

Presenters and Moderators for the Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Stakeholder's Forum

Amadu Massally – World Bank

*Consultant, Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study, Trade and Competitiveness
Global Practice*



Amadu Massally was born in Sierra Leone, but he moved to the United States as a young man in order to obtain higher education. After living in the United States for two decades, he returned home where he lived and worked in both the public and private sector. He is, thus, a man of two worlds – both Africa and America – and he has used his knowledge and experience to help bring those worlds together in positive ways.

He returned to Sierra Leone in 2009, with a project that would have seen diaspora Sierra Leoneans investing in the state-owned enterprises that were being privatized by government. Upon returning home for a project that was to last just a few months, he was so taken aback by the poor conditions of his native land that he stayed for five years to contribute to what he calls “national development.” He has held many positions in the US while working for Fortune 500 companies to include General Electric, Price Waterhouse Coopers and American Express as a certified public accountant (CPA) and/or a certified information systems auditor (CISA) until his return to Sierra Leone.

While in Sierra Leone he worked as the first Managing Director of the first Sierra Leonean owned and operated finance and leasing company. He was then appointed by President Koroma to three positions in the Office of the President. He was the first Executive Secretary of the Citizens’ Committee, and later appointed to be the Program Manager at the Millennium Challenge Coordinating Unit, and finally as Coordinator of the Open Government Partnership.

Massally is currently employed as a Consultant with the World Bank and coordinating a Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study.

Among the different things he does for his native Sierra Leone, he sees himself as an activist for national development. Amadu Massally is a true son of the soil and he exemplifies this every day in the activities he is involved in that are deeply geared towards development of his native Sierra Leone.

Cecile Fruman – World Bank

Director, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice



Cecile Fruman is Director in the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice of the World Bank Group. She was appointed in July 2014 and oversees the delivery of solutions to Bank Group clients across the world. During her tenure at the World Bank Group, Cecile has been Manager of the Knowledge and Solutions Change Team, the World Bank Change Team and the International Finance Corporation's Change Management Office. In that capacity, she led the design and establishment of the World Bank Group's Global Practices and Cross-Cutting Solution Areas.

Prior to this, Cecile was the Manager of the Private Participation in Infrastructure and Social Sectors Service Line of the World Bank Group Investment Climate Global Practice. As such, she oversaw advisory programs that promote a better investment climate in specific sectors, namely health, education, and infrastructure (with a focus on renewable energy) and incubation of investment climate activities in new areas such as green growth and competition.

A French national, Cecile started her career in microfinance and SME development, spending four years in Mali managing a rural microfinance institution and several years working on a World Bank global research program (Sustainable Banking with the Poor).

Dr. Liesl Riddle – George Washington University

Associate Professor of International Business & International Affairs & Faculty Advisor GW Center for International Business Education and Research (GW-CIBER)



Liesl Riddle is an Associate Professor of International Business and International Affairs at The George Washington University School of Business.

Dr. Riddle has written extensively about diasporas and development, international entrepreneurship, and trade and investment promotion. She co-authored the first published study about diaspora investment in *the Journal of International Business Studies* in 1999. Having examined diaspora investment and entrepreneurship for over 25 years, Dr. Riddle has conducted research with diaspora communities in the USA and Europe originating from countries of origin in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. Since 2006, she has led the GW Diaspora Capital Investment Project, which generates and disseminates learning about diaspora investment and its role in development to assist private-sector firms, policymakers, diaspora organizations, diaspora entrepreneurs, and researchers.

Dr. Riddle consults on diaspora engagement-related issues for international organizations and government agencies, such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and USAID, and for private-sector clients, including Western Union. She is an advisor to the Hague Process on Refugees and Migration and a member of the advisory board of Homestrings. She also was one of the original partners of the African Diaspora Marketplace (<http://www.diasporamarketplace.org/>). She is a founding member and co-director of GW's Diaspora Research Program within GW's Elliott School for International Affairs' Institute for Global Studies (<http://elliott.gwu.edu/research-programs/diaspora>) and is a faculty advisor for GW's Center for International Business Education and Research (<http://business.gwu.edu/about-us/research/ciber/>) in the area of diaspora investment and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Riddle has received numerous teaching awards, including the GW School of Business Teaching Excellence Award. She teaches course at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive levels, including courses on Migration, Identity & International Business; Global Perspectives; International Management; and Managing in Developing Countries.

She previously served as Associate Dean for Graduate Programs in the School of Business, where she oversaw fourteen graduate programs, including five MBA and nine specialized master degree programs. She spearheaded the launch of GW's Digital Community, a suite of online graduate degree programs (<http://digitalcommunity.gwu.edu/>).

Dr. Riddle holds a BA and MA in Middle Eastern Studies, a MBA in Marketing/International Business, and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to her

appointment at GW in 2001, she worked in the field of market research and held the position of the Director of Research for an international market research firm.

Sia Iscandari



Sia Iscandari moved back to Sierra Leone 6 years ago and worked in various development roles within USAID funded programs; most recently as the Program Director for the Sustainable Nutrition and Agriculture Promotion (SNAP) program implemented through ACDI/VOCA, International Medical Corporation and Opportunities Industrialization Centers. During this period she designed and delivered successful capacity building and program initiatives to support rural communities' resilience and development with specific focus on vulnerable populations (children, women and youth). In terms of economic development, she helped to make key inroads in rural agribusiness and enterprise development by supporting the implementation of financial tools and capacity building for commercial agricultural enterprises, launching private and financial sector forums and driving the platform for dialogue and partnership between rural smallholder farming entities and the commercial sector.

During the EVD crisis, she worked through the program to support the emergency (health/food aid) and more recently the recovery (social protection/private sector recovery) efforts.

In partnership with her husband, they launched an African textile and clothing outlet in 2012 focusing on promoting West African couture to the Sierra Leonean market.

Before moving into the development arena, her career spanned over 11 years in the UK financial services sector working with the Lloyds Banking Group. Initially working in Retail Banking up to Senior Branch Manager level overseeing flagship banks in Oxford Street and West Hampstead, London. She later moved over to the Head Office and worked in different roles from business analysis to program management with successful delivery and implementation of various portfolio projects and initiatives.

She holds an MBA from the Nottingham Business School and is an APMP certified project manager. She is currently pursuing a PHD in Development Studies and Emerging Economies.

Vidal O. Smith – Salvest LLC

Founder



Vidal O. Smith is an engineer, an inventor, a student of development economics, a certified project manager and an entrepreneur. He believes that for Sierra Leone to become developed, Sierra Leoneans must become majority investors in their own country.

