

28th World Investment Conference

Event Program

25-27 November 2024
Fairmont Hotel, Riyadh

As of 14:00, 18th Nov



28th World Investment Conference (WIC)

DAY 1 – 25 November 2024



Conference Track | Masterclass Track | Governance Track | **Ministerial** | Side Events

Key Themes: Digital Transformation | Sustainability | Economic Cooperation

Timings	Marasem Hall	Mecca Hall	Taif Hall	Dammam Hall	Ministerial Roundtable Venue
08:30 – 09:30				WAIPA Steering Committee (by invitation)	
10:00 – 10:20	Opening Ceremony				
10:20 – 11:00	Defying Gravity				
11:00 – 11:30	Impact Maximization				
11:30 – 12:00	Global Market Navigator: Leadership in Trade and Investment				
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH BREAK				
13:00 – 13:30		The Future of Private Sector Participation in the Kingdom's Education	UNFCCC GIH Panel - Investing in Climate Action: Catalyzing Transformative Innovations for a Resilient Future		Ministerial Roundtable: Paradigm Shift - Synergizing Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Strategy
13:30 – 14:00	The Investor Arena	So Many Economies, So Many Opportunities!			
14:00 – 15:00	Ministerial Roundtable: Paradigm Shift - Synergizing Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Strategy		Coffee Break & Networking		
15:00 – 15:30	The Market Access Forum	This is What Good Looks Like	Matchmaking Session 1	Impact Insights	
15:30 – 16:15	The Road to Success is Always Under Construction	Industry Insights Interchange		Investor Services 2.0	Ambassadors in Action
16:15 – 16:45	From FDI to PDI				
19:00 – 21:00	WAIPA Excellence Awards Ceremony & WIC 28 Cultural Dinner (by Invitation)				

08:30 – 09:30 (60 mins) | **WAIPA Steering Committee (Steering Committee Members Only)**

Governance | **Dammam Hall**

The Steering Committee is the executive organ of the General Assembly and meets according to WAIPA Statutes Chapter V, Art. XVIII

10:00 – 10:20 (20 mins) | **Opening Ceremony**

Conference Track | **Marasem Hall**

Speakers

H.E. Khalid A. Al-Falih, Minister of Investment, Saudi Arabia
 Nivruti Rai, Managing Director and CEO, Invest India, and President, WAIPA
 Dr. James Zhan, Chair, Executive Board of World Investment Conference, WAIPA
 Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director and CEO, WAIPA

10:20 – 11:00 (40 mins) | **“Defying Gravity”: The Increasing and Changing Role of Emerging Economies in the Global Economy and Investment Ecosystems**

Conference | **Marasem Hall**

This session will examine how emerging economies and a multipolar world are reshaping global investment, trade agreements, and sustainable PPPs. It will cover the impact of economic corridors like the New Silk Road on connectivity, highlighting successful initiatives and future pathways for cooperation.

Speakers

H.E. Faisal Fadhil Alibrahim, Minister of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia (Tentative)
 H.E. Saleh Al-Jasser, Minister of Transport, Saudi Arabia
 H.E. Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, Chairman, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group

Moderator

John Defferios, Visiting Professor of Business, NYU Abu Dhabi

11:00 - 11:30 | **"Impact Maximization": Leveraging Trade and Investment for Growth and Development"**
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will highlight the key features of the future international investment and investment policies. It will delve into leveraging trade and investment to achieve economic transformation and discuss the role of trade policies, investment incentives, and regulatory reforms in advancing policy objectives and economic priorities such as economic diversification and driving private sector growth.

Speakers

H.E. Ibrahim Almubarak, Assistant Minister of Investment and CEO, Saudi Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)
Prof. Lars-Hendrik Röller, Chairman, Berlin Global Dialogue and Professor of Economics, ESMT
Dr. James Zhan, Chair, Executive Board of World Investment Conference, WAIPA

Moderator

Ali Aslan, International (TV) Presenter and Journalist

11:30 - 12:00 | **Global Market Navigator: Leadership in Trade and Investment**
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will explore how trade partnerships, market insights, and international agreements attract investment, focusing on tax incentives, streamlined regulations, and cross-border collaboration to drive entrepreneurship and sustainable growth.

Speakers

Rt. Hon Alderman Alastair King DL, Lord Mayor of London, United Kingdom
Nan Li Collins, Senior Director, Investment and Enterprise, UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Moderator

Stephen Anderson, Partner & Middle East Strategy Leader, PwC Middle East

13:00 - 13:30 | **The Future of Private Sector Participation in the Kingdom's Education**
(30 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will explore the evolving landscape of private sector involvement in the Kingdom's education system, emphasizing its potential to enhance educational quality, accessibility, and innovation.

Speakers

H.E. Yousef Al-Benyani, Minister of Education, Saudi Arabia (Tentative)
Abdullah bin Salman Alsalman, President, King Saud University (Tentative)
Sir Edward Byrne AC, President, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (Tentative)

13:00 - 14:00 | **UNFCCC GIH Panel: "Investing in Climate Action: Catalyzing Transformative Innovations for a Resilient Future" (by invitation)**
(60 mins)

Side events

Taif Hall



This session will explore transformative climate innovations essential for a low-emission future and the crucial role of private capital in bridging a \$27 trillion finance gap by 2030. Discussions will focus on scaling sustainable solutions across sectors and fostering investment ecosystems to accelerate decarbonization and economic growth.

