

## ***The Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2019/2020*** ***“Rebuilding investor confidence in times of uncertainty”***

***Webinar in Partnership between Islamic Development Bank, World Bank Group &  
World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies***

***Date & Time: 29 October 8:00am – 9:30am Washington DC Time zone***

### ***Background***

*The **Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2019/2020** provides novel analytical insights, empirical evidence, and actionable recommendations for governments seeking to **rebuilding investor confidence in times of uncertainty**. It focuses on the role of foreign direct investment (FDI) in alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and boosting countries’ economic resilience. It highlights FDI’s contributions to providing a critical source of external finance, creating jobs, lifting people out of poverty, and raising productivity.*

*The report presents results of a survey of more than 2,400 business executives representing multinational corporations in 10 large developing countries: Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam. Results of the survey, as well as the report’s new global database of regulatory risk, highlight the critical role of government actions in reducing investor risk and increasing policy predictability for rebuilding investor confidence.*

*The report also assesses the **impact of FDI on poverty, inequality, employment, and business performance** using firm- and household-level evidence from various countries. It shows that FDI in developing countries yields benefits to firms and workers—including more and better-paid jobs—but governments need to remain vigilant about possible adverse consequences on income distribution. Lastly, the report articulates priorities for **investment promotion agencies** and other stakeholders seeking to strengthen their countries’ investment competitiveness and leverage FDI for a robust economic recovery.*

*This is a critical time for FDI and for IPAs, and countries may have to seek creative ways to expand and sustain investment where possible. IPAs have a crucial role to contribute by guiding and supporting the discussions with investors and governments which can lead to new and innovative forms of investment leading to increased inflow of FDI.*

## Objective

The launch of the **Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2019/2020** is a timely opportunity to involve WAIPA & OIC member IPAs in a discussion on the key findings of the report. After the keynotes from WAIPA and IsDB, Armando Heilbron and Peter Kusek will deliver a high-level presentation of the GICR 2019/2020. Finally, the floor is opened for a Q&A session between the joining parties. Aim of the exchange is to engage the high-ranking participants in a discussion on the current pressing issues for their agencies, as well as investment promotion strategies beyond the Covid-19 global crisis and to disseminate the findings of the GICR 2019/2020 to a larger audience.

## Organisation

### Title

- Webinar on WBG's **Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2019/2020**

### When

- 29 October 8:00-9:30am Washington DC Time zone - Duration 1:30 hrs

### Where

- Multiple locations linked by video – WAIPAs Zoom platform. This webinar will be recorded.

### How

- In partnership between IsDB, WBG & WAIPA

### Output

- The recorded webinar will be made available on WAIPA platforms

### Who

- Armando Heilbron, Investment Promotion Workstream Leader, WBG
- Peter Kusek, Senior Economist, WBG
- Bostjan Skalar, Executive Director, WAIPA
- Syed Husain Quadri, Acting Director of Country Strategy and Cooperation Department, IsDB
- Ismail Ersahin, Deputy Executive Director, WAIPA (Moderator)

## *Program*

### ***Opening & Introduction***

*by Ismail Ersahin, Moderator 5'*

### ***First round: Keynotes by IsDB & WAIPA High Level Representatives 25'***

- ***Syed Husain Quadri, Acting Director of Country Strategy and Cooperation Department, IsDB***
- ***Bostjan Skalar, Executive Director, WAIPA***

*WAIPA presents the problem from the perspective of IPAs the objectives of the webinar from an IPAs standpoint (i.e., to advise IPAs on how to tackle the problem individually and to discuss room for greater cooperation), and how WAIPA supports its members and member IPAs.*

*IsDB highlights its presentation on the “Impact of COVID-19 on Investment and Investment Promotion in IsDB Member Countries: Impact and Way Forward”.*

### ***Second round: The Report 35'***

- ***Armando Heilbron, Investment Promotion Workstream Leader, WBG***
- ***Peter Kusek, Senior Economist, WBG***

*High Level Presentation of the Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2019/2020*

### ***Third round: Q&A led by the Moderator 20'***

***Concluding remarks and wrapping up 5'***

## *Biography of the speakers*

### ***Syed Husain Quadri***

Mr. Syed Husain Quadri is a global development practitioner, currently heading the Department in the role of Acting Director responsible for the development of Country Strategies and Cooperation of the 57-Member Countries of the largest development organization of the OIC region, the AAA-rated Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB). In addition, he is the focal point for the provision of capacity development, advisory services, grant financing and technical guidance in matters related to Reverse Linkages, Regional Cooperation and Market Integration, focusing primarily on issues around governing trade, FDI promotion, investment environment and infrastructure development at the regional level.

Mr. Quadri works closely with in a leadership capacity all the major Bi-lateral and Multi-lateral Development Banks, Governments and institutions such as the OECD, UN, WTO, OIC, WAIPA etc. Mr. Quadri has also provided consulting and advisory services to the Governments of Kuwait, Malaysia, Niger, Uganda, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Turkey. He has a Bachelors from King's College London and a Masters from Imperial College London.

