

Speaker Biographies

***denotes that a full biography will be added**

Welcome address

Gareth Thomas is the Minister of State for International Development and the Member of Parliament for Harrow West. Africa and the African Development Bank are two of his key responsibilities as the Minister of State at DFID.

Morning chair:

Jon Snow has been the face of Channel 4 News since 1989 when he became the main presenter and anchor for the programme. His range of international interviewees extends from Nelson Mandela to Arundhati Roy to Tony Blair. He also often does his own reporting on the major stories of the day, drawing on his years of experience as ITN's diplomatic editor and Washington correspondent. He has a strong personal interest in development issues

Opening Session:

Donald Kaberuka is the president of the African Development Bank (AfDB). He is an economist with over 12 years experience in the banking industry, in trade and finance, in the international commodity business and in the development sector, before serving as Minister of Finance and Economic Planning in Rwanda for eight years from 1997. He has been widely acknowledged as the principal architect of Rwanda's post-war reconstruction and economic reform programme. He was elected president of AfDB in 2005.

Mr Erastus Mwencha was appointed the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission in January 2008 prior to which he served as the Secretary General of COMESA for nearly ten years. He has over twenty five years experience in regional integration.

Pascal Lamy is the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation since September 2005. He was a French government official before becoming Chef de Cabinet for European Commission President Jacques Delors. From 1985 to 1994 he worked in banking to restructure Crédit Lyonnais before being appointed European Commissioner for Trade in 1999.

Andris Piebalgs was named as the new EC Development Commissioner on November 27th this year prior to which he was the EU's Energy Commissioner from November 2004. *

Ms Obiageli Ezekwesili was appointed Vice President for the Africa Region of the World Bank in March 2007. A leader in development and governance initiatives, Oby serves on the boards of several national and international organisations committed to economic development and democratic issues.

Juma Mwapachu is Secretary General of the East African Community since April 2006 and is the current Chairperson of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force. He is a law graduate and studied in Tanzania and India. He was Chairman of the Tanzania Railways Corporation, a commissioner of the Presidential Parastatal Sector Reform Commission and Chairman of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries and served as Tanzania's Ambassador to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO.

Abdoulie Janneh became Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the regional arm of the United Nations in Africa, in 2005. He studied in Sierra Leone and the UK before joining UNDP as a development planner rising to become Regional Director for Africa. He has been a strong advocate for development efforts that respond effectively to Africa's national and regional priorities and enhance partnership-building.

Session one: Trade, transport and energy

Gilbert Mbeshherubusa is the Director of the Infrastructure Department at the African Development Bank. *

Felix Mutati has been Minister for Trade and Commerce for Zambia since 2007. Mr Mutati studied accountancy in UK and pursued a career in business, becoming Finance Director for Zesco, Zambia's largest power utility company, which he was instrumental in restoring to good financial order. He entered parliament in 2001. He was appointed Deputy Minister for Finance in 2002 and then Minister of Energy in 2005. He was then transferred to Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry in 2006.

Amadou Diallo is the Secretary General of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) which was created by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Governments to address power supply deficiency problems within West Africa. *

Aboubakari Baba-Moussa is the Director of the Department of Infrastructure and Energy of the African Union Commission. *

Bernard Hoekman is Director of the Trade Department of the World Bank. Previously he worked on trade and international integration issues in the Bank's research department. He has worked extensively in countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Between 1988 and 1993 he was on the staff of the GATT Secretariat in Geneva. He studied economics in Rotterdam and the USA.

Afternoon Chair:

Simon Maxwell was Director of the Overseas Development Institute from 1997-2009. He is an economist who began his career working overseas, first in Kenya and India for the UN Development Program, and then in Bolivia for the UK Overseas Development Administration. He is a fellow of ODI.

Session two: working with business

Mo Ibrahim is an expert in mobile communications and founder of one of Africa's most successful companies, Celtel International. . Founded in 1998, the company has brought the benefits of mobile telecommunications to millions of people across 15 African countries. In October 2006, Dr. Ibrahim launched the Mo Ibrahim Foundation to support good governance and great leadership in Africa.

Tony Elumelu is one of the most influential Corporate Leaders in Nigeria. An avid proponent of Public-Private-Partnership for nation building, he has served on many presidential committees. He is Group MD & CEO of United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA), Chairman of ValuCard Nigeria Plc and President of the West African Bankers Association (WABA). He is a research economist who studied at Harvard and in Switzerland.

Sean de Cleene is Vice President for Africa Programs for Yara International, and is the Business Chair of the Beira Trade Corridor Initiative.*

Giulia Di Tommaso is the Director for External Affairs for Africa, the Middle East and Turkey, for Unilever, co-Chair of the EU Africa Business Forum and Chair of Business Action for Africa.*

Session three: partnerships and institutions

Sindiso Ngwenya is Secretary-General of the Common Market of East and Southern Africa (COMESA) and was appointed in 2008. Before that, he was the Assistant Secretary General in charge of Programmes, a position he held for ten years. He brings with him over 27 years of service in industry, regional and multilateral levels covering the public sector, private sector and quasi-government institutions.

Stefano Manservigi has been Director General for Development of the European Commission since November 2004 and contributes to the formulation of European Union development cooperation policy. Since joining the Commission in 1983 from the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade, he has worked on development issues for more than 15 years. From 2001 to 2004, he was Head of Cabinet to President Prodi.

Alex Rugamba is currently Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) which aims to provide a platform where stakeholders pool efforts and resources for Africa's infrastructure development, with a focus on regional infrastructure. Previous positions held by Mr. Rugamba at the African Development Bank include Division Manager for the Transport Sector in West and Central Africa and Resident Representative of the Bank in Mozambique

Final session chair:

Nemat Shafik, known as Minouche, is the Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development. She joined DFID in November 2004 as Director General Country Programmes, with responsibility for all of DFID's country programmes in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Previously, she served as Vice President, Private Sector and Infrastructure at the World Bank and was part of the senior management group of the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