13:30 –14:00 | **“The Investor Arena”: The Latest Responses to Enhance Competitiveness – An IPA Performance Pulse Check from an Investor Point of View: Commonalities, Best Practices, Lessons Learned**
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will assess Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) from an investor’s perspective, focusing on strategies, engagement, and success metrics aligned with SDG 8. It will discuss the need for International Investment Agreements, effective arbitration, and unified investor records to promote fair and sustainable investment.

Speakers

Eng. Ahmed M. Al Sharqi, Deputy Minister of Labor Affairs, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, Saudi Arabia

Githa Roelans, Head, Multinational Enterprises and Responsible Business Conduct Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO)

Ivan Anton Nimac, Global Lead, Investment Policy and Promotion, Prosperity Vice Presidency, The World Bank

Dr. Stefan Kratzsch, Head, Sustainable Investments and Responsible Business Unit, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Moderator

Philipp Lemmerz, Partner & Middle East Economic Competitiveness Leader, PwC Middle East

13:45 - 14:00 | **“So Many Economies, So Many Opportunities!”: A Global, Cross Sectoral Opportunity and Challenge, How to Leverage Funds for Climate, Blue, Green, Space, Low Altitude, Circular and Other Economies**
(15 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will spotlight high-potential investment sectors and the policy enablers that support them. It will address cross-sector collaboration, innovative PPP models, and the challenges of leveraging funds for strategic growth.

Speakers

Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head, Investment and Technology Promotion Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain (ITPO Bahrain), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Dr. Nadir Mohammad, Regional Director, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions (EFI), MENA Region, The World Bank

13:00 - 14:00 | **Ministerial Roundtable: Paradigm Shift - Synergizing Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Strategy (closed door)**
(60 mins)

Ministerial

Ministerial Roundtable Venue

The 28th WAIPA World Investment Conference will host a high-level Ministerial Roundtable focused on the theme: "Paradigm Shift - Synergizing Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Strategy." This roundtable seeks to bring together Ministers from diverse economies to discuss and strategize on aligning industrial policies with forward-looking investment promotion strategies in an era marked by profound global transformations.

14:00 - 15:00 | **Ministerial Roundtable: Paradigm Shift – Synergizing Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Strategy (Open Plenary)***
(60 mins)

Ministerial

Marasem Hall

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

HE Khalid A. Al-Falih Minister of Investment

Antigua & Barbuda

The Honourable Mr. Henry Fernandez, Minister of Tourism and Investment

Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis

The Right Honourable Dr. Denzil Douglas, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Industry & Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Economic Development and Investment

Hellenic Republic

H.E. Kostas Fragkogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy & Openness, Hellenic Republic

Kindom of Bahrain

H.E. Noor bint Ali Alkhulaif, Minister of Sustainable Development; Chief Executive, Bahrain EDB

Republic of Djibouti

H.E. Safia Mohamed Ali Gadileh, Secretary of State for Investments and Private Sector Development

Republic of Ghana

Hon. Herbert Krapah, Minister of Energy

Republic of Guinea

H.E. Ismael Nabe, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

Republic of Kazakhstan

H.E. Renat Bekturov, Governor of the Astana International Financial Center

Republic of Kenya

H.E. Salim Mvurya, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade & Industry

Republic of Sierra Leone

The Honourable Ibrahim Alpha Sesay, Minister of Trade and Industry

Republic of Tajikistan

Mr. Sulton Rahimzoda, Minister, Chairman of the State Committee on Investments and State Property Management

Tuvalu

The Honourable Mr. Simon Kofe Ministry of Transport, Energy Communication and Innovation

Union of the Comoros

H.E. Moustoifa Hassani Mohamed, Minister of Economy, Industry, Investments, in charge of Economic Integration

Islamic Development Bank

H.E. Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, Chairman, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group

Moderator

Dr. James Zhan, Chair, Executive Board of World Investment Conference, WAIPA

*Speakers Tentative

15:00 - 15:30 | **"The Market Access Forum": Economic Trends and IPA Realities – Enhancing Investor Journeys and Institutional Agility**
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will explore how evolving policies impact investment landscapes and necessitate strategic adaptations by IPAs. It will address shifts in trade agreements, the role of technology in enhancing investor experiences, and the importance of collaboration among IPAs, governments, and the private sector.

Speakers

Dr. Asya Akhlaque, Practice Manager, Investment Climate Global Practice, The World Bank
Nivruti Rai, Managing Director and CEO, Invest India, and President, WAIPA
Biviana Riveiro Disla, Executive Director, Export and Investment Center of the Dominican Republic

Moderator

Ismail Ersahin, CEO and Executive Director, WAIPA

15:00 - 15:15 | **"This is what good looks like": A success story of relationships, partnership, opportunity identification and stakeholder engagement**
(15 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session explores key success factors in investment projects, with a focus on government-private sector collaboration and the unique role of family businesses in sectors like banking and healthcare. It will examine how these enterprises manage public-private partnerships to effectively drive economic growth.

Speakers

Dr. Ayth Almubarak, CEO, National Center for Family Business

Moderator

Yumna Naufal, Director, APCO

15:00 - 16:15 | **Matchmaking Session**
(75 mins)

Side events

Taif Hall

The matchmaking session will foster direct connections between investors, businesses, and government representatives, creating opportunities for collaboration across key sectors. Through focused discussions, participants will be able to explore synergies, share insights, and establish partnerships that drive investment and growth.