Vidal Smith has been involved with efforts at capital formation within Sierra Leonean communities since the early 90's. He was a valuable contributor in the planning of the DENI-SL program.

He holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Oregon Institute of Technology; an MBA from Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California; and a M.S. degree in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley, where he produced a 62-page work entitled "Energy for The Development of Sierra Leone" as his master's project.

Vidal Smith is certified by the Project Management Institute as a Project Management Professional and he is a Member of the Association of Energy Engineers.

In 2009, Vidal Smith founded Salvest LLC, an investment vehicle through which Sierra Leoneans or friends of Sierra Leone can pool their funds, their technical and managerial expertise to start for-profit companies in various sectors of the Sierra Leone economy.

The company's first enterprise, a green-field project for producing sea salt in the Moyamba District, has employed twenty-five Sierra Leoneans for each of the last four years and is in now in the pilot production stage.

Vidal Smith lives in Lake Villa, Illinois and he makes working visits to Sierra Leone on a regular basis.

Ansumana Bangura – Globalink Sierra Leone

Founder & CEO



Ansumana Bangura is a successful and prominent Sierra Leonean-American businessman and entrepreneur. Ansu is the founder and CEO of Globalink, SL (www.globalink-sl.net). Ansu has an Undergraduate degree in Management, with concentration in accounting from Kent State University, and an MBA in finance from Atlanta University. After graduating, Ansu worked in corporate America with METLIFE as a financial analyst, and soon after, started Eneni's Garden, a unique floral retail and internet business. After over 10 years in the floral retail and internet business, Ansu also started another successful company Alpha Home Medical in Atlanta Georgia that provides home health products to residents in the Southeastern United States of America. Ansu spends most of his time

in Sierra Leone, and is actively involved in the operations of Globalink.

Trevor Young – Sierra Leone Action

Co-founder



Trevor Young, originally from Sierra Leone, is the founder of Tseai Energy Unlimited, a renewable energy research center based in Kambia, Sierra Leone. In 2009 he designed a system that includes the installation of small-scale processing mills to convert local crops into value added products and renewable energy.

In August 2014, Young help found Sierra Leone Action, an organization comprising a global team of Sierra Leonean professionals and volunteers with the specific goal of making Convalescent Serum Treatment (CST) available to any Sierra Leonean who contract the Ebola virus. He traveled to Sierra Leone in November 2014 and over a four month period he helped trained a team of health care workers and technicians on the use

of blood separation devices integral for the implementation of CST.

Most recently Young founded KaiKai News, a media organization based in Freetown that hires and trains young Sierra Leoneans to produces video documentaries. Young is graduate of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Maryland at College Park, with a concentration in Environmental Economics.

Millicent Lewis-Ojumu – CLAS Consult

Founder



Millicent Lewis-Ojumu acquired her legal training in corporate finance from the UK City Firm of Hammonds where she trained as a solicitor in finance, ABL deals and project finance. She moved to Sierra Leone in 2003 to become State Counsel to the National Commission for Privatization and subsequently established CLAS Consult Limited a consultancy firm now ten year strong and operating in the UK, Sierra Leone and Liberia providing bespoke corporate services to donor and Government agencies, charities and companies operating in West Africa. She has also established a Centre for Alternative Dispute Resolution in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Chamber of Commerce and The Shookoobly Business Centre in Freetown, providing full serviced office and conference facilities including a library and a crèche for working mums and dads.

Millicent speaks fluent French and has worked across the ECOWAS region as a management and legal consultant on various projects including for the World Bank (financial education), ITU (telecoms/ICT), ECOWAS Commission (ICT regulatory harmonization) and the Governments of Sierra Leone (energy) and Liberia (universal access, cyber security).

Joy Spencer – World Bank

Consultant, Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice



Joy Spencer is a Communications and Outreach Strategy Specialist on the World Bank Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade Study. Ms. Spencer provides critical strategic direction and logistical execution for the study's community outreach which is designed to engage the Sierra Leone diaspora on their perceptions of the challenges and opportunities to investing in Sierra Leone post-Ebola. Ms. Spencer has over 12 years of experience in consumer policy advocacy, strategic planning, community engagement and partnership development on a variety of issues ranging from access to essential medicines, HIV-prevention education and online privacy.

Ms. Spencer is a “connector of the inspired dots” linking inspired people to other people, ideas and resources. Ms. Spencer seeks out those who like her envision an African renaissance, believe that theirs and other African minds are Africa's most valuable resource, and want to

participate by “building their own” contributions in addition to learning to become better collaborators who support like-minded visionaries. Ms. Spencer facilitates these connections and promotes positive social change through convening, curating ideas and translating concepts through various media including writing and her “Random Acts of Education” video blog.

Ms. Spencer studied Economics at the College of William and Mary and received a Master’s in International Educational Development at Columbia University’s Teachers College.

You can follow Joy Spencer on Twitter at @joyful9802, Watch “Random Acts of Education” on her Joyful9802 Youtube channel and read some of her writings as a World Pulse correspondent at <https://www.worldpulse.com/en/my-pulse/profile>

Tracy K. Washington – International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Senior Investment Officer



Tracy Washington leads IFC’s private equity investments in Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Funds and manages IFC’s pioneering SME Ventures Program focused on fragile and frontier markets. This includes SME Venture’s West Africa Venture Fund, which has invested in eleven growing SMEs in Sierra Leone. With twenty years of experience in development finance, as well as a specific expertise in SME funds, Ms. Washington leads SME Ventures’ work in bringing innovative private equity models to some of the world’s most challenging markets. Before her appointment to this role, Ms. Washington served as Investment Manager of the IFC Mozambique SME Initiative, combining risk capital finance with technical assistance to accelerate the growth of local SMEs. Prior to her work with SME funds, Ms. Washington led corporate finance investments with global clients in the manufacturing, health and education, and financial sectors in emerging markets, including those in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and South Asia. Ms. Washington holds a MBA degree from the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business and a BS degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Yohannes Assefa, Esq. – Ethiopian Diaspora Business Forum

Executive Director



Yohannes Assefa, Esq. is the Executive Director of the Ethiopian Diaspora Business Forum, the oldest operating Ethiopian Diaspora business association in the United States. The Forum each year holds a business conference and awards dinner which this year celebrated its 10th year anniversary. The goal of the Forum is to promote entrepreneurship in the Ethiopian Diaspora, and trade and investment between Ethiopia and the United States. Mr. Assefa regularly writes and speaks on African Diaspora investment matters and has served as transaction counsel on numerous Diaspora investments in Africa.

