

ESBN¹ Roundtable: Strategies on Reducing and Utilizing CO2 for Cost Effective Business

Bangkok, Thailand

Venue: Virtually via MS Teams from UN

ESCAP (3 hours 45 mins)

20 April 2021 (14:00 – 17:45)



Bios of speakers in the Opening Session

Opening

- **Mr. Stefanos Fotiou** is an accomplished expert on environment and sustainable development and currently serving as the Director of the Environment and Development Division in the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific. In this capacity, Stefanos is providing strategic guidance for the planning and implementation of the UN ESCAP work on Sustainable Management of Natural Resources, Climate Change, Sustainable Urban Development and he is also coordinating ESCAP's overall approach on supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Prior to this Stefanos worked for 10 years in the UN Environment in various roles in the Economy Division and in the Asia-Pacific office. He has acted as Head of the "Cities and Lifestyles" Unit, as Senior Asia-Pacific Coordinator on Resource Efficiency and as Manager of the "Sustainable Tourism" programme. Throughout his career, Stefanos has taken leading roles in international forums, had conceptualized and led the development of regional and national strategies on environment and sustainable development and his work has been widely published and referenced.



Welcome

- **Mr. Asif Ibrahim** is the Vice Chairman of Newage Group of Industries, a business house involved mainly in manufacturing and exporting ready-made garments and textiles. The Ministry of Commerce of the Government of Bangladesh awarded him the Commercially Important Person (CIP) status in the year 2007, 2012 and 2014 for his contribution in national export. Mr. Asif Ibrahim is the former President (2011-2012) of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), the largest SME Trade Body of Bangladesh. He is the Former Founder Chairman (2012-2015) of Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), a Public Private Dialogue platform to expedite the policy reforms to enable private sector led economic growth of



¹ UN ESCAP Sustainable Business Network, <https://esbn.unescap.org>

Bangladesh. Mr. Ibrahim served as a board member of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2012-2015) and was the Chairman of the Privatization Standing Committee of FBCCI. Mr. Ibrahim is a Director of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Thai Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BTCCI). Mr. Ibrahim is a member of the UNESCAP Sustainable Business Network (ESBN) and is the Chairman of the UNESCAP Sustainable Business Network Taskforce on Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction.

Keynotes

- **Mr. Mahendra Singhi** has been associated with the growth and development of the cement sector in India for the last 41 years. Since 2013, he is the Managing Director and CEO of Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited, a major group in India, globally recognised for its low carbon footprint in cement production, water positive operations and bold ambitions and achievements on sustainability. Mr. Singhi is also serving as President of Cement Manufacturing Association (CMA), a leading body representing about 450 million tonnes of installed cement capacity in India. A visionary and advocate of sustainability, Mr. Singhi has been the driving-force in inculcating this concept in the objectives and operations of the cement companies he has worked with. Mr. Singhi is a frequent speaker at various national and international events on climate protection and sustainability to highlight the business actions and ambitions. Mr. Singhi represented the business and cement sector during COP and High-Level Government-Business Dialogues of French Presidency, Governments and the United Nations.
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- **Mr. Sanjeev Bahl** is the founder and chief executive of Saitex, a Vietnam-based jeans manufacturer that counts Everlane, Madewell, J.Crew, Target and G-Star Raw among its clients. Its popularity with major US brands can be pinpointed to the sustainable practices underpinning the manufacturing process. As of 2019, the plant is a zero discharge facility — its plant recycles 98 percent of all its water and evaporates the other 2 percent, slashing its annual water bill of \$700,000 in half, and all waste produced in the denim colouring and distressing process are mixed with concrete to form building blocks. The factory is also powered by solar and biomass energy, and jeans are air-dried using the heat that naturally accumulates in the building. The infrastructure for these facilities took a great deal of investment, with the water filtration system alone costing \$2 million, but the plant was able to break even on its cost six years later. Saitex is Blue Sign Approved, Fair Trade, LEED-certified, and in 2019, was awarded B Corp certification.
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Special Addresses

- **Ms. Rose Mwebaza** (PhD) is the Director of the [Climate Technology Centre and Network](#) (CTCN), the implementation arm of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Technology Mechanism, which is hosted and managed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the UN Environment Programme. She brings 20 years' experience providing policy advice on a wide range of climate change, environment and sustainable development issues. She has previously served as Chief Natural Resources Officer at the African Development Bank and held leadership positions within the UN Development Programme. Dr. Mwebaza was a Lecturer at Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, serving as the Head of Department for Commercial Law, and Deputy Dean of the Law School. Rose holds a PhD in Environment and Natural Resource Governance from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.



- **Ms. Dinah Mcleod** is a social and environmental sustainability professional with over 20 years' experience in both the public and private sectors. She leads the GCCA's efforts to drive sustainable practices across the industry and to position cement and concrete as key contributors to solving today's global challenges. Dinah joined the GCCA from The B Team, a non-profit organisation whose mission is to encourage greater sustainability in the private sector. Before this she served as Deputy Director of the Business and Sustainable Development Commission. She has also held senior roles with the Overseas Development Institute, BT and Novartis, and began her career as a social protection specialist at the World Bank.