15:00 - 15:30 | **"Impact Insights": Turning Data into Investment Wins**
(30 mins)

Masterclass

Dammam Hall



This masterclass will explore how IPAs can set KPIs to measure FDI impact on the domestic economy and UN SDGs, refining budgets and strategies to position regions as sustainable investment hubs. Practical frameworks for data-driven KPIs will be discussed.

Speakers

Githa Roelans, Head, Multinational Enterprises and Responsible Business Conduct Unit, International Labour Organization (ILO)

15:30 - 16:15 | **"The Road to Success is Always Under Construction" - Infrastructure Innovation in Emerging Economies**
(45 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will explore infrastructure strategies in emerging economies, focusing on access to essential services, economic growth, and social equity. It will discuss how improved infrastructure reduces inequalities and boosts trade, highlighting impactful projects and policies.

Speakers

H.E. Ismael Nabe, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Republic of Guinea
H.E. Kostas Fragkogiannis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Economic Diplomacy & Openness, Hellenic Republic
H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, President, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)

Moderator

Rami Nazer, Partner, EMEA Government & Public Services Leader, PwC Middle East

15:30 - 16:15 | "Industry Insights Interchange": Building Inclusive Growth Brick by Brick
(45 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will examine how manufacturing drives inclusive growth in emerging markets through policies like tax incentives and trade agreements, highlighting successful strategies to boost economic resilience and reduce inequalities.

Speakers

Dr. Trevor Gunn, Vice President, International Relations, Medtronic
Nasser Al Shawaf, Member of the Board of Directors, Al Bawani Company
Sun Yao, Director General, Beijing Investment Promotion Service Center (BIPSC)

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA

15:30 - 16:00 | **Ambassadors in Action**
(30 mins)

Side events

This roundtable will explore how ambassadors promote trade and investment and enhance economic cooperation in their respective roles.

15:30 - 16:15 | "Investor Services 2.0": Enhancing Support and Engagement in the Digital Age
(45 mins)

Masterclass

Dammam Hall



This masterclass will explore how IPAs can boost investment retention and reinvestment through advanced aftercare, including VR site visits, AI-driven analytics, and workforce development strategies, enhancing engagement and driving economic benefits.

Speakers

Yago Aranda Larrey, Private Sector Specialist, The World Bank

16:15 - 16:45 | "From FDI to PDI": Investment needs are bigger than ever; definitions and perspectives may have to change
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will examine the shift from traditional FDI to Partnership Direct Investments (PDI), focusing on collaboration for sustainable growth. It will address the impact on investment strategies, innovation, and resilience in emerging markets, while considering sustainability and geopolitical implications.

Speakers

R. Yofi Grant, CEO, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre (GIPC)
Salman Badr, Executive Vice President, Commercial Advisory, National Center for Privatization & PPP
Achim Hartig, Managing Director, Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI)

Moderator

Anjani Trivedi, Global Business Correspondent, The Economist

19:00 - 21:00 | **WAIPA Excellence Awards Ceremony & WIC 28 Gala Dinner (by Invitation)**
(120 mins)

Side events

Jury Members

World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies

Dr. James Zhan, Chairman, WIC Executive Board

World Economic Forum

Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment and Services

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

Dr. Stefan Kratzsch, Sustainable Investments and Responsible Business Unit

International Labor Organization

Githa Roelans, Head, Multilateral Enterprises and Responsible Business Conduct Unit

International Trade Council

Escipión J. Oliveira-Gómez, Director, Division of Enterprises Competitiveness and Institutions (DECI)

The World Bank

Ivan Anton Nimac, Global Lead for Investment Policy and Promotion, Prosperity Vice Presidency

28th World Investment Conference (WIC)

DAY 2 – 26 November 2024



Conference Track | Masterclass Track | Governance Track | Side Events

Key Themes: Digital Transformation | Sustainability | Economic Cooperation

Timings	Marasem Hall	Mecca Hall	Taif Hall	Dammam Hall	Ministerial Roundtable Venue
10:00 - 10:45	Opening Session Future Frontiers				
10:45 - 11:00	Unlocking Investment Opportunities	Partnering for Success	Towards a Sustainable PSP Ecosystem	WAIPA SCRIPA session in partnership with ANIMA, CAIPA and African IPAs Group (by invitation)	Saudi-Tajikistan Joint Committee [ends 11:00]
11:00 - 11:30	Sustaining Growth				
11:30 - 12:00			Coffee Break & Networking		
12:00 - 12:45	Everything tech!	GSCRI Marketing Event (by invitation) [ends 14:00]	Sowing the seeds of collaboration	COP 29 High-Level Roundtable at WIC 2024 (by invitation) [ends 13:00]	Saudi-Tajikistan Business Council Inauguration [ends 13:00]
12:45 - 13:15	Money Moves for Meaningful Change				
13:15 - 14:30			Lunch Break		
14:30 - 15:30	Industrial Zones and Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	To predict the future, you must create it [ends 15:15]	UNFCCC GIH Roundtable	Roundtable on Unlocking Central Asia's Investment Potential (by invitation) [ends 16:30]	Saudi-Tajikistan Business Meeting
15:30 - 16:00	The big bets	Advanced Data Analytics for Trade & Investment Intelligence			
16:00 - 16:45	Diversifying Energy Sources	Responsible Roaming			
16:45 - 17:00			Coffee Break & Networking		
17:00 - 17:30	Tech Hubs and Innovative Ecosystems	Data Dynamo	Strategic Planning Mastery [ends 17:45]		
17:30 - 18:00	Addressing emerging challenges & opportunities for investment facilitation	WAIPA General Assembly (by invitation) [ends 19:00]			
19:00 Onwards			Indo-Saudi Bridges of Opportunity (by invitation)		

