

Speaker Profiles



Mr. Harsh Dhingra, Chief Country Representative and Whole Time Director, Bombardier Transportation, India

Mr. Harsh Dhingra joined Bombardier Transportation in October 2010 and currently heading BT-India as Chief Country Representative and also as a Board member in the board of directors. He is a Electrical Engineer from Delhi College of Engineering, a premium institute of Delhi University and has done Post Graduation in Management with specialization in marketing from Delhi. Mr. Dhingra is a seasoned Engineering and Management professional with over 25 years of rich and contributing experience in the field in the Rail and Metro Transportation Segment. One of the senior rail transportation industry personnel out of India who has been playing an active role in transforming rail transportation sector in India, liaising with government officials in defining policies for projects and placing India's rail industry on the global map.



H.E. Nadir Patel, High Commissioner for Canada to India

Nadir Patel serves as Canada's High Commissioner to India, with concurrent accreditation as Canada's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Nepal and to the Kingdom of Bhutan. Previously he has held the following positions, Chief of Staff to the National Security Advisor, Senior Policy Adviser to the Clerk of the Privy Council and Canada's Chief Air Negotiator. Mr. Patel also served as Canada's Consul General in Shanghai. Prior to his arrival in India he served as Assistant Deputy Minister for Corporate Planning,

Finance and Information Technology, and as Chief Financial Officer at Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada.



Mr. Duncan Bureau, Vice President, Global Sales, Air Canada

Mr. Duncan Bureau was appointed Vice President, Global Sales in June 2014. In this key strategic role, Mr. Bureau is responsible for the airline’s revenue generated across all sales channels from all global points of sale, and sales distribution strategies worldwide. Prior to joining Air Canada, he was Senior Vice-President, Global Sales and Distribution at Malaysia Airlines, a role held since June 2012. He previously held senior leadership positions at WestJet in sales, business development, distribution, and at Canadian Airlines in revenue management, network planning, financial reporting, annual budget and strategic planning, Mr. Bureau holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting and Finance from The University of Lethbridge in Alberta.



Dr. U.D. Choubey, Director General, SCOPE

Formerly Chairman & Managing Director of GAIL, Dr. U.D. Choubey is presently Director General of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) - An Apex Body of Public Sector Enterprises in India. Dr. Choubey is double Ph.D., MBA & LL.B. and he has done short courses on management in Stanford & Oxford. He has authored two books called “Text Book on Natural Gas” and “Untold Story of the Indian Public Sector”. The third book is currently under publication. He has more than 40 years experience in energy and management areas in Public Sector Enterprises.



Ms. Nadira Hamid, CEO, ICBC

Ms. Nadira Hamid started her career with the ITC Group of Hotels, looking after their corporate affairs across India. In order to capitalize on her entrepreneurial skills, she started her own company Lafance Overseas Private Ltd which dealt with Human Resources and Structural Steel Detailing. She then moved on to managing corporate affairs for Mitchell Group (an Australian Based company) for India and Bangladesh. In her present role as CEO of the Indo- Canadian Business Chamber, she exhibits her strong background with top level Government and Industry players for their engagement in the India- Canada space. She is also responsible for facilitating trade promotion between India and Canada, nationally and on international forums.



Mr. K. Jayaraman, Partner, Management Consulting, KPMG

Mr. K. Jayaraman is a Partner at KPMG India. His key expertise lies in the Manufacturing domain in the Operations and Supply Chain Consulting practice. Mr. Jayaraman brings over 30 years of work experience in “conceptualizing, designing and implementing” various change programs in the area of Operations Excellence, Business Process Re-engineering, Strategic Cost Reduction, Total Productivity Management [TPM], Total Quality Management [TQM], and Inventory Management. Mr. Jayaraman is a thought leader and a subject matter expert in bringing manufacturing intensive industry domain knowledge to client engagements and has spearheaded several large engagements in Metals, Chemicals, Power & FMCG. His role includes coaching client leadership and consulting teams , and influencing them for critical decision making.



