

Biographies of Formal Participants for Economic Side Event

Moderator



Nazir Kabiri, Founding Member, is the Executive Director of the Biruni Institute. Previously, he served as a Senior Policy Advisor to the Finance Minister of Afghanistan for over six years. Nazir Kabiri advised the Minister of Finance on a broad range of policy issues that included input on Government's major reform agendas, public finance management, aid effectiveness, capacity building and regional economic cooperation. He was also a key interlocutor in the Ministry of Finance for international institutions and bilateral donors. Nazir Kabiri has been working in Afghanistan with NGOs and Government institutions since 2002 including working for the UK's DFID

for five years. Nazir Kabiri holds a degree in Management from South Korea, a BA in Economics from Kabul University and a Master's Degree in Development Economics (Fulbright Scholar) from the United States. He frequently appears in the media speaking on issues related to the Afghan economy and regional issues.

Keynote Speakers



John Barsa is the acting USAID Deputy Administrator. He was sworn in on June 10, 2019, as the Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Barsa brings considerable experience from decades of service in the public and private sectors. Mr. Barsa comes to USAID from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where he led the DHS Office of Partnership and Engagement (OPE) as the Acting Assistant Secretary and later as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary. John Barsa's civilian experience in the Executive Branch extends back to the Administration of President George W. Bush, when he was appointed to lead senior level coordination with the private sector and support legislative affairs efforts for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Barsa first entered public service as a member of the U.S.

Army Reserves, initially with the 11th Special Forces Group and later with the 450th Civil Affairs Battalion. While still in the Reserves, he started working in the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL). In this capacity, much of his work focused on defense and other issues related to national security. Part of his portfolio included support for democracy and human rights in Cuba, Nicaragua, and throughout the Western Hemisphere. He also played an active role in the passage of the Nicaraguan Adjustment Central American Relief Act (NACARA), which modified U.S. immigration laws. In the private sector, he has held key positions with a premier defense trade association, small businesses and large businesses including a leading Fortune 100 company. He has a bachelor's degree in International Affairs from Florida International University and is a graduate of Syracuse University's National Security Management Fellows Program.



Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal is the Acting Minister of Finance and the Head of Hezb-i Islami. He was once allied with Islamist warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, but in 2008 he was elected chairman of a moderate breakaway faction of Hekmatyar's party.

Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal earned a BA in economics, before working at the planning ministry in 1977 going to the US. Before the collapse of the Communist Regime in Kabul, His Excellency was responsible for the financial affairs of Hizb-e-Islami Party and later returned to Kabul where later

he served as Finance Minister in Late President Burhanuddin Rabbani's cabinet. From 2006 to 2008, His Excellency served as Social and Tribal Affairs Advisor to His Excellency President Hamid Karzai. In 2008, after getting the vote of confidence from the Afghan parliament, His Excellency was appointed as Minister of Economy.



Kanni Wignaraja of Sri Lanka was appointed as the Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in November 2019. Ms. Wignaraja previously served as the Acting Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Management Services, UNDP and as Special Adviser to the UNDP Administrator, roles that she has performed throughout 2019, after working as the Director of the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (DOCO) from 2014 to 2018.

She brings over 25 years of experience of the United Nations mission and UNDP's role in the sustainable development agenda. She has a deep knowledge of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the global, regional and country level workings of UNDP, across policy, programme, management and operations. Ms. Wignaraja joined the Organization in 1990 as the Policy and Evaluation Officer of United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and has worked in various field as well as in UNDP's Headquarters in New York, serving in the Asia and Pacific and the Africa Region. She also served in the Bureau for Development Policy in progressively senior positions, including that of UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Rep. in Zambia. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration (Development Economics) from Princeton University and a BA (Economics) from Bryn Mawr College, USA.

Panelists



Abdallah Al Dardari is the UNDP's Resident Representative in Afghanistan. He was previously the Senior Advisor on Middle East and North Africa Reconstruction at the World Bank. Previously, he was Chief Economist at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) and Director of the Economic Development and Globalization Division, supporting Arab efforts to deepen regional economic integration, and assisting member states in designing policies that would lead to inclusive growth, job creation, and human security. Prior to UN ESCWA, he was Deputy PM for Economic Affairs (2005-11), and Minister of Planning and

Chairman of the State Planning Commission (2003-05), in the Syrian government. He also served as Assistant Res. Rep. in UNDP Syria (2001-03).



Henry Kerali, a Ugandan national, is the World Bank Country Director for Afghanistan since July 2019.

Mr. Kerali joined the World Bank in 2003 as Senior Highway Engineer in the Infrastructure and Energy Department in Europe and Central Asia region. He has since held various positions, his most recent position being Country Director for Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone for the Africa Region. Before joining the Bank, he was a professor at the University of Birmingham, England, specializing in the development of transport infrastructure. He led the research of developed economic cost-benefit models for assessing the feasibility of infrastructure investments. He holds a BSc (Eng.) from Makerere University, and MSc and Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham, UK.



Jean-Louis Ville is the acting Director for Asia, Central Asia, Middle East/Gulf and Pacific. Prior to this position, he was the Director for Human Development and Migration at the European Commission in the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO). Previously, he served as the Head of Unit in charge of Human Rights, Gender, and Democratic Governance. He is responsible for the policy and thematic issues related to development and implementing a variety of instruments directed to CSOs and International partners.

