EMI
Emerging Markets Institute
CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

2025

EMI Annual Conference

New Rules, New Opportunities

November 7, 2025
Cornell Tech Campus,
Cornell University,
2 W Loop, New York City

EMIconference.com

Cornell
SC Johnson College of Business

Welcome

from the Dean

Welcome to the 15th 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 400 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 Guanghua School of Management earn an MMH from our Peter and Stephanie Nolan School of Hotel Administration. We are now in the 20th 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.

New rules, economic paradigms, and technologies are presenting new opportunities for emerging markets at a breakneck pace. It is important to hold events like this one for knowledge-sharing on 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 fifteenth Emerging Markets Institute Conference. Under the theme New Rules, New Opportunities, this event is the institute's flagship, where we will launch the 2025 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 9th Cornell Corning EMI Case Competition, an event in which 1343 students from the best business schools across 21 countries have competed this year. We're also excited to launch the sixth 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, Kaleb Kavuma, Carmyn Polk a, thank all our speakers, EMI fellows, Cornell Alumni, experts, and volunteers who have have made the conference and the competitions possible and broaden the body of knowledge surrounding Emerging Markets and Emerging Market Multinationals.

We sincerely appreciate the collaboration of our conference partners: the 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).
This year's conference is an important milestone as, thanks to the generous support of the Cañizares family, EMI will be named 'Cañizares Center for Emerging Markets'. A new era will begin for the Center and we count on you to continue Building Bridges and Encouraging Dialogue.

We'd also like to acknowledge the generosity of Gail and Rob Cañizares, Mark Mobius, 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 for Eduardo Padilla former CEO of Oxxo and Femsa from Mexico. This year's award goes to two great alum: Wendell Huang, CFO of TSMC and Denise Odaro, MD of Pai Partners.

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.

Lourdes Casanova

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

Thursday, November 6

10:45am – 12:15pm at 327 Tata Innovation Center

2025 Cornell EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition

- Welcome by Chairs: Joealen Benson, EMBA/MS in Healthcare '26, Regina Clarke, EMBA Metro NY '26, and Lourdes Casanova
  - 11:-00am AGRICAN, The American University in Cairo, Egypt
  - 11:-15am AIDRA HEALTH, Harvard University, United States
  - 11:-30am COEH, Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Brazil
  - 11:-45am DOCOKIDS, Universidad Javeriana Bogota, Colombia
  - 12:00pm NAVIGARE, Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

12:15pm – 3:00pm at 327 Tata Innovation Center

2025 Cornell EMI Corning Case Competition

- Welcome by Chairs Ayodeji Tolulope Ogunyamojum, MBA '26, Zara Rahman, MBA '26, Emma Xue, MBA '26, and Lourdes Casanova
  - 12:30pm BITS School of Management, India
  - 12:45pm IIM Indore, India
  - 1:00pm Bandung Institute of Technology, Indonesia
  - 1:15pm Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, University of Delhi, India
  - 1:30pm IIM Ahmedabad, India
  - 1:45pm Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan
  - 2:00pm Cornell University, United States
  - 2:15pm Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, University of Delhi, India

2:30pm Cornell Tech Incubator Presentation at 327 Tata Innovation Center

- Tomer Joshua – Associate Director – Runaway and Spinouts, Cornell Tech

3:00pm Cornell Tech Campus Tour

4:00pm at 327 Tata Innovation Center

Announcing the winners

Friday, November 7

9:30am – 10:00am at Bloomberg Center Lower Level

Welcome and Breakfast, MCs Matthew Jarek, Lucea Wright

10:00am – 10:10am at Bloomberg Auditorium

Opening Remarks

- Lourdes Casanova – Gail and Rob Cañizares EMI Director

10:10am – 11:00am at Bloomberg Auditorium

Financial Markets: How Trade and Capital Are Being Rewired, Moderator: Kaleb Kavuma

- Francesco Del Vecchio, BS '97 – Managing Director, Moelis and Co.
- Maria Claudia Ribeiro de Castro – Director of Fixed Income Research Invesco
- Alberto Ramos – Managing Director, Goldman Sachs
- Rohit Chopra – Managing Director, Lazard
- Joyce Chang – Chair of Global Research, J.P. Morgan's Commercial and Investment Bank

Panel Overview:

- This panel will examine how shifting geopolitical alliances, tariffs, and capital flows are reshaping trade and financial markets. With insights from investment banking, portfolio management, and global economic analysis, panelists will unpack the implications for emerging markets navigating new rules of globalization.