Dr. P. Krishnaiah, I.A.S., (retd.), Executive Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation

Dr. P. Krishnaiah is a Ph.D in Economics and a Post Graduate Diploma holder in Environmental Economics and Environmental Education and Management. His skill and proficiency include Public Administration, Law and Order, Land management, Land acquisition, Forest and Environment management, Infrastructure development for public sector projects-roads, irrigation, power, schools, markets, harbors etc, Design, development and management of projects in agriculture and rural development.



Mr. Ashutosh Thapliyal, Head – Diversified Solutions, Magna Steyr India Pvt. Ltd

Mr. Ashutosh Thapliyal is the Business Head for Diversified Solutions group and has a proven track record of 19 plus years as a Senior Engineering Manager delivering business solutions for customers across mobility industry. Mr. Thapliyal has hands on experience serving mobility industry from Program Management, Technology development to Strategic consulting with focus on flexible and technology intensive manufacturing, addressing immediate & future challenges. He has led many successful projects in Greenfield & brownfield areas, in line with customer business philosophies focusing technology intervention with customized solutions. Mr. Thapliyal has B.E degree in Mechanical Engineering, with advance Project & Program Management certificate.



Mr. Vijay Bathija, Vice President, Commercial, Air Canada Leisure Group

Mr. Vijay Bathija is Vice President Commercial for Air Canada Leisure Group. He reports to Michael Friisdahl, President and CEO. Mr. Bathija has over 18 years of experience in the airline industry. Prior to joining Air Canada Leisure Group, Vijay was Senior Director of Network Planning at Air Canada. As senior Director, he held overall responsibility for Air Canada's network strategy and schedule and was responsible for launching many successful routes to Europe. Before joining Air Canada, Vijay worked with Sabre Airline Solutions Consulting in Texas as Head of Planning Consulting Division. In this role he worked with various airlines around the world on commercial turnaround, network and fleet strategy and alliances projects. He has an MBA in Finance and Marketing from Queen's University, Canada.



Mr. Deepankar Tiwari, Vice President, Business Development & Corporate Affairs, TATA Sons

Mr. Deepankar Tiwari, Vice President, Business Development & Corporate Affairs, Tata Sons has been with the group for last 20 years. He began his career with the group in 1995 joining as a management trainee with Tata Motors in their Commercial Vehicle division and worked in the areas of production, quality control & Ancillary development. In 1998, he was selected to the fast track Executive selection scheme of Tata Group. Post the induction program, in 2000 as the Passenger Car Business was being set up, he was part of the founding team for Car business and played a key role in the introduction of some of the most popular car brands from Tata Motors like the Indica, Indigo, Tata Safari. Through this tenure he also played a key role in the joint venture of Tata Motors with Fiat group and acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover. Earlier this year, he moved into his new role at Tata Sons, looking at Business Development & Public Affairs for the group and works with the Group Executive Council of Chairman's office, Tata Sons. His wife Priyanka is an attorney specialising in Trade Marks & Patents and they have a five year old son Shaurya.



Mr. Nathan Andrew Nelson, Chief Representative and Country Manager, Export Development Canada

Mr. Nathan Andrew Nelson was promoted to India Chief Representative and Country Manager for Export Development Canada (EDC) in spring 2014. Prior to this, Mr. Nelson held diverse positions in Corporate and Asset Backed lending, Structured and Project Finance as well as International Business Development at EDC. He is a seasoned banking professional with over 15 years experience. He has worked extensively in South America and Mexico, including 4 years as Regional Manager for EDC based in Mexico City. Prior to joining EDC Mr. Nelson worked at a boutique financial institution in Uruguay and Argentina. Mr. Nelson is an MBA honors graduate from Queens University and has won the Calgary Chamber of Commerce award for excellence as well as the Jason Lang award in 2005 for Academic achievement.



