



## **High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit**

**19 May 2022, 9:00am-11:30am CET, 2pm-4:30pm Bangkok, Thailand (GMT+7)**

This **‘High-Level Regional Roundtable on Investment Facilitation for Development: How Asian and Pacific Economies Will Benefit’** is co-organized by the International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), and the World Economic Forum (WEF). The Roundtable is convened in the framework of the Investment Facilitation for Development project, jointly implemented by ITC and DIE. It will take place on 19 May 2022, from 9:00am-11:30am CET, 2pm-4:30pm Bangkok, Thailand (GMT+7).

The event will be conducted in English.

To register for the event and receive the meeting-link details, please [register here](#). Please note that, to avoid any difficulties, only participants who register will receive the password to join the on-line roundtable.

This high-level event is meant to offer a platform for a strategic exchange on the negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), launched in September 2020 after over two years of preparatory discussions. The negotiations bring together over 110 WTO Members at all levels of development, aiming to conclude the text negotiations by the end of 2022.<sup>1</sup> Currently, 24 Members from the Asian and Pacific Economies are participating in the negotiations.

High-level policy makers, government officials, private sector representatives, and eminent academic scholars will participate in the Roundtable, to be updated on the negotiations and to raise awareness on their progress and reflect on how countries may make best use of the IFD Agreement to enhance their business climate, attract higher value-added investment and boost economic growth, digital economy innovations and sustainable development. This reflection process also seeks to help participants to ensure that their countries’ international engagement is in line with their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their national reform agendas.

This process is particularly important and timely as a working group led by the WTO secretariat and comprised of leading international organisations active in the field is preparing an 'Investment

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<sup>1</sup> Participating Members reflect a wide geographic representation – the majority being developing countries (77) including 20 least-developed country (LDC) Members. The current list of participating Members is available [here](#).

Facilitation Self-Assessment Guide' to help WTO Members self-assess their needs and priorities for the effective implementation of the future IFD Agreement and the technical assistance and capacity building needs associated with implementation. Need assessments are expected to begin in the second half of this year.

The Roundtable will provide a brief background on the focus and progress of the IFD Agreement negotiations and explore the benefits and possible challenges of an IFD Agreement for Asian and Pacific economies. The objective of this Roundtable is to facilitate awareness raising, joint learning and capacity building among participants. The Roundtable will be held under the Chatham House Rule to facilitate open and results-oriented discussions.

## PROGRAMME

### **09:00**                      **1<sup>st</sup> Session: Opening session**

*Chair*                              **Rupa Chanda**, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, ESCAP

*Speakers*                      **Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary, ESCAP  
**Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)  
**Børge Brende**, President, WEF  
**Dorothy Tembo**, Deputy Executive Director, ITC  
**Guest address: Anabel González**, Deputy Director-General, WTO

### **09:25**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> Session: The importance of investment facilitation from national and regional perspectives**

*Chair*                              **Federico Ortino**, Professor of International Economic Law, King's College London

*Speakers*                      **Mathias Francke**, Ambassador of Chile to the WTO, Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development – *“The state of play of the WTO negotiations on an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement”*  
**H.E. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya** , Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, Republic of Fiji – *“How important is investment facilitation for the Republic of Fiji? What is needed to strengthen IF in Fiji?”*

**Burak Dağlıoğlu**, President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey – *“Which investment facilitation measures are most important”*

**Ariffin Sulaiman**, Assistant Head of FAST (FDI Action and Support Centre under the BEDB), Brunei Darussalam – *“How important is investment facilitation for Brunei Darussalam? What is needed to strengthen IF in Brunei Darussalam?”*

**Michael Lim**, Executive Director, Crowe Malaysia – *“An investor’s perspective on the importance of investment facilitation”*

*Discussant*

**Pavida Pananond**, Professor, Thammasat University

**10:25**

**Coffee break**

**10:30**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session: How an Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement can contribute to sustainable development**

*Chair*

**Matthew Stephenson**, Head of Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

*Speakers*

**Sunghwan Lee**, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea in Geneva - *“Key areas of action to facilitate sustainable FDI”*

**Manothong Vongxay**, Vice Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR - *“Understanding countries’ needs and support requirements to implement investment facilitation measures”*

**Sushil Bhatta**, CEO, Investment Board, Nepal - *“The importance of investment facilitation for Nepal and the need for capacity building”*

**Renuka Weerakone**, Director General, Board of Investment, Sri Lanka – *“Which investment facilitation measures are most important”*