*IAC Meeting at Oud Square (15:00-19:00)

10:00 - 10:45 | Opening Session (45 mins) | "Future Frontiers" Investing in Tomorrow's Industries

Conference | Marasem Hall |

This session explores how sector-focused investment strategies aligned with national goals attract targeted investments by leveraging national strengths and incentives. It will examine public-private collaboration, policy frameworks, and strategies for emerging industries amid global challenges.

Speakers

- H.H. Prince Sultan Bin Khalid Al Saud, CEO, Saudi Industrial Development Fund (SIDF)
- H.E. Zaher Al Qatarneh, Secretary General, Ministry of Investment, Jordan
- H.E. Christophe Farnaud, EU Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Non-resident to Bahrain and Oman

Moderator

John Deferios, Visiting Professor of Business, NYU Abu Dhabi

10:00 - 11:30 | WAIPA SCRIPA session in partnership with ANIMA, CAIPA and African IPAs Group: Fostering regional value chains through cooperation within IIPA networks (by invitation) (90 mins)

Side event | Dammam Hall |

This session focuses on strengthening regional value chains through enhanced cooperation among IPA networks, driven by a need for economic sovereignty, resilience, and environmental sustainability.

10:00 - 11:00 | Saudi-Tajikistan Committee Meeting (by invitation) (60 mins)

Side event | Ministerial Roundtable Venue |

The 4th Saudi-Tajikistan Committee Meeting will serve as a platform for enhancing economic cooperation and exploring partnership opportunities between Saudi and Tajikistan representatives.

10:00 - 11:30 | **“Towards a Sustainable PSP Ecosystem”**
(90 mins) | **Insights from the KSA Journey**

Masterclass

Taif Hall



This workshop organized by the National Center for Privatization (NCP) delves into Saudi Arabia's PPP ecosystem, covering its legal framework, project pipeline, and lessons from cross-sector partnerships to foster sustainable collaboration.

10:45 - 11:00 | **“Unlocking Investment Opportunities”**
(15 mins) | **Fostering Foreign Direct Investment in new asset classes**

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores government initiatives leveraging emerging technologies like blockchain to attract FDI, enhance transparency, and streamline operations. Investment opportunities in new asset classes and platforms supporting cross-border growth will be examined, providing insights into blockchain's transformative impact on FDI.

Speakers

Baxter Roberts, Counsellor, Director for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

10:45 - 11:30 | **Partnering for Success: The Guide to Winning Collaborations**
(45 mins)

Masterclass

Mecca Hall



This masterclass will examine how partnerships between government entities and IPAs boost FDI and bilateral trade. It will cover strategies for identifying aligned partners, key initiatives for supporting foreign market entry, and case studies on successful IPA collaborations to strengthen economic ties.

Speakers

Andreas Dressler, Managing Director, FDI Center

11:00 - 11:30 | **“Sustaining Growth”**
(30 mins) | **Investment in Localization and Value Chains**

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores major initiatives like the New Silk Road and IMEC, focusing on localization, value creation, and policies like tax breaks and trade deals. It will discuss how these projects boost trade connectivity, attract talent, and drive regional growth, while addressing sustainability, fairness, and global impacts amid geopolitical tensions.

Speakers

Ibrahim Al-Helali, Executive Director, Saudi Arabia and Chair, Middle East Regional Council, United Nations Global Compact
Tang Song, Deputy Director, Investment Promotion Agency of the Ministry of Commerce of P. R. China (CIPA)
Oussama Abdel Rahman Kaissi, Founder - Principal, The Meridiem Group.

Moderator

Ryan Alhesani, Partner & MD, Arthur D Little, Saudi Arabia

12:00 - 12:45 | **“Everything tech!” Institutional Responses in Digitization, Investments in Tech, Sustainability**
(45 mins) | **Considerations and Collaboration**

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores aligning tech investments with strategic goals, emphasizing cybersecurity, compliance, and sustainable data center practices, while balancing regulatory demands and energy efficiency.

Speakers

Dr. Margarete Schramboeck, Former Minister of Digital and Economic Affairs, Austria and Advisor to The Minister of Investment , Saudi Arabia
Dr. Heba Atyah, Founder & CEO, Gameit
Ammar Mirza, CEO, AmmarM and Chairman and Founder, Asian Business Connexions (ABC) and Chairman & Founder, SME Centre of Excellence (CofE) group of companies

Moderator

Mamoon Sbeih, President, MENA, APCO

12:00 - 12:45 | **"Sowing the seeds of collaboration"**
(45 mins) | **Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships for Agricultural Innovation and Sustainability**

Conference

Taif Hall



This session explores how Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) drive agricultural reform and innovation in food processing through policy interventions. It will analyze successful models and collaborations that enhance productivity and sustainability, identifying strategies for significant sectoral reform.