Mr. Assefa is also Director at Stalwart Management Consulting Services Ltd., a Dubai-based management consulting firm focusing on the development of financial and agricultural markets in developing countries. At Stalwart, Mr. Assefa leads the firm's advisory work on policy, legal and regulatory work and has and continues to advise various private and public sector clients around Africa, including the World Bank and the IFC, AGRA, Bank of Tanzania and others on financial inclusion, financial sector reform, establishment of commodity exchanges and warehouse receipt development. Over the past four years, Mr. Assefa has worked with clients in Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi, Mozambique, Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Mali. Mr. Assefa was also part of the Ethiopian Diaspora professional team that helped establish the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX).

From 2003 to 2008, Mr. Assefa served as a Securities Associate at Hawkins Delafield and Wood, LLP in Washington DC and at Harris Beach PLLC in Pittsford, New York, respectively. He clerked at the New York Supreme Court, Fourth Appellate Division, prior to joining Harris Beach in 2003. In 2004, Mr. Assefa was named "Up and Coming Attorney" of the year by The Daily Record, a New York State-based legal journal. Mr. Assefa received his Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law. He received his Masters of Science degree in Criminology from Indiana State University, and his Bachelors of Art in Social Ecology from the University of California, Irvine. Mr. Assefa is a member of the New York and Washington DC bar associations.

Daniela Henrike Klau-Panhans – World Bank

Senior Operations Officer



Henrike is the private sector expert within the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Unit of the World Bank. Her work focuses on relevant topics for private sector development in fragile countries such as involvement of the diaspora or corporate social responsibility.

Henrike has more than 15 years of working experience in the private sector as well as in fragile environments. A banker by profession she worked for the German Savings Bank and the German Development Bank KfW and managed projects in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Most recently Henrike worked for the German Federal Foreign Office in Afghanistan leading the project work in the Northern Province Badakhshan.

She holds a master of business administration from Bayreuth University, Bayreuth, Germany with a concentration on Finance and Management and did an apprenticeship at the German Savings Bank in Detmold.

Barbara Span – Western Union Company

Vice President, Global Public Affairs



Barbara Span is Vice President of Global Public Affairs for Western Union, a Fortune 500 company providing services in 200 countries and territories around the world. She has responsibility for public policy, regulatory issues and advocacy programs. Barbara's focus is on a spectrum of issues, including migration, diaspora, financial inclusion, economic development and entrepreneurship.

She has a leadership role in the African Diaspora Marketplace, a joint initiative with USAID and the U.S. Department of State's African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) that creates access to capital and technical assistance for SMEs across Sub-Saharan Africa. She also leads Western Union's engagement in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI).

Prior to Western Union, Barbara's work has been with leading domestic and international payment processors following a career in the advertising industry. Barbara is Vice Chairman of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Counsel on Migration, Past Chairman of the Board of Jobs for America's Graduates DC and has served on many community boards. She is a Northwestern University Alumnus and has attended the Harvard Business School Strategic Program on Microfinance.

Joanna Murphy – ConnectIreland

Chief Executive Officer



Joanna Murphy is the Chief Executive Officer of ConnectIreland – an incentivised referral programme appointed by IDA Ireland, the world's most successful inward investment agency, to deliver the Succeed in Ireland Initiative.

The aim of the ConnectIreland programme is to harness the global power of Ireland's diaspora of 70 million, to reconnect with them and to encourage and stimulate FDI through the business activities and personal connections of Irish people around the world. ConnectIreland works on a "register, refer, reward" approach, asking the public to act as ambassadors for Ireland whilst encouraging FDI and as a result creating sustainable jobs. For a successful referral the 'Connector' receives a cash reward relative to the number of jobs being introduced by the relocating company.

Joanna is responsible for ConnectIreland's brand development and strives to extend its reach through partnerships with leading global organisations, such as GAA, DAA and many more.

A business development specialist, Joanna leads ConnectIreland's international marketing growth and has worked on countless successful marketing campaigns since joining the company.

Prior to joining ConnectIreland as Project Manager in 2013, where she quickly rose through the ranks, Joanna demonstrated her flair for business as Managing Director at two of her own start-ups.

Her passion and enthusiasm for the ConnectIreland model is matched only by her invaluable experience in the Irish business market. Her work has been fundamental in strengthening ConnectIreland's relationship with the Irish diaspora.

Joanna holds a first class honours degree in business studies from the Irish Management Institute.

Ade Daramy – Sierra Leone UK Diapora Ebola Response Taskforce

Co-founder



Ade Daramy is educated in Sierra and the UK. He is founding member of the Sierra Leone Diaspora Network and the Sierra Leone – UK Diaspora Ebola Response Taskforce; Experienced Senior Government Policy Advisor; Trustee of the Sierra Leone Cancer Charity, Trustee and founding member of the National Association for Peace and Positive Change (NAPPC – SL), Ambassador for the anti-FGM charity FORWARD, a Trustee of the African Foundation For Development (AFFORD), Communications Professional (including broadcast and print journalism); Experienced editor (co-editor, Journal of Sierra Leones Studies, editor-in-chief, Promota Africa magazine; Experienced radio (BBC World Service) and TV broadcaster; Consultant on African Diaspora affairs; Media commentator on African affairs, including Politics, History, Media, Popular Culture (Music and Fashion) and Sport.

John Samuel – Homestrings

Director of Product



John Samuel is a proven leader in international finance and business. In his ten-year career, John has built and led successful teams across Africa, India and the US. Currently, John is the Director of Product at Homestrings, an innovative investment platform that is mobilizing diaspora and frontier investment to fund projects across Africa and the globe.

John began his career in corporate treasury managing currency hedging and cash management for a leading software company in Bangalore, India. He continued his passion in international business while leading a multinational telecom infrastructure company in Cameroon. As CEO of Aster Cameroon, he led a 30 member team and generated over \$12 million in revenue in the first year of operations. John was also able to develop a strategic alliance with MTN that began in Cameroon and spread across 22 countries in Africa and the Middle East. As a result, John was promoted to Sub-Sahara Africa Head of Aster, overseeing operations in 7 countries and became a board member of companies in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Uganda.

John holds a BS in Accounting from North Carolina State University and a MBA from the George Washington School of Business.

