

Horasis Global Meeting

Virtual Event, 8 June 2021

a Horasis leadership event

Fostering Shared Humanity

Report



Inspiring our future

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Upcoming Horasis events:

Horasis India Meeting Virtual Event, 24 July 2021

Horasis Asia Meeting Kitakyushu, Japan, 21-22 November 2021

Horasis is a global visions community dedicated to inspiring our future. (www.horasis.org)

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Virtual Event, 8 June 2021

a Horasis leadership event

Fostering Shared Humanity

■ **Co-chairs:**

Kevin Abosch	Conceptual Artist and Pioneer in Cryptoart, Ireland
Ibukun Awosika	Chair, First Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria
Lord Barker of Battle	Executive Chairman, En+ Group, United Kingdom
Barbara Ann Bernard	Chief Executive Officer, Wincrest Capital, Bahamas
Lord Karan Bilimoria	President, Confederation of British Industry, United Kingdom
Lisa Edwards	President and Chief Operating Officer, Diligent Corporation, USA
Vijay Eswaran	Chairman, QI Group, Hong Kong
Kris Gopalakrishnan	Chairman, Axilor Ventures and Co-founder, Infosys, India
Hemant Kanoria	Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited, India
Hank McKinnell	Chairman, Moody's, USA
Alan Patricof	Founder, Greycroft and Apax Partners, USA
David de Rothschild	Founder, Voice for Nature, United Kingdom
Murat Seitnepesov	Chairman, Caspian Week, Switzerland
Vinod Sekhar	Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, Petra Group, Malaysia
Michael Shvo	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, SHVO, USA
Megan J. Smith	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, shift7; Former CTO of the United States, USA
Young Sohn	Chairman, HARMAN International, USA
Nadja Swarovski	Chair, Swarovski Foundation, United Kingdom
Deborah Wince-Smith	President, United States Council on Competitiveness, USA

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Cosmic Citizens
The Digital Economist
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Publicize
Thunderbird School of Global Management

Schedule

Part I

Uniting in the morning (06.30-07.15)

- Horasis Community Building
- Dancing to foster shared humanity

Digital Breakfast Sessions (07.15-08.00)

- Times of upheaval
- Democratic processes
- Cooperating beyond COVID
- Extending digital Solutions
- China's Belt & Road
- Clink of cybercurrencies
- Future of transportation
- Trusting machine learning
- Investment in the Greater Caspian Region
- Understanding across cultures
- Advances in digital economy
- Social entrepreneurship
- Arts: Toward a Feminist Future

Parallel Sessions (08.00-08.40)

- Sustainable investing
- Post-COVID scenarios
- Global balance of talent
- Financial innovation
- Women in boardrooms
- Extending health infrastructures
- AI for betterment
- Coherence in markets
- New business models
- Blockchain solutions
- Trust-building
- The rules of governance
- Female business leaders
- Cultural diversity
- Global impact of shared R&D
- Arts: Fostering Shared Humanity

Welcome and Overview (08.40-08.45)

- Horasis Introduction

Plenary (08.45-09.30)

- Fostering a shared humanity

Plenary (09.30-10.15)

- Creating a shared tomorrow
- The future of Europe

Parallel Sessions (10.15-11.00)

- Update on COVID-19
- Fostering corporate strategies
- Future of travel
- The female executive
- Demographics and agriculture
- COP26
- Preparing for new pandemics
- Tech for the public good
- Short vs long-term capitalism
- Promoting diversity
- National competitiveness
- ESGs and trust
- Becoming digitized
- Looking backwards
- Sovereign Wealth Funds
- Italy
- Mobility, immigration and business travel
- Female entrepreneurs
- Arts: Today's modernism

Part II

Plenary (11.00-11.45)

- Future of democracy
- The Arts: Decolonizing identity

Plenary (11.45-12.30)

- Action for the SDGs
- Horasis Community Building

Parallel Sessions (12.30-13.15)

- Funding innovation
- Collaboration is our superpower!
- African surgency
- Social inequality
- Managing Our Energy Demands
- Cyber threats
- Learning is difficult
- The Trend is Your Friend
- Fifth industrial revolution
- Risk takers or avoiders
- Capitalism and PPP
- Impact-led recovery
- New globalization
- The coming tech contest
- The greatest generational wealth transfer
- The MENA region in transition
- Young entrepreneurs and investors
- Small Nations in Post-COVID World
- The Greater Caspian Region
- Arts: Each other's souls

Plenary (13.15-14.00)

- Mitigating Climate Change
- Arts: Embracing Technology

Plenary (14.00-14.45)

- Global economic outlook
- Cooperation in the Post-pandemic World

Plenary (14.45-15.30)

- Leadership through disruptions
- Africa: The world's engine of growth

Parallel Sessions (15.30-16.15)

- Fostering digital bounty
- The impact of XR on human lives
- Transitioning to betterment
- Technology: Gateway to shared humanity
- Latin America
- Financial disparity
- Implanting Industry 4.0
- Digital Privacy Standards for Smart Cities
- Developing leaders
- Pivoting through uncertainty
- Europe - its future
- Bitcoin
- Purposeful business
- Data security
- Access to international markets
- Private Capital in the Energy Sector
- Arts: Contemporary Art Reimagined

Parallel Sessions (16.15-17.00)

- Transforming Technology
- Thriving with risk
- Overcoming populism
- Innovation during COVID
- Post-COVID financial systems
- UK after Brexit
- Family office focus
- Lost generations
- Accurate news
- Future of work
- Banking and FinTech
- Global investment strategies
- Global digital divide
- Philanthropic giving
- Cyber threats
- Impact-multiplying Partnerships
- New Wave of Economic Prosperity
- Will ethics survive the pandemic?
- Digital Asset Compliance
- Arts: Inspiring change

Part III

Plenary (17.00-17.45)

- How technology helped the world
- Horasis Community Building

Plenary (17.45-18.30)

- Post-COVID - discovery time
- Women cultivating peace

Parallel Sessions (18.30-19.15)

- Start-up beyond COVID
- Education after COVID
- Endemic global inequality
- Strengthening global financials
- Sustainable value chains
- Cashless societies
- SDGs changing our behavior
- Digital natives
- Critical thinking
- Digital platforms as market places
- Restoring economic growth
- Innovation for shared humanity
- Small Business, Big Impact:
- Turning disruption into opportunity
- Limits of freedom of expression?
- Incubating Antidotes to Exclusion
- Post-pandemic Smart Cities
- All the World's A Stage
- Arts: Shaping the post-COVID future

Plenary (19.15-20.00)

- Igniting Innovation
- New social contracts

Closing Plenary (20.00-20.45)

- Building a shared future

Closing Remarks (20.45-20.47)

- Horasis summary and review

Virtual Dinner Sessions (20.47-21.30)

