Regional Trade Connectivity

Moderator: Mr. Victor Kiprop, BBC Africa

Victor Kiprop is a Business journalist for BBC Africa with significant experience in covering business, economics and governance innovation across Africa. Prior to joining the BBC, Victor worked as a presenter and reporter at NTV Kenya, The EastAfrican and CNBC Africa. He has interviewed global political and business leaders, budding entrepreneurs and policymakers. Victor is also an experienced moderator having guided high-level discussions on some of the world’s biggest platforms. He holds a Bachelor's degree in finance and is pursuing his Master's in Development Finance.

Keynote Address: Mr. Odbayar Erdenetsogt, Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia

Odbayar Erdenetsogt is a career diplomat with more than 17 years of experience in governmental and international organizations. He was appointed as the Foreign policy advisor to the President of Mongolia in June 2021. Prior to his appointment, he served as an Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia from 2016-2018 while serving as the Interim Director and Executive Director of the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries from 2012-2021 Mr. Erdenetsogt began his career as an officer at the European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Where he served as an Attaché, 3rd Secretary and 1st Secretary of the Embassy of Mongolia in Germany, as well as 1st Secretary of the American and African Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds a master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Dresden, Germany.
Gladys Mutangadura, Head of LLDCs Unit, UN Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Gladys Mutangadura is a Senior Programme Officer and Head of LLDCs Unit at UN-OHRLLS. She provides technical and policy advice to address the special development challenges of LLDCs and progress towards effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in coherence with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Before joining OHRLLS she worked as an economic affairs officer with UN Economic Commission for Africa at the headquarters in Ethiopia and the sub-regional office in Zambia. Prior to that, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of North Carolina and a lecturer of development economics at the University of Zimbabwe. She has a PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from Virginia Polytechnic and State University, USA.

Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, Asian Development Bank

Ms. Lazaro oversees the implementation of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 at the Asian Development Bank. She has spearheaded key publications on e-commerce, digital trade, trade facilitation and Free Trade Agreements. Ms. Lazaro is also team-lead for a cross-border economic zone project, as well as various technical assistance programmes on e-government, regional cooperation, and specific initiatives on trade in Mongolia and China. Prior to joining the ADB, she worked as an Economic Affairs Officer for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and pioneered a multi-sectoral economic cooperation programme for the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand-Free Trade-Area while working at the ASEAN Secretariat.

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

Mr. Wiefel is an experienced project manager and financial sector development expert who specializes in small and medium-sized enterprises. He took up his post as the Regional Head for Central Asia and 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 programme and the Micro and Small Enterprise Financing Facility in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Wiefel, a trained public economist, holds an MBA from Mannheim Business School, Germany, and from Tongji University Shanghai, China.
Dr. M. Saeed, Trade Facilitation Senior Adviser, International Trade Centre

Dr. Saeed heads the Trade Facilitation and Policy for Business team at the International Trade Centre. A trade and development expert, his work centers around assisting beneficiary countries to promote trade through improving the competitiveness of private businesses. His interests in this field focus on trade law and policy, in particular investment facilitation and digital commerce. He is a member of the UN Network of Experts for paperless Trade (UNNExT) Advisory Group for SMEs, and is on the Board of Directors of the International Network of Customs Universities (INCU). He holds a Masters in Public Administration from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor’s in Law from the University of London.