

Trade works through innovative partnerships for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

1 October 2015, 17:00-18:30, WTO Public Forum, Room W, Geneva

Short biographies



Ricardo Meléndez-Ortiz, Chief Executive, ICTSD

Co-founding Chief Executive of ICTSD; Principal Convener, ICTSD-WEF E15 Initiative; Publisher of BRIDGES periodicals since 1997; World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Councils; Board of Directors, Meridian Institute (U.S.) and IPWatch (Geneva); Steering Committee, DfID's (Zedillo's) Global Trade and Finance Architecture Initiative; Panels of Experts of NAFTA's CEC and EU-Korea FTA; Former: negotiator and delegate for Colombia on trade and investment (bilateral and GATT/WTO), environment (UNCED/Rio 92; UNFCCC; Montreal Protocol; CBD) and development (UNCTAD/ECOSOC/ILO); Spokesperson, G77; Chair, UN Commissions on Commodities and on Preferences; Chair, International Textiles & Clothing Bureau (ITCB); Founding Executive Director, Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (Quito); Adviser, Colombian Minister of Economic Development; Chief of Administration, Office of the President of Colombia. Edited and authored a wide range of articles and books.



Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue

Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD); Chair, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals; Chair, viz. LDC IV Monitor; Macro-economist and public policy analyst. Former: first Executive Director, CPD; Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the WTO and UN Offices of Geneva and Vienna; Special Advisor on LDCs to the Secretary General of UNCTAD. Member of many international development networks, governing bodies of a number of leading institutions and editorial board of reputed journals. Has published on trade, investment and finance related issues of the LDCs as well as on post-2015 international development agenda. Has studied in Dhaka, Moscow and Oxford. Held a number of visiting positions including at the Centre for Global Development (CGD), Washington DC.



Roberto Vega, Head of Product & Smallholder Policy, Syngenta

Roberto Vega joined Syngenta in March 2014 as Head of Product & Smallholder Policy. The purpose of his role is to support the strategic direction of Syngenta in product and smallholder policies, building and maintaining relationships with key NGOs, IGOs, industry groups and representative bodies, and developing implementation plans with global, regional and territory functions to enable the delivery of Syngenta's sustainability commitments. Before Syngenta, Roberto worked for over 15 years with Dole Food Company, playing strategic roles in finance, production, logistics and sustainability. As Director of Sustainability for Dole worldwide, Roberto participated in several initiatives and projects with different stakeholders including Rainforest Alliance, WWF, Fairtrade International, the Water Footprint Network, the World Banana Forum and many others. Roberto has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and Finance, and a M.B.A. in International Business from Universidad Internacional de las Américas in Costa Rica. He also completed the Sustainable Development Program of INCAE Business School in Costa Rica and an executive program in Business and Public Policy of The Graduate Institute in Geneva.



Thomas Bombelles, Head, Global Health, WIPO

Thomas Bombelles is Head, Global Health, in the Global Challenges Division, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in Geneva, Switzerland where he oversees the Division's work stream on global health, which includes WIPO Research – Sharing Innovation in the Fight Against Neglected Tropical Diseases. Prior to joining WIPO, Mr. Bombelles worked for the pharmaceutical industry as an international policy analyst based in Washington, DC, working first for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and also for Merck & Co., Inc. during his career in the pharmaceutical industry. He has a B.A. degree, honors, in English literature from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and an M.A. degree, honors, in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC.



Katherine Hagen, Executive Director, Global Social Observatory

Dr. Katherine A. Hagen is the founder and Executive Director of the Global Social Observatory, a Geneva-based NGO established in 2004 with a mission to promote multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue and collaboration on global social issues. Dr. Hagen applies her extensive practical experience in negotiating and building coalitions on major social and economic policy issues to the Geneva international scene. GSO initiatives address trust-building for multi-stakeholder collaboration, linking diverse interests in health, labour, trade, food security and nutrition, human rights, gender equality, climate change and sustainable development generally. Most recently, she has organized a series of roundtables on challenges and opportunities for Geneva-based multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Dr. Hagen also writes a weekly commentary for the CMMD Geneva Observer that delivers insights on contemporary global social and economic issues and information on how these issues are being addressed across the many international organizations in Geneva and elsewhere. A lawyer and political scientist by training, she has both public and private sector experience – having held positions as a Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization, an AT&T executive, a White House Fellow, a State Senator in North Carolina, a college professor of international relations and a social activist on women's rights. A long-time member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Dr. Hagen also represents Graduate Women International in the Geneva international organizations.