degree for hotel and management in Switzerland.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Amadou DIALLO**

Chief Executive Officer, Middle East & Africa  
DHL Global Forwarding

Since June 2017 Mr. Amadou Diallo is CEO of DHL Global Forwarding Middle East & Africa, and founder of Saloodo! GmbH. He was previously CEO DHL Freight, CEO Africa and South Asia Pacific DHL Global Forwarding and prior to this, Chief Financial Officer of Deutsche Post DHL Logistics Divisions and Managing Director for the integration of Exel and DHL.

Diallo has more than 25 years of experience in the tourism, banking, express and logistics industries. He is Senegalese and fluent in several languages including English, German, French, Fulani, Wolof and Spanish.

Diallo is Chairman of Amref in Germany and in the Boards of Welthungerhilfe, Africa 2.0, Schiller International University and others.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Christian EWERT**

President  
amfori

Mr. Christian Ewert is the President of amfori, the leading global business association for open and sustainable trade, bringing together over 2,200 retailers, importers, brands and associations from more than 40 countries. Its membership contains organisations of all sizes and all sectors with a combined turnover of more than one trillion euros.

amfori's mission is to enable each of its members to enhance human prosperity, use natural resources responsibly and drive open trade globally. amfori encounters these challenges through working collaboratively with its members to influence and drive positive change at scale.

Prior to his role at amfori, Ewert worked as President and CEO of ICTI CARE Foundation, the International Council of Toy Industries' (ICTI) programme to promote social compliance in the supply chain producing for the toy and children's products industry. He previously worked as the Chief Operating Officer and Member of the Board of Zapf Creation, Europe's leading manufacturer of branded play & function and collector dolls and doll accessories. For more than 10 years Ewert held the position of Managing Director and Chairman of North Sails Lanka which is the leading manufacturer of products for the windsurfing industry, operating two factories with more than 1,000 employees. Prior to this, Ewert was the CEO of Mistral Sports, the market leader in the windsurfing industry. In Dec 2016, he was named in a list of the top ten leaders responsible for contributing to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in China.

## Speaker Profiles



**Mr. FENG Dehu**

President

China Textile Planning Institute of Construction

With over 30 years of experience in the textile and garment industry, Mr. Feng Dehu has witnessed the development and flourishing of the China's textile and garment industry since its inception. He previously served as government official and was the president of public companies and chairman of industry associations.

Having an extensive management experience, Feng maintains good connections with numerous entrepreneurs, and has deep insights of the textile and garment industry, where he forms solid views towards the future development trends of the global textile and garment industry. He is currently the President of China Textile Planning Institute of Construction (CTPIC), a consulting institute aiming to become a top think-tank for the Chinese textile and garment industry. He focuses on textile and apparel industry research, global production capacity cooperation and intelligent manufacturing.

Prior to joining CTPIC, Feng served as the director of a textile department of the garment technology development center in China. He was also the Chairman of Zhejiang Province Garment Association, Vice Chairman of China National Garment Association (CNGA), CEO of Zhejiang Zhonghui Co and President of China Garments Co.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Dr. Alicia GARCÍA HERRERO**

Chief Economist, Asia Pacific, NATIXIS

Adjunct Professor, Hong Kong University of Sciences and Technology

Dr. Alicia García Herrero is the Chief Economist for Asia Pacific at Natixis. She also serves as Senior Fellow at European think-tank BRUEGEL and non-resident Research Fellow at Madrid-based political think tank Real Instituto Elcano.

Dr. García Herrero is currently Adjunct Professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and member of the advisory board of Berlin-based China think-tank MERICS. She is also adviser to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's research arm (HKIMR) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as a member of the board of the Hong Kong Forum and co-founder of Bright Hong Kong.

In previous years, Dr. García Herrero served as Chief Economist for Emerging Markets at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria (BBVA), Member of the Asian Research Programme at the Bank of International Settlements (BIS), Head of the International Economy Division of the Bank of Spain, Member of the Counsel to the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, Head of Emerging Economies at the Research Department at Banco Santander, and Economist at the International Monetary Fund.