Working with the European Commission since 1987, he has occupied various positions in several directorate generals (Agriculture, Budget and Development and Cooperation) as Head of Unit for Budget, Finance and Contracts, Regional Programs. He also served for a period as Deputy Head of the private office of the Rt Hon C. PATTEN during his mandate as European Commissioner for External Relations. He studied political sciences in Strasbourg, European Affairs in Bruges, and European law in Paris.



Ajmal Ahmady is the Acting Chairman of Da Afghanistan Bank. He was previously Senior Advisor to the President of Afghanistan on Banking and Finance. He has an MBA from Harvard Business School, a Master of Economics and Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a Bachelors in Mathematics and Economics from UCLA. He previously spent eight years in the asset management industry investing in global macro, emerging markets, and corporate strategies for some of the largest asset managers in the world. He has also worked for Booz Allen Hamilton, the World Bank, an EM private equity group, the US Treasury Department and the Afghan Ministry of Finance.



Manizha Wafeq is the co-founder and President of the Afghanistan Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She is a member of several organizations, including the, Afghan Women Social Islamic Foundation (AWSIF) and the Peace through Business Alumnae Association. She has co-authored a training manual on Business Start-ups and a Gender and the Legal Framework of Afghanistan training manual.



Michael Kocher has been the General Manager of the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), based in Geneva, since 2013. He leads AKF's multi-sector efforts in agriculture and food security, economic inclusion, education, early childhood development, health and nutrition, and civil society across 20 countries of South and Central Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, North America and Western Europe. Within these contexts, Mr. Kocher closely engages AKF's sister agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and a broad range of external partners. Before joining AKF, Mr. Kocher was the Vice President of International Programmes at the International Rescue Committee in New York City, where he led efforts in its multi-sector development, emergency response, and support for refugees and internally

displaced persons. His field assignments have been extensive, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Indonesia, Kenya, South Sudan, Haiti, Bosnia and other places. He received his B.A. in Literature from Kalamazoo College and J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

First Responders



Werner Liepach is the Director General of the Central and West Asia Department at the Asian Development Bank. He assumed office in February 2018. Mr. Liepach oversees the definition and execution of the departmental strategy and business plan, as well as the day-to-day management of operations of the department. He is responsible for overseeing ADB's regional portfolio, which now stands at \$18.6 billion for over 155 projects in seven sector divisions at ADB headquarters and 10 country offices, covering energy; environment, natural resources and agriculture; transport, public management, financial sector, and trade; regional cooperation and operations coordination; social; and urban and water development. Mr. Liepach also supervises ADB's

engagement with the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation program, one of the largest

regional cooperation programs in Asia. He was ADB's Country Director for Pakistan from 2011 to 2017 and has been with ADB since 1992.



Ambassador Kelley Currie was appointed Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues by President Trump in December 2019. She serves simultaneously as the U.S. Representative at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Prior to her appointment, she led the Department of State's Office of Global Criminal Justice (2019) and served under Ambassador Nikki Haley as the United States' Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council and Alternative Representative to the UN General Assembly (2017-2018). Throughout her career in foreign policy, Ambassador Currie has specialized in human rights, political reform, development and humanitarian issues, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. From 2009 until her appointment to the USUN leadership, she served as a Senior Fellow with the Project 2049 Institute. She has held senior policy positions with the

Department of State, the U.S. Congress, and several international and non-governmental human rights and humanitarian organizations. Ambassador Currie received a *Juris Doctor* from Georgetown University Law Center, and an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs.



Keiichiro Nakazawa is Senior Vice President of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and a member of the board. He is responsible for East, Central, and South Asia, and for managing private sector partnerships and finance around the globe. JICA, as an incorporated administrative agency of the government of Japan, is Japan's sole Official Development Assistance (ODA) implementing body.

Nakazawa has more than three decades of total work experience at JICA, JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) and OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan). Over the years, he has focused mainly on development assistance to Asian countries and on ODA operational strategies. As for overseas postings, Nakazawa served as the Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office (2015-17) and of JICA U.S.A. Office (2010-14), and as the Representative of OECF India Office (1991-94).

Nakazawa won a World Bank Graduate Scholarship to study at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where he graduated with a Master's degree in Public Policy in 1991. He was a visiting lecturer of development economics at University of Tokyo (2004) and at Aoyama Gakuin University (2002-04), both in Tokyo, Japan. He has been qualified as a state-certified Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Management Consultant since 2002.



Hojat Fazly is the CEO of the International Chamber of Commerce in Afghanistan. He was previously a Research Analyst at the Society for International Development - Netherlands, a UNDP Advisor, and a Change Management Specialist at USDA. He holds Master's degrees from Leiden University and Erasmus University Rotterdam in the Netherlands.



Allison Minor has served as the Managing Director for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) since March 2020. She was previously the Director for Yemen and Oman at the National Security Council, and served as a Democracy Specialist and Yemen Desk Officer at USAID. She holds a dual Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies and Global Policy Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.



Wagma Mohmand is the IFC Senior Country Officer in Afghanistan. She has contributed to multiple studies and reports on economic private sector development in Afghanistan.