**Craig Burchell**, Senior Vice President, Global Government Affairs, Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. – *“An investor’s perspective on the importance of investment facilitation”*

*Discussant*

**Ismail Ersahin**, CEO (a.i.), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

**11:25**

**Concluding remarks**

**Axel Berger**, Deputy Director (interim), DIE

## **Background materials**

[Fact sheet on the Joint Initiative on IFD \(WTO, November 2021\).](#)

[ITC-DIE project on Investment Facilitation for Development.](#)

[Axel Berger and Karl P. Sauvant, eds., \*Investment Facilitation for Development: A Toolkit for Policymakers\* \(Geneva: ITC, 2021\).](#)

[Axel Berger, Ali Dadkhah and Zoryana Olekseyuk, “Quantifying investment facilitation at country level: Introducing a new index” \(Bonn: DIE, 2021\).](#)

[Ahmed Omic and Matthew Stephenson, “What can Government do to facilitate investment? Important measures identified through surveys”, WAIPA and WEF.](#)

[Karl P. Sauvant, “How would a future WTO Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development encourage sustainable FDI flows, and how could it be further strengthened?”.](#)

[Karl P. Sauvant, “The potential value-added of a Multilateral Framework on Investment Facilitation for Development”, \*Transnational Dispute Management\*, vol. 2 \(2020\).](#)

[WEF, Global Investment Policy and Practice, including workstream on Investment Facilitation.](#)

## **Bios**

### **Axel Berger**

Axel Berger is Deputy Director (interim) at the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE). He works on the design, effects and diffusion patterns of international trade and investment agreements, with a focus on emerging markets and developing countries. His other areas of research include the effects of an international investment facilitation framework, impact of free trade agreements on upgrading within global value chains, and role of the G20 in global governance. He teaches international political economy at the University of Bonn and regularly advises developing countries, development agencies and international organizations on trade and investment matters.

### **Sushil Bhatta**

Sushil Bhatta is the CEO of Investment Board Nepal. He is a former member of National Planning Commission and immediate past President of Management Association of Nepal. He has more than 17 years of professional experience in managing infrastructure projects, financial institutions, and development organizations. He was conferred with the “CEO with HR Orientation Award” at the 26th Edition of the Times Ascent World HRD Congress 2018 in India. He holds Bachelor’s degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Master’s degree in Business Administration. He is an active member of Nepal Engineers’ Association, Nepal Council of Arbitrators and Far Western Stakeholders Forum.

### **Børge Brende**

Børge Brende is President of the World Economic Forum. He served as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister of the Environment for the government of Norway. He was also a member of the Norwegian Parliament for many years, Secretary General for the Norwegian Red Cross and Chairperson of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development, Board Member of Equinor, and Member of the Board of the Norwegian School of Economics.

## **Rupa Chanda**

Rupa Chanda is the Director of Trade, Investment and Innovation division at ESCAP. Before joining ESCAP, she was a Professor of Economics at IIM Bangalore. She has worked as an Economist at the IMF and briefly served as Head, UNESCAP Subregional Office for South and South-West Asia, New Delhi. She received her PhD in Economics from Columbia University and Bachelor's from Harvard University. She has published extensively in the areas of services trade, WTO, regional integration, and migration. She has been a member of national and international expert committees.

## **Burak Dağlıoğlu**

Burak Dağlıoğlu is President of the Investment Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye since February 2020. Prior to that, he held a number of posts within the Office as the Vice President from 2015 to 2020 and Project Director in charge of the Gulf Countries, India, Japan, and USA investment from 2010 to 2015. In November 2020 he was appointed Member of the Board of Türkiye Wealth Funds. Earlier in his career, he worked in consulting industry. He holds a BA in Economics from Boğaziçi University and Global Master in Finance from IE Business University.

## **Mathias Francke**

Mathias Francke is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Chile to the WTO and Coordinator of the Structured Discussions on Investment Facilitation for Development. Previously, he was APEC SOM Chair (2019), and Director General for Multilateral Economic Affairs, Director for Bilateral Economic Affairs, Chief of Cabinet, and senior advisor at the Chilean Vice Minister of Trade. As a Foreign Service officer since 1989, he was posted at the Embassy of Chile in the UK (2014 to 2018), Chile's Permanent Mission to the WTO (2000 to 2005, and as Deputy Head of Mission from 2006 to 2010) and the Trade Office of the Embassy of Chile in the USA (1992 to 1996). He is a lawyer from the Catholic University of Chile.