### ***Bostjan Skalar***

Bostjan Skalar is a Slovenian citizen born in Ljubljana and is currently serving as an Executive Director - CEO of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies. WAIPA is the umbrella organization of worldwide investment promotion agencies established in 1995 in Geneva under auspices of UNCTAD. Previously he served as a Director of new Slovenian Public Agency for Promotion of Investment, Internationalization, Entrepreneurship and Tourism (SPIRIT). He got a mandate from then Government and has successfully merged together agencies for Investment and Internationalization, Tourism and Technology and optimized organizational, employment and financial structure in the new agency. SPIRIT was and still is successful in attracting, facilitating and expanding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to Slovenia. He also served four years as a Consul for Economic Affairs of Slovenia in Istanbul, Turkey. He has also effectively performed his international business and market development activities and managing roles of various companies in the textile, automobile, printing and construction sector in many foreign countries such as Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, France and Turkey. He studied in the Faculty of Economics in Maribor, Slovenia where he graduated in marketing. He has also graduated in Faculty of Organizational Sciences in Kranj, Slovenia in Human Resources management. He has over 20 years of management experience and is one of the global leaders in investment promotion area with a private-sector focus. His vast experiences in different fields from private to public sector give him a global overview on current business and geopolitical trends that influences the flows of FDI.

***Armando Heilbron***

Leader for Investment Promotion at the World Bank Group. Global executive with 33-yrs experience in international business, investment promotion and private sector development with development organizations, private sector associations, governments, multinationals, and SMEs. His experience spans from the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean, to Eastern Europe and Africa, and now Asia.

Within the World Bank Group, he leads a team to research and develop new knowledge, concepts and toolkits for Investment Promotion and Special Economic Zones. His team also advises internal and external clients around the world on creating the conditions to attract, establish, retain, expand and link transformational investment.

Worked 6 years for CINDE (Costa Rican Investment Board) leading strategy and implementation that resulted in record levels of transformational FDI, and the creation of the most dynamic clusters in the economy still today: high-tech manufacturing, life sciences and IT-enabled services, generating 80,000 jobs and flagship investments (Intel, Hospira/Abbott and P&G).

Fulbright, UC Berkeley MBA, fluent in Spanish, English and French, conversant in Portuguese.

***Peter Kusek***

Peter leads the team of the Applied Research Program on Investment at the World Bank Group's Macroeconomics, Trade and Investment Global Practice. His team produces new research on foreign investment, develops analytical tools assessing investment climates, and implements novel diagnostic approaches for economic policy reforms in developing countries. With more than 15 years of experience specializing in foreign direct investment and private sector development, Peter has advised more than 40 governments across the world on investment climate reforms.

Peter is the managing author of several flagship publications, including the Global Investment Competitiveness Report 2017-2018 and the Investing Across Borders global database. They are among the most downloaded World Bank Group reports on investment and trade. Peter's publications have been cited in The Economist, Bloomberg, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, The Guardian, and US News and World Report. Peter is a frequent presenter at international conferences, including the G20, Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), World Trade Organization (WTO), Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Investment Competitiveness Forum, Energy Charter Treaty Conference, and other organizations.

Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Peter worked on microfinance and small-enterprise development at BRAC Bangladesh, on microcredit at FINCA Tanzania, and on privatization and other structural reforms at the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic. He was also program manager at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based foreign and security policy think tank, where his program brought together global business and government leaders to accelerate the pace of economic reforms in Central and Eastern Europe.

Peter holds a master's degree in economic policy and international development from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and a bachelor's degree in

economics from the University of the South. Peter is a native of Slovakia and currently resides in Washington D.C. with his family.

### ***Ismail Ersahin***

Ismail Ersahin is a 15-year expert in Investment promotion and investor relations and has held various leadership positions for the private sector, Government of Turkey and the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA).

His work spans across several countries and sectors. Following his duties in trade, textile and tourism, he worked for one of the largest automotive groups in the country (British Motor Company) and established several new export dealers in Europe and North Africa for the company. He joined the Dogus Group as Sales Manager of Caliskan - Scania Trucks. His understanding of the entrepreneurial sector gave him great insight in his work with the area of investment promotion.

He joined Invest in Turkey, Turkey's investment agency, in 2008 as Project Director during the establishment phase of the Agency. He worked as Chief Project Director; Chief Advisor to Vice President and the Head of Automotive, France, Food Processing, Bureaucratic Relations teams. Towards his last years there he was the Executive Coordinator for WAIPA. He has been appointed as Interim Executive Director in 2014 and Deputy Executive Director of WAIPA in 2015 by WAIPA Steering Committee.

He joined General Management Program at Open University of Catalonia, Barcelona and has studied International Relations at Uludag University and International Business Administration at Dokuz Eylul University in Turkey. He speaks Turkish, English and French.