- Developing innovation clusters
- Religious tolerance
- New manufacture for growth
- Redirecting WTO
- Global goals
- Accelerating real recovery
- The next crisis
- Fostering shared happiness
- Influencing leaders
- Out Off and reshoring
- Crises Catalyze Transformation
- Managing VC post-COVID
- Technology in fractured world
- How to Put Humans First
- Technology Olympics
- Arts: Lessons for leadership

Closing Parallel Sessions (21.30-22.15)

- Circular Economy
- Government Policies for the New America
- Humanism in the digital age
- Returning to roots of Internet
- Delivering social justice
- A new morality post-Covid
- Geo-politics of shared humanity
- Teachings of the pandemic
- Building a Digital Business
- Monetizing the global compact
- Managing in the New Normal
- Social challenges driving innovation
- Eradicating Poverty
- Global abundance wellbeing
- Arts: Post Post-Modernism

Virtual Receptions (22.15-23.15)

- Arts: Virtualizing Reality
- Horasis community building

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Foreword

By Frank-Jürgen Richter,
Chairman, Horasis, Switzerland

The sixth Horasis Global Meeting has been forced to be a virtual event by the global COVID restrictions: nevertheless, the meeting continues to be hosted by the Portuguese coastal City of Cascais. Horasis is honored to be part of the process within which Cascais is developing into a global center for dialogue. This meeting's theme was *Fostering Shared Humanity* and saw more than 1,000 delegates from 70 nations discussing via digital links, in plenary and panel sessions how to rebuild leadership roles post-COVID so as to inspire for the future. **Armen Sarkissian**, President of Armenia, Armenia said it is important to share our concepts of humanity across borders: one must learn to trust again.

We must learn to live in our new world that is dramatically different from earlier times and is rapidly evolving. **Rania A. Al-Mashat** added that managing COVID is emblematic of the present global management that must grasp the need to change. And, according to **Ricardo Serrão Santos**, Minister of the Sea, Portugal, we have a rare but brief opportunity to discuss potential solutions for the myriad of disruptions and to propose sustainable pathways that will be led by compassionate leadership on global and local levels.

The world has changed, and we have yet to understand by how much. Further to the economics of COVID, the globe faces movement towards meeting the UN (Paris) Accord of 2015 relating to climate change challenges as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), explained **Taro Kono**, Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform, Japan. **Vinod Sekhar**, Chairman and Group Chief



Armen Sarkissian, President of Armenia, Armenia



Ricardo Serrão Santos, Minister of the Sea, Portugal

Executive Officer, Petra Group, Malaysia, who was the strategic partner for this meeting, hoped the meeting's leaders will take their findings forward into the firms and nations to benefit our shared humanity. He said, today it is most critical to accept the totality of the SDGs and that Social Capitalism, which he embraced, suggests that businesses can be more profitable by engaging in poverty eradication as then richer people will help all firms develop. And, as **Lisa Edwards**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Diligent Corporation, USA, put it: Society and business leaders can no longer disengage – it is logical to have a strong business view: the bottom line is, we cannot afford to ignore the SDGs.

David de Rothschild, Founder, Voice for Nature, United Kingdom accepted it is exciting to use components of the capital markets to reach to the SDGs and to slow distracting narratives. Sadly, he continued, the ESGs and SDGs have become a label to adopt but have no accountability, especially if targeting 2050 when those adopting the measures today will be absent. **Lord Barker of Battle**, Executive Chairman, En+ Group, United Kingdom emphasized the pandemic has created massive impacts on governments and especially the poor. Although SDGs are there, we need to translate them into fewer headline points to make them more under-



Taro Kono, Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform, Japan



Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt



Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel, United Nations

standable, as **Borja Santos Porras**, Executive Director, GPA Pathway, IE University, Spain said. This was a point accepted by **Nadja Swarovski**, Chair, Swarovski Foundation, United Kingdom – the SDGs are not known well enough. We must educate the people better to support adherence.

It was perhaps inevitable that COVID and its many ramifications seemed to infiltrate many of the panel discussions. The COVID transmission was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a pandemic in January 2020. They warned it would be found in every nation though not all at the same time: viruses take time to travel and to mutate. Following the mid-March 2020 analysis and publication of SARS-CoV-2 genome by GISAID, a non-profit public-private health partnership, many anti-viral manufacturers hastened to develop and trial their vaccine designs. By November 2020 the Pfizer-BioNTech partnership obtained the first emergency-use authorization in the UK, other nations followed suit: by March 2021, 308 vaccines were authorized or in clinical trials.

The US and the UK attempted to vaccinate most of their population to achieve ‘herd immunity’ whereby the lack of unvaccinated persons causes the spread of the virus to

halt so protecting everyone. And, as **Hank McKinnell**, Chairman, Moody’s, USA, stressed, some nations have had less success, due to the personal worries of individuals about vaccination in general, and due to false information about COVID vaccinations in particular. The WTO hopes the vaccine hesitancy rate will decline rapidly as the hesitant see no harm has befallen those who are vaccinated. **Miguel de Serpa Soares**, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, United Nations discussed how the engagement the UN has placed on COVID – and said ‘we can’t go back to the old-normal’. The COVAX Programme needs many more injections – but UN has only ‘the power of insistence – a verbal stress on morals, yet the G7 has promised vaccines and equipment and staff more to this programme. However, the UN is the only truly global discussion forum and it constantly develops.

Every virus mutates, often into a benign form, but sometimes into a new, more transmittable form. The WTO has called for a neutral naming of variants, beginning with COVID, but its mutations have tended to be cited by their geographical origin as that is easier for the public to remember than a code system.

There is another global confusion in the public domain, as politicians are reluctant to follow scientific advice since they think their public will blame them for their decision oscillation, said **Vijay Eswaran**, Chairman, QI Group, Hong Kong. However, scientists have not fully educated politicians or honest media writers about the changing probabilities of the progress of COVID as more data are gathered. In the initial months of COVID much speculation occurred about transmission modes, fatality rates and the ways of management or of containing its spread. Many governments opined based on little or false data, and the public followed their erroneous advice. **Esko Aho**, Former Prime Minister of Finland, Finland opines democratic institutions are always challenged, but in some epoch more so than others: presently many are rather weak in decision making and executing decisions. He noted how the three Nordic nations have a long and common tradition of rule of law, trust in institutions which treat individuals well, and good social mobility which has derived from well-founded education.

In recent research 121 different indicators from data gathered across 200 countries were analyzed noting, crucially, that developing nations with a young demography have so far shown a lower infection case-load. Youth was always known to be less vulnerable to COVID infection and its complications than older people. As such it may be the savior in developing nations as they have had too few early vaccine doses to administer due to the developed nations' concentration on their own double or even triple vaccination doses per person in their more elderly populations. The G7 meeting in June 2021 stated their governments would donate many millions of vaccines to COVAX to distribute worldwide (COVAX is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO). **Ranil Wickremesinghe**, Former Prime Minister, Sri Lanka expects the G7 will be



Vinod Sekhar, Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, Petra Group, Malaysia



Barbara Ann Bernard, Chief Executive Officer, Wincret Capital, Bahamas

the true start of better global COVID cooperation, but there are wide policy issues affecting all economies especially across South and SE Asia.

