

World Export Development Forum 2023

Diversify with Green Trade: Organic, Digital, Sustainable

SESSION BIOGRAPHIES

Access to Finance



Ms. Hohete-Berhan Arefeaine, Co-Founder and Executive Board Member, African Fintech Network, Ethiopia

Ms. Hohete-Berhan Arefeaine is a Policy Design Professional with over 30 years of experience in the US and across Africa. Ms. Arefeaine is recognized as a prominent expert and consultant in crosscutting fields of technology, health, public sector reform and project management. She has leveraged her considerable experience and knowledge in service of bilateral and multilateral agencies as well as governmental non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Ms. Arefeaine is commonly known as the godmother of the Ethiopian Fintech Council. Beyond Ethiopia, she is also a Founding Executive Board Member of the African Fintech Network which works across the continent.



Mr. Deepesh Patel, Director of Partnerships, Trade Finance Global

Mr. Patel is Editorial Director at Trade Finance Global (TFG) where he leads efforts to develop TFG's brand, relationships and strategic direction in key markets, including the UK, US, Singapore, Dubai and Hong Kong. Mr. Patel is the host of the 'Trade Finance Talks' podcast and 'Trade Finance Talks TV'. He is co-author of 'Blockchain for Trade: A Reality Check' with the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Trade Organization, alongside other industry research. In addition to his work at TFG, Deepesh is a Strategic Advisor for World Open Account, and works closely with the International Trade and Forfeiting Association. He also sits on the Fintech Working Group of the Standardised Trust.



Mr. Holger Wiefel, Regional Head, Central Asia & Mongolia, SME Finance & Development Division, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Mr. Wiefel is an experienced project manager and financial sector development expert in small and medium-sized enterprises. He took up his post as the Regional Head for Central Asia & Mongolia of the SME Finance and Development Group at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2021. In this role, he coordinated the EBRD Ukraine Micro Lending program and the EBRD Micro and Small Enterprise Financing Facility in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Wiefel, a trained public officer, holds an MBA from Mannheim Business School, Germany, and from Tongji University Shanghai.



Dr. Moon-Hwan Kim, Vice President, Innovation Growth Assistance Division, Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME)

Dr. Moon-Hwan Kim has almost three decades of expertise in fostering SMEs and Startups with his professional experience and academic knowledge. With a background in economics and a strong entrepreneurial spirit, he has successfully led numerous projects and initiatives in the government of the Republic of Korea. After 28 years as a public officer, Dr. Kim joined the Korea SMEs and Startups Agency (KOSME) in 2021. With a keen eye for detail and a drive for excellence, he is now leading the Innovation Growth Assistance Division of KOSME. Dr. Kim's relentless pursuit of knowledge and partnership with domestic and overseas SMEs and Startups are contributing to the Korean government's flagship organization supporting small and early-stage business.



Ms. Erdenedelger Bavlai, First Deputy CEO, Khan Bank, Mongolia

With 500 branches across the country and over 4,000 employees, Khan Bank is Mongolia's largest bank serving over 80% of Mongolian Households. As First Deputy CEO, Ms. Erdenedelger Bavlai manages business lines, investor relations and the bank's business and digital strategy. Before her current position, Ms. Bavlai served as Vice President of Corporate Banking, Director of the Treasury and of Investment Banking, and Head of the Treasury Department. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from Indiana University.



Moderator: Mr. Robert Skidmore, Chief, Sector and Enterprise Competitiveness, International Trade Centre

Robert Skidmore is the Chief of the Sector and Enterprise Competitiveness section (SEC) at the International Trade Centre (ITC) where he leads teams focused on SME performance, access to finance, marketing and branding, market entry, ecommerce and sector development in fast moving consumer goods, apparel and the tech sector among others. His teams improve competitiveness of 5,000-10,000 MSMEs a year. He co-leads ITC's core area on Improved MSME Capacities to Trade and ITC's SWITCH On initiative focused on achieving transformative change in digital trade for small business.