Speakers

Dr. Peter Ramsaroop, CIO, Office of the President and Agency Head, Guyana Office for Investment
Abdullah Albader, CEO, Almarai
Aissata Lam, Director General, Investment Promotion Agency of Mauritania (APIM)
Sattam Almazayad, Director General, lending and Acting Head, Agricultural Investment Abroad, Agricultural Development Fund (ADF)

Moderator

Mohammed Abdulrazak Alohalay,

12:00 - 13:00 | **COP 29 High-Level Roundtable at WIC 2024 (by invitation)**
(60 mins)

Side event

Dammam Hall



This high-level roundtable will aim to decipher the outcomes of the COP29 conference, including the implications and opportunities for the finance and investment community. The roundtable will aim delve into key decisions, and mechanisms to foster innovative and inclusive solutions to close the finance gap.

12:00 - 13:00 | **Saudi-Tajikistan Business Council Inauguration (by invitation)**
(60 mins)

Side event

Ministerial Roundtable Venue



The formal launch of the Saudi-Tajikistan Business Council, aiming to strengthen economic ties and promote investment opportunities between Saudi and Tajikistan

12:00 - 14:00 | **Global Supply Chain Resilience Initiative - GSCRI Marketing Event (by invitation)**
(120 mins)

Side event

Mecca Hall



This session will showcase Saudi Arabia's commitment to industrial growth and resilient supply chains under Vision 2030, with discussions on key strategies, investment successes, and future opportunities for global collaboration.

12:45 - 13:15 | **"Money Moves for Meaningful Change"**
(30 mins) | **Social Impact Investing and Ethical Finance Models**

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores social impact investing and ethical finance as avenues for achieving financial returns alongside positive social and environmental outcomes. It will cover socially responsible investing (SRI) and ESG criteria, evaluating their viability compared to traditional models and addressing integration challenges.

Speakers

Majed bin Mohammed Al-Dakhil, Executive Vice President, Finance, Social Development Bank (SDB)
Dr. Massamba Thioye, Project Executive, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub
Dr. Noor Ulain Rizvi, Lecturer, School of Business, Curtin University Dubai

Moderator

Sarah Cocker, Founder, Amplify

14:30 - 15:30 | **Saudi-Tajikistan Business Meeting (by invitation)**
(60 mins)

Side event

Ministerial Roundtable Venue



The Saudi-Tajikistan business meeting aims to bring together business leaders from Saudi Arabia and Tajikistan with a focus on exploring investment opportunities and enhancing bilateral economic cooperation

14:30 - 15:30 | **"Industrial Zones and Special Economic Zones (SEZs)" Engines of FDI Growth**
(60 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores how government incentives attract investors to industrial zones and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), examining the effectiveness of tax breaks and infrastructure in fostering economic growth and analyzing current trends in manufacturing FDI through global case studies.

Speakers

Dr. James Zhan, Founding Co-Chair, Global Alliance of Special Economic Zones (GASEZ)
Dr. Samir Hamrouni, CEO, World Free Zones Organization (WFZO), Co-Chair, GASEZ
Nabil Khojah, Secretary General, Economic Cities and Special Zones Authorities (ECZA)
Hossam Heiba, President, General Authority for Investments, Egypt

Moderator

Yassir Zouaoui, Partner and Global lead, Economic Development Service Line, McKinsey&Company

14:30 - 15:15 | **"To Predict the Future, You Must Create It"
Empowering Fintech Pioneers With Safe Spaces For Innovation**
(45 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will explore policies that support the development and implementation of fintech sandboxes. The effectiveness of these policies and the balancing between regulatory flexibility with innovation incentives will be examined and the discussion will highlight how fintech sandboxes can drive innovation and productivity in the sector.

Speakers

H.E. Renat Bekturov, Governor, Astana International Financial Center, Kazakhstan
Faisal M. Alsharif, Director General, Financial Sector Development Program
Henri Arslanian, Co-Founder, Nine Blocks Capital, Crypto Hedge Fund
Osama AlRaei, Co-founder and CEO, Lendo

Moderator

Irina Asktrakhan, Practice Manager, Finance and Markets Global Practice, The World Bank

14:30 - 15:30 | **UNFCCC GIH Roundtable – “Accelerating Transformative Action for Climate and Sustainability”**
(60 mins)

Side event

Taif Hall



This roundtable will introduce the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub, highlighting its vision and initiatives for driving global climate action. Solution providers will present their climate and sustainability innovations, while investors will discuss their investment strategies and support for funding climate initiatives.

14:30 - 16:30 | **Roundtable on Unlocking Central Asia's Investment Potential: Building a Regional Approach to Attract Investment and Enhance Trade (by invitation)**
(120 mins)

Side event

Dammam Hall



This workshop organized by UNESCAP will provide training for Central Asian IPAs to support skill building, foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing with the aim of strengthening regional investment opportunities and cooperation.

15:30 - 16:00 | **"The Big Bets"
Unicorns in the Tech Space as Investors and Investment Attraction Multipliers**
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session examines the role of tech unicorns in driving Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and fostering innovation ecosystems. It will address mergers and acquisitions, supportive policies, and talent retention strategies, focusing on balancing large FDI projects with the growth of emerging global champions.