Defined as a pandemic, its effects were expected to be felt world-wide; and now, a year and a half after its appearance, its primary effects are yet to be felt in many developing economies. In the strong economies of China, the US and across Europe its effects are legion, not only in furloughing the leisure and hospitality sectors but also in their precise service industries such as airlines. **Hemant Kanoria**, Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited, India accepted the second wave of COVID was really bad as it was more virulent: it was a Herculean task to manage. But other economic sectors have developed and thrived – the delivery of all types of goods to the home, and the newcomer: local hot food delivery and the packaged delivery of ingredients for meals with menus and cooking guides, concluded **Michael Shvo**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, SHVO, USA.

Once anti-viral drugs began to flow in greater numbers and the COVID cases reduced, economies began to grow. Economies recovered rapidly in China, the US and in the EU as pent-up demand due to confine-

ment boredom broke free. According to **Simona Kustec**, Minister of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia the demand has often been fueled by government cash for furloughing from government to person and then into the person's bank: cash was in plentiful supply buy the goods as a celebration of the new freedom with many saying it is the end of COVID (though it has not been eradicated). Staff returned to work and had to learn a new set of distancing rules, wearing masks, and so on. **Preeti Sinha**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations stressed the future in terms of human development as it is difficult to achieve standard global level of living. We must create the concept of a 'share' in the form of a bond in which we can invest. Thus, when benefits accrue within the SDG it would create a new marketable concept: all will benefit.



*Vijay Eswaran, Chairman,
QI Group, Hong Kong*



*Simona Kustec, Minister of
Education, Science and Sport,
Slovenia*

To an extent this is in accord with the words of **HH Princess Märtha Louise of Norway**, explained, some while ago, one of the female Prime Ministers of Norway being interested in women's rights helped modify the Norwegian Act of Succession that would in future permit female first-born to take the crown in Norway; but not for herself, as her younger brother is presently in line for the throne. Further, she noted nations with female leaders have done rather better through the pandemic as the masculine / female energy is different: as in micro-finance, wherein the woman builds and supports into the whole community – that is, 'we need to do this together'.

A point echoed by **Annette Nijs**, Former Cabinet Minister for Education, Science and Culture, The Netherlands who asked if we can be more innovative after COVID than before, as cash flows were a originally a difficulty but which reduced during the crisis?

Before the inauguration of US President Biden and during the months following, the trade embargos mainly against China im -



Princess Märtha Louise of Norway

posed by former President Trump were felt more strongly across all economies. The US embargoes were often reciprocated. Economists predicted a global slowdown in GDP growth. **Barbara Ann Bernard**, Chief Executive Officer, Wincrest Capital, Bahamas concurs: that global recovery is uneven. She thinks inflation is here to stay as house prices (in the US) having doubled this year will not fall similarly next year. But individual investors can win – if one invests in commodities, they may outsmart inflationary trends – as governments go 'green' the value of copper and other basic commodities have risen. According to **Annette Weisbach**, Correspondent, CNBC, Germany, pundits have struggled with their description of the present indications of inflation, describing it as transitory. This is backed up by the Federal Reserve in the US, responsible for fiscal and monetary management, who have stated the inflation will be a short-term spike. The investment market reacted with greater volatility.

During the first 100 days of the Biden government the President initiated many new policies, including several that have increased the debt burden of the US – many are tied to the COVID pandemic and the effects thereof – like providing cash to all US citizens to help them organize their lives whether they have been furloughed (with or

without pay) or remaining in work, explained **Raja Krishnamoorthi**, Congressman for Illinois, USA. Not having to run a means-testing procedure made the payout faster and also less costly. It is a moot point however whether this cash returned quickly into the real economy, or was sequestered as savings. Quickly it became clear there was a mismatch in supply and demand. Trade sanctions were not revoked by the Biden administration and these have resulted in specific component gaps having cascaded ramifications – especially in components having embedded electronic chips. Many economists consider the early 2021 spending boom to have been promoted by having cash in the bank leading to a rush to buy.

We have to ask how to implement New Green Deals to rebuild economies and societies for a global Carbon-free future. **Bo Inge Andersson**, President and Founder, Ivanhoe IV, USA addressed this issue at length by noting the size of the personal transportation problem: there are 1.4 billion cars globally producing 21 % global CO₂ emissions, and only 10 million cars are electrical. We have the technical solutions today – but we need much greater application and change in the constraints as the current technical solutions are too costly, or are not profitable.

As some economies re-opened customers gained confidence amid successful vaccine rollouts and upstream factory order books were buoyant again in the US and Europe, said **Jenny Gilruth**, Minister for Europe and International Development Government of Scotland. More recent data analyses indicate an inflationary trend as money searched for too few goods due to supply chain disruption and delays, as well as there being a shortage of trained staff across sectors. **Péter Szijjártó**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary said there is no magic mode for regeneration, but there is the beginning of a new age of global com-



Julia Klöckner, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany



Carmelo Abela, Minister Within the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta

petition. In smaller nations like Hungary, in order to open up, they need vaccines and ultimately better local health support. **Adrian Oros**, Minister of Agriculture, Romania commented further on the effects of COVID that has left many local firms at risk especially as only the main EU nations within the EU are cared for, not the peripheral ones. New innovation is important to Romania as climate change responsibility needs water conservation and soil husbandry to grasp sustainably though it may be more costly. He worries that food will be imported to Romania from EU nations who do not strive for the Green Deal. In his view, no EU governments are doing enough to stimulate agricultural innovation. **Julia Klöckner**, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany noted climate change knows no borders and it is continually destroying agricultural land and increases aggression: we must invest in new agrotech while reducing emissions.

It is clear that global nations, economically as well as politically, are as divided as ever, as **Marta Morgan**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada put it. The US, Canada, Europe together with other developed nations are thriving, but are dependent on rebuilding their supply chains and buying from abroad rather than recreating



Hemant Kanoria, Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited, India



Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary



Béata Habyarimana, Minister for Trade and Industry, Rwanda

factories in their nations. Questions have arisen about the nature and strategy of Europe following Brexit. Historically this is due in part to pressures noted by Albania – said **Eduard Shalsi**, Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania. Once we dreamed of being like Europe, but now we realize we are Albania with our own challenges including the linkages to global events like COVID. EU has demanded reforms from Albania, yet their own politics often blocked the accession of Albania despite the changes demanded of the Albanian people. Regionally, he continued, we see Albania is within the Balkan region and we ought to be joined as a whole to EU. Furthermore, compromise is not necessarily the best solution noted **Carmelo Abela**, Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta, it is not the lowest denominator, yet it represents the best possible solution at the present time. There is a need for an open strategic autonomy across EU, plus a stronger role for global institutions.