Dr. García Herrero combines her professional career with academia, having served as visiting Professor for John Hopkins University, China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Shanghai and Carlos III University in Madrid.

Dr. García Herrero holds a PhD in Economics from George Washington University and has published extensively in refereed journals and publications, including ResearchGate or Google Scholar. She often appears in international media, such as Bloomberg, CNBC as well as social media, Twitter, LinkedIn and Weibo.

As recognition of her leadership thoughts, Dr. García Herrero has recently been nominated TOP Voices in Economy and Finance by LinkedIn.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Veit GEISE**

Retired - Former Vice President Product Supply  
VF Asia Ltd

Until his recent retirement, Mr. Veit Geise acted as Vice President Product Supply for VF Asia Ltd.

In this capacity, Geise was responsible for the Sourcing Divisions of Jeanswear, Sportswear and Workwear, comprising brands including Lee, Wrangler, Nautica, Napapijri, Rock & Republic and Timberland.

Before joining VF Corporation in 2007, Geise worked for the German Mail Order Company, Otto Group.



## Speaker Profiles



**Dr. GONG Yan**

Associate Professor

Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology

Dr. Gong Yan is currently the Assistant Dean of the School of Material Science and Engineering in Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology. He received his doctor degree of Science in Peking University and Post-doctoral in Tsinghua University.

Dr. Gong is the rotating resident of Young Experts in China Textile Engineering Society. He also serves as a Member of China Environmental Standards Committee and a Member of VOC Expert Group of the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China. He is also a Member of the expert group assessing air pollution projects of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the special campaign launched by Premier Li Keqiang to tackle smog.

Dr. Gong is Member of Textile Industry of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Member of the Cleaner Production Expert Group, Textile Industry of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Deputy Director of Youth Committee of the Beijing Institute of Physical and Chemical Testing, Associate Director of Youth Committee of Chinese Society for Composite Materials, Senior Member of Chinese Chemistry Association, Executive Chairman of Environmental Forum of the China Association of Science and Technology Youth Scientists Forum.

Dr. Gong is involved in formulating atmospheric emission standard and detection technology for textile printing and dyeing. He serves as the project leader of the Emission Standard of Air Pollutants for Dyeing and Finishing of Textile Industry under the Ministry of Environmental Protection. He is also involved in research and development applying raman spectrometer on environmental monitoring, and takes the role as Technical Director to develop national standards on safety evaluation system measuring intelligent wearable textiles.

# Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Mark GREEN**  
Executive Vice President  
PVH Supply

Mr. Mark Green is currently Executive Vice President of PVH Supply. Based in Hong Kong he is responsible for the offshore global sourcing and operations of the PVH Group which owns such iconic brands as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Van Heusen, Arrow and Izod.

Before joining PVH, Green spent 4 years in China with Walmart as Vice President of Sourcing and Operations with responsibility for apparel, footwear, jewelry and accessories. He managed 12 global offices with production in over 25 countries worldwide.

Prior to that Green was at Limited Brands where he worked in senior sourcing positions with Victoria's Secret Stores and Catalogue, Express, The Limited and other specialty retail brands, such as Abercrombie & Fitch, Lane Bryant, Diesel, New York & Co. He was based in Hong Kong and Sri Lanka and Israel.

Green was born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1961 and spent his first 17 years in the Far East. He went back to the UK and graduated from the Manchester University with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in History, Politics and Philosophy.

Green's first 14 years were with a family company in the UK, Toye & Co Plc. Founded in 1685, Toye was a manufacturer of Regalia, Insignia and military accoutrements. Following a brief spell in the hosiery and lingerie business, Mark then joined Limited Brands.