Speakers

Emon Shakoor, Founder and CEO, Blossom Accelerator
Eng. Ali Aldamanhori, CEO, HungerStation

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA

15:30 - 16:00 | **"Advanced Data Analytics for Trade & Investment Intelligence"**
(30 mins) | **Leveraging Insights for Competitive Advantage**

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session examines how government initiatives enhance trade intelligence through data sharing and collaboration, addressing implementation challenges, investment trends in data analytics, and successful case studies that highlight the competitive advantage of advanced analytics in global trade.

Speakers

Angelica Schempp, Consul General of Switzerland, Dubai and Head, Swiss Business Hub Middle East
Dr. Caroline King, Global Head, Business Development, Government Affairs, SAP

Moderator

Lama Alghrair, Director, Market Intelligence, Saudi Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)

16:00 - 16:45 | **"Diversifying Energy Sources"**
(45 mins) | **Accelerating FDI in Energy and Minerals Projects**

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores government incentives aimed at attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in renewable energy and long-term projects, assessing the effectiveness of policies and opportunities in green technologies and mining for sustainable economic growth.

Speakers

Hesham Tashkandi, CEO, ACWA Power,
Omar Aldaweesh, General Manager, CEO, KSA & Bahrain, EDF Group and Vice Chairman European Chamber of Commerce in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (ECCSA)
Sujatha U.G., Vice President, Global Partnerships and Net Zero, Invest India

Moderator

Yumna Naufal, Director, APCO

16:00 - 16:45 | **"Responsible Roaming"**
(45 mins) | **Sustainable Tourism in Emerging Economies**

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will explore sustainable tourism investments in emerging economies, focusing on the government's role in providing incentives and infrastructure. It will emphasize stakeholder engagement and highlight successful models that promote environmental conservation and economic benefits

Speakers

Abdullah Bin Nassar Aldawod, Managing Director and ACEO, Qiddiya Investment Company (Tentative)
Jerry Inzerillo, Group CEO, Diriyah Gate Development Authority (Tentative)
H.E. Samer AlKharashi, Director, UN tourism Regional Office for the Middle East
Wahdan Al Kadi, CEO, Event Investment Fund

Moderator

Khalid Alaamer, Lead, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

17:00 - 17:30 | **"Tech Hubs and Innovative Ecosystems"**
(30 mins) | **Driving FDI in Emerging Markets and Innovation**

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session explores how tech hubs and innovative ecosystems drive FDI in emerging markets, focusing on strategies for attracting investments. It will highlight the role of government policies, infrastructure, & collaboration, with case studies on tech hubs' impact on economic growth and sustainability amid geopolitical challenges.

Speakers

Ibrahim Neyaz, CEO, National Technology Development Program
Babak Ahmadzadeh, Co-founder, Forma
Dr. Ibrahim Saad AlMojel, Founding Partner, Khwarizmi Holding

Moderator

Paula Tavangar, CIO, Injaz Capital

17:00 - 17:30 | "Data Dynamo"
(30 mins) | Powering IPA Prospecting with Stack Automation

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will explore how IPAs can use data stack technologies, including predictive analytics, to automate prospecting & forecast investment trends. It will discuss machine learning's role in analyzing data, supportive policies for attracting foreign investment, & case studies on sustainable tech adoption amid geopolitical challenges.

Speakers

Chris Knight, Managing Director, fDi Intelligence portfolio (Financial Times)
Matthew Stephenson, Head, Investment and Services, World Economic Forum (WEF)
Dr. Mishari Almishari, Deputy Director, National Information Center (NIC), Saudi Arabia

Moderator

Paula Naoufal, Senior Reporter, CNN Business Arabic

17:00 – 17:45 | "Strategic Planning Mastery"
(45 mins) | What Investors Want

Conference

Taif Hall



This masterclass will address private sector expectations from IPAs, focusing on how IPAs can attract and retain high-impact investments. Participants will learn about strategies that align with investor priorities while driving sustainable economic growth.

Speakers

Dr. Trevor Gunn, Vice President, International Relations, Medtronic; Member of the Business Advisory Board of WAIPA
Dr. Caroline King, Global Head, Business Development, Government Affairs, SAP; Member of the Business Advisory Board of WAIPA (tentative)

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Senior Advisor, WAIPA

17:30 - 18:00 | "Addressing Emerging Challenges and Opportunities for Investment Facilitation"
(30 mins)

Conference

Marasem Hall



This session will discuss strategic opportunities and challenges in global trade and investment. Insights from policy, governance, and academia will be shared to develop actionable strategies and strengthen collaboration among diverse stakeholders

Speakers

Dr. Heather Taylor-Strauss, Head, FDI Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Programmes, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
Khawaja Aftab Ahmed, Regional Director, Middle East, Pakistan & Afghanistan, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Moderator

Khalid Alaamer, Lead, Investment Policy and Practice, World Economic Forum

17:30 - 19:00 | WAIPA General Assembly (by invitation)
(90 mins)

Governance

Mecca Hall

The General Assembly is the deliberative organ of WAIPA and convene as per WAIPA Statutes Chapter 4, Art. XII/1

19:00 onwards | Indo-Saudi Bridges of Opportunity (by invitation)

Side event



The Bridges of Prosperity Session brings together a curated group of leading investors, policymakers, and thought leaders from India and Saudi Arabia. Dialogue will focus on identifying mutual synergies in investment, trade, and research and development.