Samuel Okpattah – Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)

Director Asset Management, Portfolio Management Department



Samuel Okpattah is a Director, Asset Management in the Portfolio Management Department of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (“OPIC”), the US Government’s development finance institution. Samuel joined OPIC in 2008 and manages development finance portfolio in diverse industries across the developing countries. Samuel is responsible for the OPIC financing portfolio in Liberia. Shortly after joining OPIC, Samuel assumed management of the \$250 million OPIC guaranteed cross-border securitization facility that supported the construction of 9,000 affordable houses in Mexico. Samuel has extensive background in project finance and investments in diverse sectors, including real estate, infrastructure, health care, agriculture, ICT & telecom, energy, oil & gas, media, and renewable resources.

Prior to OPIC, Samuel worked in finance and investments with Fortune 500 and SME companies. Samuel has an MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurial Management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, MS in Information Systems Management from the School of Industrial Management, New Jersey Institute of Technology, and a BBA in Finance from Benjamin Banneker Honors College, Prairie View A&M University.

Anita Thompson – Jones Lang LaSalle

Management Professional



Anita Thompson is an accomplished management professional currently working for Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), a top-notch commercial real estate firm with offices across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Prior to JLL, Anita spent several years as a lecturer at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU). Her subjects included African history, politics, culture, and African women's literature.

During her teaching tenure, Anita published her first major piece of writing to EKU's the African/African-American Studies' textbook, a chapter entitled "Human Rights in Africa: Commitments, Myths, Realities, and Prospects." Since then, Anita has researched and written on many issues regarding international development specifically as they pertain to women and youth on the continent.

Anita is passionate about mobilizing the Diaspora community to contribute to projects used to amplify the voices of Sierra Leoneans back home. She believes Diaspora engagement and investment is key to longstanding growth and development in Africa; however, through encouraging local citizen participation through partnerships.

Kevin Kingsley-Williams, CPA, CGA, ACA – Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment Group



Originally from Sierra Leone, Kevin Kingsley-Williams is Controller and Chief Financial Officer at ASW Steel Inc. in Ontario, Canada. In this role, Kevin is responsible for the strategic financial direction and leadership of the corporation alongside the CEO and Board of Directors. As an accomplished financial professional with over 20 years' experience, Kevin's career has included roles of increasing complexity beginning at KPMG in West Africa. Following his relocation to Canada in 1997, Kevin advanced through several Fortune 500 corporations such as General Mills, Tech Data and Jarden Consumer Solutions. In 2013, he published a memoir "Coming to Canada-A Personal Odyssey" which presents a fresh perspective on the immigrant/diasporan journey.

Alex Dixon – Aspen Institute

Director, Diaspora Investment Alliance



Alex most recently served as the Senior Advisor to USAID, where he assisted USAID's missions and private investors with investment structuring and negotiations related to Power Africa. Prior to this position, he was the Vice President for Africa at the Small Enterprise Assistance Fund (SEAF). SEAF is a global private equity firm that specializes in small business investing through its 19 offices around the world. Prior to joining SEAF, Alex ran his own entrepreneurial venture, the Drews, Borroughs & Co., a private consulting firm that developed ventures in affordable housing and the adult beverage industry. Before his entrepreneurial career, Alex served as the Chief Operating Officer for Automated Business Systems and Services (ABSS), an IT Technology firm that provides consulting and system development services to public sector clients throughout the US.

Prior to joining ABSS, Alex was in the US Government's Senior Executive Service and served as the Managing Director of the Enterprise Development Fund at the African Development Foundation (ADF). During his tenure at ADF, he spearheaded several landmark initiatives, including the US Government's partnership with the Government of Ghana and global technical assistance partnership with Accenture.

Before his appointment with ADF, Alex served as the Deputy Managing Director of Framlington Asset Management and the manager of the West Africa Growth Fund (The Fund). The Fund was an IFC-sponsored investment fund managed from Cote d'Ivoire that made equity investments in Francophone Africa. Prior to joining Framlington, Alex established a brokerage and investment banking firm, Gold Coast Securities, in Accra, Ghana. The firm is Ghana's second largest investment banking firm. He also served as the Director of Pennsylvania Technology Transfer Center, responsible for the commercialization of emerging advanced technologies and managing a strategic investment fund. He began his career as a global commodities trader with the Louis Dreyfus Corporation.

Leigh Moran – Calvert Foundation

Senior Officer, Strategic Initiatives



Leigh is a Senior Officer on the Strategic Initiatives team at Calvert Foundation, focused on the design and implementation of investment initiatives based on key social impact areas. She is currently leading Calvert Foundation's work to develop a new initiative to engage diaspora communities to invest in the economic development of their country of heritage. Leigh also serves as the Program Manager for IdEA, the International diaspora Engagement Alliance, a public-private partnership between the Calvert Foundation, the State Department and USAID. IdEA harnesses the resources of diaspora communities to promote sustainable development and diplomacy in their countries of heritage. By supporting entrepreneurship and investment, capacity development, networking and more, IdEA provides a platform to leverage diaspora resources and collaborate across sectors. Prior to Calvert Foundation, Leigh spent time at the National Economic Council, worked with a microinsurance NGO in New Delhi and served as a consultant to Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey. Leigh completed a Princeton-in-Asia fellowship in Hangzhou, China and received her degree in Economics from Boston College.

Alexandria Wise – Shuraako

Associate Director



Alexandria Wise is Associate Director of [Shuraako](#), a non-profit impact investment program that focuses on Somalia. In less than three years, Shuraako has facilitated over \$4 million into 80+ businesses across the country with the aim of contributing to greater peace and security through job creation and economic growth. Alex oversees the due diligence and investor presentation workstream, coordinates with interested investors, and supports new business development. Shuraako is actively involved in numerous funds and diaspora initiatives: Fund Manager for IFAD's Somali AgriFood Fund, technical advisor and partner to the Somaliland Youth Enterprise Fund, and

recently finalized the *Somali Investment Survey: Typologies, Drivers, and Recommendations*, a study of Somali diaspora investment behavior and preferences.

Prior to Shuraako, Alex spent five years in the strategy consulting world working for Monitor Inclusive Markets (formerly of The Monitor Group) & Booz Allen Hamilton; and seven years in international development working for DAI, Mongolian Investment Capital Corporation (a Mongolian investment bank), CHF International (now Global Communities), On the Frontier (OTF) Group, and Tricali (an Italian start-up company). Alex has a Master of International Business (MIB) concentrating on emerging market finance from The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy (Tufts University); and B.A. in History & Political Science from Syracuse University.