Africa has the world's youngest population and will soon represent one-fifth of the world population. The continent is poised to become the world's engine of growth. **Manqoba B. Khumalo**, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Trade, Eswatini

celebrated the birth of the African Continental Free Trade Area which signals reductions in all restrictions to inter-African trade, aiming by 2035, to double its internal trade by enhancing its intellectual property rights, industrial development and supply chains. COVID-19 crisis has slowed us down. He ensures its youth must be part of the solution. **Vera Esperança dos Santos Daves de Sousa**, Minister of Finance, Angola stated Angola and other nations must change the ways in which Africa does business: to develop objectives for each nation and then between nations to define the strengths and objectives to reach global markets.

Béata Habyarimana, Minister for Trade and Industry, Rwanda, informed how Rwanda has introduced reforms to make it easier for incoming businesses. Administrative reform was first; then regulatory reform; and then digital reforms: it has risen into the top 40 nations globally in the ease of doing business.

Europe and the US have, by and large, controlled their COVID outbreaks. But developing nations across South America, Africa and South-East Asia have yet to begin serious vaccination programs. Their vaccine production facilities and shipping modes are not yet re-secured from trade embargoes or from internal COVID issues. Despite vigorous financial rigor and rebuilding of real capacity as well as personal capacities, trust building will take some while, said **Diego Mesa**, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia. And, while Africa as well as parts of South and East Asia have a young demographic, every day all nations grow older so their governments must consider how they are to build wealth to generate social and health care for an eventual aging population.

First, said **Kris Gopalakrishnan**, Chairman, Axilor Ventures and Co-founder, Infosys, India we must acknowledge the role of trust and facts, and need for a belief in science and technology to get vaccines into arms. We need philanthropy to be better



Kris Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Axilor Ventures and Co-founder, Infosys, India



Young Sohn, Chairman, HARMAN International, USA



Vera Esperança dos Santos Daves de Sousa, Minister of Finance, Angola

applied. Soon health care should shift from the ill to the care of the healthy to determine their characteristics via remote sensing. **Alan Patricof**, Founder, Greycroft and Apax Partners, USA agreed, as people and staff are all at different stages within the COVID model. He has helped cope with his staff's mental stress using virtual games nights, or digital culture trips. Yet the fastest growing section of society are the growing elderly who are now aging at home and need to learn about technology like smartphones that enable remote sensing so get ahead of any critical personal issues.

Many in the services industry will remain out of work for a while, or at least until flexible tourism returns when flights, hotels and restaurants will be free to accommodate people from short or long-haul flights, said **Young Sohn**, Chairman, HARMAN International, USA. And in the holiday locations, the shops need to be stocked and restocked with all the items people traditionally need. **Megan J. Smith**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, shift7; Former CTO of the United States, USA said commercial economies are complex systems, and individuals, assembling products in the G7 nations or beyond wishing to buy and sell goods, will become frustrated by the economic frictions and blame their governments, though it is

not wholly their fault. Frustrations are blind to reason – so political instabilities might arise affecting future elections and affecting geo-politics globally. **Janez Cigler Kralj**, Minister of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia said we must strengthen the responsiveness of labor market to absorb technological change accepting inclusiveness and greening generating a better life quality for all generations.

There is a political concern over the potential for Europe to act as a pivot and a balance between the US and China. Especially, opines **Mats Hellström**, Former Minister for Foreign Trade, Sweden as right-wing nationals have changed influences. By and large the young are more in favor of the EU than older people. **Robert Hermann**, Chief Executive Officer, Germany Trade & Invest, Germany concurred saying we must all see ourselves emotionally as Europeans – by engaging in political simplicity to understand its complex politics, its structure and meaning. **Luca Jahier**, Member of the Board, European Economic and Social Committee, European Union said we must take care in Europe – there are many models of federalism. And the pandemic has accelerated the speed of considerations of our differences, and our diffident or over-optimistic inclinations.



Lord Karan Bilimoria, President, Confederation of British Industry, UK



Deborah Wince-Smith, President, United States Council on Competitiveness, USA



Murat Seitnepesov, Chairman, Caspian Week, Switzerland



Janez Cigler Kralj, Minister of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia

Somewhat at the center and often ignored, is the Greater Caspian Region. **Murat Seitnepesov**, Chairman, Caspian Week, Switzerland informed us of the region’s 500 million people, vast resources of gas, oil and minerals and entrepreneurs. There is a big future for growth though there are many internal issues. Linking to these concepts of greater economic and social activity across Central Asia, but essentially concerning our need to better value global youth, the panelists in the final plenary raised education as one major need – now and in the future. **Lord Karan Bilimoria**, President, Confederation of British Industry, United Kingdom while chairing the B7 in UK last year (a group consolidation the G7 businesses said it would be best to roll back global protectionism, giving greater emphasis on ‘going digital’ which has naturally been in focus during the COVID pandemic.

As **Lynn C. Fritz**, Proprietor, Lynmar Estate, USA put it: we should ensure the WTO fully supports open trade, and after that any number of bi- or pluri-lateral accords are possible – recognising some accords are only possible as a global deal. A point that was emphasised by **Deborah Wince-Smith**, President, United States Council on Competitiveness, USA who noted that presently we are in a period of low competitiveness. Nations must be more

competitive to deliver better solutions for their people based on stronger shared collaboration over digital platforms. Inequality, such as it is, comes from the inequality of education (and in many nations, the lack of good education for all). There is no harm in repeating that the future is education, education and education, said **Ibukun Awosika**, Chair, First Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria. And making sure this occurs globally – in so doing we will surely be *Fostering Shared Humanity*, concluded **Kevin Abosch**, Conceptual Artist and Pioneer in Cryptoart, Ireland.

On behalf of Horasis, I would like to thank personally all delegates for their efforts in contributing to the constructive dialogue as cornerstone to inspiring our future. The Horasis Global Meeting continues to be unique experience which would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our partners from Portugal and the world.

Summary

By IE University

Fostering a Shared Community

Nik Gowing, Founder and Director, Thinking the Unthinkable, UK, started off the discussion by stating that the stability that we take for granted has begun to unravel, along with the looming existential threat of the climate emergency. He stressed the urgency to repurpose our world while we aim to fix the increasingly shattered bonds between major countries of the world.

Optimism, he said, would take us far and he hopes a solution is reached together.

Janez Cigler Kralj, Minister of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Slovenia, expressed the importance of promoting a more responsive and inclusive labour market while we go through green and digital transitions. ‘More than ever, it is important that we pursue quality work for a better life quality for all generations’ he stated.