Green is presently a member of the Board of Governors, the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Green is an avid sportsman and plays tennis, hockey, badminton and golf. He is a member of two livery companies in the UK, The Worshipful Company of Broderers and the Worshipful Company of Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Norbert Erich GROBE**

Director Sales and Marketing, Asia Pacific  
Stoll Asia Ltd

With a Master's degree in Textile Business and Marketing, Mr. Norbert Grobe has over 25 years of experience in the industry. He currently serves as the Director of Sales & Marketing of the Asian operations in Stoll Asia Ltd. He is responsible for the entire Asian region, including all sales offices and customers.

Grobe has successfully managed the upgradation of the regional sales team in the local subsidiaries in line with the new strategy, with direct reports of 12 and functional leadership of 300 staff members through dual reporting lines of subsidiaries, distributors and agents. He has also implemented and executed new marketing concepts, training programmes and fast response initiatives in the entire Asian region, resulting in business increase by 60 percent after his first year with the company.

Prior to this, Grobe served as Managing Partner and CEO of Conterra Ltd under the Wünsche Group, Director of Intersport Far East, General Manager Asia Sourcing of VAUDE Bergsport GmbH & Co. KG, as well as several leadership roles in MILES Fashion Group and Wilderness Outdoor Equipment Hof.

# Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Joachim HENSCH**  
Managing Director  
HUGO BOSS Textiles Industries Ltd

Mr. Joachim Hensch has a profound and holistic knowledge in garment manufacturing, technology and innovation.

Starting as a tailor for several years in bespoke couture, he later moved into the ready to wear business and since then has taken various positions, mainly in the field of product development. In 2015 he took the position of managing director in the biggest factory of HUGO BOSS Group located in İzmir with 3,800 employees.

Hensch's most important target is to transfer the whole organisation into a flexible and reactive Smart Factory with implementation of industry 4.0 measures, to get prepared for a highly volatile, demanding and impatient market environment.

Within this approach he is in the forefront of innovation excellence in garment manufacturing and thus the Izmir Factory is a role model for the global industry. He believes in agile, SCRUM based project execution and flat hierarchies to cope with today's pace of doing business.

## Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Jan HILGER**  
Management Consultant  
Hilger Consulting

Mr. Jan Hilger, since 2015, took up leadership roles in various fashion houses over years, including HUGO BOSS, Escada, PVH (Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein) and Triumph. He supported the organisations to restructure their operations to become agile to tackle challenges of the digital era. He also served as Interim C-Level Manager to support companies in their difficult phases, from financial winddown to ERP implementation process, and to get involved in corporate turnaround measures.

Hilger supports fashion fairs and associations, including the International Apparel Federation and Dialog Textil Bekleidung (DTB) in Germany. He is a frequent speaker and moderator of global conferences.

Hilger Consulting serves global players, private equity companies, consultancy firms, associations as well as SMEs from the fast-moving consumer goods industry.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Ai Hong**

Co-Founder & Managing Director  
K-Style Lab

Mr. Ai Hong is the co-Founder and Managing Director of K-Style Lab which provides turn-key solutions for brands to launch pop-up stores in Hong Kong.

He has been in retail real estate for more than 20 years, heading expansion programmes for Carrefour, Walmart, and Apple in Korea, China and Hong Kong.

Hong has a degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Southern California.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Forest HOU**

Senior Expert  
McKinsey & Co, China

Mr. Forest Hou is the leader of McKinsey North Asia Industrial IoT Hub and was invited as an expert to the World Economic Forum to certify 4th Industrial Revolution Lighthouse.

In McKinsey, Hou is specialised in digital strategy, digital plant diagnosis, design and implementation, IoT ecosystem and digital talent capability building. He served more than 150 clients mainly in automotive, high-tech technology, machinery and basic material industries.

Hou is also the founder of Tsinghua-McKinsey Digital Capability Center (DCC), and guest professor of the MBA programme at Antai Economics Management College of Shanghai Jiaotong University.

Before joining McKinsey, Hou was engaged in senior management roles in automobile, semi-conductor and machinery industries for 17 years.

# Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Martin KEIL**  
Managing Director  
YEH SHEN Ltd

Mr. Martin Keil began his career in Beijing's Austrian Embassy, Commercial Section after finishing his university studies in Austria and New Zealand. Based on research from his master thesis about market entry in China, he advised Austrian companies on setting up and developing business in China. After three years, he moved to a listed Austrian electronics firm that had just set up a operations in Shanghai, as Assistant of the Board in its European headquarter.

Through consultancy work for an Austrian conglomerate, Keil found his way into the aluminium packaging industry and researched the Chinese pharmaceutical packaging market. Serving a German family conglomerate, he extended his industrial experience in the aluminium conversion industry and became General Manager for an aluminium packaging factory in China exporting products primarily to Japan.

In 2006, Keil came to Hong Kong where he was active in consumer packaging trading while setting up a limited company for quality management services which has become the Asian quality centre for leading German trading firms. He also set up YEH SHEN Ltd, a business development consultancy that researches supply chains of lifestyle products with specialisation on textile and apparel products into and out of Asian markets.

Keil holds an MBA in Finance from Manchester Business School. A German native with Latin language education, he speaks fluent English and Mandarin.



## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Richard KELLY**

Chief Catalyst  
Fung Group

Mr. Richard Kelly is part of Fung Academy and is focused on new value creation and building innovation across the group.

Most recently, Kelly was the Managing Director of IDEO Asia Pacific. Based in Shanghai, his role was to lead clients to build innovation capabilities and realise new opportunities through design. Clients included Coke, Samsung, TCL, VF Corporation and the Singapore government. Before moving to Shanghai, Kelly joined IDEO London in 2006, and was responsible for the service practice. His clients included Nestlé, T-Mobile, IKEA, and Alpargatas.

Before joining IDEO, Kelly was at Levi's Strauss & Company for 9 years and ran his own brand consulting business in London and San Francisco.

Kelly speaks and comments regularly on innovation and design issues and has spoken at World Economic Forum, China Entrepreneur Summit, BOAO Asia Forum, Skoll World Forum and appeared in China Entrepreneur magazine, Business Watch, 21st Century Business Review and on sina.com.

## Speaker Profiles



**Mr. J. Krishna KISHORE, CA, IRS**  
CEO, Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board  
Ex-officio Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh, India

Mr. Krishna Kishore, a 1990 batch India Revenue Services officer and Secretary to the state has taken charge of the Economic Development Board (EDB), Government of Andhra Pradesh as the founder CEO in 2016. The Board is chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu.

EDB acts as the catalyst to facilitate economic growth, investment climate, reforms, and competitiveness in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is the single point of contact for all investments in Andhra Pradesh.

Prior to this, Kishore worked in the capacity of Private Secretary/ OSD to various union ministers including Minister for Civil Aviation, Minister for Urban Development, Agriculture and worked with the Honourable Vice-President of India during his term as Union Minister.

A Finance Minister's Gold Medal recipient, Kishore has also co-authored a book titled Towards an Urban Revolution. Under his leadership, EDB has been working for the accelerated economic development of the state and retaining its No.1 rank in ease of doing business alongside recording double-digit growth consistently.

Kishore's team has successfully brought in several Marquee investments into the state of Andhra Pradesh including Asia Pulp & Paper, Kia Motors, Arvind Mills, HCL and Toray.

## Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Jacky LAM**  
Managing Director  
OKIA Optical Co

Mr. Jacky Lam is the Managing Director of OKIA Optical Company, an international fashion eyewear company that focuses on design, innovation, logistics and production. Drawing on over 30 years of experience in the eyewear industry, they use state-of-the-art technologies and innovative materials to achieve complete customer satisfaction.

The company delivers high quality and market-leading eyewear products. Its experts oversee every stage of the optical production process, from market research and conceptualisation, to manufacture and after-sales service.

A flexible and responsive company, OKIA is able to manufacture its products faster than its competitors in the ever-changing eyewear market.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Walden LAM**

Chief Hustler and Co-founder  
unspun

Mr. Walden Lam is currently Co-founder and Chief Hustler at unspun.