Steven Adler – International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)

Chief Information Strategist



Steve Adler is IBM's Chief Information Strategist and has been a leader in Information strategy and technology development at IBM for almost 20 years. He is an expert in data science and an innovator who has developed several billion dollar revenue businesses on the areas of Data Governance, Enterprise Privacy Architectures, and Internet Insurance. He advises national governments, cities, and many private industries in Open Data Strategy in the USA, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. He delivered a TED Talk on People Data and received the

US President's Volunteer Service Award for his work on African Open Data.

At IBM, Steven is responsible for IBM Information Strategy, including Open Data, Information Product Management, Data Governance, and System Dynamics. He created the Africa Open Data Group, and received a US Presidential Volunteer Service Award for his work helping West Africa fight Ebola with Open Data in 2014. He was a BigApps NYC Idea Sponsor who led a team of developers to create a Smarter Cities Simulation using Open Data. Mr. Adler is a co-chair of the W3C Data on the Web Best Practices Working Group, creating new open standards for Open Data Best Practices. He is also creator and co-chair of the OASIS XMILE System Dynamics Technical Committee, creating a new standard XML language for System Dynamics models and simulations.

Mr. Adler serves as a member of the US Commerce Department's Data Advisory Council, an elected board member of the New York Civil Liberties Union, and IBM's representative in the Open Government Partnership. He is also an elected Board Member of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Adler has had a distinguished career of innovation and business development. He invented the Data Governance industry in 2004, with the founding of the IBM Data Governance Council, a thought leadership forum which had over 100 corporate members. He hosted Systemic Risk Calculation Forums with international regulators and financial institutions in 2008-9 and made

recommendations for Systemic Risk Councils that were included in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. In 2011, he created one of IBM's most successful social networking communities – the Information Governance Community – which had over 3500 members and the first online Data Governance Maturity Assessment.

In 1996, Steven invented Internet Insurance, persuading leading underwriters to understand the internet as an area of exposure that required insurance coverage to grow into the commercial marketplace it is today. In 2001, Steven patented the Enterprise Privacy Architecture and led a team that translated the first legal regulations into XML.

Mr. Adler was recognized as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Finance by Treasury and Risk Magazine. He has a BA in Economics and History from George Washington University. He has visited over 50 countries, lived in Europe for 7 years, and speaks English, German, and Danish. He holds 3 patents in Data Privacy and Security.

Semhar Araia – Diaspora African Women’s Network (DAWN)

Founder



Semhar Araia is a trained lawyer, social entrepreneur and adjunct faculty at George Washington University. Through Semai Consulting <<http://www.semaiconsulting.com>>, Semhar works with local and international actors focused on development, diasporas and migration, and leadership, including nonprofit organizations, governments, schools and colleges, diaspora communities, and civic associations. With a background in African affairs, women’s leadership and international development, Semhar provides strategic guidance, analysis and training to advance global partnerships for social good. She is also the founder of DAWN <<http://www.dawners.org>>, the Diaspora African Women’s Network, an international professional association whose mission is to support and help develop the next generation of African diaspora professional women focused on African affairs.

Semhar's previous experience includes working for Oxfam International, Nelson Mandela’s organization, The Elders, and as an attorney for the implementation of the Eritrea-Ethiopia peace process. She is a White House Champion of Change and an African Union Diaspora Awardee of the Year for her work with grassroots and leadership initiatives focused on Africa and its diaspora. Semhar is an avid Twitter user (@Semhar) and was listed in Foreign Policy’s Top 100 Foreign Policy Women on Twitter. She has been featured in the Financial Times, BBC, Al Jazeera, The Guardian, Ventures Africa and other media outlets. Semhar was born in New York City to Eritrean immigrant parents and resides in Washington, DC.

Micheal H. Seid – MSA Worldwide

Founder & Managing Director



Michael is recognized as a leading authority on franchising and business expansion strategy. In addition to helping business owners franchise their companies, he also assists established franchisors and non-franchisors in strategic planning, tactical execution, franchise relations, crisis management, expert witness and litigation support, mergers and acquisitions, and the strategic review and change strategies for established franchise systems.

Michael has completed the requirements and has been awarded the designation of Certified Franchise Executive by the International Franchise Association Education Foundation and has developed and provided programing for the foundation. He is a licensed CPA in the State of New York and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the New York State Society of CPAs, and the American Institute of CPA's Forensic and Valuation Services. He is an associate member of the American Bar Association and has lectured and written for the ABA Franchise Forum and the IFA's Legal Forums. He served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He's a member of the Goldman Sachs Special Situations Group's Chambers Street Executive Network (SSG). Furthermore, he is on the Board of Directors of the William Rosenberg International Center of Franchising at the University of New Hampshire and serves on several other public and private boards and advisory boards including for the Salvation Army in Connecticut.

Sonia Plaza – World Bank

Senior Economist, Migration and Remittances Team, Development Prospects Group



Sonia Plaza is a Senior Economist in the Macro and Fiscal Management Global Program at the World Bank. She has worked on science and technology projects in Latin American and coauthored a major analytical survey of migration and development for the Africa region. Sonia was born in Lima, Peru. Her father had a constructing firm, so some of her earliest childhood memories are of traveling with him to poor areas including Ayacucho where he was working on projects. This is how she was first exposed to development work, and it shaped her. She wrote chapter 5 of the book, “Africa’s Silk Road: China and India’s New Economic Frontier”, which covers trade facilitation, technology, and skills transfer, and regional trade agreements. She advises many universities on the transfer of skills and tapping into their diasporas. Sonia attended the University of Lima and earned a degree in Economics, after which she joined Chase Manhattan Bank, and was then invited to join the Peruvian Ministry of Trade as a manager responsible for counter trade and debt swap agreements. She also has a dual degree from Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania in International Economics and Development. She was Professor of Economics (International Economics) at the Peruvian School of Foreign Service and at the University of Lima in Peru, and was adjunct faculty (Microeconomics and Macroeconomics) at The American University in Washington, DC. Her research interests include international migration, labor mobility, trade, and the future of labor. She joined the Institute for the Study of Labor as a Research Fellow in February 2010.

Desmond Ellis – Sierra Leone Empowerment Network (SLEN)

Co-founder



Desmond Ellis is a Senior Manager with Ernst & Young LLP (EY) in the Assurance (Audit) practice and has 8 years of experience as an auditor. Desmond is experienced in leading and managing highly complex, multi-location audits and communicating with multiple stakeholders including both Client executives and audit engagement executives. He mainly focuses on mid to large publicly traded and private companies. Desmond is a Co-founder of the Sierra Leonean Empowerment Network (SLEN). SLEN, established in July 2013, is a non-profit organization that maintains a professional network of Sierra Leoneans and is focused on professional development. The organization provides both human and material resources to aid individual professional development and improve professionalism in Sierra Leone. This is achieved through building a database of new and experienced professionals, along with initiatives that foster mentoring, knowledge sharing and professional networking among Sierra Leoneans of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds.