11:00am – 11:45am at Bloomberg Auditorium

Keynote Fireside Chat: Latin America in the New Global Playbook

- Moderator: Andrew Karolyi – Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business
- Ivan Duque – Former President of Colombia (2018–2022) and inaugural EMI Distinguished Fellow (Zoom)
- Alfonso Eyzaguirre – CEO for LATAM and Canada, JPMorgan
- William Maloney, Chief Economist, Latin America, World Bank

Panel Overview:

- This fireside chat will explore Latin America's evolving role in the global economy. Iván Duque will open with a regional overview of policies and governance challenges, followed by Alfonso Eyzaguirre's perspective from the corporate and financial frontlines. Together, they will examine LatAm's opportunities and challenges in a world shaped by shifting trade rules, financial flows, and technological disruption.

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

Friday, November 7

11:45am – 12:00pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

Winner Presentations: Case and Pitch Competition

12:00pm – 1:00pm at Bloomberg Center Lower Level and First Floor

Lunch

1:00pm – 1:45pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

The Digital Wave: Digital Assets and Currencies in Emerging Markets. Moderator: Rafa Baldeon

- John Wu, BS '92 – President, Ava Labs -
- Laluy Garduño, MBA '19 – Director for Blockchain & Digital Assets, Mastercard
- Mark Mobius – Founding Partner, Mobius Investments (Zoom)
- Cecilia He, MBA '14 – CFO of Flight, Trip.com Group

Panel Overview:

- From cryptocurrencies to central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), digital finance is transforming how capital moves across borders. Panelists will debate how emerging markets can harness digital assets to foster inclusion while managing risks.

1:45pm – 2:30pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

Global Risks and Opportunities: Insights from Multinationals and the World Bank

- Moderator: Vishal Gaur – Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Johnson Graduate School of Management
- Claude Echahamian – VP & GM, Corning Advanced Optics
- Prof. Kaushik Basu – C. Marks Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics, Cornell University
- Rustom Desai, MBA '95 – Board Director, Technology Advisory Visiting Senior Lecturer
- Edward Mermelstein – New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs
- Kelleny Berchuck – Head, Innovation Partnerships and New Ventures, Siemens Healthineers

Panel Overview:

- This session examines how emerging economies attract and sustain investment flows—from global institutions, multinational firms, and capital markets—while also addressing the risks that policymakers and businesses must manage to position themselves as investment focal points. Panelists will explore how macroeconomic fundamentals, technological opportunities, and institutional design interact to direct capital inflows. Drawing on perspectives from the World Bank, leading multinationals, and academic game theory, the discussion will highlight strategies for governments and businesses to compete for global capital and innovation.

2:30pm – 3:15pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

Launch 2025 EMI Report

- Lourdes Casanova – Gail and Rob Cañizares EMI Director
- Anne Miroux – EMI Faculty Fellow
- Veneta Andonova and Juana García – Professor, Universidad de los Andes
- Nan Li Collins UNCTAD Director of Investment and Enterprise UNCTAD
- Osam Iyahen, MBA '02 – Senior Director & Head of Infrastructure, Africa Finance Corporation
- Diego Finchelstein, Universidad de San Andres and Ricardo Buitrago, Tec de Monterrey

3:15pm – 3:45pm at Bloomberg Center Lower Level

Coffee Break: Capstone Projects by EMI fellows, EMIC and Case Studies

3:45pm – 4:00pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

Global Leadership Fellows

- Geoffrey Lim, MBA '00 – Managing Partner, Aeterra Capital Partners
- Heather Henyon, MBA '03 – Co-Founder, Mindshift Capital

4:00pm – 5:30pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

15th Anniversary Celebration, EMI Naming, Distinguished Fellow

- 4:00-4:20 Fireside Chat & Cañizares Alumni Award:
  - Gail Cañizares,
  - Andrew Karolyi – Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business
  - Wendell Jen-Chau Huang, MBA '86 – CFO, TSMC (video), Catherine Huang, Dyson '20,
  - Representative of the Taiwan Embassy
  - Esohe Denise Odaro, MBA '09 – MD, PAI Partners Private Equity
  - Announcement of the 2026 EMI Distinguished Fellow
- 4:20-5:30 EMI Naming Announcement with Carmyn Polk and Aryaman Thareja
  - Nell Cady-Kruse, Rustom Desai, Veneta Andonova, Heike Michelsen
  - Roberto Cañizares, BS '71, MBA '74