Lam grew up in Hong Kong and has operating, investment and strategy experience in e-commerce, retail and fashion with lululemon, IDEO, GGV Capital, Goldman Sachs and OC&C Strategy Consultants.

Lam holds a Bachelor's degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Prof. Hau Leung LEE**

Chairman of the Board, Fung Academy  
Thoma Professor of Operations, Information & Technology  
Stanford Graduate School of Business

Prof. Hau L. Lee is the Thomas Professor of Operations, Information & Technology, Stanford Graduate School of Business. He is also Chairman of the Fung Academy.

Prof. Lee has published widely in top journals on supply chain management. He was inducted to the US National Academy of Engineering, and elected a Fellow of MSOM, POMS; and INFORMS. Besides extensive consulting, he co-founded DemandTec, a price-optimisation company that went public in NASDAQ in 2007. He is an independent non-executive director of Synnex, Frontier Services Group, Global Brands Group, and the Lion Rock Group.

Prof. Lee had degrees from the University of Hong Kong, the London School of Economics, and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was awarded Honorary Doctorates by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Erasmus University of Rotterdam.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Carlos Moncayo CASTILLO**

CEO & Co-founder  
Inspectorio, Inc

Mr. Carlos Moncayo Castillo is an innovative serial entrepreneur. His previous venture, ASIAM Business Group, was listed as one of the best ventures in Asia in by BusinessWeek. He has been named Asia's Best Young Entrepreneur by BusinessWeek, Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, and a New York City Venture Fellow by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He is the youngest Latin American CEO to join the G-50 Group.

Castillo received his MBA from Kellogg - The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Business School and continued his education at Harvard University, Stanford Graduate School of Business, China Europe International Business School and Yale University.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Reza G. NOBAR**

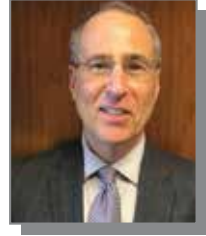
Director, Management Consulting  
KPMG

Mr. Reza G. Nobar is a multicultural leader with 20-year experience in and track records of advisory, including management consulting, strategy, M&A, and corporate roles (CFO, Director) in Asia and Europe.

Nobar is a trusted advisor to C-suite and Boards of Western and Chinese companies across consumer, luxury and retail industries. He has delivered large transformation programme across APAC and Europe, delivering innovation and significant value to shareholders.

Nobar holds an MBA from INSEAD with a major in Corporate Finance and Restructuring.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Andrew J. SAMET**

Principal  
Sorini, Samet & Associates LLC

Mr. Andrew J. Samet is a Principal in the consulting firm Sorini, Samet & Associates LLC and a Partner in the law firm Kingery, Samet & Sorini PLLC. He counsels the US based and foreign clients on trade agreements, legislation in the Congress, and decisions by the Executive Branch that impact their global interests. He also provides strategic advice and crisis management on international labour and sustainability issues. He has worked for clients throughout Asia, Latin America and Africa across various industrial sectors, including apparel, footwear and agriculture.

Samet has more than three decades of experience in law practice, government policy, negotiations, and programme implementation related to international trade issues. He has served as a consultant on US free trade agreement negotiations and implementation issues involving the countries of Central America, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Colombia, Panama, South Korea, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco and Egypt.

Amongst his prior positions, he served as Deputy Under Secretary of Labour in the Clinton Administration, and in that role was a member of the sub-cabinet deputies group of the White House National Economic Council responsible for international trade policy decisions. He also represented the US on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, and the Department of Labour at meetings of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the WTO.

Prior to joining the Clinton administration, Samet served as Legislative Director to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York. Before joining the staff of Senator Moynihan, Samet practised international trade law.



## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. David SCHMELZEISEN**

Chair for Textile Engineering and Institute of Textile Technology  
RWTH Aachen University

Mr. David Schmelzeisen studied mechanical engineering at RWTH Aachen University. He started to focus on textiles and textile engineering and received the Master of Science degree in textile engineering, before he supported research in the field of smart textiles and additive manufacturing at ETH Zurich and the Institut für Textiltechnik at RWTH Aachen University.

Schmelzeisen also works on automation and digital production technologies for small and medium sized garment order volumes with known international brands for sustainable products by individualisation, make-to-order and near-shoring.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Avedis H. SEFERIAN**

President & CEO

Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production

Mr. Avedis Seferian joined Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP) in 2004 and was named President & CEO in 2012. He has extensive knowledge of social responsibility issues within the highly complex worldwide supply chains of the apparel, textile and footwear sectors. A recognised expert in the area of social compliance and responsible sourcing, he often speaks on topics in this field at different forums around the world, and has contributed to many leading trade publications and news outlets.

Seferian is the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Association of Professional Social Compliance Auditors (APSCA) and sits on the Impartiality Committees of several audit organisations; he also served on the Board of Advisors of the Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety.

Seferian speaks five languages, has lived in four countries and holds degrees from three continents, including a BA from St. Stephen's College in India, an MBA from the American University of Armenia, and a JD from Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Seferian is a member of the American Bar Association and the Virginia State Bar. He resides in Fairfax, Virginia with his wife and their two sons.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mrs. Tatiana SEROVA**

Co-owner and Commercial Director  
ART Logistics Group

Mrs. Tatiana Serova is one of co-owners and Commercial Director of ART Logistics Group.

Serova has more than 20 years of experience in international logistics. Started with Danzas Group in Kazakhstan in 1998, continued her carrier in DHL Freight Kazakhstan.

Based in Almaty, she was responsible for development of international railway and multimodal shipments to Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

Since March 2005, she is co-founder and Commercial Director in ART Logistics Group which currently operates with 7 offices in Eurasia covering Russia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia, China and Europe.

Working now for ART Group in Hong Kong, Serova is responsible for development of logistics services for belt and route countries, including supply chain and industrial projects.

# Speaker Profiles



## **Mr. Mark SIM**

Vice President, International Marketing  
Sembcorp Parks Management Pte Ltd

Mr. Mark Sim is the Vice President, International Marketing of Industrial Parks for Sembcorp Parks Management Pte Ltd, a Singaporean listed company invested by Temasek Holdings. Since 2007, Sim has helped more than 40 manufacturers mainly from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong invest in Vietnam, ranging from US\$300,000 to US\$500,000,000 in investment. His portfolio includes: TCL, Midea (PR China), Seahorse, Regina Miracle (Hong Kong), Etika (Singapore) and Liteon (Taiwan).

An industrial engineer with a master's degree from the National University of Singapore, Sim managed a Danish food ingredients factory in remote countryside of Vietnam for five years. He gained first-hand factory experience and Vietnamese language proficiency with a deep understanding of manufacturing operations in emerging economies. Coupled with 10 more years of engineering sales track record in semiconductors, design software and optics, Sim renders fast and reliable solutions for foreign companies seeking to manufacture in Vietnam, and WEF2018 also in Indonesia.

Sim speaks Cantonese, Teochew, Hokkien, Mandarin, Vietnamese and basic Japanese and Bahasa. He was based in Hong Kong, Penang and Manila for many years. Since 2002, he has been based in Vietnam.

Sim is passionate and effective in bridging business across cultures and sectors.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mrs. Vicky Sung**

Executive Director

Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles

Vicky Sung currently serves as the Executive Director of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Textiles and is a member of the Hong Kong Economic Association.

A journalist by profession, Sung focuses on textiles and apparel covering the whole textile chain, upstream from fibre to downstream end products of fashion apparel, hometextiles, industrial and technical textiles, including machinery and processes as well as trade issues surrounding the industry. She has over thirty years of experience in Textile Asia where she covered the developments in the global textile and apparel industry.