Desmond holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accountancy from Case University and a Masters of Accountancy from North Carolina State University (NC State University). Desmond Joined EY upon graduating from NC State University in 2007.

Dr. Daivi Rodima-Taylor – Boston University

Senior Academic Researcher



Daivi Rodima-Taylor is Senior Academic Researcher at the Boston University Center for Finance, Law & Policy. She is director for the Financial Inclusion work stream, and lead researcher of the BU Remittance Task Force which was established to systematically analyze remittance systems in the contexts of forced and refugee migration and to study their developmental impact. Dr. Rodima-Taylor's research focuses on financial inclusion and access, fiduciary culture, migration and migrant remittances, digital and mobile finance, informal economic cooperation and mutuality, land and natural resource tenure, and social and institutional innovation. Daivi has taught sustainable development and anthropology, and contributed to international development work in the fields of financial inclusion, participatory planning, and community governance. She has conducted longitudinal ethnographic research in Africa, exploring informal financial institutions and their relationships with the formal sector, and published in academic and policy-oriented journals. Daivi is a Visiting Researcher at the Boston University African Studies Center.

Sawida M. Kamara, MPH – Maryland Nonprofit Consulting Group



Consultant

Sawida Kamara is a Consultant with the Maryland Nonprofits Consulting Group. She has been working in the areas of health workforce development and capacity building since 2002. Sawida began her career as a health education specialist with the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, and spent over 8 years

developing and convening professional trainings, leadership development programs and other educational initiatives to strengthen healthcare, civil society and government professionals both in the U.S. and overseas. She has also collaborated on a national research study examining how healthcare professionals adopt evidence-based interventions and strategies into clinical decision-making and patient care, and has presented this research to audiences at the 2008 American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference, the 2008 Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting, and the 2009 American Academy of Family Physicians Conference on Practice Improvement.

As a dedicated career mentor, Sawida also works closely with professionals-in-transition on transferrable skills development, individualized career coaching, resume development and interview services, and provides volunteer trainings for clients at the Prince George's County Back to Work Program.

She holds a Master's Degree in Public Health from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University and is a licensed consultant with the Standards for Excellence® Institute. She is also a member of the Sierra Leonean Empowerment Network and the Chesapeake Bay Organizational Development Network.

Mark Henderson – European Commission

Policy Officer – Trade and Development, Aid for Trade, Directorate General for Trade



Mark works for the Directorate General for Trade of the European Commission on a portfolio covering trade and development with a focus on aid for trade, the World Trade Organization and the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the UN.

This work includes: Ensuring trade policy priorities are allocated development funds to meet commitments, bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally, specifically in support of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

He manages a small portfolio of Aid for Trade projects with OECD, International Trade Centre and others on Global Value Chains, Small traders, Sustainability standards and market access tools for Least Developed Countries EUR 2 million / per annum. Mark participated in UN negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda and Financing for Development, to ensure trade priorities are included, as appropriate, in the new Sustainable Development Goals (replacing the MDGs). He coordinates Trade input on Policy Coherence for Development, the process that tracks the Treaty obligation for all EU policies to contribute (or at least not impede) development policy. He's a primary contact point between DGs TRADE & DEVCO (on the trade side). He also provides written instructions to the EU Delegation in Geneva when attending sessions of the

WTO Committee on Trade and Development, attending these sessions and speaking on behalf of EU when relevant.

With a career to date focused on policy, international cooperation and project management, Mark has spent more than ten years' working on European projects and policy; working for five years on a daily basis with the Chinese Government, its ministries and agencies.

Working in Beijing, Brussels and the UK Mark has successfully designed, bid for, delivered, monitored and evaluated projects at local, regional, national and international levels of cooperation, presenting policy proposals at the national and supra-national levels.

Dr. Martin Russell – Diaspora Matters

Associate Director



Martin is Associate Director of Diaspora Matters (DM). He was Senior Researcher on the Global Diaspora Strategies Toolkit launched at then U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's inaugural Global Diaspora Forum in 2011. He has also served on and chaired committees for the inaugural European strand of the Global Diaspora Forum and the recent Global Diaspora and Development Forum in 2014. He co-authored the "Supporting the Next Generation of the Irish Diaspora" report, commissioned by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is currently the lead consultant on an EU-funded project to develop a national diaspora policy in Malawi and has recently completed a research project for the UK government examining the linkages between diaspora,

trade and investment.

He has advised on diaspora policies and projects in North America, Latin America, Europe and Africa. In early 2015, he was a visiting fellow at the United Nations University (UNU-MERIT) where his work focused on the linkages between diaspora and the corporate world examining areas such as corporate diasporas, diaspora engagement as CSR and diasporas as clients. He also delivers the DM Networking Training Programme (NTP) to a variety of public and private sector clients.

Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie – International Trade Center (ITC)

Consultant



Over the last 25 years or so, Chukwu-Emeka Chikezie has helped African diasporas maximize their contributions to Africa's development: he cofounded London-based African Foundation for Development (AFFORD) in 1994 and Freetown-based AFFORD-SL in 2008; advised several African governments on private sector development strategies, including diaspora components; and served as Senior Advisor to governments of Mexico (2010) and Mauritius (2012) in their respective capacities as Chairs of Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

More recently, he has worked on assignments to enhance intra-African cooperation around talent mobility in Southern/Southeastern Africa and Ebola transition and recovery strategies in Sierra Leone. Over the last three years, Chukwu-Emeka has served as a consultant to an International Trade Center (ITC) project that aims to strengthen the capacity of export-oriented small and medium-sized enterprises in seven developing countries (five in Africa, two in Asia) in part by connecting them to diasporas for mutual gain.

Since early 2015, Chukwu-Emeka has worked at the National Ebola Response Center (NERC) in Sierra Leone as Transition Lead, helping the country to devise a smooth transition to the post-Ebola era.

He is of Sierra Leonean/Nigerian origin, lived in the UK for many years, and now operates transnationally between the UK and Sierra Leone.

Unisa Dizo-Conteh – African Foundation for Development (AFFORD)

Enterprise & Capacity Management Consultant



Unisa Dizo-Conteh is a business and management consultant – currently managing African Foundation for Development Business Centre (ABC), funded by Comic Relief, a social enterprise supporting fast-growth SMEs in Sierra Leone (SL) that are likely to create 10-50 jobs. Also, responsible for mobilizing diaspora investment towards SL.