28th World Investment Conference (WIC)

DAY 3 – 27 November 2024



Conference Track | Masterclass Track | Governance Track | Ministerial | Side Events

Key Themes: Digital Transformation | Sustainability | Economic Cooperation

Timings	Marasem Hall	Mecca Hall	Taif Hall	Dammam Hall	Ministerial Roundtable Venue	
8:00 – 9:00				WEF Breakfast: "Leave no one behind"		
9:00 – 9:30	Saudi Spanish Investment Forum (SSIF)					
9:30 – 9:45						
9:45 – 10:00						
10:00 – 10:10		Navigating to Certainty and Overcoming the Unknown				
10:10 – 10:20		Ministerial Keynote			Youth Programme Panel "Bridging Generations: Insights on Investment Policy for a Sustainable Future"	
10:20 – 11:00		Bridging Borders	Venture FDI Unleashed: A Blueprint for Global Innovation			
11:00 – 11:30		Informative Advertising is Persuasive	Click Invest Repeat [ends 11:45]			
11:30 – 12:00		COFFEE BREAK AND NETWORKING				
12:00 – 12:40		To Finish First, First you Have to Finish			YPO [ends 14:00]	International SolarX Startup Challenge – Accelerator Workshop [ends 16:00]
12:40 – 13:15		Strategic Alliances	[starts 12:45] Visibility Attracts Opportunity [ends 13:30]			
13:15 – 13:25		Ministerial Keynote				
13:30 – 14:30		LUNCH BREAK				
14:30 – 15:15		Ready, Set, Go	Promoting Responsible Investment through investment opportunity preparation packaging and appraisal"			
15:15 – 15:35		Closing of the 28th WIC: Highlights and the way forward				
17:00 – 19:30					Saudi-Swiss Joint Economic Committee Meeting	

08:00 - 09:30 | WEF Breakfast: "Leave no one behind" (by invitation) (90 mins)

Side events

Dammam Hall

This session will examine how FDI can drive job creation, equality, and socio-economic development, with a focus on benefiting youth, women, and all regions within a country. It will highlight actionable strategies such as gender-responsive investment policies, youth entrepreneurship support, and frameworks to ensure that FDI benefits are equitably distributed across regions.

09:00 - 17:00 | Saudi Spanish Investment Forum (SSIF) (by invitation) (480 mins)

Side events

Marasem Hall



The forum will connect Saudi and Spanish officials with private sector representatives to foster bilateral investments. This will include MoU signing ceremonies, breakaway panel discussions and presentation of investment opportunities.

10:00 - 10:10 | Opening Session: "Navigating to Certainty and Overcoming the Unknown" - The Imperative for Investment Promotion Agencies (10 mins)

Conference Track

Mecca Hall



This session will explore how Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) can build resilience and adaptability to attract investment in uncertain times. The discussion will also include proactive strategies and innovations to maintain investor confidence, sharing case studies of successful IPA initiatives to highlight best practices for fostering a stable investment climate amid global challenges.

Speakers

Nivruti Rai, Managing Director and CEO, Invest India, and President, WAIPA
Kaye Anne Greenidge, CEO, Invest Barbados

10:00 - 11:30 | **Youth Programme Panel: "Bridging Generations: Insights on Investment Policy for a Sustainable Future." (by invitation)**
(90 mins)

Side events

Dammam Hall

The forum will connect Saudi and Spanish officials with private sector representatives to foster bilateral investments. This will include MoU signing ceremonies, breakaway panel discussions and presentation of investment opportunities.

10:10 - 10:20 | **Ministerial Keynote**
(10 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall

Speakers

H.E Mr. Ahmed Alkhateeb , Minister of Tourism, Saudi Arabia (Tentative)

10:20 - 11:00 | **"Bridging Borders": Facilitating Global Corporate Partnerships and Investments**
(40 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will explore building trust in cross-border collaborations, emphasizing transparent communication and mutual benefits. It will address challenges such as regulatory and cultural differences, share tools for streamlining investment, and showcase case studies of successful partnerships that support local economies.

Speakers

Escipión J. Oliveira-Gómez, Director, Division of Enterprises Competitiveness and Institutions (DECI), International Trade Centre (ITC)

Ambassador Andrea Rauber Saxer, Head, Bilateral Economic Relations Divisions, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Switzerland

Max Müller, Senior Vice President and Head, Global Public Affairs, Bayer AG

Davide Cichero, Chief of Staff, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Moderator

Emmanuel Noutary, General Delegate, ANIMA Investment Network

10:15 - 11:00 | **"Venture FDI Unleashed": A Blueprint for Global Innovation**
(45 mins)

Masterclass

Taif Hall



This masterclass will explore strategies for driving growth in emerging economies by boosting tech advantages, global competitiveness, and cybersecurity. Topics include creating tech innovation hubs, policies for scaling innovations, and workforce development for high-tech skills.

Speakers

Nitin Pangam, CEO, Maeflower

11:00 - 11:30 | **"Informative Advertising is Persuasive": The Art of Investor Engagement**
(30 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will explore effective techniques for engaging investors and understanding their preferences. It will discuss strategies for building long-term relationships, focusing on trust, transparency, and personalized interactions. Insights from successful engagements will offer practical approaches for Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) to attract and retain investors, ensuring sustained growth and strong investor relations.

