

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.