‘Uncertainty is a new certainty, unpredictability is the new predictability, and we have to learn to live in this new world. This world is dramatically different from the one we lived in before’ quipped **Armen Sarkissian**, President of Armenia, Armenia. He said that we are still looking at this world through a classical lens, while technology is changing our lives rapidly. He also underlined the massive influence of social media on shaping public opinion and as a result, political decisions. The President ended his talk by stating that shared worldwide optimism and collaboration are crucial to solving major problems like humanitarian disasters and climate change.



The Global Economic Outlook

The Global Economic Outlook

Annette Weisbach, Correspondent, CNBC, Germany, started the discussion by introducing topics viz major trends; how economies will recover post-COVID.

Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary, stated that the pandemic is also a challenge to the economy and not only healthcare. The new post-COVID age is getting started with great competition within the global economy. Hungary has made a robust plan to encourage companies to invest in technology, increasing capacity, lowering tax rates etc. **Barbara Ann Bernard**, Chief Executive Officer, Wincrest Capital, Bahamas, added that inflation is here to stay after the pandemic. Even Environmental, Social, and (Corporate) Governance (ESG) are inflationary. Government is more focused on the unemployment rate than on inflation. In terms of climate change, she added that ‘we need a solution aimed at Decarbonisation. We need to understand why the progress is so slow despite so much investment.’ **Lisa Edwards**, President and Chief Operating Officer, Diligent Corporation, USA, commented, ‘There is a concern about inflation and its effect on performance and result.’ She further added that the demand was increasing in some sectors especially healthcare. It is a matter of time



Lisa Edwards, President and Chief Operating Officer, Diligent Corporation, USA



Dinesh Joshi, Chairman and Managing Director, SatyaGiri Ventures asking Ranil Wickremesinghe, Former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka a question



Nik Gowing, Founder and Director, Thinking the Unthinkable

before businesses start reaping the benefits of vaccination. The government could also rethink the supply chain to smoothen flexibility. **Hemant Kanoria**, Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited, India, said that because of the pandemic the hospitality sector has suffered immensely. Inflation is rising in India. It needs to increase its manufacturing capacity to counter inflation. Talking about climate change he said that, 'India has focused on climate change, with impetus on renewable energy, mostly solar energy. What India needs today is a strong health infrastructure. More investment would be needed.' He summarised that healthcare infrastructure and climate change are two major opportunities in India. The challenge is to see how technology can help bring more people out of poverty and how to increase employment.



Michael Shvo, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, SHVO, USA

Leadership Through Disruptions

Alan H. Fleischmann, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Laurel Strategies, USA, opened the panel by asking questions, like the skills and facilities required by leaders to face the challenges of the pandemic. **Ibukun Awosika**, Chair, First Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria said leaders must



Ibukun Awosika, Chair, First Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

be able to make the right decisions for the betterment of all. The pandemic has posed economic challenges across socio-economic classes. She also added that adoption of technology by businesses at every level increased during COVID is essential. It has helped businesses become leaner. **Kris Gopalakrishnan**, Chairman, Axilor Ventures and Co-founder, Infosys, India, mentioned that the pandemic tested leadership in three ways, first, through Science and technology. He said that we need to save lives using technology and people must be vaccinated. Talking about the second way, he spoke of the use of capital investment. It is important how we use networks and the ability to connect beyond industries, he stated. There was a dynamic shift in manufacturing ventilators, investing together to make vaccines, establishing supply chains to ensure there was enough capacity for equitable distribution and access. The third way was through carrying out social responsibility. He said that leaders must ensure philanthropy, CSR and make sure that every citizen has access to healthcare. **Alan Patricof**, Founder, Greycroft and Apax Partners, USA, spoke about how technology changed peoples' work lives during the pandemic. He said the challenge was to keep the staff together and involved. **Michael Shvo**, Chairman and Chief Exe-



Alan Patricof, Founder, Greycroft and Apax Partners, USA



Delivering Social Justice in the New Economy

cutive Officer, SHVO, USA, spoke about the concern of keeping the team and partners together without face-to-face meetings. He stated that virtual connections aren't sustainable. It is difficult to work in an online space forever, he mentioned.

New Social Contracts

Akiko Fujita, Anchor and Reporter, Yahoo Finance, USA opened the panel talking about the challenges of underserved communities across the world. Such communities have suffered high rates of unemployment and unprecedented levels of instability. She asked the panellists for solutions to address these concerns. **Abdul Ghani Kasuba**, Governor of North Maluku, Indonesia, spoke about having introduced steps in his province of North Maluku. He said, 'We have worked hard to build North Maluku with a focus on 3 things: Improving the quality of life for people, building infrastructure, and preparing a government bureaucracy with integrity and professionalism.'

Raja Krishnamoorthi, Congressman for Illinois, USA, added that 'underserved vulnerable population has been at high risk during this pandemic. Job losses last December shows all job losses were among women.'

The unemployment rate for women was 6.3% and the unemployment rate among black women was 8.4%.' He said that disparities must be addressed, vaccines and medical help should be extended to the affected countries. **Diego Mesa**, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia, spoke about how his government has intensified its commitment to fight against climate change. 'The energy sector has seen a diversification of energy with an increase of 0.5 to 12% in renewable energy,' he informed. **Marta Morgan**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada, said that 'the world bank estimated that between 119-124 million people may have been pushed into extreme poverty due to COVID 19 reversing development gains earned over the last 2 decades. Women and girls are already overrepresented among the world poor continue to be those hardest hit and face specific challenges such as higher job losses and greater care burdens.'



Raja Krishnamoorthi, Congressman for Illinois, USA

The Future of Europe

Axel Threlfall, Editor-at-Large, Reuters, UK, opened the panel by encouraging the panellists to find opportunity in the crisis while acknowledging that the pandemic has laid bare the underlying currents of distrust,



Axel Threlfall, Editor-at-Large, Reuters, chairing a plenary



How Technology Helped the World Keep Working in COVID-times



Jenny Gilruth, Minister for Europe and International Development Government of Scotland, United Kingdom

which must be fixed. **Carmelo Abela**, Minister Within the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta, expressed his firm belief that the European nations are connected by not just their geographical boundaries, but a common underlying culture of collaboration. ‘What makes you European?’ he asked. ‘I would say, our values, our pursuit for cohesion and solidarity and our way of life – including the social dimension. The concept of leaving no one behind’. **Julia Klöckner**, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany, added that climate change is a concern for all since it knows no borders. She encouraged the panel to use their esteemed network to find solutions that would aid the international community. **Jenny Gilruth**, Member of Scottish Parliament chimed in with her belief that leaders should ensure that their countries remain open and inclusive. ‘Migration strengthens society and that Scotland benefits from the skills, experience and expertise of people by people who choose to live, work-study and raise their families in Scotland’. She hopes the future of Europe is taken forward by inclusion and solidarity. According to **Eduard Shalsi**, Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania, the sudden onset of the pandemic revealed a massive lack of trust and collaboration between European countries. ‘We had the

values on one side binding us together while on the practice we saw countries moving in very different directions’. He affirmed his country’s commitment to positive dialogue with its neighbours and eventual complete integration into the E.U. **Adrian Oros**, Minister of Agriculture, Romania, agreed that sustainable food production is an important concern for the region and that the bloc needs to have a very balanced equilibrium to ensure a successful future for its farmers.



