

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKERS



Mete ÇAKMAKCI
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Dr. A. Mete ÇAKMAKCI is the Secretary General of TTGV, a not-for-profit public-private entity with a mission to support innovation in the Turkish private sector. Since 1991, TTGV has managed over half a billion USD in public funds, supporting over 1000 projects in industrial R&D.

He represents TTGV in various private equity and venture capital funds and fund of funds. Çakmakci teaches on technology and innovation management in various major universities. His current interests include program and policy development on innovation, entrepreneurship and research and technology aspects of the industrial policy, regional development in high-tech; growth management, strategy development, execution and business development in high-tech companies.

He has a B.S. in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from METU Ankara (1990), a MSc in EE & a Ph.D. with a degree minor in Manufacturing Engineering from Syracuse University, USA (1993 and 1998).



Mikko Koria
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Prof. Dr. Mikko Koria: Within a career that spans nearly thirty years of professional management, practice and research in the private, public and the third sectors, Mikko Koria's key expertise is linked to the ability to successfully lead complex, multicultural and multidisciplinary organisation and initiatives, linking technical and social goals. After design & architecture studies at the Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil, Mikko Koria obtained a M.Sc. (Arch.) from the Helsinki University of Technology, Finland, a MBA (Design Mgmt.) from the University of Westminster, with subsequent D.Sc. (Econ.) work on complex project management in international settings done at the Helsinki School of Economics, Finland.

In the last years, Mikko Koria has directed his efforts to the field of innovation and related capability management, design and management research and international development projects. He has done research, lectured and taught widely in the fields of design, culture and business studies at various universities and faculties in Finland, Japan, China, Brazil, and Chile. He is currently the Professor and Academic Director of the International Design Business Management Programme, a joint masters – level multidisciplinary teaching and research initiative of the School of Economics, the School of Art and Design, and the School of Science of the Aalto University. Besides research and post graduate teaching activities, the current engagement includes creating new multidisciplinary learning and research structures in design-intensive business environments.

Within professional activities, Mikko Koria has resided in Finland, Mozambique, Brazil, Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, and Spain; and also undertaken relevant professional activities additionally in the UK, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Tanzania, Vietnam, Bangladesh; with non-professional residence also in Greece, Portugal, and Nigeria.

Current key areas of research and professional interest include:

- Design-intensive business management in the global economy
- Research into innovation & capability, international project business & management
- Design management in organisations & knowledge intensive services
- Educational development for multidisciplinary and cross-cultural higher education programmes.



Fouad Mrad, Ph.D.
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Dr. Fouad Mrad joined the United Nations in December 2009 and is currently the executive director of ESCWA regional center for technology in Amman, Jordan. www.etc-un.org

He received his Ph.D. and Masters in electrical engineering from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, and a BSc in electrical and computer engineering from State University of New York, Buffalo. Dr. Mrad was a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the American University of Beirut from 1993 to 2009. Prior to his academic post in Beirut, he worked for IBM in the division of magnetic storage in Rochester, Minnesota, USA from 1990 to 1993.

Dr. Mrad held positions as a consultant of technological innovation for several local and international organizations, including the TV program "Stars of Science", sponsored by the Qatar Foundation, the Industrial Research Institute in Lebanon, the Euro-Lebanese Center for Industrial Modernization, and Indevco. Dr. Mrad also worked as advisor for the Lebanese Minister of Industry, the Modern Electronic Industries Co, and the National Council for Scientific Research in Lebanon.

He authored several publications on various specialized fields in professional journals and contributed to international conferences on innovation, manufacturing, industrial equipment and robotics. He co-authored the book "Applied Mechatronics" with Oxford University Press, New York 2008.



Sabri Saidam
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Dr. Sabri Saidam is the Advisor to the Palestinian President on Telecommunications, Information Technology and Technical Education. He is a former Minister of Telecom and IT, and an MBA lecturer at Birzeit University in Innovation and Social Media. He led telecom market liberalization in Palestine in 2006 introducing the second mobile phone operator, and also led the introduction and ratification of the Palestine Telecom Regulatory Authority (PTRA) law. Dr. Saidam introduced a series of initiatives inclusive of e-Gov, the National Academic Network, Falastinyia (enhancing women participation in the ICT market), and the Palestine Education Initiative (PEI). He helped launch .PS and its governing body, the Palestinian National Internet Naming Authority (PNINA), and founded the award winning Palestine Digital Library in 2004 and the Palestine e-Republic in 2007. Dr. Saidam is also the Deputy Secretary General of Fateh Revolutionary Council.

Dr. Sabri Saidam holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, and a certification in Human Development from Oxford University.



