Mr. Friedrich von Kirchbach
Director, Division of Country Programmes, ITC

Mr. Friedrich von Kirchbach is Director of the Division of Country Programmes in the Geneva-based International Trade Centre (ITC). He is responsible for the coordination and design of ITC’s programmes at the country and regional levels.

He has been instrumental in the development of ITC’s Web-based tools for strategic market research, which are now being used around the world.

Mr. von Kirchbach, a German national, holds a PhD in economics focusing on policies on foreign direct investment in the ASEAN countries. He has been associated with several national and international institutions, including ESCAP, INSEAD, ILO, OECD, and the Volkswagen Foundation.

Ms. Patricia R. Francis
Executive Director, ITC

Patricia R. Francis, an award-winning leader and business facilitator, joined the International Trade Centre as Executive Director in June 2006.

During her tenure at ITC, the annual project implementation has almost doubled the delivery of technical assistance from US$25.3 million to US$47.8 million in 2011 with larger, multi-year programmes representing more than 50% of the portfolio.

She has also led a change management process which has established a strategic planning and reporting cycle, mainstreamed MDG programmes for gender, environment and poverty, and introduced results based management and accountability principles. A new brand identity has aligned ITC values to its profile.

Ms. Francis came to ITC from Jamaica Trade and Invest, where she served as President for ten years. She was a member of Jamaica’s Cabinet Committee for Development and during her tenure, Jamaica attracted more than US$3 billion in foreign direct investment. She served twice as President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies and the China-Caribbean Business Council.

She is currently on the advisory boards of IESE graduate business school and a former member of the Eminent Persons Group for the Commonwealth, a group created to examine options for reform of the Commonwealth’s many institutions.