Speakers

Zehra Fattah, Founder and Managing Director, Kent Consulting & Events

Marios Tannousis, Deputy Director General, Invest Cyprus

Gareth Hagan, CEO, OCO Global

Moderator

Nawied Jabarkhyl, Director, Head of International Media Relations, APCO

11:00 - 11:45 | **"Click Invest Repeat": Revolutionizing IPAs with Cutting-Edge Technology**
(45 mins)

Masterclass

Taif Hall



This masterclass will explore how cutting-edge digital tools, including AI and big data, enhance the entire investment promotion cycle for IPAs—from marketing and investor targeting to information provision, streamlined procedures, and data analysis.

Speakers

Chris Knight, Managing Director, fDi Intelligence (Financial Times)

11:00 - 16:00 | **International SolarX Startup Challenge – Accelerator Workshop (by invitation)**
(300 mins)

Side events

Ministerial Roundtable Venue

The SolarX Startup Challenge 2024 focuses on identifying innovative solar solutions in ISA member countries, with a particular emphasis on startups from the APAC region. The acceleration workshop in Riyadh will connect top startups with mentors, investors, and industry leaders to scale their innovations. Participants will explore synergies and investment opportunities in the solar sector.

12:00 - 12:40 | **"To Finish First, first you Have to Finish": Operational Excellence in IPAs for the Benefit of our Investors**
(40 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall

This session will explore operational excellence in Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs), focusing on balancing marketing, promotion, aftercare, and relationship management. It will cover governance structures, the role of aggregators in lead generation, and best practices to enhance IPA efficiency and impact.

Speakers

Levon Ohanesyan, CEO, Enterprise Armenia
Dr. Damie Sinanan, Executive Director, Caribbean Export Development Agency
Natalia Bejan, Director General, Invest Moldova Agency

Moderator

Dr. Abhishek Saurav, Senior Economist, Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation, World Bank

12:40 - 13:15 | **"Strategic Alliances": Leveraging Partnerships for Investment Success**
(35 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session will examine partnerships in investment promotion, focusing on building alliances with governments, industry groups, and global organizations. It will address challenges such as balancing public-private interests and ethical considerations and provide case studies and best practices to help Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) drive investment and economic growth.

Speakers

Right Honourable Dr Denzil L Douglas, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Industry & Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Economic Development and Investment, Saint Kitts and Nevis
Sevak Mikayelyan, Deputy Minister of Economy, Republic of Armenia

Moderator

Nawied Jabarkhyl, Director – Head of International Media Relations, APCO

13:15 - 13:25 | **Ministerial Keynote**
(10 mins)

Conference

Mecca Hall

Speakers

H.E. Bandar Ibrahim Alkhorayef, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Saudi Arabia

12:45 - 13:30
(45 mins) | **“Visibility Attracts Opportunity”: 10 Digital Marketing Tactics for IPAs**

Masterclass

Taif Hall



This masterclass will guide IPAs in crafting unique marketing strategies to attract high-value investors by leveraging targeted approaches, aligning with national goals, and optimizing with tools like big data, SEO, and CRM. Attendees will learn to track investor behavior and adapt strategies in real time to boost competitiveness.

Speakers

Gareth Hagan, CEO, OCO Global

14:30 - 15:15
(45 mins) | **“Ready, Set, Go”: Strategic Approaches to Specialized Industry Investment Promotion**

Conference

Mecca Hall



This session examines strategies for promoting investment in specialized industries, focusing on identifying high-potential opportunities and balancing innovation with regulatory support. The discussion will cover sharing of insights and best practices, equipping IPAs to effectively navigate emerging industry opportunities.

Speakers

Dr. Mohammed A AlQuwaizani, Managing Director, Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine, Saudi Arabia

Ananthanarayanan Shanmugam, Senior Vice President and Chief Facilitation Officer, Invest India

Mario Vargas, Trade and Investment Director of Peru to the UAE & GCC

Badr Alherbish, Chief Strategy Officer, Tourism Development Fund (TDF)

Moderator

Dushyant Thakor, Deputy Executive Director, WAIPA

14:30 - 15:15
(45 mins) | **“Promoting Responsible Investment through investment opportunity preparation packaging and appraisal”**

Masterclass

Taif Hall



This masterclass will cover some perspectives of UNIDO’s ongoing work in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and will serve to detail UNIDO’s technical and advisory support to investment promotion agencies, showcasing its digital tools and the UNIDO Investment Platform as a means to promote responsible investment to enable global sustainable development.

Speakers

Dr. Brian Portelli, Chief Technical Advisor, UNIDO

15:15 - 15:35
(20 mins) | **Closing of the 28th WIC: Highlights and the way forward**

Conference

Mecca Hall



Speakers

H.E. Ibrahim Almubarak, Assistant Minister of Investment and CEO, Saudi Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA)

Nivruti Rai, Managing Director and CEO, Invest India, and President, WAIPA

Dr. James Zhan, Executive Board of World Investment Conference, WAIPA

Ismail Ersahin, Executive Director and CEO, WAIPA

17:00 - 19:30
(150 mins) | **Saudi-Swiss Joint Economic Committee Meeting (by invitation)**

Side events

Ministerial Roundtable Venue



The Saudi-Swiss Joint Economic Committee Meeting will serve as a platform for enhancing economic cooperation and exploring partnership opportunities between Saudi and Swiss representatives