5:30pm – 5:35pm at Bloomberg Auditorium

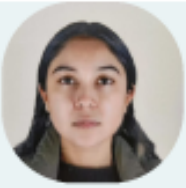
Closing Remarks and Key Takeaways

- Lourdes Casanova – Gail and Rob Cañizares EMI Director

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

Conference Committees

Lourdes Casanova
Gail and Rob Cañizares Director of EMI



Sofia Acosta
EMI Summer Intern

Bisoye Ajibola-Taiwo
MBA '26

Daniel dos Anjos
CGI Assistant at EMI

Patricio Barnuevo
EMBA Metro NY '26

Melissa Caramanica
EMBA/MS in Healthcare '26

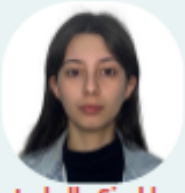
Gabriel Carvalho
Rawlings Scholar '27

Fumei Cerecino Mayer
EMBA/MS in Healthcare '26

Sifei Chen
EMI Social Media

Rachel Cheng
MSBA '26

Valeria Corredor
EMI Summer Intern



Isabella Giraldo
EMI Summer Intern

Elnaz Gojayeva
EMI Social Media

Abubakar Idris
MBA '26

Khizar Jaffry
Cornell Tech MBA '26

Tania Medina
EMBA Metro NY '26

Maria Jose Meza
Cornell Tech MBA '26

Dimitrios Nerantzinis
EMIC Vice President

Gianna Ou
ILR, '27

Richa Pathak
EMBA/MS in Healthcare '26

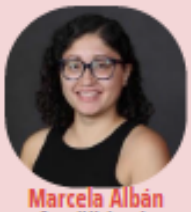
Carmyn Polk
MBA '26

Vijay Raghunathan
EMBA/MS Healthcare '26

Dimple Rathod
Cornell Tech MBA '26

Yuexing (June) Xie
Visiting Scholar

Special Support



Marcela Albán
Cornell University

Cara Mecabe
Cornell University

Teresa Thresher
Cornell University

Conference Committees

Co-Chairs of the Conference

Rafaela Baldeon
EMI Project Manager

Kaleb Kavuma
EMIC Co-President

Aryaman Thareja
MBA '26

Cornell EMI Corning Case Competition Committee

CORNING

Ayodeji Ogunyamoju
MBA '26

Zara Rahman
MBA '26

Fiorina Siamir
BS ILR '28

Emma Xue
MBA '26

Summer Interns Support

Arshia Kohli
EMI Summer Intern

Rosita Quintero
EMI Summer Intern

George Stoody
EMI Summer Intern

Cornell EMI Mark Mobius Pitch Competition Committee

mobius

Joealen Benson
EMBA/MS in Healthcare '26

Guru Bhardwaj
MBA '25

Rocky Brito
MSBA '25

Niyonika Chhabra
Cornell Tech MBA '25

Haroon Chohan
EMBA Metro NY '26

Regina Clarke
EMBA Metro NY '26

Aniket Dey
MSBA '25

Thrisha Gogineni
BS Dyson '28

Edwin Torres
EMBA/MS Healthcare '25

Rukuma Viegas
EMBA Metro NY '26

Speakers

Veneta Andonova – Professor, Universidad de los Andes

Veneta Andonova is an Associate Professor at Universidad de los Andes School of Management and served as Dean from 2019 to 2023. She holds a PhD from Universidad Pompeu Fabra and has taught at leading Latin American business schools. A mentor to startups and entrepreneurs, she publishes in top international journals in management and economics. She co-founded the Emerging Markets Research Network, a collaboration among Cornell, Feausp, Egade, and Universidad de los Andes. She authored Multilatinas: Strategies for Internationalization (2017) and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Unexpected Places (2019).

Kelleny Berchuck – Head, Innovation Partnerships and New Ventures, Siemens Healthineers

Dr. Kelleny Berchuck is a seasoned healthcare innovator and product leader with over 15 years of experience driving impact across MedTech. She currently leads Innovation Partnerships and New Ventures at Siemens Healthineers, where she has scaled new businesses and built strategic collaborations. With a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Drexel University and executive training from Stanford GSB, Kelleny has held leadership roles in R&D, manufacturing, and commercialization. She serves on advisory boards, mentors startups, and actively contributes to global health initiatives. Her work blends technical expertise with entrepreneurial vision to transform healthcare delivery worldwide.