Mr. Sanjeev Mittal, Managing Director & Country Head – India

Mr. Sanjeev Mittal is a seasoned banker with over 25 years of banking experience in progressive Senior roles with some of the largest Indian (SBI), European (BNP Paribas & ING Vysya) & presently Canadian (Scotia Bank). Mr. Mittal joined Bank of Nova Scotia (Called Scotiabank) in October 2011, and under his leadership Scotiabank was rated as 'Best Bank in its category' but leading business magazine Business Today in 2012 and again in 2013. During 2014, he led the change in the Bank to align their Indian operations to GBM – Global Banking & Markets, in order to benefit the clients from expertise the bank has in this segment. An engineer by qualification from Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) Roorkee – he has been an active member of ICBC (Indo Canada Business Chamber) & CIBC (Canada India business council), and has been regularly joining meetings with visiting Canadian delegations of Ministers (most recently Tony Clement), and has been supporting growth of Canadian companies into India – McCain foods, Mosaic Fertilizers and Indian companies (AV Birla Nuvo, Tata Steel, TCS back home in Canada).



Dr. M. P. Raju, Managing Director, LEA Associates South Asia Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi

Dr. M P Raju, currently holds the dual position of Managing Director of LEA Associates South Asia Private Limited (LASA) and Director of LEA Group Holdings Inc. Toronto, Canada. LASA is an operating company of LEA Group and engaged in rendering professional consultancy services for development of infrastructural projects in India and other Asian and African countries. Dr. Raju, Ph. D. in Transport Planning from School of Planning and Architecture, is an Expert on Transport Planning and had undergone several training programs in the field of his specialization. He has also authored a number of technical Papers and published in professional journals. Being part of LASA since 1994, Dr. Raju has been instrumental in evolving and implementing growth strategy of LASA from the initial stages of incorporation to the current level – one of the premier engineering and planning firms in the consulting arena. Dr. Raju is also involved in a number of prestigious projects as Team Leader guiding the multidisciplinary team working on the project. He has also represented the organization at national and international levels and instrumental in negotiating and concluding contracts on behalf of the organization.



Mr. Vikram Gandhi, Senior Advisor, Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board

Mr. Vikram Gandhi is Founder and CEO of VSG Capital Advisors. Mr. Gandhi and VSG Capital Advisors have been retained by The Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board as Senior Advisors to provide strategic advice and develop and facilitate investment opportunities in the Indian sub-continent. Mr. Gandhi is also a Senior Advisor to Greenhill & Co., Inc., a leading independent investment bank. VSG Capital Advisors is based in New Delhi with operations in Hong Kong, New York, and London. During his 23 year career in investment

banking, Mr. Gandhi has focused on advising Board of Directors and CEO's around the globe on strategic direction and the implementation of major mergers, acquisitions, and capital raising initiatives. He is also the Founder of Asha Impact, which is focused on providing equity and grant capital to social enterprises as well as engaging with government, business and civil society on key policy issues. Mr. Gandhi holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School where he was designated a Baker Scholar, and a B.Com with high distinction from the University of Mumbai. He is also a qualified Chartered Accountant.



Mr. Sanjay Randhar, Managing Director, GVFL

Mr. Sanjay Randhar is the Managing Director of GVFL. He brings on board thirty years of experience in private equity and banking. His last assignment was in India Venture Advisors Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Randhar has experience of entire cycle of investment including conceptualization, fund raising, investment, monitoring, value addition and divestment. He has acumen for evaluating diverse business models and has Board level experience in providing strategic inputs and value addition to several investee companies as a nominee Director. Mr. Randhar is a B.E(Mechanical) from IIT Roorkee, DFM and also CAIIB from Institute of Bankers.



Mr. Masudur Rahman, Canada Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CanCham Bangladesh)

Mr. Masudur Rahman was born in Bangladesh and educated in USA. After graduating in Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, USA, he returned Bangladesh and joined Crane Limited as Managing Director. Mr. Rahman then established a company Asia Securities Ltd and joined there as founder Chairman. As a visionary he has contributed to promote economic development of Bangladesh by joining a leading Chamber of the country-the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. At present,

Mr Rahman, is the President of the Canada Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CanCham), Bangladesh. As President, he is playing the pivotal role to enhance trade and investment in between Canada and Bangladesh. By doing things practically, Mr. Rahman has specialization in entrepreneurship, networking with business as well as donor community, management of trade bodies and Public Private Partnership.



