



EMI
Emerging Markets Institute

2024

EMI Annual Conference

**Innovation and Transformation
to Emerge Stronger**

**October 31st & November 1st, 2024
Cornell Tech Campus,
Cornell University, NYC
2 W Loop, New York, NY**



**Cornell
SC Johnson College of Business**

Welcome from the Dean



Welcome to the 14th Emerging Markets Institute Annual Conference! The Emerging Markets Institute (EMI) was launched in 2010 to broaden global leadership horizons in business research and talent development. I am pleased to report that the EMI continues to excel in so many ways. We now have over 200 Johnson School MBA alumni from our Emerging Markets Fellows program pursuing careers in a variety of countries, including China, Brazil, Mexico, India, Ethiopia, and many more. This Fellows program was conceived at launch as a means to train future business leaders to adapt and succeed in challenging, volatile, and ambiguous business environments—circumstances so prevalent in emerging markets (EMs). It is now a concentration for second-year students and includes one-year Cornell Tech MBA students, as well as students from other MBA, Professional Master's, and undergraduate programs. Its impact is broad and deep.

Our faculty and PhD students across the SC Johnson College of Business, spurred on by the EMI, continue to write and publish actively and collaboratively in top-tier business and management journals and books focused on the pressing issues in EMs. There is energy in our research collaborations, catalyzed by new faculty hired with expertise in EMs, both within the SC Johnson College of Business and across Cornell. This year, the College joined with the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Agriculture & Life Sciences, and the Cornell Brooks School of Public Policy to launch CIDER (Collaboration for International Development Economics Research). CIDER brings together experts in development economics—particularly on poverty, food insecurity, agricultural and rural development, health and education, risk management, and firm and market behavior—to continue building on Cornell's legacy of global development innovation. EMI is an integral part of this growing ecosystem.

The Cornell SC Johnson College of Business also supports global programs like the Cornell-Tsinghua MBA, a Finance MBA dual degree program offered with Tsinghua's PBC School of Finance (in both English and Mandarin), and the newer Cornell-Peking MBA-MMH (Master's of Hospitality Management), a dual-degree program where MBA students at the Guanghai School of Management earn an MMH from our Peter and Stephanie Nolan School of Hotel Administration. We are now in the 19th year of our celebrated Cornell EMBA Americas program, jointly offered with Queen's University in Canada, which has boardrooms of students spanning the US, Canada, Mexico City, Monterrey, Lima, and Santiago. These global programs have significantly contributed to our schools' high rankings in Bloomberg Businessweek, Financial Times, Poets & Quants, US News and World Reports, and others.

The EMI is also expanding its support of professional master's students and undergraduates from the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management, the Nolan Hotel School, and other programs beyond our College by facilitating their interactions in various curriculum projects. We highly value these new collaborations and seek to amplify them to benefit all of our students.

While the world economy appears calm, with falling inflation and modestly resurgent growth, beneath the surface lies turbulence and simmering anxieties. As the Financial Times reports, there are deeper-rooted obstacles to growth, particularly in EMs. This year's conference theme, "Innovation and Transformation to Emerge Stronger," will encourage us to reflect on some of these challenges, including the rise of AI, increasing public debt-to-GDP ratios, geopolitical tensions, and the growing difficulties of cross-border trade and capital flows involving emerging markets. There is much to discuss, and discuss we must. I look forward to welcoming you!

Andrew Karolyi

Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business
Cornell University

Welcome from the Director



Dear EMI Community,

I am pleased to welcome you to the fourteenth Emerging Markets Institute Conference. Under the theme Innovation and Transformation to Emerge Stronger, this event is the institute's flagship, where we will launch the 2024 Report on Emerging Market Multinationals authored by Lourdes Casanova and Anne Miroux. The event brings together leading business and opinion leaders, academics, students, and Cornell alumni.

Within the conference, the EMI will hold its 8th Corning EMI Case Competition, an event in which 705 students from the best business schools across fifteen countries have competed this year. We're also excited to launch the fifth edition of the Cornell EMI & Mark Mobius Pitch Competition in partnership with sixteen universities worldwide.

We would like to acknowledge members of EMI conference committee lead by Rafa Baldeon, Andrés Suárez, Kaleb Kavuma, Iris Arguedas, Niyonika Chhabra, Osagie Ogiagbe and Carl Kananda, thank all our speakers, EMI fellows, Cornell Alumni, experts, and volunteers who have made the conference and the competitions possible and broaden the body of knowledge surrounding Emerging Markets and Emerging Multinationals.

We sincerely appreciate the collaboration of our conference partners: the Einaudi Center at Cornell University, EMNet at the OECD Development Center, UNCTAD, and IFC from the World Bank as well as the members of the Emerging Multinationals Research Network (EMRN). We'd also like to acknowledge the generosity of Gail and Rob Cañizares, Mark Mobius and Corning Corporation, and Sabine and Henry Renard and Ada Kent Foundation. We owe our thanks also to the Cañizares Family for the support to the EMI Cañizares Alumni Award. Last two years the awardees were Paul Kavuma, Founder and Owner of Catalyst Principal Partners in East Africa and Heather Henyon, Co-Founder of Mindshift Capital in UAE and this year the award is for Eduardo Padilla former CEO of Oxxo and Femsa from Mexico.

I would like to encourage interested companies and individuals to further engage with the EMI through speaking engagements, webinars, corporate partnerships, joint research, and blog posts, among our other events. I encourage you to view EMI's website for more details and follow us on social media.

I hope you enjoy the conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lourdes Casanova".

Lourdes Casanova
Gail and Roberto Cañizares Director
Emerging Markets Institute, Cornell University

Case and Pitch Finals Oct 31



Please note that the program is subject to change. Use the QR code to reach the latest version



10:45am - 12:15pm 327 Tata Innovation Center

2024 Cornell EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition

- Welcome by Chairs: Osagie Ogiagbe, MBA '25, Carlos Bernos, MBA '25 and Lourdes Casanova
 - 11:00am KalPay, Lahore University of Management Sciences - Pakistan
 - 11:15am Coco Technologies, Universidad EAFIT - Colombia
 - 11:30am Pro Investing, Universidad de los Andes - Colombia
 - 11:45am AnTa, Esade Business School - Spain, focused in Ghana
 - 12:00pm iOptiCrane, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Hong Kong



12:15pm - 2:30pm Tata Innovation Center

2024 Cornell EMI Corning Case Competition

- Welcome by Chairs Iris Arguedas, MBA '25, Nyionika Chhabra, Cornell Tech MBA '25 and Lourdes Casanova
 - 12:30pm Avinya, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (India)
 - 12:45pm Axe Global, Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, University of Delhi (India)
 - 1:00pm OnsenTamaGO, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (Japan)
 - 1:15pm Andes Insight, Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)
 - 1:30pm Team RedBricks Solutions, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota (United States)
 - 1:45pm Vinception, VinUniversity (Vietnam)
 - 2:00pm Aztlan CG, EGADE Business School, Tecnológico de Monterrey (Mexico)
 - 2:15pm The Strategists, BITS School of Management (India)
- Presentation by Brook Taylor, VP of Government Relations and Strategic Partnerships, Vinfast



2:30pm Campus Tour followed by visit to the four freedoms park



6:00pm Reception at Tata Innovation Center

Conference Agenda Nov 1



8:15am - 8:45am

Welcome and Breakfast



8:45am - 9:00am

Opening Ceremony: Welcoming Innovation and Transformation

- MC Andrés Suárez Londoño, Co-Chair Conference
 - Andrew Karolyi, Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University



9:00am - 9:45am

Spotlight on India: The Premier Emerging Market

- MC Aryaman Thareja, Committee Member
- Moderator Vishal Gaur, Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University
 - Jayant Sinha, Formerly Minister of State for Finance and Civil Aviation, Government of India, India
 - Praveena Rai, Managing Director & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), India
 - Sameer Sain, MBA '95, Co-Founder & CEO, Everstone Capital
 - Shoba Viswanathan, VP Development & Civic Engagement, Indiaspora



9:45am - 10:00am

Special Address by Consul-General of India, New York

- Amb. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in NYC



10:00am - 10:10am

National University of Singapore Investment Society

- Yumo (President)
- George (Vice President of Research)
- Ansell (Vice President of External)
- Jerry (Director of Public Relations)



10:10am - 11:10am

Capital Insights: The Role of Financial Investments in Emerging Markets

- MC & Moderator Andres Suarez, Committee Member
 - Ana Gomez Chapman, BS '93, Managing Director, Hamilton Lane
 - Giacomelli, Managing Director, Deutsche Bank Securities
 - Francesco Del Vecchio, BS '97, Managing Director, Moelis & Company
 - Joyce Chang, Managing Director and Chair, Global Research, JP Morgan
 - Mark Mobius, Mobius Investments, U.A.E.
 - Wim Vandenhoeck, MBA '94, Senior Portfolio Manager, Invesco US



11:10am - 11:25am

Special Address by New York City Councilman Justin Brannan

- Introduction: Steven RaGa, Member of NY Assembly



11:25am - 11:55am

Coffee Break & Musical Interlude

- Melli Gupta & Anjali Gupta

Conference Agenda Nov 1



11:55am - 12:05pm

Legatum Center at MIT

- Haitham Khoury, Director of Fellowships and Global Initiatives at MIT's Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship

12:05pm - 12:50pm

Unveiling the Future: Launch of the 2024 EMI Report - OECD & IFC

- MC & Moderator Lourdes Casanova, Gail and Roberto Cañizares Director of the EMI, Cornell S.C. Johnson College of Business
 - Lourdes Casanova, Gail and Roberto Cañizares Director of the EMI, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University
 - Momina Aijazuddin, Regional Financial Sector Industry Head - MCT International Finance Corporation
 - Ricardo Buitrago, Research Associate Professor, EGADE Business School del Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico
 - Juana Garcia, Associate Professor at Uniandes, Colombia
 - Lorenzo Pavone, Deputy Head - Networks, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD, France

12:50pm - 1:00pm

Address of Prof. Fernanda Cahen (ESPM, Brazil) & Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

12:50pm - 2:00pm

Lunch Break

2:00pm - 2:30pm

Celebrating Excellence: Cornell EMI Corning Case Competition Winners

- MC and Moderators Andrei Zhuk (McKinsey) Iris Fernanda Arguedas Salgado & Niyonika Chhabra

Celebrating Excellence: Cornell EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition Winners

- MC and Moderators Carlos Eduardo Bernos Amoros & Osagie Oigiagbe

2:30pm - 3:20pm

Tech Horizons: AI and Innovation in Emerging Markets

- Moderator & MC Neelam Naik, Committee Members
 - Abhishek Mittal, Global Head, FCC Operations & Decision Science, Wolters Kluwer
 - Alvaro Rodriguez Arregui, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, IGNI, Mexico
 - Anindo Dutta, MBA '05, Partner/Principal, EY
 - James Codella, BS '07, M. Eng '08, Principal Product Manager, Microsoft Azure Cosmos DB
 - Maria Fernanda Vera, CEO & Co Founder, Wawa, Venezuela

3:20pm - 4:05pm

Synergistic Success: Unlocking Win-Win Investments in Emerging Markets

- Moderator & MC Rafaela Baldeon, Committee Member
 - Brad Stilwell, MBA'97, Economic Counselor, U.S. Embassy-Kuwait
 - Francisco Campos Ortiz, Chief LatAm Economist at Deutsche Bank
 - C. Gökhan Doran, Division Vice President and General Manager, Corning International, Germany
 - Lance Deng, Senior Advisor at the US-China Green Institute (USCGI)
 - Sam Van, MBA '13, Founder and CEO, SRO Partners

4:05pm - 4:35pm

Coffee Break

4:35pm - 4:50pm

SMART Program Showcase

- Fridah Mubichi-Kut, Executive Director of the Student Multidisciplinary Applied Research Teams (SMART) Program, Cornell University

4:50pm - 5:50pm

Re-Writing the Narrative: Private and Public Sectors in Africa

- Moderators Kaleb Kavuma & Carl Kananda, Committee Members
 - Catherine Muraga, Managing Director, Microsoft Africa Development Center, Kenya
 - Martin Kimani, Former Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, Kenya
 - Vincent Williams, Vice President of LP Relations, Sango Capital, South Africa
 - Chibamba Kanyama, Ambassador of Zambia to the U.S., Zambia
 - Fiyinfolu Oladiran, Partner, McKinsey & Company

5:50pm - 6:10pm

Fireside Chat: Honoring the Cañizares Alumni Award Winner

- Andrew Karolyi, Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University
- Eduardo Padilla Silva, MBA '81, Former CEO of Femsa, Former CEO of OXXO, Mexico

6:10pm - 6:15pm

Closing Ceremony: Reflecting on Innovation and Future Pathways

- Lourdes Casanova, Gail and Roberto Cañizares Director of the EMI, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University

Conference

Special Support



Marcela Albán
Cornell University



Cara Mecabe
Cornell University

Cornell EMI Conference Committee



Lourdes Casanova
Gail and Rob Cañizares Director of EMI



Maya Andrews
MSBA '25



Daniel dos Anjos
EMI Program Coordinator



Bruna Araujo
MSBA '25



Rafaela Baldeon
EMI Project Manager



Sasha Belyablya
ILR, '27



Renata Corrales
EMBA Americas '25



Valeria Corredor
EMI Summer Intern



Abhi Das
AEM Dyson, '25



Elnaz Gojayeve
EMI Social Media



Carl Kananda
MBA '26



Kaleb Kavuma
EMIC Co-President



Elaine Lustado
EMBA Americas '25



Sarah Lynch
MSBA '25



Neelam Naik
EMBA Metro NY '25



Dimitrios Nerantzinis
EMIC Vice President



Sahil Patel
MSBA '25



Himani Patel
MSBA '25



Nidhi Pavuluri
Cornell Tech MBA '25



Andres Suarez
EMBA/MS in Healthcare '25



Aryaman Thareja
Business Club for Emerging Economies

Cornell EMI Corning Case Competition Committee



Iris Arguedas
MBA '25



Kenza Bouarroudj
MBA '25



Niyonika Chhabra
Cornell Tech MBA '25



Yash Jhavar
MBA '25



Nisrina Ulfah
MBA '25

Cornell EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition Committee



Carlos Bernos
MBA '25



Osagie Ogiagbe
MBA '25

Speakers



Momina Aijazuddin, Regional Financial Sector Industry Head – MCT International Finance Corporation

Momina Aijazuddin is IFC's Senior Industry Manager for the Financial Institutions Group in the MCT region (Middle East, Central Asia, Turkey, Pakistan & Afghanistan). She manages a \$3.3 billion portfolio and leads a team of 50, focusing on investments, upstream, and advisory work. Previously, she led IFC's global MSME initiatives, including digital finance, microfinance, and fintech. With over 20 years of experience across 70+ countries, Momina has expertise in financial inclusion, institutional transformation, and policy engagement. She holds a Master's in Economics from the London School of Economics.



New York City Councilman Justin Brannan, Chair of the Committee on Finance

Councilman Justin Brannan, a lifelong Brooklynite and son of a teacher and record salesman, studied journalism and became a professional musician, touring over fifty countries. His activism began at a NYC radio station, where he organized for unpaid wages. After serving as chief of staff to Councilman Vinnie Gentile, he oversaw the NYC Department of Education's universal pre-K initiative. Elected in 2017, he advocates for working families and leads the powerful Committee on Finance. Brannan has brought over \$100 million to southwest Brooklyn and champions free vision care and increased arts funding in schools. He is passionate about his community and dedicated to making a difference.



Ricardo Buitrago, Research Associate Professor, EGADE Business School del Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico

Dr. Ricardo E. Buitrago R. is a Research Professor at EGADE Business School, Tecnológico de Monterrey, and an associate researcher at Universidad del Rosario, Colombia. He has held leadership roles in Colombian universities and has been a visiting professor across Latin America. Dr. Buitrago is a member of BALAS, AIB, and LASA, and the Andean region ambassador for the IE-Scholars network. His research focuses on international political economy, institutions, strategy, and international business. He has also worked in banking and consulting, and as a Project and Marketing Manager in Colombia.



Francisco Campos Ortiz, Chief LatAm Economist at Deutsche Bank

Francisco Campos is the Chief Economist for Latin America at Deutsche Bank, based in New York. Francisco is responsible for the formulation of the economic outlook for Mexico and the Andean countries. Prior to his current role, Francisco served as the Lead LatAm Economist at PGIM Fixed Income and as an economist at the Mexican Central Bank. Francisco's research has appeared as corporate white papers as well as in peer-reviewed publications. Francisco holds a B.A. in Economics from the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM), a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Ph.D. in Economics from Brown University.



Lourdes Casanova, Gail and Roberto Cañizares Director of the EMI, Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University

Lourdes Casanova is the Gail and Rob Cañizares Director of the Emerging Markets Institute and a Senior Lecturer at Cornell University's S.C. Johnson College of Business. A Fulbright Scholar, she holds a Master's from USC and a PhD from the University of Barcelona. Previously at INSEAD, she's recognized as one of the 50 most influential Iberoamerican intellectuals and 30 most influential Iberoamerican women intellectuals by Esglobal. She has co-edited books like *From Copycats to Leaders* and authored *Global Latinas*, while actively contributing to global economic forums and publications.



Joyce Chang, Chair of Global Research for J.P. Morgan's Corporate and Investment Bank

Joyce Chang is Chair of Global Research at J.P. Morgan's Corporate and Investment Bank, with 30+ years in Macro, Fixed Income, Emerging Markets, Geopolitical, and Thematic Research. She previously led Global and Fixed Income Research at J.P. Morgan. Joyce has earned 25 #1 individual rankings in Institutional Investor surveys and was inducted into the Fixed Income Analyst Society Hall of Fame in 2014. Prior to J.P. Morgan, she was a Managing Director at Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers. Joyce is an Executive Sponsor for AsPIRE and Women on the Move and serves on multiple boards. She holds degrees from Princeton and Columbia.



Ana Gomez Chapman, BS '93, Managing Director, Hamilton Lane

Ana Gomez Chapman is a financial services executive and corporate board director with 30 years of global experience. Originally from Colombia, she has lived and worked across North and Latin America, Asia Pacific, and Europe. As a Managing Director at Hamilton Lane, she leads client solutions in the Western U.S. Ana has held executive roles at Goldman Sachs, Allianz Global Investors, Citigroup, and others. She serves on boards like Lake Resources NL and MP Materials, and advisory boards including Backstop Solutions Group. Ana holds a B.S. from Cornell and an M.B.A. from Columbia.



James Codella, BS' 07, M. Eng '08, Principal Product Manager, Microsoft

James is a Principal Product Manager for AI & databases at Microsoft. In a previous life, James was a researcher for AI in Healthcare at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center. He holds a B.S. and M. Eng. in Operations Research from Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in Operations Research from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He currently lives in the NYC-Metro area with his wife and puppy.



Francesco Del Vecchio, BS '97, Managing Director, Moelis & Company

Francesco Del Vecchio is a Managing Director at Moelis & Company, specializing in Capital Structure Advisory. With over 20 years of experience in restructuring, financing, and investment management, he advises debtors, creditors, private equity sponsors, and governments globally. Francesco has worked in Moelis' New York and London offices and held roles at Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, and a New York-based asset manager. He holds a B.S. from Cornell University and an MSL from USC Gould School of Law. Francesco is on the Advisory Group of the Cornell Emerging Markets Institute and is active at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.



Lance Deng, Senior Advisor at the US-China Green Institute (USCGI)

Mr. Lance Deng is a Senior Advisor at the US-China Green Institute (USCGI), a non-profit promoting U.S.-China collaboration in clean energy and sustainable development. A seasoned executive in renewable energy, he has led advancements in energy storage, EV battery, and hydrogen technologies in markets like the U.S., UK, and Germany. Mr. Deng held senior roles at Plug Power and Microvast and is now involved in innovations like Vanadium Redox Flow Batteries, CCUS technologies, and ultrafast EV charging solutions, contributing to cleaner energy solutions worldwide.

Speakers



Anindo Dutta, MBA '05, Partner/Principal, EY

Anindo Dutta is a Partner/Principal at EY, leading strategic partnerships in Cloud, Digital/AI, and Cyber across Asia-Pacific. Previously, he was VP at Microsoft Consulting Services in Asia, Group VP at Oracle, and SVP at Xerox, with executive roles at HP and IBM. Anindo serves on the Board of Governors at the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, the Advisory Council at Cornell EMI, and the Advisory Board at Rutgers University. He mentors Cornell startups and has received the High Impact Leadership Award from ASCEND. Anindo holds degrees from Rutgers, the University of Pennsylvania, and an Executive MBA from Cornell.



Juana García, Associate Professor at Uniandes, Colombia

Juana García Duque is Associate Professor at the Business School from Universidad de los Andes, Colombia. Her research activity in international development includes: (i) the role of international cooperation and private sector in peacebuilding process and the study of (ii) internationalization and emerging economies. She is part of the MOC Microeconomics of Competitiveness leading by Harvard Business School and the EMRN Emerging Markets Research Network.



Vishal Gaur, Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University

Vishal Gaur is the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean and professor at Cornell's SC Johnson College of Business. He holds a PhD from Wharton, an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, and a BTech from IIT Delhi. As associate dean (2014–2019), he launched the Digital Technology Immersion and the MS in Business Analytics program. His research focuses on supply chains, retailing, and ecommerce, earning him the Wickham Skinner Early Career Research Award. A dedicated teacher, Gaur has received several awards, including the 2022 Class of 1992 Apple Award. He previously taught at NYU Stern and Harvard Business School.



Drausio Giacomelli, Managing Director, Deutsche Bank Securities

is a senior economist and strategist at DB who has covered EM for over two decades with expertise in global EM themes and LatAm. The teams he has managed have won several awards across economics and strategy. He is an engineer with a PhD in Economics from MIT.



C. Gökhan Doran, Division Vice President and General Manager, Corning International, Germany

Gökhan Doran was appointed division vice president and general manager, Corning International in June 2022. Prior to this, he was appointed regional manager EMEA, Corning International, and was responsible for driving business operations, strategy, and business development for Corning International in the EMEA region since 2015. Gokhan Doran joined Corning through acquisition of Siemens' telecom in 1999, as sales manager for Turkey. He then was in charge of the operation of the fiber plant in Gebze, Turkey and subsequently expanded his responsibility as country manager and managing director for the local entity.



Chibamba Kanyama, Ambassador of Zambia in the U.S.

Chibamba Kanyama is a Zambian business leader and writer specializing in communication strategy, corporate governance, and economics. He holds degrees from the University of Zambia, University of Reading, and Texila American University. Kanyama has held key roles at the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, Zambian Breweries, and the IMF. In 2023, he became Zambia's Ambassador to the U.S. He founded Bridges Limited, a consultancy firm, in 2017 and has written for The Post Newspapers since 2004. He is also a UNICEF and Climate Change Ambassador and initiated a business conference for Zambian teenagers.



Andrew Karolyi, Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University

Andrew Karolyi is the Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business and a Distinguished Professor of Management. An expert in investment finance and international markets, he has published widely in top finance journals. His books include International Capital Markets and Cracking the Emerging Markets Enigma. Karolyi has edited the Review of Financial Studies and served as an associate editor for prestigious journals. He has won awards like the Michael Jensen Prize and Fama/DFA Prize. Karolyi also leads global executive education programs and holds degrees from McGill University and the University of Chicago.



Martin Kimani, Former Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations

Ambassador Martin Kimani is the executive director of NYU's Center on International Cooperation. From 2021 to 2024, he served as Kenya's permanent representative to the UN, holding roles such as president of the Security Council and Executive Board president of UNDP, UNOPS, and UNFPA. Previously, he was Kenya's special envoy for countering violent extremism and director of the National Counter Terrorism Centre. Kimani holds a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College London and has received multiple honors, including Kenya's Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear and the German Africa Foundation's Honorary Award.



Haitham Khoury, Director of Fellowships and Global Initiatives at MIT's Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship

Dr. Haitham Khoury is the Director of Fellowships and Global Initiatives at MIT's Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship. He focuses on expanding fellowship offerings and building entrepreneurial ecosystems in emerging markets. Previously, he was a Scholar-in-Residence at MIT and worked at the American University of Beirut for over 12 years as Director of Career Management and Assistant Professor of Organizational Behavior. An organizational psychologist and Fulbright scholar, Dr. Khoury has over 18 years of experience in leadership development and organizational effectiveness. He enjoys baking, traveling, and reading sci-fi fantasy novels.



Abhishek Mittal, Global Head, FCC Operations & Decision Science, Wolters Kluwer

Abhishek has over 20 years of experience in driving sustainable business outcomes and transformation in financial services, regulatory compliance, legal, and insurance domains. At Wolters Kluwer, he leads business transformation and product innovation, managing a global team to develop solutions for internal processes and customer regulatory obligations. Before joining Wolters Kluwer in 2012, Abhishek held various risk and information management roles at American Express, enhancing capabilities in risk model execution, customer marketing, and commercial underwriting. An award-winning AI leader and conference speaker, he is active in forums like CDO Club and MIT CISR Data Board.

Speakers



Dr. Mark Mobius, Chairman, Mobius Emerging Opportunities Fund, U.A.E.

Dr. Mark Mobius, regarded as the father of emerging markets, is a leading figure in asset management. He is Chairman of the Mobius Emerging Opportunities Fund and spent over 30 years at Franklin Templeton Investments, where he grew AUM from \$100 million to over \$50 billion. A prolific author, his works include *The Inflation Myth* and *The Book of Wealth*. Mobius holds a Ph.D. from MIT and degrees from Boston University. His influence and contributions to the industry have earned him numerous awards, solidifying his reputation as one of the most successful managers in the last 30 years.



Fridah Mubichi-Kut, Executive Director of the Student Multidisciplinary Applied Research Teams (SMART) Program, Cornell University

Fridah Mubichi-Kut is a professor of practice in applied economics and management and the executive director of the SMART Program at Cornell's Dyson School. Her research focuses on the role of development policies and social networks in promoting agricultural innovations, economic development, and gender equity in emerging markets. Trained as an international business administrator and social scientist, she has worked with various organizations globally. Before Cornell, she was the director of monitoring and evaluation at the United Soybean Board, where she developed the organization's first measurement evaluation system and supported its strategic plan. She also worked with USAID-FtF Soybean Innovation Labs and Climate Resilient Beans.



Catherine Muraga, Managing Director, Microsoft Africa Development Center, Kenya

Catherine is a seasoned IT professional with over 15 years of experience across industries like manufacturing, aviation, and banking. She is the first woman to lead Microsoft's Africa Development Center (ADC), a role she finds both exciting and challenging. Before joining Microsoft, she led the Engineering team at Stanbic Bank Kenya and South Sudan, and previously served as Director of IT and Operations at Sidian Bank. Catherine holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Africa Nazarene University and has completed executive programs at Columbia Business School and Oxford University.



Fiyinfolu Oladiran, Partner, McKinsey & Company

Fiyin is a Partner at McKinsey & Company's Washington DC office, leading the firm's social, healthcare, and public-sector practice. He specializes in workforce development and higher education, working to improve the performance of institutions and enhance education and research outcomes. Fiyin has led transformation programs for HBCUs, large universities, and government bodies focused on economic mobility and revitalization. A recognized leader at McKinsey's Institute for Black Economic Mobility, he provides strategic guidance and speaks on inclusive economic growth. Before McKinsey, Fiyin contributed to malaria reduction efforts at Novartis and serves on the Board of the Nigerian University of Technology and Management.



Eduardo Padilla Silva, MBA '81, Former CEO of Femsa, Former CEO of OXXO, Mexico

Eduardo Padilla, former CEO of FEMSA, led the company to significant growth, expanding OXXO from 1,000 to over 21,000 stores across Latin America and diversifying into pharmacies and gas stations. He emphasized staff empowerment and company culture, working alongside employees during the pandemic. Padilla also contributed to social development by having corporate staff work in stores and advocating for flexible work conditions. An active Cornell alumnus, he has lectured at SC Johnson College of Business and received the Carlos R. Quintanilla Distinguished Latino Alumni Award. Padilla now serves on various boards and consults for companies with young leaders.



Lorenzo Pavone, Deputy Head – Networks, Partnerships and Gender Division, OECD

Lorenzo Pavone oversees the Emerging Markets Network (EMnet), a network of multinational companies promoting policy dialogue and analysis on business in emerging markets, hosted by the OECD Development Centre. He has experience in emerging markets, private sector development, competitiveness, investment promotion and business climate assessment. He holds an MBA from HEC Paris and a Master's Degree in Economics from the University of Rome La Sapienza and is member of the Faculty Advisory Council of the Emerging Markets Institute (EMI) at Cornell SC Johnson College of Business.



Amb. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in NYC

Amb. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, a 2002 Indian Foreign Service diplomat, speaks English, Russian, Hindi, and Odiya. His career includes senior roles in Indian embassies in Moscow, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan, and managing India's relations with Afghanistan and Iran. He served as Chief of Staff to the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Deputy Chief of Mission in Moscow, and as High Commissioner to Tanzania, where he advanced India-Tanzania relations to a Strategic Partnership. Currently, he is the Consul General of India in New York. He enjoys golf and is married with two daughters.



Praveena Rai, Managing Director & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX), India

Ms. Praveena Rai is the Managing Director & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. (MCX), India's largest commodity derivatives exchange. With over 20 years of experience in financial services, she previously served as COO at the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), driving the growth of digital payments. She has also held leadership roles at Citi Group, HSBC, and Kotak Mahindra Bank. An advocate for technology's transformative power, she is an engineer and a management postgraduate from College of Engineering, Guindy, and IIM Ahmedabad. She was featured in Forbes' Self-Made Women List 2024.



Alvaro Rodriguez Arregui, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, IGNIA, Mexico

Alvaro Rodriguez is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of IGNIA, a venture capital firm supporting tech entrepreneurs tackling challenges for Latin America's emerging middle class. IGNIA has backed companies like Rapyd, Tiendanube, and Credijusto. A former Harvard Business School faculty member, Alvaro also chaired Compartamos Banco and ACCION International. He held executive roles as CFO of Vitro and CEO of Farmacias Benavides. Recognized by the World Economic Forum and Forbes, he has received the National Entrepreneurship Award and HBS Alumni Achievement Award. Alvaro holds a BS from ITAM and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Speakers



Sameer Sain, MBA '95, Co-Founder & CEO, Everstone Capital, Singapore

Sameer Sain is the co-founder and CEO of Everstone, based in Singapore, where he oversees the firm's operations across multiple regions. Before founding Everstone, Sameer spent 11 years at Goldman Sachs as Managing Director, leading Institutional Wealth Management and the Special Investments Group (International). He also managed global public market portfolios for Goldman Sachs clients. Sameer holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Mumbai, a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Massachusetts, and an MBA from Cornell University.



Jayant Sinha, Former Chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance and Former Member of the Indian Parliament, India

Mr. Jayant Sinha is a renowned policy-maker, investor, and thought leader. As a two-term Member of Parliament from Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, he led major development projects and introduced India's first net zero legislation in 2021. He chaired the Standing Committee on Finance and served as Minister of State for Finance and Civil Aviation, driving key initiatives like India's bankruptcy code and the UDAN Regional Connectivity Scheme. Previously, he was a Partner at Omidyar Network and Managing Director at Courage Capital. Sinha holds degrees from Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, and IIT Delhi.



Brad Stilwell, MBA '97, Economic Counselor, U.S. Embassy-Kuwait

Brad Stilwell currently leads the Economic section of U.S. Embassy-Kuwait. During his 21-year diplomatic career, he has assisted U.S. investors in several regions of the world. Prior to this, he managed marketing campaigns and businesses for American Express, RealNetworks, and other technology firms. He has written for PC Magazine, The Wichita Eagle, and other publications. He is a 1997 MBA graduate of Cornell University's Johnson School of Business.



Sam Van, MBA '13, Founder and CEO, SRO Partners

Sam Van recently served as Head of Advisory Services and SVP for Freedom U.S. Markets, a division of Freedom Holding Corp [Nasdaq: FRHC]. With over 20 years of experience, he has listed 80+ companies on NYSE and Nasdaq, totaling \$7 billion in market value. He is an independent director for public companies and a Senior Board Advisor at RKtech. Previously, he led Deltec Investment Adviser's corporate advisory practice and held roles at FINRA and NYSE. Sam also advises Asian companies on U.S. capital markets and holds a B.S. in Finance from St. John's University and an MBA from Cornell University.



Wim Vandenhoeck, MBA '94, Senior Portfolio Manager, Invesco US

Wim Vandenhoeck is a Senior Portfolio Manager at Invesco, focusing on emerging markets local debt and international bond strategies, specializing in interest rate and foreign currency analysis. He joined Invesco after its merger with OppenheimerFunds in 2019. Previously, he was a partner at APQ Partners LLP and an asset manager at GLG Partners LP in London, both specializing in emerging market fixed income. Vandenhoeck also held leadership roles at Six Seasons Global Asset Management, Aravali Partners, and Havell Capital Management in New York. Earlier in his career, he worked at Bank Brussels Lambert and Paribas Bank.



Maria Fernanda Vera, CEO & Co Founder, Wawa, Venezuela

Maria Fernanda Vera, a Venezuelan entrepreneur with extensive experience in retail, marketing, and sustainability in the textile industry. Co-founder and CEO of La Wawa, a employee benefit and mobility platform. The first Venezuelan woman to become the CEO of a technology startup in the country.



Shoba Viswanathan, VP Development & Civic Engagement, Indiaspora

Shoba Viswanathan is Vice President of Development and Civic Engagement at Indiaspora. With experience in communications, community engagement, and non-profit management, she co-founded the Chitthi Brigade, promoting political participation among Indian-American women. Her academic background is in intersectional feminist research, and she has worked extensively in publishing. A first-generation Indian-American, she was born in New Delhi, raised in Chennai, and currently resides in New York. She has also lived in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Midwest. In her free time, she enjoys hiking in the Hudson Valley.



Vincent Williams, Vice President of LP Relations, Sango Capital, South Africa

Vincent William is the Vice President of LP Relations at Sango Capital, with over 25 years of experience in client engagement and investment roles at top firms. Before Sango, he was Senior VP at Legato Capital Management, overseeing Product Design and Business Development. He also served as Co-CEO and Director of Marketing at Lombardia Capital Partners. Vince has held leadership roles at RM Chase, SVB Capital, Northern Trust, Victory Capital Management, Mesirow Financial, Barclays Global Investors, and State Street Bank. He earned his BA in Economics from Northwestern University and attended the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

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Cornell EMI Corning Case Competition



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Acknowledgments

The EMI conference would not be possible without the support of so many people. Thank you to the members of the EMI Advisory Board, including Nell Cady-Kruse, Gail and Rob Cañizares, Henry Renard, Mark Mobius, Corning International, and all those who supported.

A special thanks to our amazing EMI Fellows and co-presidents of the Conference Organizing Committee for their hard work and dedication in helping to organize the event. Gratitude also goes to the leaders of the EMI Corning Case Competition, Iris Arguedas and Niyonika Chhabra, as well as Osagie Oiagiagbe, Carlos Bernos, and Ying Xue who led the EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition.

We extend our appreciation to Andrés Suarez, Rafaela Baldeon, Kaleb Kavuma, Carl Kananda, Aryaman Thareja, Himani Patel, Sahil Patel, and Renata Corrales for being excellent project managers, and to Maya Andrews, Valeria Corredor, Sarah Lynch, Lindsey Alikhsanyan, Neelam Naik, Elaine Lustado and Nidhi Pavuluri for their contributions to the design of various materials. Special thanks to Cara Mecabe and Marcela Alban for managing logistics.

Without the support of the EMI team, including Dimitrios Nerantzinis, Daniel dos Anjos, Abhi Das, Shefali Awashti, Daniela Santoiemma, social media manager Elnaz Gojayeveva, Sasha Belyablya, and all the researchers who supported the EMI report, and the EMI report would not have been possible.

We also thank the case developers Kenza Bouarroudj, Yash Jhavar, and Nisrina Ulfah, and the judges of the EMI Corning Case Competition: Mehmet Akgunay, Shivani Komma, Juana Garcia, Jhon Fonseca, Howard Tai, Diego Finchelstein, Alejandro Galindo, Andrei Zhuk, Xueyuan Liu, and the case evaluators for their valuable contributions to this year's edition.

Lastly, we extend our gratitude to Jorge de Jesus, Bahia Al Yafi, Michael Clouser, Diego Finchelstein, Karan Teckchandani, Nipun Joshi, Joshe Ordonez, Alvaro Rodriguez Arregui, and Amarildo Gjondrekaj, the judges of the EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition, for their contributions.



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