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, J.P. Morgan's Commercial and Investment Bank

Joyce Chang is Chair of Global Research at J.P. Morgan's Commercial and Investment Bank, with 36 years of experience spanning macroeconomics, fixed income, emerging markets, and geopolitical strategy. Since joining in 1999, she has held top research leadership roles and earned 25 #1 rankings in Institutional Investor surveys. Joyce serves on multiple boards, including the German Marshall Fund and Trickle Up, and is Executive Sponsor of J.P. Morgan's AsPIRE network. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Committee of 100, she holds an M.P.A. from Princeton and a B.A. from Columbia, where she received the John Jay Award.

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.

Prof. Kaushik Basu – C. Marks Professor of International Studies and Professor of Economics, Cornell University

Kaushik Basu is Professor of Economics and the Carl Marks Professor at Cornell University. From 2012 to 2016 he was the Chief Economist of the World Bank. Educated at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, and the London School of Economics, Basu has published extensively in development economics, game theory, welfare economics and industrial organization. His most recent book The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics was published by Princeton University Press in 2018.

Rob Cañizares, BS '71, MBA '74

Rob Cañizares is a global business leader with over two decades of experience transforming multinational organizations. Former President of MSA International, he tripled its global business and expanded operations across emerging markets. Prior to MSA, he spent 28 years at Trane, leading exponential growth in Asia. A Cornell alumnus (BS'71, MBA'74), he also holds a master's in applied economics from Louvain. Now an advisor, lecturer, and board member at Cornell's Emerging Markets Institute, he mentors startups and supports education initiatives. Rob and his wife Gail have lived on four continents and speak four languages.

Claudia Castro – Director of Fixed Income Research, Invesco

Claudia Castro is a Portfolio Manager at Invesco Fixed Income, specializing in emerging markets across the Americas and Africa. She leads the firm's ESG sovereign infrastructure strategy, integrating proprietary ESG scores into sovereign bond investing. Claudia began her career at Morgan Stanley and held research roles at institutions including the IMF, World Bank, and Central Bank of Spain. She has worked on economic projects in Brazil, Switzerland, and Italy. Claudia holds a BA in economics from UERJ, a master's in political science from UPenn, and a master's and PhD in economics from Columbia University.

Rohit Chopra – Managing Director, Lazard

Rohit Chopra is a Portfolio Manager/Analyst on the Emerging Markets Equity and Emerging Markets Core Equity team, focusing on consumer and telecommunications research and analysis. He began working in the investment field in 1996. Prior to joining the Firm in 1999, Rohit was with Financial Resources Group, Deutsche Bank and Morgan Stanley. He has a BS in Finance and Information Systems from New York University and also studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Rustom Desai, MBA '95 – Senior Lecturer, Cornell's Johnson Graduate School of Business

Rustom Desai spent 25 years driving transformative growth at Corning Incorporated across tech-intensive industries. A global citizen, he has lived and worked in the US, China, Taiwan, and India. He serves on public, private, and nonprofit boards, including McLean Project for the Arts. At Cornell's Johnson School, he teaches Strategic Alliances and Family Enterprise Governance, and is a Faculty Fellow at the Smith Family Business Initiative. Rustom integrates generative AI into his teaching and board work, exploring its impact on strategy and governance. He also advises Cornell's Emerging Markets Institute and Praxis Center for Venture Development.

Speakers

Ivan Duque – Former President of Colombia (2018–2022) and inaugural EMI Distinguished Fellows

Iván Duque served as President of Colombia (2018–2022), becoming the country's youngest elected leader. A global advocate for sustainability, innovation, and democratic values, he is the inaugural Distinguished Fellow at Cornell's Emerging Markets Institute and holds roles at Oxford, Yale, WRI, and the Bezos Earth Fund. Duque founded the Iván Duque Center for Prosperity and Freedom and the I+D Foundation to empower youth in remote regions. He launched the Concordia Amazon Initiative and serves on boards including Conservation International and the FIFA Foundation. His work continues to shape global conversations on green finance, migration, and inclusive development.