Rohit Shukla
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Rohit K. Shukla is Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Larta Institute (<http://www.larta.org/rshukla.asp>), based in Los Angeles, California. The organization has provided commercialization program design and management services, technology transfer expertise, technology assessments, and business assistance to public and private clients since 1994.

Under his leadership, Larta currently manages one of the largest innovation pipelines of companies emerging from research funded by the largest agencies of the U.S. Federal government (NIH, USDA, NSF, Army), research universities across the country and from a network of global partner nations including Japan, Canada, New Zealand, and most recently, Malaysia, and education and training programs (including the well-regarded Larta University). He also designed a well-received MENA-wide entrepreneurship initiative for the Young Arab Leaders (YAL) in 2008, which unfortunately was not implemented due to the financial crisis.

Larta’s hallmark programs are delivered through its nationwide and global network of domain and functional experts, industry executives and scientific advisors covering the life sciences (including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, Healthcare IT, diagnostics, biotechnology, clinical tools and bioinformatics), advanced materials, alternative energy and agricultural biotechnology. He has personally mentored scores of companies in the Institute’s programs, specifically in Information Technology, including healthcare IT, medical devices, agriculture and creative industries. He has consulted with multilateral organizations like the OECD and the World Bank and governments across the globe on initiatives ranging from multi-country intellectual capital strategy and policy for SMEs to entrepreneurship and competitiveness strategies. His paper on the Network Centric Model of Entrepreneurial Assistance was featured by the Kauffman Foundation at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Liverpool in 2012, and he is sought out regularly for his views on the practical network model designed and implemented by Larta Institute.

He speaks frequently before private and public audiences in the U.S. and overseas, and has been a frequent guest of regional and national governments in Scandinavia, Western Europe, the Far East and all over the United States.

Shukla holds a Masters in Social and Political Sciences from Cambridge University, England, and a Masters in Communications Arts and Sciences from Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.



Salam Yamout
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Salam Yamout is the National ICT Strategy Coordinator at the Presidency of the Council of Ministers since July 2010 handling the EU, innovation, and ICT portfolios. Before that, Salam was Program Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility at Cisco since 2005.

Salam holds an MBA from ESCP-EAP, Paris / Ecole Supérieure des Affaires, Beirut in 2005 and a M.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Arizona (Tucson, USA) in 1987.

A serial social entrepreneur, Ms. Yamout is the founder of Women in IT, the Lebanese Broadband Stakeholders Group, and the Lebanon Chapter of the Internet Society. She also established the Beirut Internet Exchange Point in 2008. She serves on the board of several NGOs.

Salam is very active in the Lebanese entrepreneurial eco-system. She is one of the co-founders of the entrepreneurslebanon.com initiative and the Secretary General of the MIT Enterprise Forum Arab Business Plan Competition. She serves as coach and juror for several national and regional competitions including Microsoft Imagine Cup and Intel Innovation Challenge. She is member of the investment committee of the Building Block Fund.



John Pyrovolakis

John Pyrovolakis is the founder and CEO of the Innovation Accelerator Initiative, a public-private partnership with the National Science Foundation.

He is a judge at the MIT Entrepreneurship Competition, as well as Columbia University's and Stony Brook University's. He has also served as a reviewer, and has been on the “Committee of Visitors” for the National Science Foundation’s small business innovation program. Pyrovolakis has lectured at the MIT Sloan School and Columbia University on entrepreneurship and innovation. He entered the MIT Entrepreneurship competition in 1996, and launched Collegescape, which he sold to the Thomson Corporation (NYSE:“TOC”) two years later. Pyrovolakis then founded Fundspring, an online loan marketplace, which failed. Subsequently, Pyrovolakis founded a third software company targeting the distance learning and lending markets, which will go unnamed as part of the terms of its sale to another privately held company. Simultaneously with the development of that company, Pyrovolakis has consulted with several organizations vetting early stage IT deals or new technology initiatives, such as Suntrust Bank, Jesup & Lamont Securities, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Pyrovolakis is a triple major in math, computer science, and philosophy out of NYU, where he won the school writing competition and was the first undergraduate teaching assistant in mathematic logic. From there, Pyrovolakis went to MIT for a PhD in Linguistics and Philosophy. While at MIT, Pyrovolakis did work at the Laboratory for Computer Science in automated theorem proving, and was a teaching fellow at the Harvard-Smithsonian Astrophysics lab, where he won the Derek Bok prize for teaching excellence.



Jonathan Walters
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Jonathan Walters is the Director for Regional Programs and Partnerships in the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 1988, and initially worked on macroeconomic reform in West and Central Africa. He then joined the Europe and Central Asia Region just after the break-up of the Soviet Union, where he focused on energy sector reform and Caspian oil and gas development. In 2001, he joined BP in London and worked on relationships with national oil companies and on the design of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. Mr. Walters returned to the World Bank in 2003, and led a major study (“Connecting East Asia”) on infrastructure service provision in East Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation. He has since held various positions in the MENA Region of The World Bank, starting in 2005, and took up his present assignment in July 2010. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was Economic Advisor to the Government of Swaziland on investment climate and trade policy. He has an M.A. in Politics and Philosophy from the University of Oxford, and an M.Sc. in Economics from the University of London.



Paul vanOstenberg
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Paul vanOstenberg serves as the Vice President of International Accreditation, Standards and Measurement. This position includes the Department of Standards Development and Interpretation, the International Accreditation program, and International Measurement. Prior to returning to the JCI headquarters in November 2007, he served as the first Managing Director for the JCI Asia Pacific Office in Singapore, and as the first Managing Director for the JCI European office.

Dr. vanOstenberg was appointed the first Executive Director of International Accreditation in 1998; at the time the Joint Commission (USA) made the decision to launch an international accreditation program. He was charged with the development of international standards and survey methods, and the promotion of accreditation around the world as an effective quality tool. At that time he was Director of the Department of Standards at the Joint Commission.

Other executive positions he has held include: Executive Director of the Federation of Special Care Organizations in Dentistry; American Association of Hospital Dentists; Academy of Dentistry for the Handicapped; and American Society for Geriatric Dentistry.

In addition, he has held clinical staff appointments at the University of North Carolina Hospital, University of Virginia Hospital, several Veterans Hospitals and a Tuberculosis Sanatorium. He was Director of the Dental Residency Program at North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

Dr. vanOstenberg earned a BA (Bachelor of Arts) from the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. He also received a DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery) from the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia and an MS (Masters in Gerontology and Health Administration) from the Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.



Robert Sanders

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Robert Sanders is British, a graduate of Leicester University, and has over 20 years international experience working for and with innovative research focused start ups and SMEs across a number of different sectors and global locations.

Robert currently holds the position of Head of International Projects at the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN). He has the responsibility to manage EBN’s in-house project team which is comprised of 4 full time project managers and 2 part time consultants.

He also focuses on evaluation and acquisition of new contracts/projects by strategic proposal writing. He has led the coordination of 12 complex EU & International Projects from various funding programmes (FP7, Europe Aid, Europe Innova, World Bank, Interreg, Long Life Learning Programmes etc), all aimed at supporting innovative SMEs, incubation and entrepreneurship across Europe and beyond. Working closely with other organisations such as clusters, these mainly SME targeted projects are focused on internationalisation, access to finance, IPR, technology transfer, B2B activities etc.

Robert also heads up an SME internationalisation platform, called the “Soft Landing Club” which enables companies to receive short term business support at different global locations. This ‘co-incubation’ initiative has also been piloted in partnership with infoDev and NBIA.

During regular visits to China, Robert has co-organised and supported the participation of research and innovation actors in brokerage and other networking events to facilitate the development of EU China collaborative activities.

In the framework of the ChinaAccess4EU project Robert has been instrumental in supporting the institutional dialogue within the framework of the bilateral S&T agreement between the EU and China; facilitating access for EU partners to Chinese research programmes and promoting bilateral cooperation between research actors focusing on research, innovation and technology transfer.



Sushanta Mohapatra

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Sushanta Mohapatra is a senior innovation economist and Director of Middle East operations for SRI International, one of the world’s largest nonprofit research and consulting organizations. Based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Mr. Mohapatra focuses on economics of innovation and technology-based development in the Middle East. His areas of expertise include technology diffusion and deployment, analysis of economic foundations and technological infrastructure, and design, implementation and evaluation of technology-enabling investments.

Mr. Mohapatra advises private and public sector leadership in the Middle East on innovation policy and strategy. A sample of his experience includes design and implementation of the National Technology Innovation Centers (TIC) Program and the National Technology Entrepreneurship Program in Saudi Arabia; advisory services for a high-level committee on creation of Oman’s National Innovation Ecosystem; development of a GCC-wide knowledge economy strategy, and industry cluster development in the GCC and the Levant region.

Trained as an electrical engineer, Mr. Mohapatra has more than 15 years of experience in the information and communications technology (ICT) industry. He holds two advanced degrees: a Master of Science in Public Policy and an MBA in strategic management from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA. He received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Sambalpur University in India.