## **Anabel González**

Anabel González is Deputy Director-General to the World Trade Organization. She is a renowned global expert on trade, investment and economic development with a proven managerial track record in international organisations and the public sector. In government, she served as Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; as Director General for International Trade Negotiations; as Director-General of the Costa Rican Investment Promotion Agency (CINDE); and as Special Ambassador and Chief negotiator of the US-Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. She also served at the World Bank as a Senior Director, at the WTO as Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division and as Senior Consultant with the IDB.

## **Dato Lim Jock Hoi**

Dato Lim Jock Hoi was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam since 2006. During his tenure, he served as Brunei Darussalam's Senior Official for the ASEAN Economic Community Pillar (SEOM), APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) and the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting). He was a member of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) since 2001, serving as the HLTF-EI Chair in 2017. He was Brunei Darussalam's Chief Negotiator for the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), as well as for the P4, precursor to the TPP negotiations.

### **Federico Ortino**

Federico Ortino is Professor of International Economic Law at The Dickson Poon School of Law, King's College London. He is a member of the ILA Committee on the Rule of Law and International Investment Law; founding Committee Member (and former co-Treasurer) of the Society of International Economic Law; consultative member of the Investment Treaty Forum; general co-editor of the International Trade and Investment Law Series with Hart Publishing; editorial board member of the Journal of International Economic Law, Journal of International Dispute Settlement and Journal of World Investment and Trade. He has been involved as expert in projects with UNCTAD, ITC, OECD, IISD and WEF. He is a Consultant to Clifford Chance.

### **Kaveh Zahedi**

Kaveh Zahedi is the Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He oversees ESCAP's substantive programmes on finance, trade, energy, transport, environment, natural disasters, social development, and statistics all in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He also coordinates ESCAP's UN inter agency work. Mr. Zahedi has worked for the United Nations in Kenya, Mexico, Europe and Thailand. He holds a Master's degree from the Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA, and a BSc degree in Economics & Geography (1st class) from University College London.

### **Pavida Pananond**

Pavida Pananond is Professor of International Business at Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University. Her research focuses on the international expansion of firms, with specific reference to global value chain positioning and upgrading strategies of emerging market firms. She serves on a number of editorial boards of international peer-reviewed journals and is Honorary Adviser to Asia New Zealand Foundation. In addition to MBA and executive teaching, she also provides briefings to diplomatic missions, chambers of commerce, and multinational companies. Her commentaries have also been published and cited in local and international media, including *Financial Times*, and the *BBC*.

### **Matthew Stephenson**

Matthew Stephenson is Head of Investment Policy and Practice at the World Economic Forum, where he manages the [Global Investment Policy and Practice](#) initiative. Previously, he worked at the IFC, where he led the workstream on outward FDI. He has also worked at the OECD on Africa and investment and served as a diplomat for the U.S. Department of State, leading the economic team on Afghanistan and managing economic programs in the Middle East. He is a member of the T20 Task Force on Trade and Investment. He has a PhD from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, a master's from the Harvard Kennedy School and a bachelor's from Oxford University.

### **Dorothy Tembo**

Dorothy Tembo has served as Deputy Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC) since June 2014, as well as ITC's Executive Director ad interim from January to September 2020. Prior to ITC, she served as the Executive Director of the multi-donor funded Enhanced Integrated Framework Programme (EIF) at the WTO. She also served as Chief Trade Negotiator and Director of Foreign Trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry of Zambia, as Advisor on USAID projects in Zambia, and held various positions in Zambia's National Commission for Development Planning.

**Manothong Vongxay**

Manothong Vongxay is Vice-Minister, Ministry of Industrial and Commerce, Lao PDR. Previously he acted as Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Planning and Investment, Director General of the Department of Evaluation, Ministry of Planning and Investment and Director General of the Investment Promotion Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment. He holds a Doctoral Degree in Business Administration from Hohai University, China, a Master of Economics of Development from the Australian National University and a Master of Science in Mathematics and Physics from the Voronez State Teaching Institute, Voronez, Russia.

**Renuka Weerakone**

Renuka Weerakone is an Attorney-at-Law by profession counting over 32 years of experience and commenced her career as an instructing attorney with a leading Law firm in Sri Lanka. Being a licensed Notary Public and Commissioner for Oaths, she also holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration. She is the current Director General of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka. In her career at the BOI spanning 28 years, she has performed her duties as a leading role in several key areas such as Investment Promotion, Investment Appraisal and Project Monitoring and has gained a wealth of experience and broad knowledge on investment facilitation. She has also served as the Director General for Investment at the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka.