



## **Private Sector Day**

### **Session 2: Building Climate and Disaster Resilience of MSMEs**

16:00 - 17:30, 14 May 2019

CICG, Room 7/8

#### **Moderator**

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#### **Michael Roberts, Head, Aid for Trade, WTO**

Michael Roberts is the Head of the Aid for Trade Unit in the Development Division at the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Aid for Trade Initiative seeks to assist developing countries connect to the multilateral trading system. Michael recently led preparations for the 5th Global Review of Aid for Trade: "Reducing Trade Costs for Inclusive, Sustainable Growth" held from June 30 - July 2, 2015. Michael joined the WTO in 2001, starting his career in the Agriculture and Commodities Division. Between 2003 and 2009, he established and led the Standards and Trade Development Facility. Prior to joining WTO, he worked in the Russian Federation and the UK on agriculture and trade policy issues. Michael is an agricultural and development economist by training and holds degrees from University of Oxford and the University of Kent at Canterbury in the U.K.

#### **Panelists**

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#### **M A Thajudeen, Additional Secretary from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Sri Lanka**

Mr. M.A. Thajudeen, a Senior Public Servant, belongs to Sri Lanka Administration Service, holding the post of Additional Secretary for the Textile and Apparel Industrial Development Division of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Sri Lanka, for the last three years overlooking the Textile and Apparel sector which brings the highest export revenue to the country and also the main employment provider.

Further, the Handloom industry which is a rural based industry provides employment mainly to women also comes under his purview.

Prior to this position, he held the position of Director for State Owned Enterprises which comes under the purview of this Ministry and Deputy Director (Industrial Policy) in the same Ministry.

The last 25 years, Mr. Thajudeen held various senior positions belonging to Sri Lanka Administrative Service in District, Provincial and National level bureaucratic system of this country. Further, during his career, he has held many substantial posts in various Government / Statutory Institutions such as Member of Board of Directors, Governing Councils, Board of Management, Chairman of Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society and Chairman/ Special commissioner of local authority.

He has completed his Master Degree in Business Administration from a Prestigious University in Australia in 2008, Post Graduate in Institute of Management of the University Sri Jayewardenepura 2002, Diplomas in Project Management in DSE – Germany, General Management and graduated his first degree in Economics, Commerce and Political Science in 1998 in a well reputed University in Sri Lanka.

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**Giovanni Betti, Adviser for sustainable finance, Federcasse (Federazione Italiana delle Banche di Credito Cooperativo – Casse Rurali e Artigiane)**

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**Robert Skidmore, Chief Sector and Enterprise Competitiveness, International Trade Center (ITC)**

Robert Skidmore is Chief of Sector and Enterprise Competitiveness Section (SEC) at the International Trade Centre (ITC) where he leads the Value added to Trade Programme. Under VA2T, ITC teams help SMEs to build value through improving customer relationships, creating supportive eco-systems and building firm capabilities. In agribusiness, VA2T facilitates broad-based public private alliances that co-develop and implement solutions covering the full value chain. ITC's portfolio covers projects in cocoa, coffee, horticulture, coconuts, cotton and specialty crops and ranges from the Caribbean to East Africa to Pakistan and Nepal. In 2018, under VA2T, ITC is conducting a dialogue called "No Such Thing as a Commodity" about differentiation and retaining value at origin. In another life, Rob managed private sector development initiatives for US-based consulting firms including PwC, DAI and Abt Associates, and worked as a butcher. He holds an MA from Johns Hopkins SAIS and a BA from the University of Wisconsin.

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**Hans Sy, Chairman, Executive Committee of SM Prime Holdings, Inc.**

Hans Sy is the Chairman of the Executive Committee of SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPH) and Adviser to the Board of SM Investments Corporation. SM Prime, which was incorporated in the Philippines in 1994, is one of the largest integrated property developers in Southeast Asia. Under Hans Sy's leadership as its

President till September 2016, SM Prime grew exponentially through offering of innovative and sustainable lifestyle cities integrating malls, residences, offices, hotels and convention centers.

Hans is also engaged in the management of some of the oldest institutions in the country. He is the Chairman of China Banking Corporation, which turns 100 years old by 2020, and of the National University founded in 1900.

He is actively pushing for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) through collaborative efforts on Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) in the Philippines. Currently, he sits in the Global Board of ARISE Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies. He is the Co-Chairman of the National Resilience Council (NRC), a private-public sector initiative whose goal is to strengthen resilience of Local Government Units (LGUs) towards disaster-resilient Philippines.

Mr. Sy holds a B.S. Mechanical Engineering degree from De La Salle University.

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#### **Alison Martin, Chief Risk Officer, Zurich Insurance**

Alison Martin has extensive management, financial and commercial experience within the insurance sector. In October 2017, she joined Zurich as Group Chief Risk Officer-Designate and became a member of the Executive Committee. She assumed the role of Group Chief Risk Officer in January 2018. A qualified accountant, Ms. Martin began her career at PwC, where from 1995 to 2003 she worked with insurance clients in audit and advisory roles. She then served in leading executive positions at Swiss Re, starting in 2003 as Finance Director, Life & Health. She was appointed Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Swiss Re's UK Life & Health business unit in 2005. From 2006 to 2010 she was responsible for Swiss Re's Global Life & Health Risk Transformation team. Starting in January 2011 she served as Group Managing Director of Swiss Re's Life & Health Products Division. She was appointed Swiss Re's Head of Life & Health Business Management in 2013, a position she held until joining Zurich in 2017.

Alison Martin became a member of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Risk Center's advisory board in September 2018.

Ms. Martin earned a bachelor's degree in law, with honors, from the University of Birmingham in 1995. In 1998 she qualified with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales as an associate member, and in 2010 she completed the Chartered Financial Analyst investment management certificate.

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#### **Lizra Fabien, Executive Director, Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) Chairperson, Network of Caribbean Chambers of Commerce (CARICHAM)**

Ms Lizra Fabien serves as the Executive Director of the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce and as the Chairperson of the Network of Caribbean Chambers of Commerce. She joined the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce in June 2017 and was elected to the position of Chairperson of CARICHAM in April 2019. She previously worked as a Business Development Officer for the Dominica

Coalition of Service Industries team and specialized in local business, service sector and project development and management.

Ms. Lizra Fabien holds a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration and Finance from the Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica and an International Masters in Business Administration from Tongji University, Shanghai.