Rupesh Chatwani

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Rupesh Chatwani has been working with fast-growing technology companies for 20 years. Before joining the EBRD in 2012, Rupesh was an advisor to and angel investor in numerous start-ups. Prior to that, Rupesh was an Investment Director at Add Partners, a €175 million European venture capital firm focused on technology investments and a Vice President at Broadview International, a technology-focused M&A advisory firm. Rupesh has also worked as a software engineer at Cadence Design Systems and as a hardware engineer at Data General.”

SESSION CHAIRS



Mats Karlsson

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Mats Karlsson has been engaged in international development and integration since 1983. After positions in Swedish administration, politics and government, he joined the World Bank in 1999, as Vice President of External Affairs, where he since has been focusing on global governance, African development, and now Maghreb development and Mediterranean cooperation. He is currently Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration in Marseille. As State Secretary 1994-99, he focused on changing international development cooperation, as well as Sweden's response to European integration. He was Secretary in the Commission on Global Government He has published four books on the transformation and integration of Central and Eastern Europe. He studied economics and philosophy at the University of Stockholm, and music at the academies of Vienna and Prague 1978-80.



Simon C. Bell

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Simon Bell is Sector Manager in the Finance and Private Sector unit of the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) of the World Bank. Prior to joining the MENA region he held a similar management position in the South Asia region. He works on all the countries of the MENA region on Financial Sector, Private Sector and, increasingly, Innovation issues. While working in South Asia his remit also included ICT issues – at a time when the ICT and ITES industry was booming in India. Simon has also worked extensively in Africa – spending four years working in the World Bank's Mozambique Field Office during the very exciting times of the mid-1990s. In addition to working extensively on Mozambique, he has also worked on most of the countries of Southern Africa – as well as extensive work on Tanzania and Eritrea in Eastern Africa.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Simon worked in the Central Bank of Botswana, working on monetary policy and financial sector issues. He also worked in the Ministry of Finance in Papua New Guinea and for four years and at the Australian National University. Simon has a Masters Degree in Economics. He is keenly interested in innovation and the development of Knowledge Economies in the Middle Income region of MENA.



Randa Akeel

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Randa Akeel is a Senior Economist at the World Bank Middle East and North Africa Finance and Private Sector Development (FPD) unit and the Regional Facilitator for the Bank's Innovation Technology and Entrepreneurship Practice Group. Ms. Akeel's work has focused on developing projects to support innovation, technical assistance and access to diverse forms of financing to small and medium enterprises. Ms. Akeel's experience includes early stage equity capital, entrepreneurship support, innovation surveys and policy formulation. Prior to joining the FPD unit, Ms. Akeel was an Economist at the World Bank's Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Unit for the MENA region where she worked on inclusion and access to jobs and opportunity for all.



Hassan Kassem

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Hassan Kassem is a Chairman of PITA(Palestinian Information Technology Association) which represents the ICT companies in Palestine and Chairman of PICTI(Palestinian Information technology incubator). Furthermore, Mr. Kassem is the Chairman of Young Scientist Club, and Board member of PSD(Partners For Sustainable Development).

Experienced entrepreneur and CEO of several companies in IT, Software and Web. He is currently the Chairman of Dimensions Company which was established in 2007 by Palestinian businessmen that provides exceptional business and health care consulting services.

Prior to forming Dimensions Consulting Company, Mr. Kassem worked as an IT Instructor in Birzeit University from 1992 until 2000. In 1996, he established his own company Arab Technology Systems (ATS) which was sold to PALTEL Group in 2006.

Mr. Hassan Kassem holds a Master degree in computer science from The American University – Washington D.C. 1992.



Rani Zahr

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Rani Zahr, Entrepreneur, holds a BS in Mathematics from UC Davis. He worked at a start-up firm raising seed capital for two years before moving onto the mortgage industry. In 2003 he co-founded Empire Mortgage and Security Group in Hollywood, Florida; a year later he began his real estate investment firm. His latest entrepreneurial venture was a social gaming network, WarCube, he launched in 2008 while living in Silicon Valley.

He recently completed his MBA from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and works as a consultant to Dr. Saad Andary of the central bank. For the past year they have worked on forging a medical tourist hub in Lebanon focusing on its rich medical and educational standards.



Robert Hodgson

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Bob Hodgson is the Managing Director of Zernike (UK) which manages an ICT focused incubator and provides start up capital for knowledge based firms. He has nearly thirty years of international consulting experience – he has worked in more than 50 countries including nearly 30 on innovation policies and technology commercialization half with international agencies like the World Bank and half with national, regional and local agencies and the private sector. He is regularly invited to give keynotes at international fora such as the Innovation Forum for the Americas in Uruguay; conferences on Intellectual Property strategies for SMEs for WIPO in Buenos Aires, Cairo and Rome; workshops on technology and innovation for the World Bank in Korea and Lebanon. In 2009 he was co-chair of the 10th International Conference on Technology Policy and Innovation in New Delhi and again in Bogota in 2011. In June 2010 and 2011 he was one of the main presenters at the global course on Innovation Policy for the World Bank in Washington DC.

Prior to the launching of Zernike (UK), Bob was for 14 years an executive director of SQW Ltd which is best known for its path breaking study "The Cambridge Phenomenon", published in 1983 and subsequently updated with an analysis of the position among high tech firms in the Cambridge region in 1999. He is a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Innovation, Creativity and Capital at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to his time with SQW, he spent 8 years with the consultancy side of Coopers & Lybrand, working internationally from a London base.



Ilari Lindy

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Ilari Lindy is Senior ICT Policy Specialist at the ICT Sector Unit. Before joining the World Bank, he worked as Senior Advisor at the Department of Development Policy in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland advising on strategic development MFA's global policies and instruments related to information society as well as science, technology and innovation. He has previously served as Counsellor on ICT4D for Ministry at the Embassy of Finland in South Africa, Senior Expert for European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) and Project Officer at the European Commission DG Information Society. Ilari has been involved in wide range of international, regional and national initiatives supporting innovation policy and systems development with particular focus on development and take-up of ICT enabled innovations. Most recently he co-chaired the European expert group of EU-Africa strategic partnership no 8 focusing on science, information society and space. He is currently interested to learn more on ICT-enabled social and economic development achieved through various Open Innovation and grassroots approaches.










Omer Karasapan

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Omer Karasapan is the Middle East and North Africa Region's Knowledge and Learning Coordinator. Previously he was the Knowledge Coordinator for the PREM Network and has also worked in the World Bank's Private Sector Development Department, as well as in the Private Participation in Infrastructure Division. Prior to joining the World Bank in 1989, he worked for Human Rights Watch as a consultant and also taught at the New York University.

 <p>Natalia Agapitova Naagapitova@worldbank.org</p>	
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WORLD BANK STAFF	
 <p>Hooman Dabidian hdabidian@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Hooman Dabidian is a Senior Private Sector Development Specialist in the Middle East and North Africa region of the World Bank. His areas of expertise include industrial and economic zones development, public private partnerships, business environment and knowledge management. Hooman has over 10 years of professional experience in the field of economic development. He has also established and managed several successful businesses as an independent entrepreneur. He holds degrees in engineering and economics.</p>
 <p>Jana Malinska jmalinska@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Jana Malinska is an Economist with the World Bank and earlier worked with IFC Investment Climate Department, OECD, PSA Peugeot Citroen and CzechInvest. She has extensive experience in investment policy and promotion, clusters and competitiveness.</p>
 <p>Ali Abu Kumail aabukumail@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Ali Abu Kumail has recently completed his MBA from the American University of Beirut (AUB) and works as a consultant to Dr. Saad Andary of the central bank. For the past year they have worked on forging a medical tourist hub in Lebanon focusing on its rich medical and educational standards. Ali Abu Kumail has recently joined The World Bank as a Private Sector Development Specialist in the Finance and Private Sector Unit of the Middle East and North Africa Region. Prior joining the World Bank, he worked as Development Adviser to the Quartet Representative, Tony Blair, from 2009 to 2012. In this capacity, he led policy dialogue and provided multi-level analyses and advice in socioeconomic Issues. Before that, Abu Kumail was the Trade Development Manager at the Palestine Trade Center (PalTrade) from 2004 to 2009, where he managed the development and implementation of strategies and initiatives to enhance the capacity of Palestinian exporters. Between 2001 and 2004, he worked in several technical positions at USAID funded projects, including provision of technical advisory assistance to SMEs. Ali Abu Kumail holds a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering.</p>

 <p>Lina Tarek Badawy lbadawy@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Lina Badawy is an MBA holder from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot Watt University. She has been working with the World Bank since 2008 in private sector development issues. She has analyzed and co-authored several Investment Climate Assessments in MENA.</p>
 <p>Marjorie Espiritu mespiritu@worldbank.org</p>	<p>Marjorie Espiritu is a seasoned Program Assistant who has been in the Bank for 14 years and has managed high-level international Conferences in South Korea, Hong Kong, Philippines and the first MNA Innovation Conference held in Prague, Czech Republic in May 2012.</p>
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