Adrian Oros, Minister of Agriculture, Romania

How Technology Helped the World

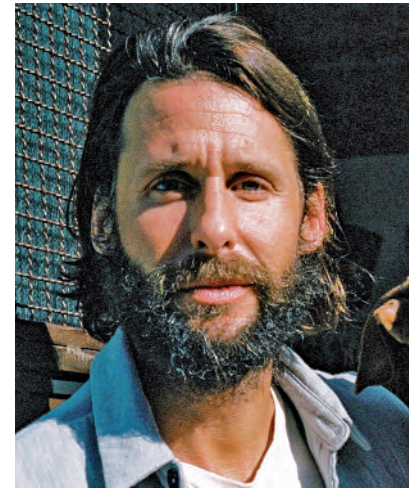
Ravi Shankar Chaturvedi, Director of Research and Co-investigator, Digital Planet, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, USA, opened the panel speaking about how the pandemic is still affecting the global economy. ‘Indeed, digital and cloud technologies are the only tether holding the economy and society together’ he shared. ‘While this digital readiness is a silver lining in coping with these challenging times, the unfortunate part is that these capabilities are unevenly distributed’ he further added. **Theo Blackwell**, Chief Digital Officer, City of London, UK, thought that city leaders have started thinking more intensely about data sharing since



Megan J. Smith, Founder and CEO, shift7; Former Chief Technology Officer of the United States, USA



Eduard Shalsi, Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania



David de Rothschild, Founder, Voice for Nature, United Kingdom

there has been an enormous influx of public health information, often in real-time which has led to exploring real-time availability for economic data as well. The leaders of London are collaborating with big technology companies to observe how the city moves and breathes and what areas need more attention. **Philipp S. Mueller**, Vice President Head of EMEA, AWS Worldwide Public Sector, Germany, added that there is a lot of learning yet to happen on how to best use technology in this new world. He implored European governments to take a leading role in this post-transformative world of hyper-connectedness and the resulting geopolitical competition. **Wilima Wadhwa**, Director, ASER Centre, India marvelled at the amazing cooperation that happened when the world was forced to find alternate ways to function. ‘Things that we had thought of doing before, but never did, were accomplished. For instance, we did a phone survey of 120,000 households which led to a lot of learning and collaborations’. She also expressed her views of technology being a great enabler of worldwide solidarity but at the same time, one of the biggest divisive forces of recent times. Innovative technologies have to be developed across the spectrum, not just for the top few percent of society. **Megan J. Smith**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, shift7; Former CTO

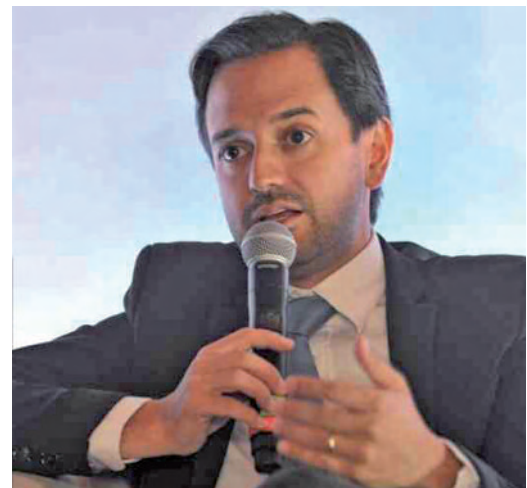
of the United States, USA offered a balanced view on the topic. While she praised the role of social messaging applications in rallying essential support in difficult times and fostering a sense of community, she also warned about the rise of surveillance technology in the past year. She hoped that countries developed ‘smart wise cities’ and not just ‘smart cities’.

Mitigating Climate Change

Anne Floreni, professor at Thurber School of Global Management, opened the panel by mentioning that the global pandemic and the increasingly severe climate events have brought some serious urgency and asked how the economy and society can be made sustainable. **Ricardo Serrão Santos**, Minister of the Sea, Portugal, mentioned, ‘With the last pandemic covenanting the resilience of humanity, showed how global and interconnected we are. Today we celebrate world ocean day to remind ourselves that the ocean is essential for every living being and the ecosystems. The ocean is a vital resource to battle pollution and poverty. The European Union is strongly involved in numerous international negotiations and processes including in the areas of marine



Africa – The World’s Engine of Growth



Diego Mesa, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia

biodiversity protection law in the United Nations. **Bo Inge Andersson**, President and Founder, Ivanhoe IV, USA, joined in stating that cars and their emissions are a big issue as 1.4 billion cars in the world today generate more than 21 percent of the Carbon Dioxide emission. He believes that electric cars and new rules of car making could be the solution with a positive role of the government’s support. **Preeti Sinha**, Executive Secretary, United Nations Capital Development Fund, United Nations, pitching in said, ‘capital should serve humanity. We need to take COVID-19 as an example; a concern that cuts across all geographical boundaries. We must ensure that to go forward the world needs to be healthy and equal and the capital needs to be invested across countries.’ **David de Rothschild**, Founder, Voice for Nature, UK, concluded the discussion by saying that we as humans and consumers have over-exhausted the natural earthly resources and are continuing to do so on a faster scale to a point where everything will come crashing down horrendously. He pointed out to a possible solution of the fossil fuel budget of 5 trillion dollars (IMF data) to be used for positive impact investment globally.



Manqoba B. Khumalo, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Trade, Eswatini



Hank McKinnell, Member of the Board, Moody’s, USA

Africa: The World’s Engine of Growth

Landry Signé, Senior Director and Professor, Thunderbird School of Global Management, USA, opened the panel speaking of tremendous potential Africa holds and offers unique opportunities for global investors and other business, trade and investment seekers. By 2030 Africa will have more than 1.7 billion people with spending of more than 6.7 trillion USD. He also mentioned that Africa is ready for business including the African continental free trade area which is being launched formally in January. **Béata Habyarimana**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Rwanda said that the plan is to open up to various interests so that they can initiate the implementation of various economic reforms. She stated, ‘Africa has around 17 percent of the world’s population and only 3 percent of the world’s GDP. People see it as a failure but others can also see it as a storehouse of opportunities because there is also room for growth.’ She also mentioned that theoretically, the countries have started making international strategies together to address poverty reduction, wage improvement, welfare especially for women and the youth. She also said that Africa should think about visa policies for other African countries to



Plenary – Creating a Shared Tomorrow



Social Entrepreneurship – The Paradigm for a Better Tomorrow

make travel, tourism and business purposes easy. It is assumed that by 2025 if successfully implemented, the African Continental Free Trade Area(AfCFTA) is likely to generate 450 billion dollars for African Economy in general, lift over 30 million people from extreme poverty and increase growth for 68 million people who are just over poverty line (World Bank Data). **Manqoba B. Khumalo**, Minister for Commerce, Industry and Trade, Eswatini, mentioned that their government is very grateful to AfCFTA as it opens up a small economy and a small country to a massive market that has humongous growth potential. He concluded by saying that the ship belongs to the young people fully aware that inter-African trade is hovering from 15-17 percent which has potential and Eswatini as a country is ready to contribute. **Vera Esperança dos Santos Daves de Sousa**, Minister of Finance, Angola, opined, ‘natural resources will be a huge potential coming from Africa but more than this will be the young people.’ Digitalization is a massive barrier which if solved becomes a great environment for businesses to thrive.

