GENERAL CONFERENCE

INTERREGIONAL DEBATE 1:

Green Industry and sustainable development



Paul Hohnen (Moderator)

Founder, Sustainability Strategies

Paul Hohnen has worked intensively since 1975 on a range of global economic, development and environmental issues as a diplomat, international civil servant, Director of Greenpeace International, and Strategic Director of the Global Reporting Initiative. Now an independent consultant, his clients include governments, intergovernmental agencies, business and non-profit organisations.

Hohnen conducts executive level workshops on embedding sustainability in business strategies and is an expert on materiality and sustainability reporting. He has been a keynote speaker at a variety of high-level global forums and is regularly invited to facilitate international conferences and contribute to mainstream and speciality press.



Janez Potočnik (via video message)

European Commissioner for the Environment

After a successful career starting in 1989 in Slovenia as a researcher at the Institute of Economic Research, he became Director of the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development in 1994.

He was appointed Head of the Negotiating Team for Accession of Slovenia to the European Union in 1998, and Director of the Government Office for European Affairs in 2000, Minister Councillor at the Office of the Prime Minister in 2001 and Minister responsible for European Affairs in 2002. In 2004, he joined the European Commission, as Shadow Commissioner for Enlargement, and later served as Commissioner responsible for Science and Research. In 2010, Janez Potočnik became Commissioner for the Environment.



Chunhong Chen

Chairwoman and Chief Executive Officer, Yiyuan (Shanghai) Environmental Group Co., Ltd.

Chunhong Chen is the Chairwoman and Chief Executive Officer of the Shanghai-based, Yiyuan Environmental Group, which manufactures and markets toilets designed to avoid cross-contamination and whose patented technology can produce significant water usage savings compared with conventional models. Yiyuan Environmental Group has more than ten patented technologies on water resource savings and water efficiency.

Chunhong Chen is committed to the research, development and implementation of technologies in the fields of energy savings, emissions reduction and water efficiency and was included in the Chinese version of Fortune Magazine's May 2012 list of top business leaders in China under the age of 40. She was awarded the Cartier Women's Initiative Award in 2011 for her work.



Le Hoai Trung

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations

Le Hoai Trung has served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 2010, at which time he was Deputy Foreign Minister of Viet Nam.

Le Hoai Trung's past responsibilities included advising the Minister of Foreign Affairs and undertake activities connected with Viet Nam's relations with major inter-governmental organizations, including the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, and address key international issues of disarmament, security, human rights, the environment, climate change and others.



Sergio Alfredo Thiesen

Managing Director for Latin America, Braskem

Sergio Thiesen has over 30 years of professional experience in the petrochemical industry. He has a background in chemical engineering, having studied at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul and obtaining a graduate degree in Petrochemical Processing Engineering.

Sergio Thiesen holds an MBA from Dom Cabral Foundation of Belo Horizonte in Brazil and from the Columbia Business School of Columbia University in the United States of America. He currently serves as Managing Director for Latin America of the International Business Division of Braskem.



Hans Peter Egler

Head of Trade Promotion, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs - Switzerland

Hans-Peter Egler is responsible for trade-related technical cooperation, including environmental and social standards at SECO. From 1999 to 2000, Egler was Deputy Head of SECO's Trade Promotion Division. From 1994 to 1998, he was responsible for development of new investment promotion measures and export financing for Latin America, Asia and Africa. Previously, from 1992 to 1994 he was Deputy Country Director at the Swiss Development Cooperation Office in La Paz, Bolivia, and from 1990 to 1992 he was responsible within the Swiss Federal office for Foreign Economic Affairs for bilateral trade relations between Switzerland and Latin America.