



Session 2: Achieving the Last Mile through Technology

This session will focus on how the last mile challenge can be tied to global and national policy agendas and the role of new technologies in achieving inclusive and sustainable development to help achieve access, increase employment, and reduce poverty.

Moderator: Thomas Maier, Special Advisor on Infrastructure, EBRD

Introductory remarks: Sarquis Jose Buainain Sarquis, Vice President for Economic Research, Risk, and Strategy and Partnerships, NDB

Panelists:

Wale Shonibare, Director, Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation, AfDB

Thierry Deau, Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Meridiam Fund Catherine Workman, Partner, Pinset Masons

Jiang Yang, Chief Executive Officer, PinStreet, China

Thomas Maier, Special Advisor on Infrastructure, EBRD



Thomas Maier is member of a number of infrastructure related companies and provides consulting services for infrastructure clients. Until 2017, Thomas Maier was the Managing Director in charge of the Infrastructure sector at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Mr Maier joined the EBRD as Senior Project Manager in August 1993 from NatWest Markets where he worked on acquisitions, management buy-outs and highly leveraged transactions in the UK and Western Europe. Mr Maier is a German national and holds a degree in Public Management and an MA in Development Economics.

Wale Shonibare, Director, Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation, AfDB



Wale Shonibare is the Director responsible for Energy Financial Solutions, Policy and Regulation at the African Development Bank. He has close to three decades experience spanning Africa, Europe, Middle East and Asia. Prior to joining AfDB, he worked for investment banks in Dubai, Lagos, and London.

In his current role, he oversees the teams of investment officers responsible for structuring across the broad range of products offered by the Bank (equity, debt, guarantees and capital markets solutions) to support public and private sector investments in the energy sectors in Africa. On the policy and regulation side, he leads a team of economists, statisticians and policy specialists who work with governments to create an enabling environment to encourage private sector participation in the energy sector through pioneering initiatives such as the Electricity Regulatory Index for Africa, first published in 2018.

Wale holds an MBA from Imperial College, University of London as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from University of Glasgow.



Thierry Deau, Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Meridiam Fund



Thierry Déau is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Meridiam, a leading independent global investor and asset manager specializing in public and community infrastructure founded in 2005.

He began his career in Malaysia with the construction firm GTM International. He then joined France's Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations where he held several positions with its investment and development subsidiary Egis Projects, moving up from project manager, then director of concession projects to his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Egis in 2001. During his tenure at Egis he headed up international operations for the Egis Group executive committee, served on its risk management committee, and acted as member and chairman on the boards of several subsidiaries.

He is also a founder and Chairman of the Longterm Infrastructure Investors Association (LTIIA), an organization founded in 2014 that is focused on creating globally accepted best practices for how long term infrastructure investors approach ESG issues, capacity building, inclusive development, and performance measurement issues as well as serving as an international industry voice in the dialogue with the public sector.

He is a graduate of France's engineering school, Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées.

Sarquis Jose Buainain Sarquis, Vice President for Economic Research, Risk, and Strategy and Partnerships, NDB



Since February 2018, Dr. Sarquis has been Vice President for Risk, Research, Strategy and Partnerships and Chief Risk Officer at the New Development Bank (NDB) in Shanghai.

He has accumulated extensive experience as both economist and diplomat working in international economic affairs, particularly with multilateral organizations such as the OECD, the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO. Prior to NDB, Dr. Sarquis had worked in Brazil's Ministry of External Relations since 1991. He was Head of International Economic Organizations Division and held several positions as Adviser on international finance, investment, trade and development, including at the Embassies in London and Berlin. He was Minister-Counsellor for economic and OECD affairs at the Embassy in Paris (2009-2014) and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy in Tokyo (2014-2017).

Dr. Sarquis has lectured and researched in the fields of macroeconomics, growth, development, trade, investment and international finance. He received his Ph.D. and M.Sc. degrees in Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE) and holds a B.Sc. in Electronic Engineering from the Polytechnic School of Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. He was granted research prizes, such as the Gilbert de Botton Award in Finance Research



Catherine Workman, Partner, Pinset Masons



Catherine Workman is a partner at the international law firm Pinsent Masons. She has been delivering major and significant pieces of infrastructure across a number of jurisdictions for over 20 years. Catherine has a wide range of experience across the infrastructure markets from social infrastructure (hospitals and schools), economic infrastructure (airports, ports, roads and street lighting) and energy infrastructure (energy from waste). She has advised the full range of stakeholders in infrastructure projects including governments, sponsors, and lenders. In addition she has worked in a number of jurisdictions including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Greece, Kuwait, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, South Africa, the UAE and the UK.

Jiang Yang, Founder and Program Lead of PinStreet, Deputy director of China Sustainable Transportation Center, and Co-founder and CEO, Beijing CityDNA Technology Ltd



Dr. Jiang is the deputy director at China Sustainable Transportation Center (CSTC). He has been managing a variety of projects in Chinese cities, including transit-oriented development, urban retrofits, non-motorized transportation system development and city carbon emissions evaluation. In 2017, Dr. Jiang founded the Beijing CityDNA Technology Ltd with a vision of providing data and analytic tools to visualize cities and to leverage aspirations for urban sustainability. He has led the team to develop the PinStreet, a map-based public participation platform focusing on urban space quality and livelihood issues. As a crowd-sourcing tool integrated with WeChat the most popular social APP in China, PinStreet provides a convenient channel for Chinese citizens to make their needs and suggestions visible in the process of policy design, infrastructure improvement and urban governance.