With over 10 years' experience in engaging and forging links with Sierra Leoneans in the Diaspora in UK, he is an executive member of Sierra Leone UK Diaspora Ebola Response Taskforce (SLUKDERT) – an organization working as a strategic partner of diaspora organizations and individuals with the aim of raising awareness, engaging and motivating effective response to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone.

A former president of Young Leaders-Sierra Leone - an organization which promotes youth empowerment, entrepreneurship and participation in nation building – Dizo-Conteh played a leadership role, in partnership with the Sierra Leone High Commission and other partners, to organize a series of events to mark Sierra Leone's 50th independence anniversary in London in 2011.

At the age of 22, he published a lifestyle magazine targeting Sierra Leoneans in the Diaspora and back home. The magazine, called Cotton Tree, soon became very popular amongst the Sierra Leonean audience in the UK – winning two awards for “Best Community” magazine in 2006.

He regularly contributes articles to several Sierra Leonean and occasionally international publications.

Josephine Garnem – International Medical Corps

Strategic Outreach and Partnership Coordinator



Josephine Garnem presently serves as International Medical Corps' Strategic Outreach and Partnership Coordinator. She served as chairwoman for the Montgomery County Executive's African Affairs Advisory Group (AAAG) from 2011 to 2013. She presently serves as an AAAG Executive and leads its Health Working Group. She is founder of Immigrant Community Services, serves on the board for AWCAA and alternately represents AAAG on MC's DHHS Leadership Institute for Equity and Elimination of Health Disparities (LIEED) advisory group.

Garnem has over 15yrs experience in humanitarian assistance. Garnem worked at International Medical Corps in 1999 when her native country, Sierra Leone, endured a brutal civil war. She joined a team that helped save thousands of lives and build and sustain one of the country's most successful health care programs, where survivors of the conflict were offered basic health care and post-traumatic stress. During her time with International Medical Corps (IMC), Garnem raised over \$45 million per year in In-kind donations (the largest ever since its inception in 1984) tailored to the specific needs of its programs worldwide, providing a lifeline to the under-served and vulnerable populations in over 30 countries on four continents. Garnem also created and sustained guidelines and training manuals and modules on the Securing and Management of Gifts in Kind Donations. She served as an Executive Board Member of the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD), a consortium of major US pharmaceutical companies and non-profit organizations. Garnem has a long history of serving disenfranchised communities counseling, child soldiers and young women could receive complex surgical interventions and ex-combatants and victims learned to reconcile and live together, setting the

country on a path to peace. In 2002, Garnem deployed to Pakistan and Afghanistan with International Medical Corps to assist in the efforts of rebuilding a country devastated by decades of fighting. Garnem is a passionate humanitarian, a strategic thinker and an avid community mobilizer, who never stops fighting for the underserved. She lives in Maryland with her husband and three children.

Dilip Ratha – World Bank

Head, KNOMAD Manager, Migration and Remittances Team, Development Prospects Group



Dilip Ratha is an economist specializing in migration, remittances and innovative financing.

According to the New York Times, “No one has done more than Mr. Ratha to make migration and its potential rewards a top-of-the-agenda concern in the world’s development ministries.”

He is credited to be the first to analyze and formalize the global significance of remittances. In 2012, he set up the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), a multidisciplinary, global hub of knowledge on migration. He is the focal point for the World Bank’s Migration Working Group and the Diaspora Bond Task Force, and a co-coordinator of the (G8/G20) Global Remittances Working Group. He is currently the chair of the Consortium Advisory Group (and previously the founding CEO) of the Migrating out of Poverty Research Consortium based in the University of Sussex. He is a member of the World Economic Forum Council on migration and of the advisory committee of the Migration Policy Center of European University Institute, Florence. He is also the brain behind the African Institute for Remittances.

Besides migration, he has done pioneering work on innovative financing including diaspora bonds, future-flow securitization, shadow sovereign ratings, performance-indexed bonds and South-South foreign direct investment.

Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked as a regional economist for Asia at Credit Agricole Indosuez, Singapore where he advised institutional investors in Asian equity, fixed income and foreign exchange markets. He has also worked as an assistant professor of economics at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, and as an economist at the Policy Group, New Delhi. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi where he worked as a visiting lecturer and helped build a prototype planning model for India.

Dilip hosts People Move, a popular blog, and can be followed on Twitter at @DilipRatha. His TED Talk, “The hidden force in global economics: sending money home,” can be viewed at <http://go.ted.com/xnB>.

Ralph Taylor-Smith – PE/VC

Investor



Ralph Taylor-Smith has a background in engineering, technology development, finance and business management. He currently works within the investment management sector focusing on PE/VC. His early education was gained at the Grammar School and he remains a proud Regentonian; subsequent education was gained at Princeton University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a PhD in Engineering and an MBA in Finance.

Eric Guichard – Homestrings

Chief Executive Officer



Mr. Eric-Vincent Guichard is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of GRAVITAS Capital Advisors, Inc. He is the founding member of GRAVITAS Capital (1996-current). Eric advises global and sovereign institutional assets. He runs the Sovereign Solutions Practice which includes innovative macro solutions such as the Sovereign Debt Redemption Fund Ltd and the Pension

Support Fund Ltd. Eric also manages GRAVITAS's Tactical Allocation Fund, LLC.

Since 2011 he also serves as Founder & CEO of Homestrings.com, an electronic investment platform that caters to members of the Diaspora. Homestrings.com showcases vetted investment projects and funds that focus on development objectives chosen by the Diaspora. These projects and funds range from infrastructure to healthcare.

Prior to GRAVITAS Capital, Eric was Portfolio Manager at the World Bank (1990-1996) where he also served as technical adviser to sovereign and multilateral institutions worldwide.

Eric is a graduate of the University of Dakar, in Senegal; of Duquesne University in Pittsburgh; and of the Harvard Business School, where he earned his MBA (World Bank Scholar and Harvard Fellowship award.)

He serves on several non-profit boards, including: the University of Maryland's Center for Financial Policy – an academic think tank on policy reform; and has served on the boards of Capital Partners for Education – an inner city mentorship program; and OIC International – an initiative that encourages economic self-reliance in Africa.

Eric received a 2009 Risk Innovator Award for Finance from Risk & Insurance Magazine for innovative work at GRAVITAS. In 2013 he received "Entrepreneur of the Year Award" from London-based African Diaspora Awards for successfully launching Homestrings.com. In 2014, Homestrings Ltd received "African Financier of the Year" Award from the Association of African-Owned Enterprises, UK.