Creating A Shared Tomorrow

Minsters from around the world shared their experiences about the series of events that took place in course of the pandemic and how they could have made better progress and tapped early on opportunities by sharing important information on developments and trusting one another. **Rania A. Al-Mashat**, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt, said, ‘credibility of governance is a function of transparency and it’s true transparency that will build trust’. One of the most striking facts the pandemic taught is that nothing could have been hidden. It showed us the power of communication and especially in the technologically advanced times we live in, news travelled quickly from one country to another. Although the countries started handling the pandemic situation individually in the start, two months into it, they all knew they were in this together. Talking about the trust amongst the nations, **Taro Kono**, Minister for Administrative Reform and Regulatory Reform, Japan, mentioned, ‘though every country initially shared COVID data with another, once the vaccine was produced, they failed to distribute the product equally’. The speakers agreed on the fact that though the current circumstances have been dealt with in the best possible ways, there’s still



The Greater Caspian Region – Spearheading Shared Leadership



Munir Akram, President, United Nations Economic and Social Council, USA

a lot of room for improvement. Once the countries succeed in containing the COVID pandemic, they need to come together and make political decisions that'll help control any future pandemic and manage the situation better.

Cooperation in the Post-pandemic World

Though the pandemic is still a part of our lives, we can start planning on how to revive the economy, make the vaccination available worldwide and also discuss how some things could have been dealt with differently in the first place. When talking about post-pandemic, the most important thing as mentioned by **Miguel de Serpa Soares**, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, United Nations was, 'No one is safe until everyone is safe. Getting everyone vaccinated should be our topmost priority'. The United Nations as the most important international organization has been making all efforts to bring the richer countries to help the poorer ones in fighting against the pandemic. Lives cannot go back to normal with just a few countries having fought against COVID. The economies will still be impacted and the only way to live in a post-pandemic

world is by ensuring progress at global levels. Miguel said, 'The pandemic has given us the notion of global common goals like vaccination, climate change, preserving biodiversity and a lot more'. Younger generations when compared to the older ones are more agile and aware of these global goals since they have grown up in a tougher world and will be more sensitive when dealing with such problems. The main challenges to overcome the pandemic crisis and enter the post-pandemic world would be the economic crisis that would come as an outcome of the pandemic and the tensions between the nations, especially the USA and China that can affect international organizations like the UN. As next steps, getting all the enterprises, governments and countries together and concentrating on the common agendas, keeping the tensions aside, would be of utmost importance to flourish in the post-pandemic world.



Marta Morgan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada



Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite



Plenary – The Future of Democracy in the Digital Age

Women Cultivating Peace

There is an immediate need to recognize the importance of including women in leadership positions and the role they can play in cultivating and promoting stable and lasting peace. **HH Princess Märtha Louise of Norway**, Norway shared her experience of being a member of the Royal family where only male members were allowed to be heirs to the throne. She changed the game for herself, denounced her royal title and became a private businesswoman to sustain herself without being dependent on anyone. She's not only a serial entrepreneur but a writer, a therapist and also an advocate for women's rights. The panellists discussed how the pandemic worsened the situation for women around the world where millions lost their jobs and cases of domestic violence increased rapidly. To this, Princess Martha said, 'The pandemic, of course, has hit women because they are not valued the same as men and therefore, are easily let off at work or don't have important jobs in the first place'. The masculine and feminine energies are different and hence the world requires both to work in parallel and thrive together. Having women in leadership roles is paramount as they have the instincts and perspective to look out for the minor details that can make the big change. Discussing the

change that can help shape the world better, Martha said, 'We need changes from all angles right now. We need to move away from the old patriarchal patterns of work that we are used to. We need to shift from the "I" dimension to a "We" dimension where we include everyone to work better'. Such small steps of including women in all forms of work will make a bigger impact and help in shaping a new, peaceful and all-inclusive world.

Building A Shared Future

The spirit of building a shared future and developing it together has only increased with the pandemic. **Deborah Wince-Smith**, President of, United States Council on Competitiveness, USA said, 'we unbelievably now have vaccines to fight the pandemic in less than a year'. Their quick manufacturing, rollout and deployment in a collaborative fashion have only proven the strength of growing together. **Lynn C. Fritz**, Proprietor, Lynmar Estate, USA, added to Deborah's point stating, 'technology has made information accessible and the more it is accessible, the more rapid advancements will exist'. Further, talking about the role of government and individuals in such innovations,



Plenary – Taking Action for the Sustainable Development Goals



Nadja Swarovski, Chair, Swarovski Foundation, Austria

Jacek Olczak, Chief Executive Officer, Philip Morris International, USA, said, ‘in the near future, the government will get their act together, but in the meantime, a lot of the individuals are leveraging technology to create innovative products and making technological developments’. One factor that could be a major setback could be the inequality in opportunities and information. The panellists agreed to the fact that equality will only be established when the access to all innovations and information is equal amongst the countries, and when each of them will be capable enough to use this effectively. **Lord Karan Bilimoria**, President, Confederation of British Industry, UK, shared a formula that explained how we all can progress – “Education + Opportunity = Future”. The session concluded with the speakers acknowledging that all of these factors together are required for the world to flourish and this can only happen when we work together hand-in-hand towards building a shared future.



Faisal Bin Muaammar, Secretary General, KAICIID Dialogue Centre, Austria

Action for the SDGs

Opening the panel for discussion, **Lord Barker of Battle**, Executive Chairman, En+ Group, UK, spoke about ways to raise

funds in supports of SDGs: putting a price on carbon in the i. e. cost of carbon pollution to goods and products. It would move the economy towards a low-carbon economy. He said, ‘as we need the pace and scale that commensurate with the Paris 2030 agenda (below 1.5 degrees), there should be science-based targets that businesses and government are committed to. Bringing carbon-related taxes is not only to raise tax revenue but also to change the behaviour and the dynamics of the economy’. **Borja Santos Porras**, Executive Director, GPA Pathway, IE University, Spain, then spoke about the priorities post-pandemic – 1) investing in health and safety net program (to family and business), 2) taking advantage of digitalization (access to fintech, e-commerce, e-government), 3) strengthening partnership (SDG 17): European Commission has renamed “development unit” to “partnership unit” which aims to foster a partnership of public, private sector and academia to advance SDGs. **Vinod Sekhar**, Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, Petra Group, Malaysia Government has a role, but the private sector has to be fully involved to make it work. What is required is for most senior, influential global business and economic leaders to take responsibility and make decisions now, there will be serious change to achieve SDGs. The pandemic



Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India



The MENA Region in Transition

has given the opportunity to pivot. Raising taxes across the board will hurt the economy. The carbon tax would be more effective e.g. consumption tax. **Nadja Swarovski**, Chair, Swarovski Foundation, UK, joined in stating the pathway to success for SDGs and listed three factors: 1) education to the young generation who is more receptive, 2) having a strong mission and vision of businesses ingrained in the mind of business leaders, 3) improvement in SDGs awareness by the government.

Igniting Innovation

The conversation opened with **Young Sohn**, Chairman of Harman Intl, Senior Adviser to Samsung, Founder of XTC stating, ‘currently we are in the “data economy” era and next wave of innovations will be the “data + AI” where more precisions in decision making can be achieved. On the other hand, data security and privacy have become more important in this data-intensive era. AI is neutral but data fed into AI creates bias. The machine can be trained to avoid such biases’ Zoom’s success during COVID-19 is based on three technology focus of its visionary founder. They are 1) cloud technology (no need to download the app to join a

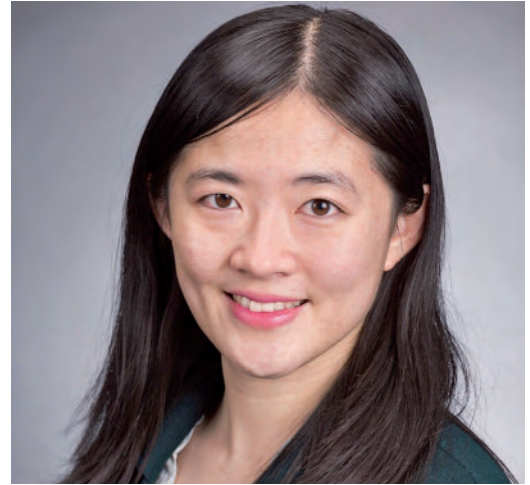
zoom conference), 2) efficient back technology, 3) and seamless user experience. The acquisition of Harman is central to Samsung’s smart mobility strategy. Harman’s audio experience is combined with Samsung’s video expertise and the acquisition was actually led by four automobile innovations: 1.) The user interface will be very much similar to that of smartphones, 2.) Electrification (vs. combustion), 3.) 5G Connectivity, 4.) Autonomous driving technology. Extreme Tech Challenge (XTC) is a non-profit firm with the objective to write a playbook to create a global ecosystem to accelerate tech for good, achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals. The XTC Competition is open to new technology or an innovative application of an existing technology built to address one of XTC’s Tech for Good categories. Some of the winners include the Irish startup, MicroGen Biotech which develops microbiomes to reduce heavy metals in crops to protect human health while improving the health of soils and improve production yield and Rewire, an Israeli’s startup facilitating banking opportunity for migrants which helps boosts economic growth and financial independence in developing countries through a digital banking platform offering complete transparency, equal opportunity, and a fair banking system for migrants.



Lord Barker of Battle, Executive Chairman, En+ Group, UK



The Arts – Fostering Shared Humanity



Xiaoyin Qu, Founder, Run The World, USA

The Arts: Decolonizing Identity

Teresa Firmino, Artist, South Africa, started the discussion by expressing the need to shift away from a Euro-American-centric perspective to the reflection of artists' own identity. She said, western ways of seeing the world are considered universal. Western education is considered universal; the same with art and art history which is very Western-centric. We need to explore other perspectives. Adding to this, **Kubra Khademi**, Performance Artist, Afghanistan, said, 'personal history is the best source of artistic inspiration. There are so many social issues that have shaped and affected individuals and give reasons to express themselves. It is not really about getting influenced by western art, art history, art education and certain artists.' **Caryn Koh**, Artist, Malaysia, went on to speak of the fourth generation Chinese in Malaysia. Caryn said, 'I am always in search of my own being and identity. Malaysia always has its own culture and art practices for centuries even during the hundred years of colonization and Malaysian artists have successfully brought them to the international stages. It is important to be aware of different practices and appreciate the different cultures that exist within communities and be respectful of each other and know

each others' boundaries.' **Nástio Mosquito**, Performance Artist, Angola stated that there are two different worlds: there are things that we can exchange and collaborate, but there are certain things that we are accountable for in each territory, to tell our own story. He added, 'We need to understand what history is and what construction of history is and the time and space for self-expression.' Further, **Henry Brian Mujunga**, Visual Artist, Uganda said, respect makes the world go around. As artists, we just have to be, we have to express ourselves and leave the judgement to the art historians and curators.

The Arts: Embracing Technology, Inspiring the Future

Corinna Kirsch, Moderator and Art Historian, opened the panel by explaining the meaning of NFT (Non-Fungible Tokens). They are tokens that represent the ownership of a digital component like art, backed by Ethereum. **Mark Sabb**, Tech Advisor, started by saying they receive 2 or 3 NFTs per week. **Kelani Nichole**, Founder of Transfer Gallery, 'NFT, the first time was a bit of a whirlwind'. She tried to bring in artists that fully embrace NFT to take a step

towards the future and technology in art. **Robert Norton**, Founder and CEO of Verisart has been in tech for about 12 years. He built a portal for artists that had no gallery representations. Now artists can sell their works as digital editions. They then created a certification in-house. It is harder to give value to something that is not physical according to him. Later, he moved to the world of physical representations where the problem was about fake representations. They launched at Verisart, 10 geneses NFTs. ‘There is a huge demand for digital assets nowadays’ **Kevin P McCoy**, Associate Professor at University, said. He started embracing the cryptocurrency world in 2013 to see the use of it in the arts. He made a presentation on how blockchain can create provenance and ownership of digital artwork. ‘NFT is a metadata that references information that is stored off-chain’, Kevin added. He developed a marketplace for NFTs. NFT for him is a credit to the Ethereum community. On a concluding note, he said, ‘the future is going to head to more generative work and community-



The Arts – Virtualizing Reality, Embracing Humanity

based tokens and rights models’ **Sarah Meyhonas**, Visual Artist stated that she was interested in the idea of value, how it can be represented, and how people turned into a brand. This is how she got into Bitcoin. ‘NFTs are cannot be owned yet but are like a cousin of ownership,’ she said. Things can get interesting in the physical art world where ownership is hard and bitcoin and social tokens may become relevant.



Dancing to Foster Shared Humanity – digital performance of refugees and German students facilitated remotely by Battery Dance of New York



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