

“Infrastructure Asset Management’s role in a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19”

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
 Side-event co-organized by UNOPS & UN DESA

Biographies

Moderator



Stefan Kohler
**Infrastructure Regional
 Advisor and former
 Bangladesh Country
 Manager, UNOPS**

Stefan Kohler is the Infrastructure Regional Advisor for Europe and Central Asia Region at UNOPS.

He previously served as Country Manager of UNOPS in Bangladesh, leading on sustainable resilient infrastructure. His work had a strong focus on the development of Asset Management Systems as a key driver to ensure that infrastructure assets perform as required to cope with shocks and stresses. Prior to that, he was Principal Engineer on Resilience at UNOPS HQ, responsible for the Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience Program.

His educational background is in Engineering Geology, Program & Project Management, Law and Business Economics. He started his career in 1986 as an engineering geologist working in the Government in South Africa. Over the 31 years of his career, he has worked in the Private Sector, Government, NGOs, and UN in more than 20 countries.

Speakers



Dr. Christian Roberts
**President of the
 Institute of Asset
 Management**

Dr. Christian Roberts is the President and Global Board Director of the Institute of Asset Management and Board Director of the Global Forum for Maintenance and Asset Management. He has 27 years of international experience in the critical infrastructure sectors, providing organizational leadership to meet program goals and objectives, and improve the delivery of customer services.

With a track record in developing asset strategies and leading transformation through a focus on digital/technology, people performance, and business processes/ management systems (\$84M benefits and 185% performance improvement and 20% OpEx savings).

Dr. Roberts’ experience in driving asset performance and planning for long-term asset investment, is directly relevant to today’s challenges of climate resilience, sustainability, and equity while driving opportunities from digital, sustainable infrastructure investment and ESG.



**Dr. Ajith Kumar
Parlikad**
**Head of Asset
Management Group,
University of Cambridge**

Dr. Ajith Kumar Parlikad is Reader in Asset Management at Cambridge University Engineering Department. He is based at the Institute for Manufacturing, where he is the Head of the Asset Management research group.

He is a Fellow and Tutor at Hughes Hall. He leads research activities on engineering asset management and maintenance. His particular focus is examining how asset information can be used to improve asset performance through effective decision-making. He actively engages with industry through research and consulting projects. He is currently the Scientific Secretary of the IFAC TC5.1 Working Group on "Advanced Maintenance Engineering, Services and Technology" and sits on the steering committee of the UK Digital Twin Hub. His current research focuses on the development and exploitation of digital twins of complex asset systems bringing together data from disparate sources to improve asset management.

He joined Cambridge University to read for his PhD degree, which he successfully completed in August 2006. For his PhD, he developed a methodology for quantifying the benefits of improving product information availability and quality on the effectiveness of product recovery processes.



Caroline Lombardo
**Chief, International Tax
and Development
Cooperation Branch in
the Financing for
Sustainable
Development Office, UN
DESA**

Caroline Lombardo serves as Chief of the International Tax and Development Cooperation Branch in the Financing for Sustainable Development Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. She leads the UN teams that provide policy and capacity building support on tax and domestic resource mobilization and the secretariats to the UN Tax Committee and the Development Cooperation Forum.

Ms. Lombardo previously served in the Strategic Planning Unit of UNDESA and had an earlier UN tour in policy planning in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. She did her post-doctoral fellowship at Yale, where she helped design and launch the Program in Grand Strategy and its multidisciplinary graduate course addressing large-scale, long-term strategic challenges of statecraft, politics and social change.

Ms. Lombardo holds a DPhil and MPhil in International History and Politics from the University of Oxford and Bachelor's degree in Ethics, Politics & Economics from Yale University.



Nicholas O'Regan
Director
Implementation
Practices and Standards,
UNOPS

Nicholas O'Regan has worked with the UN and other international organizations since 1994. He began his career with the UN by supporting the UN Verification Mission in Angola. He then moved to UN Mine Action as Chief of Administration. In 2004, he joined the UNOPS Mine Action Unit in New York as a Portfolio Manager, where he oversaw programmes in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Sudan.

He was appointed UNOPS Country Representative in Kenya in 2006, and later became the Director of UNOPS Office in Jerusalem in 2011. In 2015, he was appointed Head of the Project Management and Infrastructure Centre of Excellence, retaining his role as Director in Jerusalem.

Mr. O'Regan was appointed director of UNOPS Infrastructure and Project Management Group in 2017.



Mihaly Kopanyi
Municipal Finance
Advisor, World Bank

Mihaly Kopanyi is a municipal finance consultant. Before retiring from The World Bank in 2011, he worked in 30 countries and he was a municipal finance adviser and co-chair of the Municipal Finance Thematic Group.

His core competency areas include intergovernmental finance, financing urban infrastructure, and reforming financial intermediaries. He has edited or co-authored more than 30 books and numerous articles; his recent works include: the 'Municipal Finance e-learning course' of the World Bank Institute; 'Financing Municipalities in Turkey', 'Reforming the Georgia Municipal Development Fund', and 'Financing Delivery of Urban Services in Rwanda'.



Dr. Linda Newton
Adjunct Professor
Carleton University and
President Linda Newton
Consulting

Dr. Linda Newton (CD, Ph.D., FCSCE, PMP) has over 35 years of experience in physical asset management. This includes managing infrastructure for the Canadian Department of National Defence, post-doctoral work at the National Research Council Institute for Research in Construction, and leading the Real Property Management service line at Defence Construction Canada.

She is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carleton University and now has her own consulting firm, Linda Newton Consulting, with a focus on strategic asset management. Ms. Newton is a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (FCSCE) and a member of the Institute of Asset Management (MIAM).

In her spare time, she's a Rotarian, an ambassador for parkrun Canada and a member of the Board of Directors of the Canada-Africa Community Health Alliance (CACHA).



Sandra Díaz

**Senior Infrastructure
and Project
Management Specialist,
Surge Capacity Team,
Integrated Practice
Advice and Support
(IPAS), UNOPS**

Sandra Díaz is an engineer who has contributed to the development of resilient infrastructure through complex project management and strategic planning. Ms. Díaz has worked for the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) since 2017 in Uganda as Head of Country Office, in Bangladesh as Team Leader of the National Resilience Program, and in Costa Rica and the Caribbean as Head of Programmes.

She has experience in humanitarian crises and long-term development interventions and previously worked for the private sector and for INGOs. Previously to UNOPS, Ms. Díaz worked in the private sector (ARUP) managing several projects for UNOPS and other international development agencies in Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia and Chile as well as collaborating in the creation of the Resilient Cities Framework (100 Resilient Cities). During her time with Action Against Hunger (ACF) she worked in Malawi, Ecuador and Syria as Emergency Coordinator in the Water and Sanitation Sector and she was the Head of the Water Implementation Unit within the International Development team in AECOM where she overviewed the Technical Assistance for the National Agency for Water and Sewerage in Cape Verde.