

2020 ITU Innovation Challenges: About the jury

External experts

Andrew Wrobel is a Founding Partner of Emerging Europe, a London-based intelligence, news and community platform. He is also the leader of the Tech Emerging Europe Advocates initiative, which is part of the Global Tech Advocates network. Trained as a journalist, he specializes in technology and innovation, foreign direct investment, nation branding and soft power, and cross-cultural communications. Andrew regularly interviews political and business leaders and participates in international political, economic and technology events. He hosts the Emerging Europe Talks podcast focused on innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable growth. He is also a mentor and adviser for emerging start-ups, a juror in international business competitions, a media coach, a location promotion trainer and a media commentator. He has authored and contributed to several international business, investment and trade publications.



David Maasz is a retired internet/digital serial entrepreneur turned angel investor with a global health, food and tech portfolio. He has 25 years of experience building companies and management teams from scratch and taking them to international success, and 15 years as an investor in early-stage ventures; helping them to penetrate global markets, raise capital and grow. The founder of Entrepreneurship Foundation Hungary, David is the creative mind behind the Hungarian government's INPUT Program, which is recognized by the UN as a Global

Best Practice Programme for fostering the innovation ecosystem.

His experience includes being a university dropout, a US Government International Visiting Leadership Program alum, graduate of the China Executive Leadership Academy, Board Member of the Chamber of Commerce in his hometown Győr, Hungary, and a member of the Foreign Economic Committee of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Budapest. David was also member of the European Parliament of Enterprises in Brussels, and a European Commission independent expert on SME development, innovation and entrepreneurship. David has been a frequent speaker and MC on entrepreneurship at events around the world, including Global Entrepreneurship Week, G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance and UN global innovation events. David also spends time in Canada, where he served on the Governor General's Innovation Awards Committee, is a member of the Culinary Institute of Canada and president of Angel Investment Partners Canada.



Janati Nakimera is a steering committee member at IEEE Uganda and a master's student in power systems engineering at Makerere University in Kampala. She is the treasurer of IEEE. She is also responsible for industrial relations at Makerere University, IEEE Student Branch, which helps students gain access to opportunities in the industry.

Janati is a co-founder and CEO of Solar Netmetering Uganda, a solar energy start-up for rural areas. The company participated in the Global Sustainable Technology and Innovation Conference in Brussels in November 2018, where Janati was a youth

speaker. Solar Netmetering Uganda became an IEEE N3XT Star at G-STIC 2018. She is also a Young African Leaders Initiative network member with rich experience in leadership, women's empowerment and conflict resolution through mediation; having attended the women in leadership training course offered by Case Reserve Western University.

Janati has presented her work on finite element analysis of a 1D transmission tower cross arm at several conferences, including the Genx PG Africa conference held in 2018 in South Africa. She also participated in Power Africa 2019 in Abuja, Nigeria.

Janati is also a Social Impact Liaison on the 2020 IEEE Entrepreneurship Steering Committee.

Kofi Ofosu Nkansah is an ICT professional with 15 years' experience in the industry. He is currently the Managing Director of the Accra Digital Centre, a mini tech park set up by the government to develop Ghana's potential by promoting digital entrepreneurship and innovation. Kofi has previously worked in the telecommunications, free zones and utility industries in various ICT roles. In 2019, Kofi won the Africa Public Sector Conference's Young Public Sector CEO of the Year award. He is a computer science graduate from Kwame Nkrumah University. Kofi was also a winner of the 2019 ITU Ecosystem Best Practice Challenges.





Marta Arsovska Tomovska is the Director of the Public Administration Reform team and the IT and innovation advisor for the Office of the Prime Minister of Serbia. Previously, she was the Macedonian Minister for ICT and Public Administration, and a C-level executive at several companies in the IT and telecommunication industry. She is one of the pioneers of Internet access in the Western Balkans, leading one of the first Internet service providers as well as several cybersecurity initiatives. Marta is an Executive Board Member of the UN's World Summit Awards; among other board commitments. Certified by ITU to build national digital innovation ecosystems, she advises governments, organizations and corporations on digital transformation and innovation. Marta holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering, and a Master of Science in economics and computer science from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in the United States. Marta is frequent panellist and speaker at high-level ICT conferences around the world on

topics including digital transformation, innovation and e-government.