Alfonso Eyzaguirre – CEO for LATAM and Canada, JPMorgan

Alfonso Eyzaguirre is CEO of J.P. Morgan for Latin America and Canada, and Head of Investment Banking for the region. Since joining the firm in 1997, he has held leadership roles across the Southern Cone and Chile. He oversees all regional operations and serves on J.P. Morgan's Corporate & Investment Bank Operating Committee. Prior to J.P. Morgan, he worked in M&A and private equity at Bankers Trust. Alfonso holds a degree in Economics and Finance from Universidad Católica de Chile and an MBA from UCLA, where he received the John Fred Weston Award in Finance. He is fluent in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

Vishal Gaur – Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean of the Johnson Graduate School of Management

Vishal Gaur is the Anne and Elmer Lindseth Dean at Cornell's Johnson Graduate School of Management and a professor of operations, technology, and information management. He holds a PhD from Wharton, an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, and a BTech from IIT Delhi. Gaur has led innovative programs in digital technology and business analytics, and his award-winning research spans supply chains, e-commerce, and data-driven decision-making. A celebrated educator and thought leader, he serves on academic boards and teaches courses in digital business and strategic operations, blending theory with real-world impact.

Heather Henyon, MBA '03, Co-Founder, Mindshift Capital

A Cornell MBA graduate and a seasoned expert in finance, technology, and strategy, has dedicated her career to a noble and impactful cause: empowering women entrepreneurs in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. From receiving the prestigious 2023 Cañizares Award to founding Mindshift Capital, Henyon's story is one of determination, vision, and unwavering commitment to social change. Join us as we celebrate her achievements and explore how her efforts are reshaping the world of business and investment.

Osam Iyahen, MBA '02 – Senior Director & Head of Infrastructure, Africa Finance Corporation

Osam Iyahen is Senior Director and Head of Transport Infrastructure & Logistics at Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), overseeing a $1.4B investment portfolio across Africa. With over 25 years of experience in energy, natural resources, and infrastructure finance, he has led landmark projects including gold mines and multi-billion-dollar oil and gas deals that created over 30,000 jobs. Osam has structured over $5B in financing and serves on several AFC portfolio boards. He holds an MBA from Cornell University, executive certificates from Harvard and Columbia, and a BA from Middlebury College.

Claude Echahamian – VP and GM Advanced Optics, Corning Incorporated

Echahamian leads Corning's businesses in semiconductors, aerospace, and defense, bringing over 20 years of experience. Previously President and GM of Corning International, he oversaw operations and strategy across emerging markets including India, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. Before Corning, he spent a decade at Aviat Networks, pioneering Ethernet microwave solutions in Europe. His expertise spans sales, services, and global expansion. Echahamian holds a Master of Science from Telecom Bretagne in France.

Laluy Garduño, MBA '19 – Director for Blockchain & Digital Assets, Mastercard

Laluy Garduno is a strategic leader in blockchain and fintech, currently serving as Director of Strategy & Operations for Crypto & Blockchain at Mastercard. With over a decade of experience across Latin America and the U.S., she has driven innovation in financial services, data partnerships, and emerging technologies. An angel investor and mentor, Laluy empowers visionary startups in LATAM. She holds an MBA from Cornell Tech and a Fintech diploma from ITAM. Recognized among LATAM's top angel investors, she is passionate about inclusive tech, operational excellence, and fostering leadership through mentorship and community engagement.

Cecilia He, MBA '14 – CFO of Flight, Trip.com Group

Cecilia He is the CFO of the Flight Business Group at Trip.com, where she oversees global financial operations and strategy. With over a decade of experience in commercial finance and business development, she has held leadership roles at Expedia and Groupon, driving growth across international markets. Cecilia earned her MBA from Cornell University's Johnson Graduate School of Management and holds a bachelor's degree in Finance from Xiamen University. Known for her analytical rigor and cross-cultural expertise, she blends strategic insight with operational excellence to lead high-impact initiatives in the travel and technology sectors.

Wendell Jen-Chau Huang, MBA '86 – CFO, TSMC

Wendell Huang is the Chief Financial Officer and Spokesperson of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (TSMC). Since joining TSMC in 1999, he has led major financial initiatives including strategic acquisitions, bond issuances, and equity transactions. With over 30 years of experience in finance, Mr. Huang oversees TSMC's Finance Division, covering investment management, financial planning, risk management, and compliance. Prior to TSMC, he held roles at ING Barings, Chase Manhattan Bank, and others. He holds a B.B.A. in Statistics from National Chengchi University and an MBA from Cornell University.

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

Andrew Karolyi is the Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business and Harold Bierman, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Management. A leading scholar in international finance, he has published extensively and authored books including Cracking the Emerging Markets Enigma. He has held editorial roles at top finance journals and received numerous research and teaching awards. Karolyi consults globally and serves on boards including RRBM and the UN's PRME. He earned his PhD and MBA from the University of Chicago and BA from McGill, and previously worked at the Bank of Canada.

Speakers

Geoffrey Lim, MBA '00 – Managing Partner, Aeterra Capital Partners

Geoffrey Lim is Managing Partner at Aeterra Capital Partners, with over 25 years of private equity and investment banking experience across Hong Kong, Beijing, and New York. He previously served as Managing Director at Invesco Private Capital, leading Asia Pacific investments, and held senior roles at The Rohatyn Group, CLSA Capital Partners, and Founder Group. Lim earned his BA from Hunter College and MBA from Cornell University. He serves on the Cornell University Council and the Johnson College of Business Council, and has worked with a range of global investors including sovereigns, family offices, and corporates.

Edward Mermelstein – New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs

Edward Mermelstein is New York City's Commissioner for International Affairs, serving as the City's liaison to the diplomatic community and the UN. A seasoned attorney and entrepreneur, he previously led One & Only Holdings, specializing in international law and real estate. Edward is deeply involved in philanthropy, serving on boards including NYU, JDC, and COJECO, and has led humanitarian efforts through ZAKA. A Cornell Law graduate and NYU alumnus, he emigrated from Ukraine in 1976. Fluent in English and Russian, he lives in NYC with his wife Rose, a Tony-winning Broadway producer, and their two sons.

Mark Mobius – Founding Partner, Mobius Investments

Dr. Mark Mobius received his Ph.D. at MIT in Cambridge Massachusetts. He now heads up Mobius Capital Partners based in London. The firm has two investment funds: Mobius Investment Trust in London and Mobius Emerging Markets Fund in Luxembourg. Dr. Mobius has been investing in emerging markets since 1987 and managed the very first listed emerging markets fund on the New York Stock Exchange. He has received numerous awards and is also the author of a number of books including The Inflation Myth and The Wonderful World of Deflation, The Little Book of Emerging Markets and Invest for Good.

Alberto Ramos – Managing Director, Goldman Sachs

Alberto Ramos is Head of Latin America Economic Research at Goldman Sachs. He joined the firm in 2003 and became Managing Director in 2009. Previously, he was a senior economist at the IMF, working on Argentina, Brazil, and Turkey, with a focus on debt sustainability and sovereign restructuring. His research has appeared in leading publications including IMF Working Papers and the Journal of Applied Economics. Alberto holds an MA and PhD in Economics from the University of Chicago and has taught at both the University of Chicago and Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Lisbon.

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Anne Miroux is former Director of the Division on Technology and Logistics at UNCTAD and Head of the Secretariat of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development. With over 30 years of experience in trade, finance, and innovation policy, she directed the World Investment Reports and edited the UN Transnational Corporations Journal. She serves on advisory boards at Oxford University and the Foundation for the Future of Supply Chains. Miroux holds an MBA from HEC Paris, a diploma from Sciences Po, and a PhD in Economics from Paris I-Sorbonne.

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Esohe Denise Odaro is Head of ESG & Sustainability at PAI Partners, guiding strategy across €26B in assets. Formerly at IFC, she led sustainable finance initiatives including green and social bonds. A global ESG leader, she chaired the ICMA Principles Steering Committee and serves on advisory boards for Cornell's Emerging Markets Institute and the IEA. Denise has received multiple accolades, including PE News' Twenty Most Influential in ESG and Women in Finance's Sustainability Lead award. She holds an MA from Cambridge, an MBA from Cornell, and is an alumna of Harvard's Emerging Leaders Program.

John Wu, BS '92 – President, Ava Labs

John Wu is President of Ava Labs, developer of the Avalanche blockchain platform, backed by a16z and trusted by institutions like JPMorgan and KKR. With over 20 years in fintech and investing, he previously led Sureview Capital and managed tech portfolios at Kingdon Capital and Tiger Management. John holds a BS from Cornell and an MBA from Harvard, where he is an executive fellow. He supports education through his family scholarship trust and serves on Cornell boards. Committed to community service, he is also a board member of his local YMCA.

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