



Private Sector Day

Session 1: Integrating disaster risk into business investment decisions (Sendai Para 36c)

14:00 - 16:00, 14 May 2019

CICG, Room 7/8

Moderator

Moderator: Andrew Revkin, National Geographic

Andrew Revkin is one of America's most honored writers on environmental sustainability and the role of communication innovation in fostering progress on a finite, fast-forward, noisy planet. In 2018, he joined the staff of the National Geographic Society as Strategic Adviser for Science and Environmental Journalism to help expand support and grants for global sustainability-focused journalism. This move follows three decades of ground-breaking journalism, including 14 years at The New York Times as a reporter and 6 after his Dot Earth blog moved to the Opinion section in 2010. He began writing on climate change in the 1980s and never stopped. Revkin has won most of the top awards in science journalism.

From 2010 to 2016, he was also senior fellow for environmental understanding at Pace University, where he developed courses in online communication and filmmaking focused on sustainability. He has written acclaimed books on humanity's weather and climate learning journey, global warming, the changing Arctic and the assault on the Amazon rain forest. In spare moments, he is a performing songwriter.

He holds a Bachelor degree in Biology from Brown University, United States of America and a Master degree in Journalism from Columbia University, United States of America. He also received a Honorary Doctorate in Humanities/Humanistic Studies from Pace University, United States of America.

Panelists

Dylan Winder, Humanitarian and Protracted Crisis Counsellor and Team Leader at the U.K. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Dylan has worked in the Department for International Development (DFID) for over twenty years and is currently the Humanitarian and Protracted Crisis Counsellor and Team Leader at the U.K. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. He leads relationships with UN Humanitarian Agencies and the Red Cross Movement in Geneva as well as issues on UN Reform, UK Humanitarian Policy and Forced Displacement. He was previously the Head of Humanitarian Policy and Partnerships at DFID with responsibility for humanitarian multilateral core funding, central NGO humanitarian funding, and UK input to the World Humanitarian Summit and was also Head of UK Humanitarian Emergency Response, where he led UK Responses to rapid onset disasters including in Haiti, Philippines and the Middle East. Working on the development side of DFID, he led DFID Country Teams in Yemen and Central Asia.

Michael Sudarkasa, CEO, Africa Business Group

Michael Sudarkasa is a U.S. trained attorney and African economic development specialist based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Michael has experience and expertise in facilitating economic development, trade and investment projects involving business expansion within Africa, as well as between Africa and other parts of the world. He has sector expertise in agriculture/ agribusiness; energy; broadcast media; infrastructure; healthcare; tourism and oil and gas.

He also has significant experience working with public sector institutions, Africa-active continental and international corporations and various bilateral and multilateral development partners. Michael's background in law is in the area of commercial law with a special focus on cross-border transactions.

Michael has travelled, studied, or worked in 49 countries throughout the world (including 32 in Africa). He has also authored several articles and publications related to African trade and investment, including: the Inclusive Business Finance Field Guide (UNDP 2012); and The African Business Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to Business Resources for African Trade and Investment (21st Century Africa, Inc., 1991-92; 93-94; 96-97, ABM 2007-8), He is also the co-author of Investing in Africa: An Insider's Guide to the Ultimate Emerging Market (John Wiley & Sons, August 2000, reprint January 2013).

Michael heads the Africa Business Group (ABG), which includes Africa Business Consulting (ABC), Africa Business Media (ABM), Africa Business Tourism, and Africa Business Energy.

Of African-American and Nigerian parentage, Michael was born in New York City, and raised principally in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has been based in South Africa since January 1999.

Cynthia Hartley, International Development Market Lead, Southeast Region Water, AECOM

Ms. Cynthia Hartley currently serves as the International Development Market Lead for AECOM since December 2017, after having been Senior Management Business Development between February 2016 and December 2017. She also worked for Chemonics International between August 2009 and June 2015 under different position ranging from Senior Business Development Manager for the Africa Region to Senior Manager of the New Business Support team.

Cynthia brings more than 15 years of experience in business development, partnership outreach, program management, strategic planning, and marketing and communications. Her technical foci are disaster risk management, climate change, water and sanitation, renewable energy, and environmental conservation. Cynthia has worked in Northern Africa, Sub-saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. She speaks intermediate French and basic Spanish. She holds a Master degree in Economics and International Affairs from Georgia Tech University, United States of America and a Bachelor degree in Economics and International Relations from Agnes Scott College, United States of America.

Peter Betts, Strategic Adviser, Willis Towers Watson

Peter Betts currently serves as a Senior Fellow for the European Climate Foundation, Strategic Advisor for the Willis Tower Watson, Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and Associate Fellow at Chatham House. He also works as a consultant on climate change, energy and international issues. He became an associate fellow of Chatham House in November 2018. Before joining, he was a UK civil servant for nearly 35 years, working in a wide range of government departments.

From 2008 until 2018 he was the director responsible for international climate policy, leading on the UNFCCC negotiations (where he was EU lead negotiator for six years up to 2016) and bilateral engagement, and was responsible for an official development assistance programme worth around £3bn. From 2016 he was also responsible for international energy.

Peter Betts graduated from Mansfield College, Oxford, with a Bachelor of Arts in History and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration, Paris, with a diploma in international public administration.

Kate Levick, Senior Manager, Sustainable Financing, E3G

Programme Leader, Sustainable Finance, CEO E3G (Third Generation Environmentalism)

Kate Levick is currently a programme leader in sustainable finance at E3G, leading a program of thought leadership and convening work with policymakers and regulators to promote sustainable finance and

address climate change. She is also in her second term as a trustee for the Forum for the Future and a member of the Audit & Assurance Remuneration Committees.

Prior to joining E3G Kate was the Global Director for Policy Engagement at CDP, a not-for-profit that operates a global disclosure system for investors, companies, cities, states and regions to manage their environmental impacts. Kate founded and grew the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) policy engagement team to work on issues including climate action, sustainable finance and deforestation as well as playing a key role in attracting major government grants. Before joining CDP she worked for the UK government's Office of Climate Change helping to develop international and domestic climate policy, following several years working for BP Plc in a variety of commercial and environmental roles.

Kate has an undergraduate degree in Classics from the University of Oxford and a Masters in Leadership for Sustainable Development from Forum for the Future / Middlesex University. She lives in London and is a Trustee of Forum for the Future.