Pippa McDougall is an International Consultant on the Women and Trade team at ITC. Pippa co-leads EQUALS Global Partnership's Leadership Coalition on behalf of ITC with UN Women. Prior to joining ITC, Pippa worked for the Government of Canada as a Legislative Assistant to a member of parliament. She holds a master's degree in the political economy of emerging markets from King's College London, UK.



ITU experts



Atsuko Okuda was appointed ITU Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific in April 2020. Prior to this assignment, she was the Chief of the ICT and Development Section of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in Bangkok, Thailand. Before joining ESCAP, Atsuko worked at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and was also a Testing Manager at the UN Secretariat Enterprise Resource Planning Software Initiative in the Department of Management at UN headquarters. From 2002 to 2010, she was a Senior IT Advisor responsible for promoting a wide range of ICT for development initiatives at ESCAP and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. She started her UN career in ICT for development at the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, at the UNDP Country Office in Bhutan. Atsuko obtained bachelor's degree from Kyoto University in

Japan, a master's degree from Helsinki University in Finland, and is currently an e-governance research fellow at the United Nations University-MERIT in the Netherlands.

Jose Maria Diaz Batanero is Head of the Project Support Division at ITU, the UN specialized agency for ICTs. Prior to joining ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, Jose Maria worked as Coordinator of ITU's sustainable development, digital inclusion and digital entrepreneurship strategy for 11 years, and as the Forum Coordinator for ITU Telecom World. Prior to working at ITU, he was an ICT specialist in the Inter-American Development Bank and at the United Nations Development Programme. Before joining the international development sector, Jose Maria worked in the private sector at Vodafone Spain. He is electronic engineer and has a master's degree in strategic planning and ICTs applied to business.





Loly Gaitan is a Project Officer in the Digital Society Division at ITU. She coordinates the EQUALS the Global Partnership to Bridge the Gender Digital Divide. Loly is specialized in technical assistance to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on Goal 5, the goal for gender equality. Prior to joining ITU, Loly worked for the International Trade Centre's flagship initiative for women's economic empowerment, SheTrades. She has previously worked for international think tanks and universities in Latin America and Europe as researcher and lecturer. She holds a PhD in international law and economics from Bocconi University, Italy.

Orhan Osmani is the Senior Cybersecurity Coordinator in the Telecommunications Development Bureau at ITU. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer and electrical engineering and a master's degree in ICT from Charles Sturt University, Australia. Currently, he works on cybersecurity-related projects and initiatives for developing countries. Orhan also has experience in emergency communications and disaster risk reduction. In his free time, he contributes to emergency communications initiatives. Before joining ITU, Orhan worked in the private sector. He was part of Oracle Team on security at AP, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. That is why he loves Durian.



Preetam Maloor is the Head of the Emerging Technologies Division at ITU. With two decades of experience in ICTs, he is an expert on artificial intelligence and international cyber-related public policy matters. An ITU staff member since 2008, he has been a key member of the ITU Secretariat at several major conferences including the 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications, and several ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences and World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forums, as well as the annual AI for Global Good Summit. He also serves as the Secretary of the ITU Council Working Group on international Internet public policy and the Expert Group on the International Telecommunication Regulations.



Prior to joining ITU, Preetam spent nearly 10 years in the private sector, working primarily at artificial intelligence research organizations such as Intelligent Automation Inc, a Rockville, Maryland-based research think-tank focusing on AI-based applications, and at AT&T Research Labs in Florham Park, New Jersey in its Speech and Natural Language Research Group; both in the United States. He holds master's degrees in computer science from Texas A&M University, College Station, and in engineering and public policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. Preetam has a bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering from the University of Mumbai.



Sylvia Poll has been the Head of the Digital Society Division in the Telecommunication Development Bureau at ITU since January 2020. This division focuses on digital inclusion, ICT applications and digital innovation ecosystems. Before that, she was Head of the ITU Project Support Division for five years. Sylvia was the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland from 2010 to 2014, where she was the main focal point for Costa Rica on sport for development and peace, as well as ITU, WIPO, WHO and IOM. Prior to this position, she was the Latin America Regional Manager of Executive Programs at the INCAE Business School and a manager at a Costa Rican

communications company. Sylvia was also an accomplished elite swimmer, representing Costa Rica in two Olympic Games: the 1988 Seoul, Korea Olympics and the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. Sylvia holds a master's in business administration and an executive master's in international negotiations and policy-making.