Mr. Martin Zablocki, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC)

Mr. Martin Zablocki is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC), a federal Crown corporation of the Government of Canada established for the purpose of assisting in the developing of trade between Canada and other nations. CCC supports the development of trade by helping Canadian exporters access government procurement markets of other nations through government-to-government contracting. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Zablocki held various other senior-level executive positions within the Corporation, including as the Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) and senior advisor to the President. Before joining CCC, Mr. Zablocki garnered 17 years of experience with the Government of Canada, leading regional and national operations within the Canada Revenue Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Industry Canada. He holds two professional designations, Chartered Business Valuator and Certified Management Accountant, and has served on a variety of volunteer boards and committees.



Mr. Shivendra Singh, Vice President, Global Trade Development, NASSCOM

Mr. Singh is heading the Global Trade Development Department at NASSCOM and responsible for global positioning of NASSCOM and industry and work towards increasing the Indian Industry export revenue, currently valued at nearly USD 100 bn. His primary role is to Develop, Direct, Strategize and implement all NASSCOM international efforts regarding Market development, Policy advocacy, Communication and Outreach activities. With nearly 20 years of experience, he has worked on trade, investment and policy work over a number of years promoting business growth, both strategy and execution assistance from global markets into India and have worked on assisting Indian companies go global. He has previously worked as Country Head for Scottish Development International based out of the British High Commission for 8 years from 2000-2008 (January). He has an MBA from University of Warwick, United Kingdom.



Mr. Suneet Singh Tuli, Co-Founder & CEO, DataWind

Mr. Suneet Singh Tuli is the co-founder and CEO of DataWind Inc. (TSX: DW), a leader in low-cost Internet connectivity for emerging markets. He has over 25 years of experience as a serial entrepreneur, with DataWind's Initial Public Offering (IPO) on the Toronto Stock Exchange in June 2014 representing the third IPO of his career. His vision is to empower the next 3 billion people with computing and internet access which has formed the focus of both the entrepreneurial and social ventures he has pursued over the last 15 years. Mr. Tuli has been recognized by Forbes magazine in its 2012 Impact 15 list as a "classroom revolutionary" using innovative technologies to reinvent education globally. In 2015, York

University's Lassonde School of Engineering recognized him as the "Renaissance Engineer of the Year".



Mr. Vikas Mittal, Managing Director, McCain Foods India and Subcontinent

An alumnus of IIM (Indian Institute of Management) Lucknow and Delhi College of Engineering, Mr. Vikas Mittal has over 22 years of experience working across most competitive FMCG categories including Haircare, Skincare, Foods and Beverage, Laundry, Homecare, OTC and Healthcare. Mr. Mittal joined McCain in Nov 2011 from Dabur, a large CPG/personal care company based in Delhi, India where he was head of Innovation post a successful stint as Executive Vice President, Marketing for the Personal and Home Care Division of Dabur. He brings a wealth of CPG Marketing and general management experience. Prior to his experience at Dabur, Mr. Mittal spent 11 years with Procter & Gamble in Singapore, India, Yemen and East Africa, holding positions of increasing responsibility, as well as Friesland Foods (a Netherlands-based Dairy Cooperative) as regional Marketing director for Middle East based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Mittal and family live in New Delhi. Wife, Shalini, is a corporate trainer and kids (Sidharth and Ria) in senior school. When not working family enjoys travelling and sports.



Mr. Sujit Kanoria, Managing Director, Shristi Group and Trustee, Kanoria Foundation

Mr. Sujit Kanoria is a trustee of Kanoria Foundation, Founding Member of Srei, Shristi and Viom. With over 18 years of experience in various fields such as Engineering, Infrastructure,

Hospitality, Software & IT Systems, and iconic projects in urban planning and smart cities, he is considered a pioneer in his field. Apart from Shristi, Mr. Kanoria has also spearheaded initiatives in IT Infrastructure, Defence & Security, IT Enabled services and construction. Some of the other Kanoria group companies where he extends his support are Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd, Viom, Quippo, India Power, BCL Secure Premises Pvt. Ltd and Xenolith Technologies. Mr. Kanoria is a member of YPO, YI, Naredco and CII and past President of Leo club of Kolkata, Midtown. Mr Kanoria is involved into Study of artificial intelligence, Nanotechnology & Network Solutions at Singularity University (founded by Google).



Mr. Vikram Labhe, Senior Managing Director, PMC Sierra India Pvt Ltd

Mr. Vikram Labhe is currently the Senior Managing Director of PMC Sierra India Pvt Ltd. and has over 18 years of industry experience. He started PMC Sierra's India operations as the first employee relocating from Canada. With his able leadership, the PMC Sierra operations have grown to employ more than 200 employees, a 1 lac sq. ft. office, making India the largest R&D center for PMC WW. Mr. Labhe is also part of PMC Sierra India Board. He holds 1 US Patent, and has contributed to a couple of journal publications. Mr. Labhe has completed his MS in VLSI Design from Simon Fraser University, Canada, and Executive General Management from IIM Bangalore.



Ms. Ivy Lerner-Frank, First secretary and Trade Commissioner Education, Canadian High Commission

A graduate of McGill University and Concordia University, Trade Commissioner Ms. Ivy Lerner-Frank has served in Beijing, Hong Kong, Ottawa, and New Delhi for the Department of Citizenship and Immigration and the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development. Ms. Franks's creativity and commitment to education promotion has increased engagement between Canadian and international colleges, universities, school boards, government and non-government organizations, media – and, most importantly, students. She has been a featured speaker at CII, FICCI, Canadian Bureau of International Education, British Columbia Council of International Education, and Indo- Canadian Business Chamber events in Canada and India, and regularly delivers webinars and information sessions to education influencers and students.



Mr. Peter J. Devlin, President, Fanshawe College

Mr. Peter Devlin was appointed Fanshawe College's fifth President effective September 2013. Prior to joining Fanshawe, President Devlin served 35 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. He commanded from the platoon to Army level, most notably commanding 1st Battalion of The Royal Canadian Regiment, 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group and the Canadian Army. He has several operational tours including UN, NATO and Coalition missions in Cyprus, the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross in 2004 as well as Orders of Military Merit from the United States, Brazil and Columbia for international leadership and encouraging collaboration.



Ms. Katrina Murray, Regional Manager, CIIP India, Colleges and Institutes Canada

Based in New Delhi, Ms. Katrina Murray is the Regional Manager for the Canadian Immigrant Integration Program (CIIP), an initiative funded by the Canadian government and implemented by Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan). Prior to taking up her Indian assignment in October 2014, she spent three years in London where she was responsible for the CIIP UK/Gulf region. Ms Murray joined CICan (formerly the Association of Canadian Community Colleges) in 2006 and held the position of Vice President, Canadian Partnerships until her move to the UK in 2011.



Mr. Rajiv Mathur, Head - Standards and QA, National Skill Development Corporation

Mr. Rajiv Mathur is a Science Post Graduate from Delhi University and carries a global experience of over 28 years. He is currently working at National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) as Head – Standards and Quality Assurance and is responsible for setting up of new Sector Skill Councils and optimizing their performance post creation, creation of National Occupational Standards, integration of the Sector Skills Councils with the Central Ministries, State Governments, School Education Boards, Universities, AICTE, UGC and Skills Development Missions, alignment and creation of Vocational Curriculum and Learning Material as per National Occupational Standards and benchmarking of the Indian Occupational Standards with those of other countries. He is a prolific author with 24 published books on various topics in Information Technology.



Mr. Narayanan Ramaswamy, Partner & National Lead for Education, KPMG

Mr. Narayanan Ramaswamy did his PGDM from Indian Institute of Management (Bangalore) and also holds Bachelor degree in Engineering (Electronics & Communication). Mr. Ramaswamy has over 20+ years experience in consulting and industry, with primary focus on Social Sector Advisory. He has experience across financial services and Infrastructure sectors, spanning multiple solution offerings. He is a part of the KPMG global steering committee on International Development Sector Advisory and Education Sector. He leads the think tank, advocacy, strategy development and implementation assistance for CSR programs for corporates in India. His views are carried in many newspapers and journals on a regular basis.