Mr. Rob Skidmore is Chief of the Sector Competitiveness section at the International Trade Centre where he manages a team responsible for promoting sector-wide transformation in a range of goods and services sectors. The section specializes in services, agri-food, light manufacturing, cotton to clothing and fibre, trade and environment and linking poor communities to global value chains. In services, his work focuses on export promotion and trade intelligence with sectoral specialization in tourism and IT and IT enabled services. Before joining ITC he worked at a number of US-based consulting firms including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Development Alternatives Incorporated and Abt Associates. He holds a Masters Degree in International Economics from Johns Hopkins SAIS and a Bachelor’s degree in Latin American history from the University of Wisconsin.

Ms. Jane Drake-Brockman has deep and diverse trade in services experience at senior level in business, government, international organizations and academia. Starting with the Australian Treasury, she then spent a decade with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the OECD before pursuing a distinguished career as a diplomat and trade negotiator, holding a variety of positions in the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, including Chief Economist, Minister and Chargé D’Affaires in Brussels, Head of the Middle East and Africa Branch and Chief of Staff to the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation.

She is the Founder and first CEO of the Australian Services Roundtable (the peak industry body for the services industries), later becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Hong Kong Coalition of Services Industries, Convenor of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council Taskforce on Services and Co-Convenor of the Global Services Network. She served on the Board of the Australian chapter of the International Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Brains Trust of the Evian Group.

Over the last ten years, Jane has undertaken innumerable trade in services TIRTA consultancies throughout Asia-Pacific, taught Macroeconomics in the MBA Programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, added to her extensive publications record and been a prominent speaker on the services economy at international events, especially in the APEC arena.

Pumela Salela is a Board member of the Global Sourcing Council, an Ambassador for Sustainable and Socially Responsible Outsourcing in Africa, and sits on the Executive Committee of the Tri-Sister City Alliance (TriSCA), the first Sister City Alliance between BRICS cities in order to create jobs for knowledge workers. She was appointed to be in the Advisory Council of the World BPO Forum, which is considered “the Davos of BPO”. Pumela also serves in the Advisory Board of the World Summit on Internet and Social Media (WSIM). She also sits in the Advisory Board of the Sable Accelerator LLC (SABLE), a North American organisation which is dedicated to helping South African entrepreneurs expand into global markets.

The Rockefeller Foundation acknowledged her contribution and innovation in formulating systems which address poverty by selecting Salela to be one of the 18 global recipients of the foundation’s inaugural Global Fellowship on Social Innovation—an only South African to receive the honour. Pumela has also worked as a Consultant for the World Bank, based at the organisation’s United States headquarters in Washington D.C.; a Director for Policy at the dti and Deputy Director for Investment Promotion at Trade and Investment South Africa, where she was responsible for attracting foreign direct investment (fdi) into South Africa. Salela studied to complete her MBA with distinction (cum laude) in England through a Nelson Mandela Scholarship. In her private capacity, Pumela is the Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Scholarship Alumni Association and a Mentor to Graca Machel Scholars.

She is featured in DESTINY magazine (2012) as one of South Africa’s Young and Powerful Achievers and the 2013 issue of the book South Africa’s Most Inspirational Women. DESTINY magazine acknowledged her as one of the Top 40 young leaders, innovators and job creators in South Africa in 2013.

Diane Sayinzoga is the Service Development Division Manager within Rwanda Development Boards (RDB), she is in charge of promoting export, investment and create job in service sector through private sector development. Previously she was the division manager in charge of Trade Development. She has an advanced Masters in International and Development Economics from the Economic School of Louvain - Belgium and a Bachelor’s degree in Economics.

Before joining RDB she worked for the Ministry of finance and economic planning as Strategic Planner and Business analyst. In addition, she is currently a board member of “University Teaching Hospitals” in Rwanda. Mrs. Diane has designed and implemented different export promotion initiatives that aim to promote Rwandan products in regional and international markets. She has strong planning and policy advisory skills and is working closely with local and international players in trade and Investment promotion.
Mr. Quan Zhao is the Trade in Services officer at the International Trade Centre (ITC). Prior to joining the ITC, Mr. Zhao was the services negotiator at the Permanent Mission of China to the World Trade Organization (2009-2014). He also worked at the Chinese Ministry of Commerce before being posted to Geneva, focused on services trade in WTO Doha Round negotiations and FTAs (2003-2009). He has served as the Chair for WTO's Committee on Trade in Financial Services, and holds a master's degree on international law and economics from the World Trade Institute in Bern.

ITC is the joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Its mission is to foster sustainable economic development and contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in developing countries through trade and international business development.

Paul works with the Uganda Export Promotion Board as the Director for Market and Product Development. He has been involved in Export Promotion and Development activities since 2009. He is responsible for promoting the export development of Ugandan goods and services and has been instrumental in the design and implementation of interventions geared at enhancing services exports from Uganda. He leads the Uganda Export Promotion Board’s services unit which is currently engaged in among others efforts geared at strengthening the organisational capacities of the private sector and its ability to get integrated in the global value chains.

Hubert Escaith joined the World Trade Organization in 2006 as Chief Statistician. He is also a Research Fellow at GREGAM/DEFI a research centre dealing with Development Economics and International Finance at Aix-Marseille University, France.

He started his career in the academia, as a researcher for the "Centre de Recherche Economique et Statistique" at France's Toulouse University (now 'Groupe de Recherche en Economie Mathématique et Quantitative' GREMAQ). He joined the United Nations in 1982 as an economist; his first international posting was in Baghdad (Iraq) where he dealt with agricultural development and food security in the Middle East region. He moved to Latin America and the Caribbean in 1988, first in Mexico, then in Chile, where he held various positions related to macroeconomics, trade, economic development, and statistical analysis. His last post with the UN was of Director of the Division of Statistics and Economic Modelling at ECLAC (Santiago, Chile).

Hubert holds a Master in economics and econometrics from Aix-Marseille University (F), a doctorate in Mathematics Applied to Economics from the University of Toulouse and a Master Degree from ESSEC Business School.