Eric lectures internationally on Diaspora engagement in economic development; Institutional investments; Risk Management; Entrepreneurship; and on Corporate Strategy. He has published articles on Global Financial Markets and Regulation; Corporate Incentives and Human Behavior.

Nabil Fawaz – Multi-lateral Investment Guarantee Agency, World Bank Group

Sector Manager - Agribusiness and General Services Operations Group



Nabil Fawaz is Sector Manager for agribusiness and general services at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the political risk insurance and credit enhancement arm of the World Bank Group.

Fawaz has extensive experience in underwriting investment projects in emerging markets and advising clients on structuring transactions to mitigate political risks. At MIGA he has led transactions across all economic sectors including energy, oil and gas, financial markets, and telecommunications. He has helped investors manage political risk in different regions including Africa,

Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Recently he has led a MIGA initiative involving the mobilization of \$1 billion in insurance capacity to retain and encourage foreign direct investment in the Middle East and North Africa. Since the initiative was launched in 2011, MIGA has supported new and existing investments in Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

While at MIGA, he has also led various trust fund initiatives supporting private sector investment in conflict-affected environments including Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and West Bank and Gaza.

Before joining MIGA, Fawaz worked at the World Bank Group's private sector arm, International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Washington, DC, where he focused on the development of financial markets in sub-Saharan Africa.

Fawaz holds a master's degree in international management from the American Graduate School of International Management and a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University, with a concentration in finance.

Mykay Kamara – A&A Investments and Services

Managing Director



Mykay Kamara is Managing Director of A&A Investments and Services (A&A), with over 20 years of experience in banking, private equity and corporate enterprises. Mykay has worked in over 10 countries across Africa, Europe and North America. His experience spans leadership roles in SMEs and Multi Nationals, including being Managing Director (MD) of the British School of Motoring (BSM), MD of Bluecycle and MD of Oneswoop. He also worked with Coopers & Lybrand, Price Waterhouse, Coca-Cola, LDC, Lloyds Corporate Bank and Aviva. Mykay currently leads A&A, which facilitates investment opportunities and provides consultancy services in the Mano River Union countries of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Ivory Coast. A&A works across all sectors, but with a focus on Infrastructure, Energy, Extractives and

Agribusiness. Mykay Kamara is representing the Sierra Leone Private Sector Forum (SLPSF).

SLPSF are a group of Sierra Leoneans based in the UK and SL, who as individuals have achieved measurable success in the private sector, at home and abroad. The group collectively believe the private sector has a key role to play in the rebuilding of Sierra Leone and the region. A key factor to this is encouraging private sector investment (the right kind) in Sierra Leone as well as ensuring business and regulatory structures are in place to support investment and growth.

Ade Freeman – World Bank

Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice Lead Specialist



Ade Freeman is Lead Specialist in the Trade and Competitiveness, (T&C), Global Practice at the World Bank where he is responsible for lending operations, analytical and advisory activities, and policy dialogue on issues related to private sector and SME development, value chains, and spatial strategies such as growth poles, growth corridors, and special economic zones. He is currently Team Leader for the Sierra Leone Diaspora Investment and Trade study, providing strategic direction and oversight for research, outreach, and partner engagement. Prior to joining the Bank's Finance and Private Sector Development Department he was Head, Macro Evaluation at the Independent Evaluation Group, with responsibility for development, quality assurance, and delivery of work program on private sector operations at IFC, World Bank, and MIGA. He worked extensively in research,

leadership, and senior management positions in the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research before joining World Bank. He holds a PhD in Applied Economics from University of Minnesota and is an alumni of several corporate leadership and management programs.

Almaz Negash – African Diaspora Network

Founder



Almaz Negash is the founder of the African Diaspora Network and Managing Director of Step Up Silicon Valley, a social innovation network and anti-poverty laboratory utilizing disruptive, research-based strategies to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity in Santa Clara County. As a seasoned business executive experienced in managing international business development and trade negotiation, Negash believes in the power of social enterprise to provide individuals with the skills and resources necessary to move towards pathways of prosperity and productive community involvement. The latest of her contributions to community

economic development include her leadership in Step Up Silicon Valley's exploration and incubation of Pay for Success (a.k.a. Social Impact Bond), a new model of social innovation financing that resulted in a \$12 million project to reduce homelessness in Santa Clara County in the next six years.

In 2010, Almaz founded the African Diaspora Network to inform and engage Africans in the Diaspora in order to facilitate direct collaboration with social entrepreneurs, innovators, and business leaders to invest and improve the lives of everyone on the continent. Negash has written practical articles on the Role of the African Diaspora in ensuring renaissance of the continent and to mobilize and organize the international community of diasporic Africans for the economic development of her home continent of Africa. She is also the contributing author of *Awakening*

Social Responsibility (2007) and has written numerous articles on global trade, social, and educational issues. In 2016, she will lead the first African Diaspora Investment Symposium.

Negash was born and raised in Asmrara, Eritrea. In 1987, she came to the United States as a foreign student, after studying for three years at Free University, Amsterdam. She holds a BA from the University of San Francisco and an MBA from Golden Gate University.

John Speakman – World Bank

Practice Manager, Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice, Africa Region



John works as Practice Manager for the Trade and Competitiveness Practice in the Africa Region. He has over 30 years' experience in investment climate and PPPs in a wide range of countries, and sectors, including 17 years in the private sector itself. He has worked both at the policy, technical assistance and direct intervention level. Prior to taking on the Practice Manager role he led the Bank's policy dialogue on PPPs and the investment climate in West and Central Africa. Prior to this he had a similar role in South Asia and the Middle East and North Africa region. He has led and participated in nearly a dozen Investment Climate Assessments, in many cases using these to build dialogues that have led to long term technical assistance and projects. Recently he has led the Bank's work on growth poles in Africa. He led the Bank's efforts in producing the 2013 and 2015 African Competitiveness Report. He also has a strong interest in Fragile, Conflict and Violence affected states and co-authored "The Small Entrepreneur in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations".

John holds a Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Auckland. He is a Chartered Accountant and has studied Development Economics at the London School of Economics. Prior to joining the Bank in 1995 he was with Deloitte where his final responsibility was partner responsible for Deloitte's New Zealand's international consulting practice. In this role he worked primarily at the transactional level. Leading specific efforts to establish PPPs,

privatize, and reform SOEs. He was also very actively engaged in supporting cross-border investments.