Sung also contributes to several European trade journals, has and received a number of awards for her professional coverage.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Ms. Anne Patricia SUTANTO**

Deputy Chairman, Foreign Trade, Indonesian Textile Association  
Vice-CEO, PT Pan Brothers Tbk and Group

An award-winning, passionate and successful leader and professional, Ms. Anne Patricia Sutanto was born into a business family involved in logging and integrated wood industry. She is a Chemical Engineer from the University of Southern California in the US and minor in Business Administration. She received her Master's degree of Business Administration specialising in Finance from the Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, the US in 1994.

Sutanto joined PT Pan Brothers Tbk in 1997. She played a vital role in turning PT Pan Brothers Tbk into Indonesia's largest garment manufacturer. The company, which makes apparel for international well-known brands, has approximately 37,000 employees across Indonesia. Sutanto also owns other businesses, from home accessories and furniture exports, plantation, contractor to cocoa processing.

As a professional textile and textile products entrepreneur, Sutanto also serves as the Vice Chairman of Foreign Trade in the Indonesian Textile Association (API) and Vice Chairman of the Indonesian Entrepreneur Association (DPP APINDO) for Banten Province. Besides, she is also one of the Founding Members of the Indonesian Business Coalition for Woman Empowerment (IBCWE) in 2016, a Board Member of Endeavor Indonesia and a member of Young President Organisation (YPO) Indonesia.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Hans TILL**

Consultant

HT Sourcing & Management Consulting

Mr. Hans Till is a Global Sourcing and Supply Chain Management Consultant who partners with billion-dollar brands and SMEs in the apparel industry to build and grow effective end-to-end supply chain operations.

After spending two decades working in various management roles throughout the supply chain across the Asian region, Till knows how to build effective operations. And the effectiveness of any operation is not determined by the perfect alignment of processes only, but also by how well one can engage with and motivate people to pursue a common goal.

Till is a seasoned traveller in search of places off the beaten path for leisure and for business where he explores new opportunities. He is currently active in the East African region which holds much promise for the future.

Till holds a BA in garment engineering, as well as a degree in commerce and international trade.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Ms. Eva Valle LAGARES**

Head of Trade Section  
Office of the European Union to Hong Kong and Macao

Ms. Eva Valle Lagares has been the Head of the Trade Section, Office of the European Union (EU) to Hong Kong and Macao since August 2018. Prior to this, she was a practising lawyer with an expertise in the EU law. After joining the EU in 1998, she held various positions in the European Commission working on competition, research and development and in the cabinets of two EU Commissioners before moving to trade.

After being involved in trade, Valle Lagares focused on trade strategy in the first six years and then led the China Desk of Deputy General Trade in Brussels in charge of coordination of EU trade and investment relations with China.



# Speaker Profiles



## **Mr. Godecke WESSEL**

Founder & CEO  
Foursource Group

Mr. Godecke Wessel is currently the Founder and CEO of Foursource Group which is considered to be the world's largest and fastest growing B2B market network for the apparel supply chain.

Before founding Foursource Group, Wessel was a part of the founder team and Group COO of Westwing, an e-commerce company operating across Europe, Brazil and Russia that went public in 2018.

Prior to this, he served as Group COO at FALKE, a premium multi-brand clothing and legwear company, and Strategy Consultant at Booz & Company.

Starting his career as an industrial engineer and lean project manager at ITT Industries, Wessel has successfully founded several companies and holds an MBA from Aston Business School in the UK and a Master degree in Industrial Engineering.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Dr. Chandika WICKAMATILLAKE**

General Manager, Autonomation  
MAS Intimates Private Ltd

Dr. Chandika Wickamatillake is the Head of Innovation & Automation for MAS Intimates, a leading global apparel manufacturing company based in Sri Lanka. He is a respected professional in the area of supply chain, ERP and performance measurement and with a remarkable track record in project management and product innovation.

A doctorate in Surface Engineering, Materials Science from the University of Hertfordshire in the UK, Dr. Wickramatillake graduated from the same University in the field of Manufacturing Systems Engineering. He is a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Institute of Materials, and the Society of Adhesion and Adhesives.

Dr. Wickramatillake has over 20 years of professional experience working in countries such as the UK, Australia, Netherlands, Spain, Germany and the US. He was Project Controls Manager for the mighty Terminal 5 Heathrow Airport Project of the British Airport Authority at that moment. He also served as Contract Manager for UPS Worldport Expansion Project in Louisville, Kentucky in the US.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Hon. Mr. Raghvendra SINGH**

Secretary  
Ministry of Textiles, India

Currently serving as the Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Hon. Mr. Raghvendra Singh is credited with enhancing the income of weavers and craftspersons, encouraging employment generation, setting up textile parks, introducing environmental regulatory measures and diversifying exports to countries with an import potential. A postgraduate in History from University of Delhi, Hon. Singh is a member of the Indian Administrative Service with West Bengal as his cadre.

Prior to his current assignment, he was the Secretary of the Culture Department, Government of India. He also served in the Tourism and Culture sector for over a decade and was responsible for developing the fields of restoration and museology. In 2015-16, he was appointed as the Central Drought Relief Commissioner to oversee and manage the disaster caused by severe drought. He also served as Secretary to the Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha and as Private Secretary to Union External Affairs Minister and as OSD to the Union Finance Minister. In 2000-2002, he was Director, Indian Cultural Centre, Berlin, Germany.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Ms. Yodit FIKRE**

Traffic and Sales Manager, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan  
Ethiopian Airlines

Currently serving as Traffic and Sales Manager - Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, Ms. Yodit Fikre joined Ethiopian Airlines Group in 1999. She has served the company in various capacities including the Manager of On-Board Products, Manager of Sales Promotions, Area Manager of Burundi until she moved to Hong Kong for about 3 years ago.

Having a passion for aviation, promotions, customer services and customer relations encourages Fikre to diligently promote the products and services of Ethiopian Airlines, and encourage the African people to change their perceptions about the airlines.

## Speaker Profiles



### **Mr. Gautam NAIR**

Managing Director  
Matrix Clothing

An honours graduate in economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi, Mr. Gautam Nair, Managing Director of Matrix Clothing also holds a post graduate diploma in Business Management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He set up Matrix Clothing in 1980. The company and its subsidiaries are engaged in manufacturing of apparel, leather footwear and accessories, zip fasteners in India, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Jordan.

Nair is also the Chairman of National Committee on Textile & Apparel, CII for 2018-19. Besides, he is a member of the Minimum Wages Board, Government of Haryana and Executive Committee, Apparel Export Promotion Council. He also leads the State Partnership Committee in the Northern Region for AEPC as its Chairman.

# Speaker Profiles



**Mr. Steve WALTON**  
Chairman & Executive Director  
Lion International

Mr. Steven Walton has been in the apparel industry for over 35 years with a proven international track record. Prior to his appointment as Chairman and Executive Director of Lion Brothers at the end of 2011, he had spent 20 years based out of Hong Kong ultimately as Chairman of Wing Tai Group holding apparel and technology companies. He sits on the board of International companies spanning apparel and technology.

Walton started his career at Marks and Spencer in the 1970s as a management trainee and became the youngest executive in a managerial position within M&S's flagship Marble Arch store, and latterly in Head Office buying departments.

In 1987, after a 10-year-career at M&S, Walton co-founded one of the first design, sourcing and distribution companies to import apparel from Asia for Marks and Spencer via a network of far east operations. He was recruited by Wing Tai in the early 1990's and was with the group under various capacities until 2011.

Walton's experience spans being CEO of luxury menswear brand Gieves and Hawkes to Chairman of Zymmetry, a highly focused apparel and supply chain management information solutions and professional services company. Zymmetry gained an international reputation for its ground breaking sourcing and RFID solutions.

Walton is a member of the Institute of Directors and attended the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. In 2008, he was invited to speak at the United Nations, World Investment Forum.